

information will only be disclosed if it is lawful and proportionate, and there is a pressing need to make the disclosure.

If the checks do not show that there is a pressing need to make a disclosure to prevent further crime, the police will tell you that. This may be because there is no record of violent offences or there is no information held to indicate they pose a risk of harm. Or it may be that some information is held but this is not sufficient to demonstrate a pressing need for disclosure. It may be the case that the subject is not known to the police for violent offences or there is insufficient information to indicate they pose a risk of harm but they are showing worrying behaviour. In this case, the police or other support agency can help by providing advice and support.

IMPORTANT NOTE

You should be aware that police checks or any disclosures made are not a guarantee of safety. They will, however, make sure you are aware of what local and national support is available.

Can I tell my family and friends about this? I really need to talk to someone

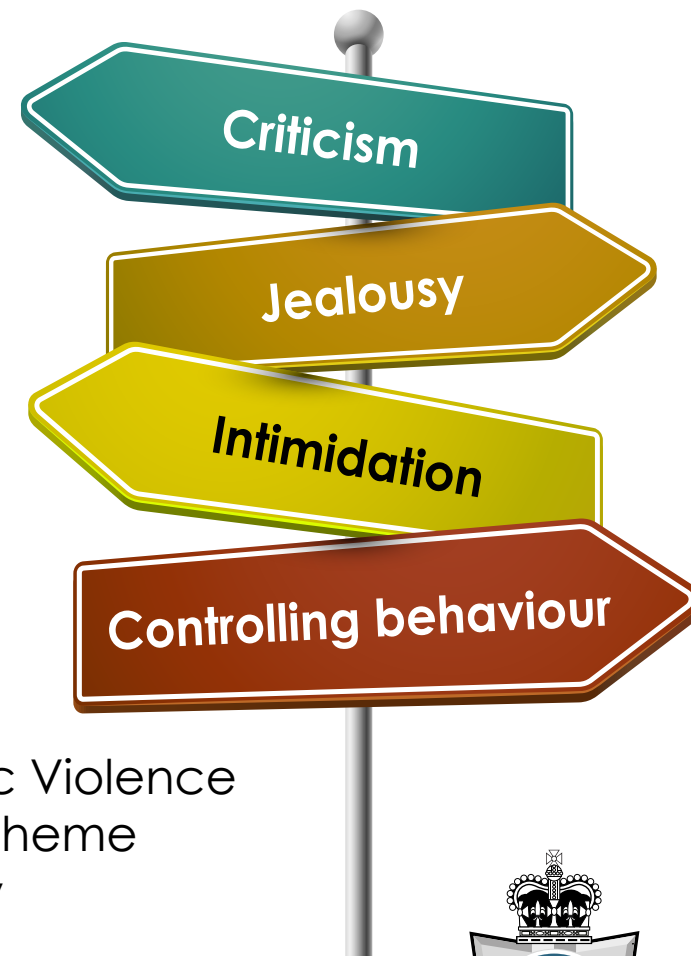
If you receive a disclosure, it should be treated as confidential. It is only being given to you so that you can take steps to protect yourself or a potential victim. You must not share this information with anyone else unless you have spoken to the police, or person who gave you the information, and they have agreed with you that it will be shared.

The police may decide not to give you information if they think that you will discuss it with others. However, the police will still take steps to protect you if you are at risk of harm.

The police may take action if the information is disclosed without their consent, which could include civil or criminal proceedings. You should be aware that it is an offence (under Section 55 of the Data Protection Act 1998) for a person to 'knowingly or recklessly obtain or disclose personal data without the consent of the data controller' which in this case is usually the police.

WORRIED

that a partner could be abusive?



The Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme
- Clare's Law

This leaflet is for you if you are in a relationship and you are worried that your partner may have been abusive in the past, or if you are concerned that someone you know may be in a relationship and is at risk of domestic violence.



Keeping people safe from domestic violence

Who can ask for a disclosure?

- anyone can make an application about an individual who is in an intimate relationship with another person and where there is a concern that the individual may harm the other person;
- any concerned third party, such as a parent, neighbour or friend can make an application not just the potential victim; however,
- a third party making an application would not necessarily receive the information about the individual concerned. It may be more appropriate for someone else to receive the information such as the victim or another person who is best placed to protect the potential victim.

How do I make an application?

You can:

- visit a police station;
- phone 101 the non-emergency number for the police; or
- speak to a member of the police on the street.

If you believe there is an immediate risk of harm to someone, or it is an emergency, you should always call 999.

STEP ONE:

Initial contact with the police

When you contact the police, you will be asked the details of what prompted your enquiry. They will also ask you when and where it is safe to make contact with you again. You will also need to give your name, address and date of birth. At a later stage, you will need to provide proof of your identity.

The police will run some initial checks based on the information you have provided and conduct an initial risk assessment. The purpose of these initial checks is for the police to establish if there are any immediate concerns. These checks will not be undertaken while you are present.

STEP TWO:

Face to face meeting to complete the application

Depending on the outcome of Step One, you may then be required to participate in a face to face meeting with the police. This meeting will be to establish further details about your application in order to assess any risk and for you to provide proof of your identity.

The police may run checks and speak to other agencies including the Prison Service, the Probation Service and Social Services based on the information you give them.

It is envisaged that the maximum time that it will take to complete the whole process, including the disclosure of information if decided necessary, is 35 days.

STEP THREE:

Multi-agency working to consider disclosure

The police will work with other safeguarding agencies to discuss the information that you have given them, along with additional information the police may have received from the checks they have run, and any relevant information from the agencies they have talked to. The multi-agencies will then decide whether any disclosure is lawful, necessary and proportionate to protect the potential victim. If they decide to disclose information, they will decide who should receive the information and set up a safety plan.

STEP FOUR:

Potential disclosure

If the checks show that the subject has a record of violent offences or there is other information that indicates there is a pressing need to make a disclosure to prevent further crime, the police may disclose this information to the potential victim or another person who is best placed to protect the potential victim. A person's previous convictions are treated as confidential and the