

Student Support Fact Sheet – Domestic Violence

What is domestic violence?

According to Women’s Aid domestic violence is, *“an incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening, degrading and violent behaviour, including sexual violence, in the majority of cases by a partner or ex-partner, but also by a family member or carer.”*

****It is important to note that domestic violence can also affect males as well as females****

Domestic Violence can include the following behaviour;

- Coercive control (a pattern of intimidation, degradation, isolation and control with the use or threat of physical or sexual violence)
- Psychological and/or emotional abuse
- Physical abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Financial abuse
- Harassment
- Stalking
- Online or digital abuse

What to do if a student discloses domestic violence

1. Refer to external support services;
 - **Women’s Aid** –information and support online, runs helpline in conjunction with the National Domestic Violence Helpline, contact details can be found below. Visit www.womensaid.org.uk
 - **National Domestic Violence Helpline** – a 24/7 helpline with support to access refuge accommodation and can give advice on local services. Call 0808 2000 247.
 - **Manchester Women’s Aid** – provides 1:1 support, access to safe housing, and other support. Based at the Pankhurst Centre on Nelson Street near the university. Call 0161 660 7999 or visit www.manchesterwomensaid.org
 - **End the Fear** - Manchester based website detailing support around Greater Manchester. Visit www.endthefear.co.uk
 - **Mankind** – a support service for male victims of domestic violence, confidential support helpline for listening and practical information surrounding safety. Call their helpline 01823 334244 for more information or visit <http://new.mankind.org.uk/>

2. Discuss University of Manchester specific support
 - **Mitigating Circumstances** – advise students to make an application for mitigating circumstances
<http://www.studentsupport.manchester.ac.uk/study-support/mitigating-circumstances/>
 - **The Counselling Service** – refer students to the online triage questionnaire to book an appointment
<https://www.counsellingservice.manchester.ac.uk/>
 - **ResLife** – if the incident is occurring in university Halls of Residence suggest contacting the ResLife team. Contact details - <http://www.accommodation.manchester.ac.uk/reslife/advisors/>
 - **Accommodation Office** – if the student needs temporary accommodation. Contact details - <http://www.accommodation.manchester.ac.uk/>
 - **Student’s Union Advice Service** - panic alarms can be obtained for free

Independent Domestic Violence Advice Service (IDVAS) – A specialist service for high risk victims of domestic violence

The IDVAS team can offer;

- Safety planning
- Information on civil options available such as non-molestation orders, occupations orders and prohibited steps orders
- Information and support around the criminal justice system
- Housing support including refuge options
- Home Fire Risk Assessment
- Information and referrals to other services
- Sanctuary scheme to make victims feel safer in their own homes

Contact details for IDVAS

To refer call 0161 234 5993 or email domestic.violence.team@manchester.gov.uk

A Duty Officer is available Monday to Friday during office hours.

Please note that this service only accepts service users who meet a high score on their risk assessment but are happy to speak to anyone with concerns and can make this assessment.

****Please note - if you or the student feels there is an immediate risk to their safety call 101.**