

7 MINUTE BRIEFING

Coercive Control

What to do:
Use professional curiosity and be
confident to ask questions
BELIEVE disclosures made and
adopt an understanding, nonjudgemental approach.
Gather information and share
appropriately to enable risk
assessment and relevant
response.

Remember the voice of the child and adult. Click on the following link for more local information https://www.escapethecontrol.co. uk/ontrol

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Coercive control is a term used to describe a pattern of behaviour which seeks to take away the victims sense of liberty or freedom, to strip away their sense of self.

Victims, their family or professionals do not always realises they are a victim.

Examples: Using technology to monitor or track a person or threaten them. E.g phones or social media

Isolation- stalking or restricting movements, alienation of friends/ family

Manipulation –of friends, professionals, children and family

Withholding/destruction- food, money, passport, clothes, contraceptives, sanitary products

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It includes a wide range of controlling acts including manipulation, isolation, intimidation, sexual coercion, humiliation, gaslighting (a form of psychological abuse in which a victim is manipulated into doubting their own memory, perception and sanity).

Coercive control may create deprivation of independence and liberty, which can cause co-dependency, making it difficult to break away from the abuser.

There are increased levels of suicide, selfharm, and substance misuse, deterioration of mental health, risk of death and criminal offences. Risks to children also include emotional, physical abuse.

Often coercive control starts through grooming. Predators will target vulnerable children, or adults, families, friends, professionals. They may initially provide support and assistance as part of the grooming process to win the trust of their victim. Coercive control does not relate to a single incident, it's a purposeful pattern of behaviour that takes place over time, in order for one individual to exert power, control or coercion over another.

Coercive Control is a crime which carries a maximum penalty of 5 years imprisonment and a fine. It is a key factor in Child Safeguarding and Adult Safeguarding; Child Exploitation, Domestic Abuse, Harmful Practices, Modern Day Slavery, Mate Crime and Radicalisation.

For more information regarding 7 minute briefings, please email sarah.herron@knowsley.gov.uk Knowsley Safeguarding Children Board, 2nd Floor, Nutgrove Villa, Westmorland Road, Huyton L36 6GA Tel: 0151 443 3859 www.knowsleyscb.org.uk