

Domestic Abuse

Equality and Diversity Meeting
April 2012



The Aim

- ***Raise awareness of the impact of domestic abuse within diverse groups***
- ***Provide access to help lines and specialist agencies***

1895 – City of London Byelaw

Curfew on wife beating

Wife beating is prohibited between the hours of 10pm and 7 am, *because* the noise keeps the neighbours awake.

- *The Government defines domestic violence as "Any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between adults who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality."*

Who are the victims ?

- Women, Men and Children
- Domestic violence can also occur in a range of relationships including heterosexual, LGBT relationships, and also within extended families.

Prevalence in Chorley Area

- April 2011 to December 2011
- 1136 reported Domestic violence incidents

Older people

- The abuser is usually well known to the person being abused.
- Abuse can occur anywhere

Pregnancy and Maternity

- 30% of domestic violence starts in pregnancy
- Domestic violence has been identified as a prime cause of miscarriage or still-birth and of maternal deaths during childbirth.

Rurality

- 52% of rural women and 56% of urban women said they had experienced violence or abuse.
- The researchers noted that urban and rural women had very similar experiences of violence.

Race religion and Beliefs

- Lack of specialist services available
- Colluding family members
- Language barriers
- Perceived prejudices
- Immigration status

Sexuality

- Q: Does LGBT domestic violence exist?
- Q: Isn't LGBT domestic violence the same as heterosexual domestic violence?
- Q: How can it be domestic violence if the smaller person hits the bigger one?
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Disability

- Disabled women experience abuse more frequently than non-disabled women
- Kinds of abuse more wide-ranging, often using women's impairments to perpetrate abuse

- *“I didn’t approach the disability organisations nor the domestic violence organisations. The refuge was not accessible. If I had been able to use these facilities ... I would have left much sooner and not suffered so much violence, but they weren’t.”*
“Refuges? I never thought they were for disabled women.”

How can the needs of disabled women be met more effectively?

Raise awareness

Improve accessibility

Provisions that meet varying needs

Engage with disability organisations

Work with disabled women

Have awareness of different needs

Don't Break My Heart



 **Broken Rainbow,
LGBT Domestic Violence helpline**
0300 999 LGBT (5428)



Broken Rainbow

Don't fall for it



He takes me shopping
then takes my money

He takes me to the doctor
then denies me medication

He helps me to bed
then rapes me

He tells me he loves me
and that no-one else would



Disabled women and domestic violence – it's time to take action

Leaving an abusive relationship is difficult enough – it's even harder if you are a disabled woman – especially if your abuser is also your carer:

There is help and support available:

Go to www.womensaid.org.uk for the **Women's Aid Survivor's Handbook**, available in 11 languages and audio version, as well as the **UK Domestic Abuse Directory**.

www.womensaid.org.uk/disability

Published by Women's Aid Federation of England 2007. Registered Charity No. 1054161. VAT Registration No. 850 5437 31.

women's aid
until women & children are safe
www.womensaid.org.uk

Freephone 24 Hour National Domestic Violence Helpline **0808 2000 247**

Run in partnership between Women's Aid and Refuge.



0808 801 0327

- **If a client is in danger they should always dial 999 and ask for the POLICE**
- Clare House & Helpline 01772 435865
- Chorley Refuge & Helpline 01772 201601
- Male Advice Line & Enquiry 08450 646800
- Sanctuary Scheme 01772 625212
- Karma Nirvana 0800 5999247
- Action on Elder Abuse 0808 8088141
- Broken Rainbow 0300 999 5428

Questions

- ***How can we work more inclusive with diverse groups?***