

The One Gloucestershire Way



Priority Summary:

Identifying and supporting victims of **Domestic Abuse** in health settings

Our ambition

We want to ensure that victims of domestic abuse are identified and able to access support in health settings at the earliest opportunity. To do this, we aim to raise awareness and provide training to health and care staff to help them recognise the signs, and support victims of domestic abuse to feel safe to share their experience and receive support.

What are we doing?

- During 2018/19, the health domestic abuse pilot provided training to 750 hospital based staff and 1,404 primary care professionals across the county. This included 'how to ask the question', domestic abuse awareness and specialist risk assessment.
- The specialist domestic abuse service received 316 patient referrals from hospital during 2018/19.
- 68 of the 74 GP practices in Gloucestershire are working with GDASS, with 87 trained domestic abuse champions across 38 GP surgeries so far.

Case Study

This specialist domestic abuse service aims to increase awareness of domestic abuse across health settings, supporting staff to feeling confident in asking patients about domestic abuse.

We know that victims of domestic abuse often attend health settings with a range of symptoms or injuries seeking help and they tell us they'd like to be directly asked about their experience of abuse.

Health professionals are well placed to ask about and respond to domestic abuse, promoting the safety of victims and ensuring they receive the support that they need.

Graham, a Safeguarding Nurse, said:

"The training has increased awareness of Domestic Abuse, enabling referrals & information sharing with other agencies and improved, safer patient outcomes."



What next?

We want to continue to develop the knowledge and confidence of our staff to be able to identify and respond to domestic abuse at the earliest opportunity. We will do this by delivering further domestic abuse training to health staff, developing the domestic abuse champions' network and providing more specialist support direct to victims in GP surgeries.