

discuss any concerns you may have and work with you to decide whether we should contact the child's other parent.

HOW CAN I ACCESS BWA'S CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORK?

You can refer your child for support by calling the BWA Helpline on:

0808 801 0882

This number is free to call from UK mobiles and landlines and does not show up on itemised bills.

A professional such as a social worker, police officer, housing officer or your GP can also refer you. Professionals who would like to make a referral can find a copy of our referral form on our website:

www.berkshirewomensaid.org.uk

WHAT HAPPENS ONCE MY CHILD HAS BEEN REFERRED?

Once we have received your referral, one of our Children and Young People's team will be in touch to discuss the referral.



They will complete a risk assessment to see how it is safest to meet with your child and send you a consent form for you to complete. Once this is returned, your child will be added to our waiting list.

We may call from a private number and may not always leave messages. If you think you have missed a call from us, please call us on our Helpline:

0808 801 0882

DO YOU HAVE TO SHARE MY INFORMATION?

Information that you share with us will be confidential within BWA unless there are exceptional circumstances. We aim to get your consent to share information unless it is considered that doing so will increase someone's risk.

Although we aim to get your consent to share your information, in exceptional circumstances we may have to override your consent for example, if we believe you or someone else may be at risk of significant harm.



We aim to listen, support and empower people to act for themselves and believe everyone should be able to live free from fear and domestic abuse in their own lives.

HOW ARE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AFFECTED BY DOMESTIC ABUSE?

Children can experience both short and long term cognitive, behavioural and emotional effects as a result of domestic abuse. Each child will respond differently to trauma and some may be resilient and not exhibit any negative effects.

against domestic abuse
bwa

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES

WHO ARE BWA?

BWA are a specialist provider of domestic abuse prevention and intervention services.

Our mission is to provide domestic abuse support and advocacy services to everyone who comes to us experiencing domestic abuse.

against domestic abuse
bwa

SUPPORT • ADVOCACY • REFUGE

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Children's responses to the trauma of domestic abuse may vary by age, ethnicity, sex and stage of development. It is also important to remember that children's behaviour and response may be due to something other than the abuse.

Children are individuals and respond to abuse in different ways.

- They may become anxious or depressed
- They may have difficulty sleeping
- They have nightmares or flashbacks
- They can be easily startled
- They may complain of physical symptoms such as tummy aches and may start to wet their bed
- They may have temper tantrums and problems with school
- They may behave as though they are much younger than they are
- They may become aggressive or they may internalise their distress and withdraw from other people
- They may have a lowered sense of self-worth
- Older children may begin to play truant, start to use alcohol or drugs, begin to self-harm by taking overdoses or cutting themselves or have an eating disorder



Children may also feel angry, guilty, insecure, alone, frightened, powerless or confused.

HOW CAN BWA HELP?

We offer support to children and young people through one to one and group work. Our programmes work with children aged 5-17.

EXPECT RESPECT

BWA are advocates of the Women's Aid Expect Respect programme. Using this programme, we run sessions on healthy relationships with children and young people aged five and over. We work with children and young people who have experienced domestic abuse, with age appropriate activities that are designed to be fun and engaging. Our team of specialist workers support children and young people to resolve conflicts, safety plan and enhance their self-esteem tackling issues of domestic abuse in a safe and contained way.

DOMESTIC ABUSE RECOVERY TOGETHER (DART)

Developed by the NSPCC, the DART programme works with children aged 7-14 and their parent to provide them with a safe space and the skills to speak to each other about domestic abuse, learn to communicate and rebuild their relationship.

For children and young people who require more in depth therapeutic support or work to address challenging behaviour, our team can help you identify counselling and support services who may be able to help.

WHO CAN ACCESS CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORK?

BWA offers support to children aged 5-17 living in the Reading area or one of BWA's refuges. Parents must consent to the work being completed.

WHERE DO YOU RUN THE PROGRAMME?

Programmes are generally run at the child's school however, BWA can arrange for sessions to be run in our offices or virtually if appropriate. We can also deliver sessions to children living in a BWA refuge.

DO YOU NEED CONSENT FROM BOTH PARENTS?

BWA aim to get consent from both parents when a child is referred for support however, we understand that this may not always be safe depending on who the abuser is. The Children and Young People's team will