

# Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Partner Update

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A monthly update on how we are responding to domestic abuse across the county and delivering our strategic priorities

## Domestic Abuse can affect anybody.

You. A friend. A family member. A colleague. A client. A neighbour.

We know that home isn't a safe place for everybody. The need for household isolation and social distancing due to Covid-19 will have a direct impact on the people and families experiencing domestic abuse. Abuse may also escalate with the increase in stress, uncertainty, and challenges in making safe contact for help and support. Reports from other countries have shown that incidents of domestic abuse increased significantly following the outbreak, and it's more important than ever that we stay connected and take care of ourselves, our loved ones, and our communities.

**How can you help?** It is crucial that people who need support know that services are there and able to help and support them. **If it's safe to do so**, please do; share information about domestic abuse on social media, including routes to help and support (Reducing the Risk's [Facebook page](#) has helpful content), maintain contact via video call if possible, and if you're worried about somebody in an emergency always call 999. Women's Aid have published [COVID-19/Coronavirus: Safety Advice for Survivors](#) which can also be shared.

Our updates will likely take a bit of a different format for a while, but we'll be sure to share any emerging guidance and practice and keep you informed on progress with our work. This is a really bizarre and tricky time for everybody and we're so grateful for all of our amazing colleagues and services doing such incredible work to keep people safe and well. Please do remember to take care of yourselves too.

## How we'll be working differently in this time...

- Our consultation on the 2020-21 Domestic Abuse Delivery Plan will be done a little differently! The face to face consultation events will no longer be taking place and instead we'll be doing something digitally. We'll send out further information once we have it and, in the meantime, you can have a look through our 5-year Strategy and Delivery Plan for 2019-20 (Appendix C) [here](#).
- All face to face training has been postponed until at least the end of May, again we'll be in touch with further updates as we have them.
- We've set up a core multi-agency group to meet virtually to address the impacts of Covid-19 on people affected by domestic abuse. We are looking to share our understanding of what is happening here and also draw on the learning from other countries further forward in the crisis.
- Staff within LCSS are getting bespoke 'virtual' training on Reducing Parental Conflict (RPC), empowering them to provide help and support to parents struggling in this time of increased stress, anxiety and uncertainty - all triggers for increased conflict. The RPC programme circulated some really [helpful tips for families with school age children](#), [Covid-19 advice and tips for healthy relationships](#) from Relate, and [a free service for parents via text](#) from Action for Children. All can be shared with families you're working with and more widely!

## How our specialist services will be working differently...

- [A2 Dominion \(Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Services\)](#) are continuing to operate our DA helpline and increasing the number of attempts to contact before cases are closed. Staff are providing phone support to clients and undertaking welfare checks, working with partner agencies to ensure safety plans are managing risk and provide ongoing reassurance. Oxon refuges are currently in isolation and unable to accept referrals.
- [Reducing the Risk](#) are continuing to work closely with partner agencies around managing risk, remaining as responsive and available as possible to clients, and supporting Domestic Abuse Champions in every way they can. DA Champions can also access a COVID-19 DA Safety Plan [here](#) (you'll need to log in to access).
- [SAFE! Support for Young People](#) are working towards being able to offer telephone and video support.

## Contact Details

If you have any questions or comments please contact  
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