

Appendix 1: Definition of Domestic Violence and Abuse (Home Office):

In September 2012, the Home Office announced the following new definition of domestic violence and abuse to encompass those aged 16-17 and to reflect coercive control.

“Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender and sexuality. This can encompass, but is not limited to, the following types of abuse:

- Psychological
- Physical
- Sexual
- Financial
- Emotional

Controlling behaviour is: 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 is: 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. This includes issues of concern to black and minority ethnic (B&ME) communities such as so called 'honour based' violence, female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage, and is clear that victims are not confined to one gender or ethnic group.”⁵

Make a Change looks at the impact of patterns of behaviour between two adults in an intimate relationship or who used to be.

Make a Change is a needs led, early intervention response, we encourage beneficiaries, communities and professionals to look at how the abusive partner's behaviour limits adult and child survivors Space for Action¹. Challenging institutional victim blaming by understanding the impact of abuse on survivors sense of self, access to services, money and resources, health and well-being, parenting, community, safety, friends and family, alongside everyday coping and future plans.

¹ <https://www.solacewomensaid.org/get-informed/professional-resourcesfinding-cost-freedom>