

Can you help me?

“I have been experiencing domestic abuse for a number of years from my boyfriend and he has now left my home. I don't want to leave as it's near my family and workplace, but I'm scared that he may use his keys to come into my home. Can you help me increase my home security so that I can feel safe?”

“Yes we can. Arrangements can be made for an inspection to be carried out at your home to look at changing your locks and any other security feature that we feel will increase your safety.”

“Can men get help if they are experiencing domestic abuse? My wife has been physically and emotionally abusing me for a number of years. I love her very much and do not want to leave her. What can you do to help me?”

“Yes men can access support services from Wakefield District Domestic Abuse Service. If your wife wants help to change her abusive behaviour we can also offer her support.”

“I am a single woman who has just recently left my same sex partner because of physical violence. Is this domestic abuse or does it only cover those in heterosexual relationships?”

“Yes it is domestic abuse. Domestic abuse can happen to anyone regardless of his or her sexual orientation or gender. Contact the Wakefield District Domestic Abuse Service and we will be able to advise you of what your options are.”



WAKEFIELD DISTRICT DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICE (WDDAS)

If you are experiencing domestic abuse or using abusive behaviours there is advice and support available, please contact the Wakefield District Domestic Abuse Service

0800 915 1561

Wakefield District Domestic Abuse Service

WDDAS is a partnership of different agencies who work together to offer people experiencing domestic abuse or using abusive behaviours the opportunity to access help, advice and support. Services are offered across the Wakefield district within our local communities.

These services include:

- Specialist Domestic Abuse Practitioner's
- Housing Advice and Options
- Sanctuary Scheme
- Emotional Support
- Freedom Programme
- Do it Different' Group for Parents and Young People
- Support to Change Abusive Behaviours
- Perpetrator Programmes

The purpose of WDDAS is to offer advice and support to anyone affected by domestic abuse including Honour Based Abuse and Forced Marriage. Our main aim is to ensure that both you and your family are **SAFE**.

We provide a single point of contact for all referrals and provide a telephone advice line available to members of the public and professionals.

This service is for anyone who may need help regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity or nationality. If English is not your first language we will provide an interpreter or make arrangements to ensure the services can be provided.



What services are available at the Wakefield District Domestic Abuse Service?

There are many services available from Wakefield District Domestic Abuse Service (WDDAS). If you need a service that we are unable to provide, we will point you in the right direction.

Is this service for me?

WDDAS aims to work with all victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse who:

- Are aged 16 years and over
- Live in the Wakefield district or are registered with a Wakefield district GP
- Are experiencing any form of Domestic Abuse, including Forced Marriage and Honour Based Abuse.
- Recognise they need help to change their abusive behaviours.

Listed are the services available:

Specialist Domestic Abuse Practitioners (SDAPs)

The SDAPs will be able to support you in a number of ways depending on your personal experiences. Skilled at identifying and assessing risk they will create a personal support plan with you dependent on circumstances and need. This may include practical help such as arranging and going with you to appointments, attending legal proceedings and offering one to one support sessions. SDAPs are trained Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVA) and are based within local communities.

Housing Advice and Options

The SDAPs can also provide advice and information to help you with any housing issues that you have. If you feel you may need to find alternative accommodation in order to stay safe the SDAPs can help you access refuge or temporary accommodation. As part of your safety plan all housing options will be discussed, as leaving your home is not the only route to safety.

The Sanctuary Scheme

The SDAPs offer advice on the Sanctuary Scheme. The scheme is specifically for those people who wish to remain living in their current homes. The SDAP will carry out an inspection of your property and will work with you to advise what can be done to make you feel as safe as possible.

Emotional Support / Counselling

For some people, domestic abuse can cause both emotional and psychological stress. In order to help you deal with this, WDDAS work with partner organisations to offer support you need.

Freedom Programme

The Freedom Programme is a nationally recognised 12 week course. WDDAS work with colleagues across the district to deliver the programme in a number of community venues. The course helps people to recognise abusive relationships and the different behaviours a perpetrator may use to gain power and control.



Behaviour Change (perpetrator support)

Support is available for both men and women who want help to change their abusive behaviours. WDDAS work with partner organisations to provide group work programmes and one-to-one support.

'Do It Different' Group for Parents and Young People (DID)

WDDAS can refer you to this group. DID is a group work programme running separate, parallel groups for parents and young people (aged 13-17) where families are experiencing a young person displaying abusive behaviours towards their parent/carer.

Telephone support

For more information about any of the services we provide:

Freephone: **0800 915 1561**

Email: **domesticabuse@wakefield.gov.uk**

Website: **www.wakefield.gov.uk/domesticabuse**

