

Who are Affected Others?

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Affected others are persons other than the primary victim who are harmed or affected by the domestic abuse.

These can include children, other family members, friends, pets AND new partners. The term "affected others" highlights that their suffering is a consequence of the primary abuse, even if they are not the direct subject of the abuse themselves.

It is important to recognise that domestic abuse is rarely confined to the two individuals involved in the abusive relationship; there are many other people which the harm can extend to.

Affected Other Victims

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- **Children:** often the most vulnerable victims, exposed to abuse within the household. Remember that Children are now victims of domestic abuse in their own right.
- **New partners:** Often become involved with a former partner of the perpetrator and may be targeted with abuse or even killed if the abuser feels threatened or jealous.
- **Pets:** Often used to control or coerce the victim through mistreatment, neglect and harm.
- **Family and friends:** Anyone perceived as an ally to the primary victim may be intimidated, harmed or even killed.
- **Allies/First Responders:** Those who attempt to intervene may become victims of abuse.

What can happen?

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- **Escalation of violence:** Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) can escalate to lethal violence and the perpetrator may direct their aggression towards ANYONE perceived as connected to the primary victim.
- **Coercive control:** The perpetrator may use threats or violence as a means of maintaining control and power over the primary victim, affected others and pets.
- **Jealousy and revenge:** In some cases, a desire to punish the primary victim can lead to the violence/death of affected others and pets.
- **Harassment and stalking:** The perpetrator may harass, and stalk affected others e.g. perhaps trying to intimidate a new partner to leave, manipulate a child or initiate fear on affected others.

The impact on adults and children

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The impact on affected others can include:

- Psychological and mental health
- Self-harm and suicidal ideation
- Trauma leading to erosion of trust
- Increased risk of further violence
- Long-term social and economic consequences
- Harmful behaviour
- Child development
- Impact on future relationships
- Youth offending

What can professionals do?

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Ensure all domestic abuse and safeguarding policies are up to date, and risk assessment procedures are undertaken and recorded accurately.

Accurate and timely information sharing and cross agency collaboration to facilitate accurate and timely risk assessments.

Consider DVDS Disclosure for any new partner of the primary victim or a **Stalking Protection Order** (obtained via the MASH) is necessary in risk management assessments.

Practitioners should be encouraged to assess the risk "to others" (including new partners of the victim). Home Office Guidance on coercive and controlling behaviours strongly suggests a desire to inflict control by harming affected others.

Prevention

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- The need for **early intervention** and increased awareness of affected others in IPV situations
- **Understand the dynamics** of abuse and violence on affected others.
- Develop effective **prevention strategies**
- Focus on **Perpetrator Behaviour** - efforts should focus on identifying and addressing the underlying causes of IPV and the behaviours of perpetrators.
- **Safety planning** - for both primary and affected others is essential, including strategies for leaving abusive situations and accessing support services.

Further information

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- [The Homicide Timeline](#) - Jane Monckton-Smith
- [Not just Collateral Damage](#) - Barnardo's
- [Controlling or Coercive Behaviour](#) - Home Office Guidance
- [NIDAS and NIDAS Champions](#)
- [Norfolk and Suffolk Victim Care](#)
- [DASH Risk Checklist](#) - SafeLives
- [Domestic Abuse and Stalking](#) – Paragon
- [21 people beyond the victim can be affected by stalking perpetrators](#) - Suzy Lamplugh Trust
- [Pets and Domestic Abuse](#) – NCDV
- [Pet Fostering Programmes](#) - RSPCA



NORFOLK COMMUNITY
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