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Where can I find out more?

- Government guidance please click [here](#)
- [Bawso](#)
- [Live Fear Free](#)

Corporate Safeguarding Team contact details:

Tel: 01639 683164 (Duty desk Mon-Fri 8:00am-8:00pm)

Link to SBU Safeguarding [SBU Safeguarding info](#)

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. For further information on local services please see link to SBU safeguarding info in box 7. 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](#).

Advice on helping Victims of Domestic Abuse during COVID-19



1

How is COVID-19 affecting Domestic Abuse trends?

The National Domestic Abuse helpline has seen a 25% increase in calls since the COVID-19 lockdown. There are concerns that the restrictions will increase tensions within the home, isolate victims and cut off escape routes. There are growing concerns that the impact of the COVID-19 lockdown is likely to have an adverse effect on victims of domestic abuse.

2

What is the impact of COVID-19 on Domestic Abuse 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.

3

Are reporting mechanisms still available?

All reporting mechanisms are still available. It is feared that victims are under-reporting as they are spending so much time with their abuser and are less able to make a call for help. It is feared victims are not reporting as they believe services will be unable to support them during the pandemic. However, all reports of DA are being treated in the same way as they ordinarily would, so victims can be reassured that they can still ask for help.

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. Please click [here](#) to find out more.



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Bae Abertawe
Swansea Bay University
Health Board

Based on the [SCIE article](#), "Safeguarding adults during the COVID-19 crisis"
With thanks to Mid and West Wales Safeguarding Board.

