



Promoting   
Independence

# Domestic Abuse and Older People

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# Overview

- What is Domestic Abuse?
- How prevalent is this abuse generally and amongst older people?
- What are the signs to look out for?
- What support and help is there for people affected in Norfolk?

# What is Domestic Abuse?

- Domestic Abuse Act 2021 - definition
- Victims are not confined to one gender, age (if over 16) , ethnic group or socio-economic group
- Includes “Honour” based abuse, Female Genital Mutilation and forced marriage
- “personally connected” means partner or family relationships including in laws and step family
- Controlling behaviour and coercive behaviour have set definitions

Behaviour of a person (“A”) towards another person (“B”) is “domestic abuse” if—

(a) A and B are each aged 16 or over and are personally connected to each other, and

(b) the behaviour is abusive.

(3) Behaviour is “abusive” if it consists of any of the following—

(a) physical or sexual abuse;

(b) violent or threatening behaviour;

(c) controlling or coercive behaviour;

(d) economic abuse

(e) psychological, emotional or other abuse;

and it does not matter whether the behaviour consists of a single incident or a course of conduct.

(4) “Economic abuse” means any behaviour that has a substantial adverse effect on B’s ability to—

(a) acquire, use or maintain money or other property, or

(b) obtain goods or services.

(5) For the purposes of this Act A’s behaviour may be behaviour “towards” B despite the fact that it consists of conduct directed at another person (for example, B’s child).

# Controlling and Coercive Behaviour – Home Office Definitions

## **Controlling behaviour**

A range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour

## **Coercive behaviour**

An act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish or frighten their victim

# How many people are affected by Domestic Abuse?

**one in 25 people** experienced Domestic Abuse in the 12 months to March 2023, which equates to a rate of roughly 40 per 1,000 population

For Norfolk there were 18,879 Domestic Abuse related crimes in 2023-24

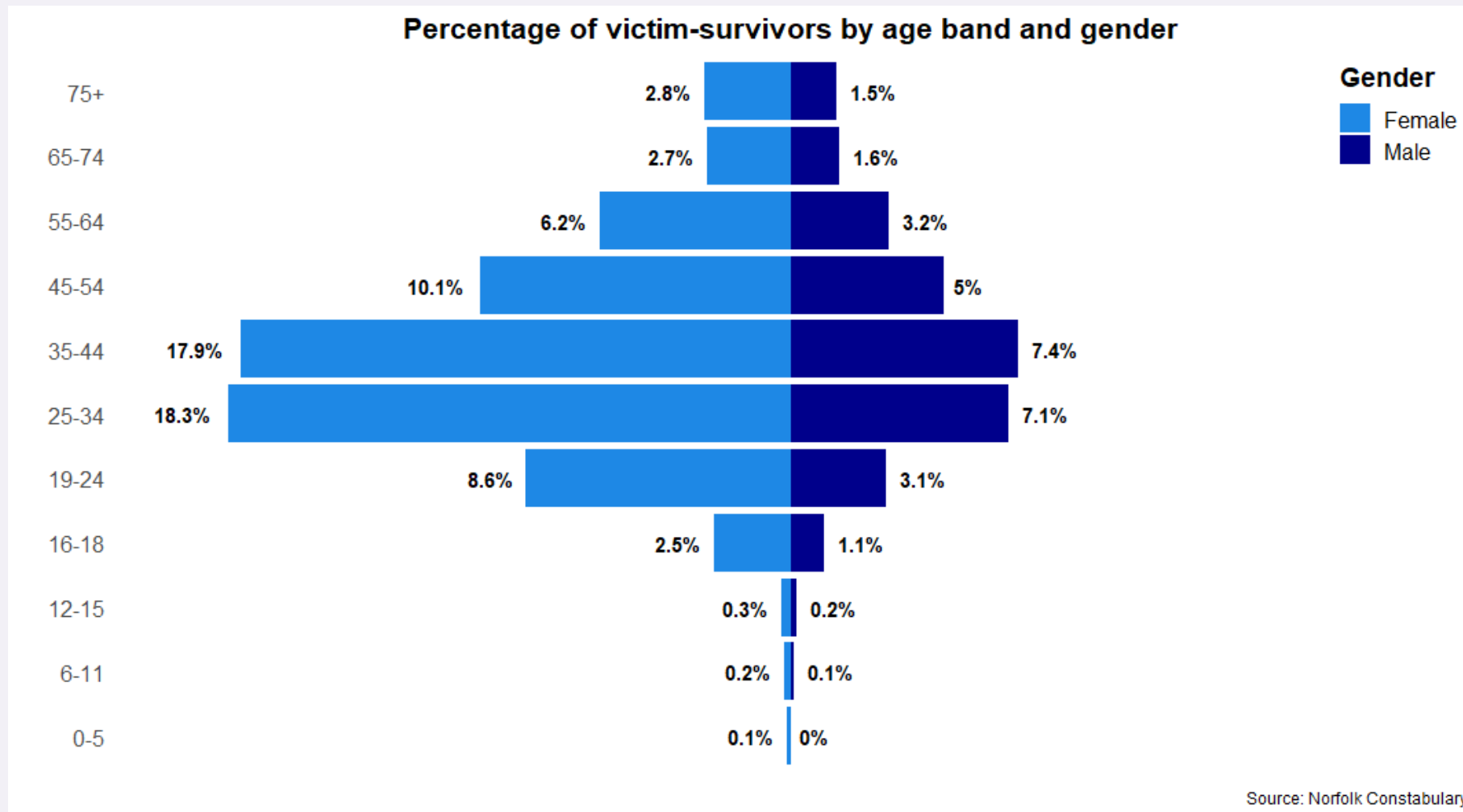
12.45 people per 1,000 population were affected

**At least 420 households in Norfolk were owed a prevention or relief homelessness duty due to Domestic Abuse, 2022/23 financial year**



District	Number of Households
Breckland	176
Broadland	83
Great Yarmouth	-
King's Lynn and West Norfolk	47
North Norfolk	45
Norwich	-
South Norfolk	69

# How many older people in Norfolk are affected by domestic abuse?

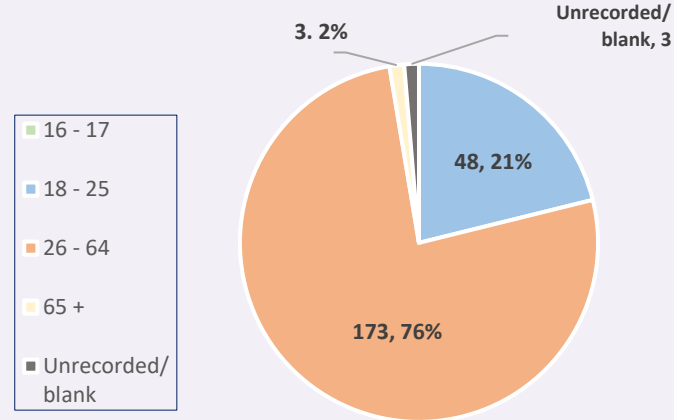


Source: Norfolk Constabulary

# How many older people in Norfolk need to flee to safe accommodation?

	No. Victim-Survivors	%
16 - 17	0	0.0%
18 - 25	48	21.1%
26 - 64	173	76.2%
65 +	3	1.3%
Unrecorded/ blank	3	1.3%
	224	

Age range of Victim-Survivors



# Orwell Housing Association

- About us
  - 4,300 homes
  - 8,200 people
  - 12 local authorities
  - Provider of refuge and dispersed accommodation for victim-survivors
- Safeguarding lead
  - Senior Executive Lead
  - Monitors all safeguarding concerns and ensures investigation
  - Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) Accreditation



# Orwell Housing Association

- Safeguarding concerns raised:
  - In 2023 there were in total 113 safeguarding concerns recorded, and this year to date we have 45 for 2024 – so the sample is 158 concerns.
  - Types of abuse recorded include:
    - Domestic Abuse
    - Honour based abuse
    - Physical
    - Financial
    - Sexual
    - Neglect
    - Bullying
    - Psychological

# What are the signs to look out for?

- We all need to be curious
- Look for behaviour changes, such as withdrawn, or frightened, flinching
- Lost or gained weight?
- Has someone else moved in? cuckooing?
- Is someone else taking care of their finances?
- Someone else talking on their behalf?
- Do they have unexplained bruises?
- Overhearing raised voices?
- Carer breakdown

# Case study

- S and R
  - Mother and Daughter
  - Carer breakdown
  - Dependant on one another
  - Coercive control
  - Constantly moving, no fixed or long time abode
  - Not allowing staff to support mum
  - Staff quickly identified something was not right
  - Referral to Adult Safeguarding Board (MASH)

# What to be aware of if someone discloses domestic abuse

- Leaving may not be the “answer”
- The person may not be ready to leave
- Leaving or talking about leaving to the perpetrator is likely to be a trigger to make the abuse worse
- Is the person safe talking to you?
- Dependant on family member

# What support and help is there in Norfolk?



If anyone is in immediate danger always call 999



Norfolk Integrated Domestic Abuse Service – weekdays 9am-6.30pm weekends 9am-3pm 0300 561 0555. Specialist support from Older People’s Independent Domestic Abuse Advocate (IDVA)



National Domestic Abuse Helpline - 0808 2000 247



Norfolk and Suffolk Victim Care 03003033706

# Other Helpful Organisations

- **Age UK** - [Age UK | The UK's leading charity helping every older person who needs us](#)
- **Dewis Choice** – The Centre for Age Gender and Social Justice [The Centre For Age Gender and Social Justice - Centre For Age Gender and Social Justice \(dewischoice.org.uk\)](#)
- **Hourglass** - [Who we are | Hourglass \(wearehourglass.org\)](#) have specialist IDVAs
- **My CWA** <https://www.mycwa.org.uk/> - Domestic Abuse and Dementia Toolkit
- **PEGS** – (Parental Education Growth Support) - Child to parent abuse (including adult children)
- **Solace Women's Aid** SOS Toolkit video ([SOS Toolkit: Supporting Older Survivors | Solace \(solacewomensaid.org\)](#))
- [Older women and domestic abuse | Iriss](#)
- **Silverline Helpline** - [The Silver Line Helpline](#)
- **National Domestic Abuse Helpline** - [nationaldahelpline.org.uk](#)
- **Dementia UK** – Admiral Nurses

[Admiral Nurse Dementia Helpline - Dementia UK](#)

# Safe accommodation



- Refuge (all for women and children) – one in each district
- Dispersed Accommodation – any adult and their children
- Sanctuary Schemes
- Factsheets in your packs

**Thank you for your time and attention**



**Any Questions?**