

Welcome to the Bedfordshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Support Hub Scheme.



Introduction

Bedfordshire Domestic Abuse Partnership (BDAP) Support Hub Scheme (previously Safe Spaces scheme) promotes that certain places in our local communities can:

- Provide a safe space for someone who needs to access support for domestic abuse,
- Provide a safe space for someone to contact a support service to help them safely end an abusive or controlling relationship,
- Provide a safe space for someone who is experiencing domestic abuse.

Domestic abuse affects around 2 million people in the UK every year and is not limited to physical violence. It also includes emotional, psychological and verbal abuse, financial & economic abuse and things like stalking & harassment, sexual abuse, coercive and controlling behaviours, honour-based abuse or forced marriage and other harmful behaviours or practices.

Domestic abuse can happen to anyone, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, ability, sexual orientation, circumstances, background or culture. It also can happen between ex-partners or following separation or divorce etc. It usually happens in private or in the home but can happen anywhere and can also happen on-line, via social media etc.

We know that approximately 1 in 3 women and 1 in 6 men (over the age of 16 years old) experience domestic abuse at some stage in their lives.¹ Across Bedfordshire this means that there are more than 100,000 people affected by domestic abuse in their relationship.

With around 1 in 6 adults in the UK experiencing a common mental health problem, such as anxiety or depression and 1 in 5 adults considering taking their own life at some point²; it is vital that we work together to let someone experiencing these feelings know that they are not alone and that there is help and support available.

¹ ONS (2016), March 2015 Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW)

² <https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/types-of-mental-health-problems/statistics-and-facts-about-mental-health/how-common-are-mental-health-problems/#References>

What is a BDAP Support Hub?

Our BDAP Support Hub scheme wants to provide a safe area in a building that enables someone experiencing domestic abuse or needing to access other specialist support, to be able to make a confidential call or use the internet safely to get help or support.

The Support Hub area will display information about local and national support services for a range of issues, in particular domestic abuse. But could also include information about mental wellbeing services, depending on the space available in the Hub. The information will allow individuals accessing the Hub to explore their options and find out about the right kind of support services available to them.

Staff who manage and work in the location do not need to be experts, we believe that just having information about support services displayed and providing a safe environment for someone affected by these issues could make a big difference. Staff members just need to be aware that they are a Support Hub and be able to show someone where they can access the BDAP Support Hub information. We will provide you with all the resources for your BDAP Support Hub space.

Why do we need the BDAP Support Hub scheme?

We would encourage anyone affected by issues such as domestic abuse to talk to someone they trust about what is happening to them and this is where our scheme can help.

Sadly not everyone has a safe place to go to when they need to get help or talk to someone in confidence about what is happening to them.

Whatever the situation, everyone deserves to live a life free from fear and abuse and there is support for everyone at every stage of their life or at every stage of their relationship.

Support for your organisation and team.

We will be able to give you support if you would like to become a BDAP Support Hub or find out more about how you can support individuals in your community. We will:

- Provide all the information and resources you need to put up in your Hub.
- Come to your place of work to have an initial conversation about being a BDAP Support Hub and answer any queries that you may have.
- Provide a point of contact who will be your first point of contact for any domestic abuse support.
- Provide Domestic Abuse Responder training for someone in your workplace.

Top tips for your BDAP Support Hub.

- Brief your staff teams and remind them frequently about your BDAP Support Hub space so that everyone knows about the scheme and knows where to direct any queries from individuals.
- Display the resources and logo, in your BDAP Support Hub and consider locations such as: toilet, restrooms, staff rooms, reception and break out areas etc.
- Keep in touch. Let us know if there is anything we can provide to help you promote or improve your BDAP Support Hub space.
- Look out for the BDAP Support Hub newsletter which we will be sending out to all our locations quarterly with details of our 'BDAP Support Hub of the month'.

How do I become a BDAP Support Hub?

If you think that you are able to provide a safe space to someone affected by domestic abuse then please get in contact with us by emailing your details to: BDAP@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Please provide:

- Name of your location/service
- Postal address
- Opening hours if applicable
- Website address if available
- Contact email address or phone number so that we can send you updates or resources (this detail will NOT be displayed on any public website page)

If you would like to find out more about domestic abuse and the support available, then please go to the [Bedfordshire Domestic Abuse Partnership](#) website.

If you are a professional working in Bedfordshire and would like to access training then please go to the [Bedfordshire Safeguarding Training](#) website for more information.

If you are worried that you or someone you know is in immediate danger, you should call the police on 999.