

Domestic Abuse – Coercive Control



- During COVID-19 there is limited opportunity for victims of Domestic Abuse to speak to anyone outside the home
- A visit to the pharmacy may be a victims only opportunity to talk to someone
- Domestic abuse is not limited to physical violence
- Coercive control is a pre-cursor to violence and murder – the absence of violence does not mean they are not at risk

What might they tell you?

- PHYSICAL ASSAULT – during lockdown/isolation levels of violence may have increased or become more frequent
- FEAR – a victim of coercive control will be afraid of their abuser, they may mention “consequences”
- RULES – a victim will be forced to live by a set of rules that the abuser sets (and regularly changes)
- CONSEQUENCES – there will be consequences if they do not comply
- UTTER DOMINATION – a victim will have no space for action, all elements of their lives will be controlled and monitored

ADVICE:

- Call 999 if in immediate danger
- Signpost – National Domestic Abuse Helpline 0808 2000247
- Local services are still available to provide support (attached)
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-and-domestic-abuse/coronavirus-covid-19-support-for-victims-of-domestic-abuse>