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## Overview

This standard is about you promoting awareness and understanding amongst children and young people regarding domestic violence and abuse in order to influence behaviours and support prevention. It includes your ability to communicate effectively and respond to what they say. As part of this standard you will also need to address any disclosure regarding abuse which might arise.

This standard is for practitioners who support those experiencing domestic abuse, which may include instances of sexual violence and abuse in a domestic violence context.

It is recognised that abuse can occur without physical violence, yet can be equally damaging to those affected. Throughout this standard, where the term 'abuse' is used it is taken to include instances also involving physical violence.

Domestic abuse is frequently perceived as a gendered crime perpetrated by men against women; however this standard is intended for practitioners who support those experiencing domestic violence within any intimate or family relationship, regardless of their social background, age, gender, religion, sexuality or ethnicity.

In some organisations, the terms 'victim' and 'survivor' may be used individually or interchangeably.

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**Performance**  
**criteria**

- You must be able to:
- P1 identify opportunities to raise children and young people's awareness about domestic violence and abuse
  - P2 work in partnership with relevant others to develop appropriate initiatives aimed at raising awareness amongst children and young people
  - P3 explore with children and young people the subject of domestic violence and abuse, its impact and the signs of potential abuse
  - P4 hold discussions in safe environments where children and young people are able to participate
  - P5 provide children and young people with appropriate guidance on what they could do if they, and their friends where relevant, have experienced abuse
  - P6 use appropriate styles of communication suited to the needs and abilities of children and young people, and which:
    - P6.1 encourages questions
    - P6.2 checks for understanding
    - P6.3 uses active listening techniques
    - P6.4 responds constructively to concerns
  - P7 inform children and young people of their right to talk with an independent person about:
    - P7.1 possible abuse
    - P7.2 sources of support
  - P8 inform children and young people about relevant others who may need to be informed about:
    - P8.1 disclosures
    - P8.2 their risk of harm
    - P8.3 concerns for their safety, health and wellbeing
  - P9 provide required information to relevant others when disclosures of abuse are made in line with organisational policies and procedures
  - P10 evaluate awareness sessions held with children and young people to identify outcomes achieved and inform future sessions
  - P11 maintain accurate and up to date records-in line with organisational requirements

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P12 work within all relevant legal requirements and organisational guidelines  
including child protection and safeguarding requirements

## Knowledge and understanding

### Legislative, regulatory and organisational requirements

#### You need to know and understand:

- K1 legal and organisational requirements which relate to promoting understanding of domestic violence and abuse amongst children and young people and their impact for your area of operations
- K2 relevant legislation applicable to your area of work
- K3 relevant others you may need to work with including:
  - K3.1 agencies and partner organisations
  - K3.2 children and young people
  - K3.3 colleagues
  - K3.4 community representatives
  - K3.5 service users
  - K3.6 stakeholders
- K4 your organisation's role, remit, objectives and services for addressing domestic violence and abuse
- K5 how the services of other agencies and organisations relate to those provided by your own organisation
- K6 the limits of your authority and responsibility, and the actions to take if these are exceeded
- K7 the rights of children and young people

### Key, general requirements for addressing domestic violence and abuse

#### You need to know and understand:

- K8 what constitutes domestic violence and abuse, and its prevalence in your local community
- K9 signs of abuse and the methods used by abusers to gain power and control
- K10 the impact of abuse upon all of those affected by it

### Requirements particular to promoting understanding amongst children and young people

#### You need to know and understand:

- K11 national and local initiatives aimed at raising awareness regarding domestic and sexual violence and abuse amongst children and young people

- K12 typical misconceptions and stereotypical viewpoints in the public domain about levels of and causes of abuse
- K13 the importance of being aware of your own values and beliefs
- K14 the impact your own values and beliefs may have when working with children and young people
- K15 how to challenge discriminatory or potentially damaging attitudes and behaviour and the importance of doing so
- K16 barriers to public understanding and awareness regarding domestic and sexual violence and abuse
- K17 signs of possible abuse in children and young people and how they can be expressed
- K18 influences on children and young people's perspectives and understanding of domestic violence and abuse
- K19 the impact of abuse on children and young people's health, safety and wellbeing
- K20 how children and young people see and experience the world in different ways and the impact when communicating with them
- K21 types of information and support sought by children and young people affected by domestic and sexual violence and abuse
- K22 sources of information and support available to children and young people affected by abuse
- K23 actions that children and young people can take if they or their friends have been abused
- K24 how to provide children and young people with guidance on actions they can take in the event of abuse
- K25 limits of confidentiality applying to your job role
- K26 circumstances where it is necessary to go against children and young people expressed wishes
- K27 the importance of ensuring that children and young people understand why their expressed wishes are not being met
- K28 different types of environments available to you when seeking to raise awareness
- K29 the relative strengths and weaknesses of different environments when raising awareness

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- K30 circumstances when it is appropriate to engage separately with young men and young women
  - K31 key agencies, partners and stakeholders involved in working with children and young people, including schools
  - K32 the requirements of the education curriculum in relation to raising awareness regarding domestic and sexual violence and abuse

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<b>Suite</b>	Preventing and addressing domestic violence and abuse
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