

# Children Experiencing Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse can be defined as an incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening, degrading and/or violent behaviour, including sexual violence, in the majority of cases by a partner or ex-partner but also by a family member or carer.



Children who witness domestic violence may experience the following:

### HEARING

shouting, aggression, hitting, screaming

### SEEING

watching violence take place, this may include sexual violence

### OBSERVING

seeing the aftermath, e.g. blood, bruising, damage to property, ripped clothing, tears

### AWARENESS

e.g. tensions in the home - the victim's mood may change around the perpetrator

All of these things can have a harmful impact on a child's physical and emotional wellbeing. This then affects their attachment style, their educational achievements and the way they interact in relationships as they get older.