



## Advice for Victims of Domestic Abuse during COVID-19



### 1 How is COVID-19 affecting Domestic Abuse trends?

Although the statistics do not show an increase in reports of domestic abuse in the wake of COVID-19, it is believed that actual instances of domestic abuse are likely to have increased. The impact of COVID-19 and the isolation measures imposed are likely to be adversely victims of domestic abuse.

### 2 What is the impact of COVID-19 on DA victims?

Financial pressures and restrictions to social life can cause perpetrators of DA to be increasingly aggressive. Measures such as home-working, school closures and social distancing also mean victims spend much more time at home with their abusers, away from family, friends and other sources of support.

### 7 Where can I found out more?

This briefing is based on the Dyfed Powys Police guidance for Domestic Abuse victims during COVID-19, and can be accessed [here](#), along with details of other sources of support and FAQs.

### 3 Are reporting mechanisms still available?

It is feared that victims are under-reporting as they are afraid that services will be unable to support them in the midst of COVID-19. However, all reports of DA are being treated the same way as they ordinarily would, so victims can be reassured that they can still ask for help.

### 6 Will I have to self-isolate with my abuser after calling the police?

The Police can secure a Domestic Violence Protection Order through the court within 48 hours, which would prevent the abuser from returning to the home within 28 days. These orders and are still processed the usual way; there is no backlog. When granted, this gives an opportunity to put longer-term plans in place for after the 28-day period.

### 5 What if I don't need to speak to the police?

There are a great deal of local charities and organisations who offer support. A list of these can be found [here](#), under "What local domestic services are available?" You will also be signposted to the most relevant support service by contacting the Live Fear Free Helpline on 0808 80 10 800. If providers in your area are not open, you can access helpline support through several channels, which are provided, including [Supportline](#) and Women's Aid [Live Chat](#).

### 4 How do you report DA in an emergency?

As always, victims of domestic abuse can dial 999 in an emergency. There is an option to remain silent should they be afraid of being heard by the abuser; by pressing 55, they can be transferred to the relevant police force, who will listen to background noise to help determine how best to respond.