



HILLINGDON

LONDON

PRESS RELEASE

From Cllr Janet Gardner – London Borough of Hillingdon's Domestic Violence Advocate

The Festive season is, for many of us, a time of family happiness, tinsel, lights, decorations, presents, and over indulgence.

However it is also the time of year when incidents of Domestic Violence rise. Labour Councillor Janet Gardner urges anyone who has a friend/neighbour or family member who they suspect is a victim of this CRIME, to ring the Police if they think the victim is in need of help.

Many victims of Domestic Violence dread this time of year when they know their partners alcohol consumption goes up, arguments start and they fear for their lives.

If you see unexplained bruises or hear shouting, screaming, cries for help from friends, neighbours or family members and think it isn't your concern, IT IS. Please DON'T IGNORE IT – REPORT IT.

It is a problem that will only be eradicated when, as a society, we acknowledge that we all should help those subjected to violence and abuse. Please, please remember that children who witness or hear violence in the home are also the victims and need our help and support.

FACT: 2 women a week are killed by their partners because people have just looked the other way and decided not to get involved.

- The Council has provisions in place for helping victims fleeing violence. 01895 250111 (24 hours a day)
- There is the Sanctuary Scheme which helps victims stay in their home by installing a 'safe' room.
- There is a support service 01895 457421 and much more.

If you are a victim and in fear of violence then call the POLICE on 999 - don't wait and hope it won't happen.

Victims/friends of victims/concerned neighbours can call the Community Safety Team at West Drayton Police Station on 0208 246 1766 who will provide you with help and advice.

THINK OF OTHERS NOT AS FORTUNATE AS YOURSELF and do all you can to help...