



Isle of Wight Domestic Abuse Safeguarding Practice Week: 25th–29th November 2024

Children exposed to domestic abuse do not come to services alone; they are part of families. They have relationships with their parents, grandparents and wider networks, as well as with siblings and stepsiblings who they might not live with. Our responses must be tailored to reflect each child's understanding of what 'family' means for them. Children may have strong or complicated feelings about both their abusive and non-abusive parents/carers. They may be traumatised by the abuse and living in a state of chronic fear and anxiety.

The most effective way to support children is to help them and their families. Just like adult victims, children must have access to high-quality domestic abuse services that are timely and easily accessible. These services should not only focus on immediate safety but also promote long-term recovery to build a safer and happier future. A number of local services and organisations provide therapeutic services and support programmes for children and families on the Isle of Wight.

TUESDAY: Find out more about the support available for children and young people.

Paragon is the IOW's domestic abuse and sexual crime service provider. It has a specialist team who work across the Island who are trained to work with children and young people. They have [practical tools that can help and support children](#) to come to terms with their experiences. The [Child and Young Person Referral form](#) for domestic abuse can be also be completed via Paragon.



Operation Encompass is a partnership between the police and schools to help children who have been exposed to domestic abuse. When a child witnesses or is present during a domestic incident, the objective is for the police to notify the child's school in a timely manner. This allows the school to provide the necessary support and care for the child as soon as possible.



Refuge supports children who are victims of domestic abuse with advice for parents/carers.



Childline provides information on what domestic abuse is, how to cope and take care of yourself with phone number and link for children and young people to talk to a Childline counsellor.



➔ Information and resources on domestic abuse for professionals: [Domestic Abuse for Practitioners: Isle of Wight Safeguarding Children Partnership](#)

IF YOU DO ONE THING...

Know and use the support and services available for children and young people who are victims of domestic abuse.