

THERE IS **NO** EXCUSE FOR **DOMESTIC ABUSE**

What is Domestic Abuse?

Domestic Abuse is the physical, mental or psychological abuse of a man by a partner or ex-partner. Domestic abuse can include:

Physical Abuse: Hitting, punching, kicking, nipping, throwing or smashing things, making threats to hurt someone.

Sexual Abuse: Making someone do sexual things that they don't want to do, including rape.

Emotional Abuse: Continually putting a person down, continually checking up on someone, stopping someone from working or going to college, and stopping someone from seeing family or friends.

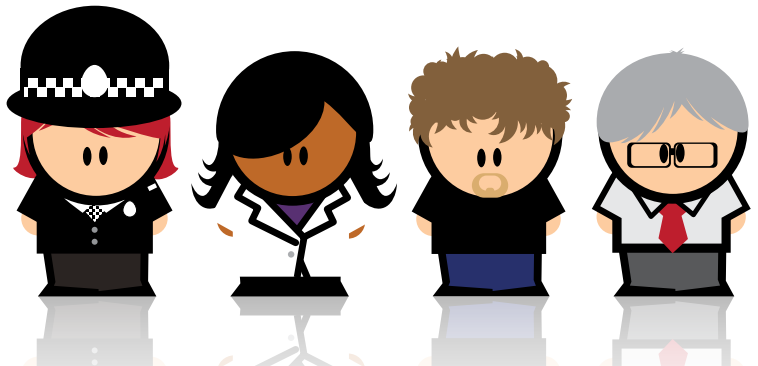
How do we deal with concerns about children and young people?

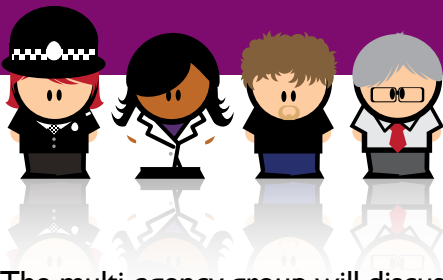
When the police visit a house after a report of an incident of domestic abuse they will ask if any children or young people are part of the family. People often worry about what will happen next.

What happens now?

When the police officer returns to the police station they fill out a form. This form is completed every time there is an incident involving domestic abuse where a child or young person is present or normally lives at the address.

The form is then passed on to a police officer whose job it is to decide whether or not there are things we need to do to keep the child or young person safe. If the police officer thinks something needs to be done they will pass the form on to a group of professionals (Police, Health, Social Work and Education) who meet regularly. The aim of this group is to make sure children and young people in Dundee are safe. They are also there to consider whether there are any supports available for children, young people, and parents/carers.





The multi-agency group will discuss any concerns they may have about any child/ren and will decide what will happen next. Some of the actions may be:

- **No further action:** This means that nothing else will happen and there will be no follow up at this point.
- **Concern already followed up and actioned:** This means the child/ren are already known to an agency or service and they are dealing with the issue. This may involve a visit from a worker and then no further action.
- **Direct referral to a single agency (e.g. Health, Social Work):** This is when only one agency will get involved and no other services are needed.
- **Multi-agency response.** This is when more than one agency will get involved in keeping the child/ren safe. This might involve a further referral to a Joint Action Team, or where there are very serious concerns, for a child protection response.
- **Referral to the Children's Reporter:** This is when the group believe that the child has significant

needs which are not being met or may be at significant risk and where compulsory measures of supervision may be required. If your child/ren is discussed by the multi-agency group you will receive a letter telling you this has happened and about the decisions they have made.

The group want to make sure that children and young people in Dundee are safe and to offer families support to help them to cope with issues like domestic abuse.

If families already have contact with a Support Worker they will be told about the concern so that they know what is happening.

ALWAYS REMEMBER

You are not to blame for what has been happening. It's not your fault. There are people who can help.

If you have any questions or need more information please contact:

Tayside Police,
Central Division Domestic
Abuse Officer: **01382 591912**