

# COVID -19 Domestic Abuse Addendum – May 2020

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We know that COVID-19 will have serious impacts on the lives of survivors and children. Survivors are telling us that they are feeling unsafe with the prospect of being isolated in the house with their perpetrator. The UK has seen an increase in domestic homicides which is in line with research from countries like China, Italy and Spain who have reported significant increases in DA. In China one town reported a tri-fold increase following lockdown.

During this intense period of social distancing where families are spending more time together it is essential that The Domestic Abuse support for Staff policy continues to be followed and staff's awareness of the heightened risk of domestic abuse during this time.

We want to reassure staff that local specialist services and colleagues are here for them and we will be doing everything we can to support them during this challenging time.

The lockdown and isolation will severely impact upon the survivor's ability to report abuse to the police so you must see every contact with a survivor as the 'one chance' opportunity to provide potentially lifesaving safety advice.

If you are aware or suspect a colleague is living in an abuse situation please refer to the DA workforce policy or contact the CCG Surrey wide safeguarding team for advice.

If you are having contact over the phone with a colleague who you suspect is a survivor during the pandemic always presume the perpetrator is present and that you could be on loud speaker

## Information that should be given to survivors

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All Surrey specialist Outreach Services are still operating during this crisis and will support survivors who contact us.

SDAP outreach services offer an independent, confidential, listening service to anyone affected by domestic abuse. They are free and impartial services, which can assist by giving practical help and emotional support as well as providing information on a wide range of issues including housing, benefits, safety planning and the needs of children affected by domestic abuse. They can also assist with accessing refuge accommodation if you need to leave your home in order to keep yourself safe. SDAP's outreach services provide support to any victim of domestic abuse regardless of age, gender, sexuality or race.

- [East Surrey Domestic Abuse Services: 01737 771350](#)  
(Serving Reigate and Banstead, Mole Valley and Tandridge)
- [Your Sanctuary: 01483 776822](#)  
(Serving Woking, Runnymede and Surrey Heath)
- [North Surrey Domestic Abuse Services: 01932 260690](#)  
(Serving Epsom and Ewell, Elmbridge and Spelthorne)
- [South West Surrey Domestic Abuse Services: 01483 898884](#)  
(Serving Guildford and Waverley)

Opening hours - Monday – Friday 9am - 4pm

**Your Sanctuary Helpline 01483 776822** is available from 9am till 9pm 7 days a week

Your Sanctuary online chat service is available here <https://www.yoursanctuary.org.uk/>

<http://www.safelives.org.uk> SafeLives also have a dedicated page to helping during Covid 19

[Cyber and Online safety | Veritas Justice](#) also have some good advice round staking and staying safe