



PRESS RELEASE:

DOMESTIC ABUSE AWARENESS RAISING MATERIAL

1 September 2005

01803 841440

A new campaign aimed at tackling domestic abuse has been launched in Torbay.

Torbay Domestic Abuse Forum has sent out posters, leaflets and useful contact numbers to a large number of organisations and businesses in Torbay from taxi businesses to hairdressers.

Jo Penhaligon, Domestic Abuse Prevention Officer, said: "Anyone can experience domestic abuse regardless of whatever age, sex, class, colour, ability, religion or sexuality. It is defined as any violent or abusive behaviour towards you or a person known by you.

"Torbay Domestic Abuse Forum has produced this awareness campaign to let people know that there is a whole network of support available for those who may be experiencing domestic abuse. Even if victims don't want to report an incident or leave a relationship there are services out there that will listen to them and offer advice and support."

The Forum has produced a poster using the picture of a woman wrapped in cling film stating, 'Domestic Abuse is a Crime! For many women, home is a prison. Help them break the silence surrounding domestic violence'. The poster provides contact numbers for the Police Domestic Violence Officers, South Devon Women's Aid Helpline and Broken Rainbow which is a 24 hour helpline for lesbian, gay, bi sexual and transgender people who are affected by domestic abuse.

The Forum have also produced an awareness raising leaflet to inform the residents of Torbay what domestic abuse is, who can experience domestic abuse and what agencies in Torbay can help victims and their children. The leaflet also has a large number of useful contact numbers ranging from the ones listed on the poster to Citizen Advice Bureau, Sure Start and Victim Support.

To accompany this campaign the Forum has also developed a handy business card that lists four useful contact numbers. These are small cards that can be picked up without anyone noticing and be stored discreetly.

Torbay Domestic Abuse Forum is a group of representatives from various agencies who have an interest in assisting victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse. The agencies represented on the Forum are Housing, Social Service and Education Departments of Torbay Council, Police, Probation, Primary Care Trust, Sure Start, Job Centre, South Devon Women's Aid, Samaritans, Victim Support, Riviera Housing, Relate and local solicitors.

Note to News Editors. To arrange interviews, please contact Rachael Powell, Information & Communications Officer, Safer Communities Torbay on telephone number 01803 841440.

Research has shown that 1 in 3 women, 1 in 6 men and 1 in 4 people involved in a lesbian, gay or bisexual relationship are affected by domestic abuse at least once during their lifetime.