

Safeguarding Everyone

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Health warning

- Look after yourself
 - Feel free to leave at any time
- Respect other people's views
- Try not to make judgements
- If you would like to talk about any issues that have affected you, please let me know

Outline

- Who are we safeguarding?
- Vulnerability
- Romance Fraud
- Suicides linked to Domestic Abuse



Who are we safeguarding?

- Children – anyone under the age of 18 (16 in Scotland)
- Any adult aged 18 or over (16 or over in Scotland) who, due to disability, mental function, age or illness or traumatic circumstances, may not be able to take care or protect themselves against the risk of significant harm, abuse, bullying, harassment, mistreatment or exploitation.

Vulnerability

- Applies to everyone who, due to circumstances or events, is placed in a vulnerable position.
- These are circumstances that could affect anyone of us at various times throughout our lives.
- It does not mean that that person will be vulnerable forever.

What could make us vulnerable?

- Think of situations where you have felt vulnerable
- What circumstances might make someone vulnerable?

Bereavement

Social
Isolation

Menopause

Age

Some Factors that increase vulnerability

but not limited to...

Poverty

Mental Health

Illness

Disability

Childhood
Trauma

Bullying

Online
grooming /
abuse

Dependent

Post Natal
Depression

Loneliness

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Points to consider

- Someone might be receiving bullying comments, but they could shrug their shoulders and say 'water off a duck's back'.
- However, if someone who is depressed (bereaved, post -natal depression, worried about their own, or a loved one's health, being a victim of domestic abuse or coercive control, or just having low self- esteem) is bullied, it could just tip them over the edge.
- If we say, 'we never know what is going on in people's lives', then bullying has become a safeguarding issue.

Vulnerability -Summary

- We can all be vulnerable at some point in our lives
- Vulnerabilities can be temporary, situational or permanent
- Try not to judge others reactions to situations – you never know what they have experienced in the past or what is happening to them now.

Fraud

- National Crime agency in 2025 estimated that
 - 41% of all crime is fraud
 - only 14% fraud against an individual is reported to Action Fraud (now Report Fraud) or the Police
 - 7% of people aged 16 and older have been victims of fraud

Romance Fraud

Dating and romance fraud involves deceiving someone into a fictitious romantic relationship, often online, to gain their trust and exploit them financially. Victims are manipulated through emotional connections, leading to significant financial loss and emotional distress.

Activity

- Why do you think someone might not admit that they have been a victim of romance fraud?

Reasons for not reporting Romance Fraud

- Shame
- Guilt
- Being judged
- Feeling stupid

Romance Fraud Summary

- This can be grooming and organised crime
- Victims are not just using online dating websites
- Judging people – saying “I wouldn’t fall for that” isn’t helpful.
- Encourage friends/family to talk about their online presence – without judgement
- Listen – people are usually lonely



Intimate Partner Homicide vs suicide linked to domestic abuse

In 2024, for the first time, the number of domestic abuse victims taking their own lives was, at 93, higher than as a result of intimate partner homicides (80).

The charity Advocacy After Fatal Domestic Abuse was supporting 98 families in which domestic abuse-related suicide had occurred.

The Link between Domestic Abuse and Suicide

- Domestic abuse significantly **increases the risk** of suicide among victims.
- Coercive and controlling behaviours can lead to feelings of **hopelessness** and **despair**.
- Victims may feel **trapped**, believing there is **no escape** from their situation.

Resource:

[Why are people impacted by domestic abuse dying by suicide? - NSPA](#)

The Link between DA and Suicide

- SafeLives (UK) found that in a 12 month period more domestic abuse victims died by suicide than were killed by their abuser.
- Studies published have consistently shown higher suicide attempt rates among those experiencing intimate partner violence, particularly women.
- According to the National Suicide Prevention Alliance, 1 in 5 women who survive domestic abuse have felt suicidal, and 1 in 10 have attempted suicide.

The Crisis

- In the UK, nearly half of all suicide attempts are linked to domestic abuse.
- In the year leading up to March 2024, there were 98 suspected suicides linked to abusive relationships.

Resource:

[Suicide is now the leading cause of death in domestic abuse cases - SafeLives](#)



Julie Devey -from campaign group Killed Women

"For too long, these deaths have been treated as 'unavoidable tragedies' - but they are not. They are preventable,"

More awareness needed for Coroners



ACTION:

“These incorrect coroners reports, reflect an entirely broken system in which victims are routinely failed. That is not justice.”

The select committee’s [recommendations include](#) a national coroners’ service to end a postcode lottery, and a [national oversight mechanism](#) – a new independent body to collate, analyse and follow up on recommendations arising from inquests and inquiries.



What can we do?

Share information on
social media and
within your
community.

Support organisations
working to prevent
domestic abuse and
suicide.

Participate in
awareness
campaigns and
events.

Can you influence
coroners? At university
talks, local
practices??? Get
creative!

Resource:

[Suicide Prevention and Domestic Abuse: A Critical Link That Professionals Must Address - Prevent Suicide](#)



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Summary

Domestic abuse-related suicides are a preventable tragedy.

Awareness, support, and early intervention can save lives.

Together, we can break the cycle of abuse and offer hope to those in need.

Resource:

[Helpful Resources – Grange Park SARC](#)



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Hope for change

- Giselle Pelicot

“Shame must change sides”

‘When you’re raped there is shame, and it’s not for us to have shame – it’s for them,’ she said about the decision to waive her right to anonymity. ‘I hear lots of women, and men, who say, “You’re very brave.” I say it’s not bravery, it’s will and determination to change society. This is not just my battle, but that of all rape victims.’