

**There have been reports of safeguarding and domestic abuse increasing so it is important that safety remains a priority and we keep the usual safety nets in place, including all the core safeguarding processes.**

The Named Nurses for Safeguarding will provide safeguarding cover for agencies to communicate with the Trust, share information and engage to reduce risk. They will also be a key point to identify challenges in the current, changing situation. The safeguarding team will provide on-site cover to the wards and departments each day; there are named nurses for:

- **Safeguarding Adults**
- **Safeguarding Children**
- **Midwifery**

**In addition there are Specialist Nurses for Learning Disability and for Mental Health; they can also provide MCA support.**

Please contact the team on **Ext 3357** or via the generic emails:

Safeguarding Adults: [sfh-tr.safeguardingadults@nhs.net](mailto:sfh-tr.safeguardingadults@nhs.net)

Safeguarding Children: [sfh-tr.safeguardingchildren@nhs.net](mailto:sfh-tr.safeguardingchildren@nhs.net)

**If there are concerns regarding a member of staff please contact the relevant Named Nurse for Adults/Children for support.**

## **DOMESTIC ABUSE**

It is anticipated that domestic and sexual abuse incidents and risk posed to survivors will increase during this period as the current measures being put in place to control COVID-19 may result in perpetrators:

- **having more opportunity to abuse**
- **changing the way they perpetrate**
- **using the virus as an excuse**

There are lots of possible reasons for this but the main ones to be aware of are:

- Self-Isolation can increase the amount of time the survivor and person perpetrating the abuse are alone together, and increase barriers to survivors accessing outside support.
- Financial impacts - loss or reduction in a survivor's economic independence may also contribute to the escalation of abuse, and remove resources needed to leave the abuse.

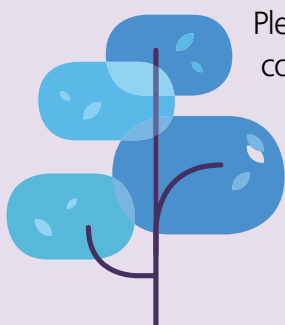
## **SHOULD I MAKE A COMPLETE A RISK ASSESSMENT AND REFERRAL AS NORMAL?**

**YES** - referrals should be made as normal and DASH risk assessments should be completed.

Please ring the safeguarding team on **Ext 3357** for support. The hospital IDVAs and the Named Nurses for Safeguarding will assist you with completing risk assessments and making referrals during this current situation.

## **INFORMATION FOR MANAGERS**

As a manager, you may require certain employees to self-isolate or work from home to protect other members of staff. However, you need to consider the risks of requesting self-isolation and working from home, especially if any individual would not otherwise be required to self-isolate.



Please allow an opportunity for staff members to discreetly disclose abuse that they or a colleague are experiencing.

**If you have any concerns involving a member of staff please contact the Named Nurse for Safeguarding for support.**

**If you are a member of staff experiencing domestic abuse or are concerned about a colleague.**

<https://www.womensaid.org.uk/the-survivors-handbook/>

### **Can Survivors continue to call the police in an emergency?**

**YES** - Anyone in immediate danger should **call 999**, even if they are in isolation.

If survivors are unable to speak, they can **call 999 and dial 55** when prompted to let services know they are there and need assistance.

[www.nottinghamshire.police.uk/advice/silent-solution](http://www.nottinghamshire.police.uk/advice/silent-solution)

### **Are local Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Services still open?**

**YES** - All local helplines are still operational. Most services have either ceased or reduced face to face contact in line with government measures in order to protect service users and their staff but are operating remote support services in their place.

#### **NOTTINGHAMSHIRE 24HR HELPLINE TEL: 0808 800 0340 FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN:**

- Helpline operating as usual: 24/7
- Please note that increased waiting times are expected.
- Accepting referrals
- This helpline is for women and children living in Nottingham City or Nottinghamshire County.

#### **NOTTINGHAMSHIRE HELPLINE SERVICE FOR MEN TEL: 0115 960 5556**

- Helpline operating as usual: Monday – Friday, 9.30 – 4.30
- Accepting referrals
- A confidential answerphone service is available outside of these times.

#### **NOTTINGHAMSHIRE SEXUAL VIOLENCE SUPPORT SERVICES TEL: 0115 941 0440**

- Helpline operating as usual:  
Monday - Tuesday 4.30-7.00pm.  
Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday 10am – 1pm.  
Outside of these hours call the 24 hr helpline.
- Accepting referrals
- This helpline is for all genders living in Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County.

#### **NATIONAL SUPPORT SERVICE INFORMATION:**

- If you are a woman experiencing domestic abuse: 24-hour National **Domestic Abuse Helpline 0808 2000 247**
- If you are a child or young person experiencing domestic abuse: **Childline 0800 1111**
- **NSPCC Helpline 0808 8005000**
- If you are a man experiencing domestic abuse: **Men's Advice Line 0808 801 0327**

#### **DEMENTIA**

This can be a worrying time for families looking after someone with Dementia; Dementia UK have created a hub on their website with a range of advice about COVID-19 and how to look after someone with dementia during this time.

[https://www.dementiauk.org/get-support/coronavirus-covid-19/?utm\\_source=Homepage&utm\\_medium=Banner&utm\\_campaign=Covid19](https://www.dementiauk.org/get-support/coronavirus-covid-19/?utm_source=Homepage&utm_medium=Banner&utm_campaign=Covid19)

