

Church of England, Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse - Assessment sheet

Part 1, Question 1

So far in this course, we have learned some key ideas and realities relating to domestic abuse.

Choose 3 true statements from the options below:

'Controlling behaviour' is defined as a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent.

Domestic abuse is exclusively perpetrated by men.

Domestic abuse includes any situation that involves so called 'honour' based violence, female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage.

Domestic abuse can sometimes be directed from children and young people towards their parents, carers or guardians.

Part 1, Question 2

We have learned so far in this course that the vast majority of domestic abuse between partners is perpetrated by men against women.

Which two of the following statements might be possible explanations for this?

Men are more likely to feel inadequate, insecure or entitled in relationships due to cultural ideals about the nature and roles of men and women.

In general, men have a greater degree of power (eg .economically, physically) than women, and therefore may be in a position to use that power wrongly.

Domestic abuse does not occur within LGBTQI+ relationships.

Men do not report domestic abuse against themselves as readily as women.

Part 1, Question 3

What is the relevance of the term 'toxic masculinity' to the subject of domestic abuse?

Choose two from the list below

In an attempt to live up to a set of ideals about masculinity, some men act in harmful ways toward others.

'Toxic masculinity' refers to certain ideas about what it means to be male.

'Toxic masculinity' is an irrelevant concept when it comes to domestic abuse.

Part 2, Question 1

Reflecting on the situation you have just read / listened to, what are your first thoughts and what concerns do you have?

Select 2 from the options below:

Linda has physically abused Sean, and this not only raises safeguarding concerns for Sean, but also for their son.

Linda's treatment of Sean is justified and understandable, given the seriousness of Sean's behaviour.

This sounds like a complex situation that may have significant implications for Linda and Sean's involvement in the youth ministry.

It is highly unlikely that a woman would be able to overpower a man and injure him in this way. There must be some other reason for Sean's injuries and emotional state.

Part 2, Question 2

Sean goes on to explain that he has been feeling trapped by Linda for some time. Within the past year, she started demanding access to his mobile phone to check who he has been speaking with, saying that he can't be trusted, and that he is lucky to have her in his life. Sean says that he has never had an affair and doesn't understand why she is so suspicious and controlling.

What are your thoughts about this?

This sort of behaviour fits a pattern of controlling behaviour that may be cause for further concern.

I think that Linda wants open, transparent and accountable in their relationships with other people, as couples should be.

Part 2, Question 3

Given all you have heard so far, what are your next steps going to be?

Select 3 from the options below:

Ask Sean what he would like to happen next, and what his concerns are.

Explain to Sean that you need to make some notes and pass this to your safeguarding officer, who will be in a position to help further.

Ask Sean if Linda has ever been physically violent towards their son.

Reassure Sean, and offer further support at any time, should he need someone to talk to.

Part 3, Question 1

Based on what learned in this part of the course, how would you explain so called 'honour abuse'?

Select 3 from the options below:

So called 'Honour based' abuse includes FGM (Female Genital Mutilation) and forced marriage as well as other dynamics that would fall under the UK legal definition of 'Coercion and Control'.

'Honour based' abuse is carried out in order to protect the so-called "honour" of a family or community.

'Honour' codes are commonly set by the male members of families, and often specify lifestyle choices that are required by women and girls.

So called 'Honour-based' abuse only happens to women and girls.

Part 3, Question 2

What are some of the common reasons given to justify so FGM (Female Genital Mutilation) in the minds of perpetrators?

Select all that apply:

Better marriage prospects.

Protecting family honour

Health reasons.

Religious requirements.

Part 3, Question 3

In light of what you know about so called 'honour based' abuse, what sort of situations might give you immediate cause for concern?

Select 2 from the options below.

A young mother who explains that her husband would be unhappy with her attending the local toddler group.

A teenage Pakistani girl visits a school counselling service and is found to be suffering from depression, and has just started self-harming.

A young woman from a Muslim background is unhappy about moving to Saudi Arabia with their family.

A teenage girl whose family are from Malawi whose uncle accompanies her to and from school every day, and has no access to a mobile phone.

Part 4, Question 1

In this part of the course, we have thought about some of the reasons why there can be additional barriers to disclosure of domestic abuse within the Christian church.

Select 3 from the options below:

Theological issues relating of sexuality and/or gender can mean that those from LGBTQI+ backgrounds may find it difficult to raise concerns.

Many people in the church find it difficult to acknowledge marital difficulties because of a fear of failure.

Church teaching can be used by perpetrators as a lever to keep a partner in an abusive relationship.

Church leaders (vicars, priests) are not as available as they should be to hear the stories of those who are suffering.

Part 4, Question 2

What do you think are some of the positive roles that the church community could play in relation to domestic abuse?

Select 2 from the options below:

Change its ideals and teaching about marriage being a lifelong faithful commitment.

Model healthy relationships, and create safe spaces for all people, regardless of their faith background.

Trust that whilst restoration of relationships is always possible, but also hold on the realities of how long this might take, and what might need to be done to protect vulnerable people from ongoing harm.

Part 4, Question 3

True or false?

Somebody who is suffering from domestic abuse is far more likely to talk to a trusted friend about their situation, so it is beneficial for as many people as possible in your congregation to be aware of the issues and dynamics of domestic abuse within church contexts.

True

False

Final Assessment, Question 1

That Kirstie feels responsible for her boyfriend's behaviour.

That Kirstie is 16 and living by herself with her boyfriend.

That Kevin might be driving under the influence of alcohol.

That Kirstie is being subject to psychological and emotional abuse, and now facing intimidation on a regular basis in her home.

Final Assessment, Question 2

From the options below, select your 2 most immediate courses of action.

Invite Kirstie to bring one of her friends and sit down somewhere private and discuss this with you further.

Check the youth club registration forms for any emergency contact numbers for either a parent or guardian.

Ask Kirstie's friends to look after her and make sure she is OK, and report back next week when everything has calmed down.

Final Assessment, Question 3

Identify any further actions that you should take.
Select 3 from the options below:

Reassure Kirstie that she has done the right thing in talking about this with you and her friends.

Ask Kirstie whether or not you have her permission to share what she has told you with your safeguarding officer.

Ask another member of staff to sit with Kirstie whilst you call the police.

If possible, ask Kirstie to repeat what she has said to you to enable you to make some notes.