**Providing support to people experiencing domestic abuse during lockdown**

The coronavirus pandemic has meant that many of those most at risk, such as people experiencing domestic abuse, may be missing out on receiving help or do not know where to get it. Pharmacies have been identified as a safe space where victims may go to get help.

**How can you help?**

* Please display the enclosed poster.
* If an individual indicates a need for support by directly asking for help, in accordance with NICE guidance, please speak to the person alone and in a private space before asking any further questions related to domestic abuse.
* All victims of domestic abuse should be signposted to the relevant specialist services (see information below), and they can assist with assessing risk and developing safety plans.
* Pharmacies are expected to signpost to relevant services and provide a safe, private space for the individual to make contact with these services. Pharmacy staff are not expected to refer individuals to support services themselves or to undertake any form of risk assessment.

**If an individual, or their dependents, are at risk of immediate harm or if their life is in danger, they should dial 999.**

Thank you for supporting our communities and offering a safe space for domestic abuse victims to get the right help.

Kind Regards,

Sue Moss, Senior Public Health Specialist, Bristol City Council
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**Support available**

**Next Link** provide support services and can help to arrange emergency accommodation for women and girls who have experienced domestic abuse.

Call: 0800 4700 280 (Monday to Friday, 10am - 4pm) or speak to an advisor via live chat at: <https://nextlinkhousing.co.uk/contact/>

**Victim Support**offer confidential advice for all men who have experienced domestic or sexual abuse.

Call: 0300 303 1972 or 07432 504692
Email: bristolmens.dasupport@victimsupport.org.uk

**National Domestic Abuse Helpline** Freephone: 0808 2000247 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week)  [www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk](http://www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk)

**Men’s Advice Line** Call: 0808 8010327 or visit: <https://mensadviceline.org.uk/contact-us>

**Further information is also available on the Bristol City Council website:**[www.bristol.gov.uk/crime-emergencies/abuse-violence](http://www.bristol.gov.uk/crime-emergencies/abuse-violence)