

# Factsheet on...

## Domestic Violence

### What is Domestic Violence?

The Government defines domestic violence as: 'Any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse – psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional – between adults who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality'.

### How Common Is Domestic Violence?

Research shows domestic violence can affect **1 in 4** women in their lifetimes, irrespective of their age, social class, race, disability or lifestyle.

During 2008/9, there were in excess of 70,000 incidents of domestic abuse recorded by Greater Manchester Police. This is an average of 215 incidents every day.

Research shows only a minority of domestic abuse is reported to the police - estimates vary between 23% and 35% - so the number of actual cases will be many more than those that were reported.

50%-60% of female mental health service users have experienced domestic violence.

One-third of women attending A&E departments for self-harm were domestic violence survivors.

### Is Domestic Violence Increasing or Declining?

The number of domestic related incidents reported to Greater Manchester Police continues to rise. Over the last three years, there has been an increase of nearly 11,500 incidents reported.

### How Much Does Domestic Violence Cost the UK?

Domestic violence costs the UK around £23 billion a year. The total cost of one domestic abuse related homicide is estimated to be £1 million and in 2008/9 14 domestic abuse related homicides occurred in Greater Manchester.

### What is the Greater Manchester Health Commission Doing?

The Greater Manchester Health Commission recognises the significance and scale of domestic violence in Greater Manchester and is working with Greater Manchester Against Crime, and other partners, to raise the profile of domestic violence, particularly in relation to the provision and consistency of domestic violence advice services across the region.

The Greater Manchester Health Commission is also assisting all the agencies involved in providing support to people affected by domestic abuse, by helping them to further improve the services they offer.



The Association of Greater Manchester  
Primary Care Trusts

Work is being carried out to ensure any Greater Manchester wide domestic violence activities are linked to local safeguarding arrangements.

The Health Commission is working to challenge the social acceptance of domestic violence.

Research carried out by the Zero Tolerance Charitable Trust in 1998 shows 1 in 5 young men and 1 in 10 young women think that abuse or violence against women is acceptable – a statistic the Commission is working hard to change.

**For more information please contact:**

Andrew Burridge, Policy and Programme Manager (Association of Greater Manchester Authorities)

**Telephone:** 07903 071562

**email:** [a.burridge@agma.gov.uk](mailto:a.burridge@agma.gov.uk)

**[www.greatermanchesterhealth.org.uk](http://www.greatermanchesterhealth.org.uk)**

