



## **Domestic Violence and Abuse Advocacy within RBCH**

The aim of having a DVA Advocate within RBCH is to improve outcomes for patients who disclose domestic abuse to Health staff.

The DVA Advocate will be working as part of the Safeguarding Team.

The DVA Advocate will be able to offer support to health professionals in all hospital departments if patients present with DVA issues.

The role of the DVA Advocate includes:

- Providing targeted support on DVA to patients whilst they are in the Health setting. This may include assessment, support, advice and safety planning.
- Referring patients to DVA and other support services where appropriate.
- Supporting Health staff to develop knowledge, skills and confidence in recognising and responding to DVA by delivering training.
- Working with Health staff to review, develop and embed processes and systems that will make it easier for Health staff to respond to DVA.
- Helping embed the Domestic Abuse Health Referral Pathway.
- Providing support to any member of staff that may be experiencing DVA.

When Health staff have identified the potential for DVA with a patient they can follow these steps to access the DVA Advocates:

- Ensure they have the correct contact details for the patient including times when contact can be made safely. Please check with the patient if it is safe for the DVA Advocate to leave a message (voicemail or text).
- Obtain verbal consent from the patient and contact the DVA Advocate either by bleep, phone or face to face to request their support, using the contact details below.
- It remains the responsibility of the Health staff to address any other safeguarding concerns, including those of any children, through the usual processes.

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**You First SPOC (24/7): 0800 032 5204**