

South Wiltshire Domestic Violence Forum

Department for Children & Education (formerly Social Services)

“It’s so sad for all family members! Children witnessing domestic violence are often badly affected. Support groups for such children have found that they can feel tremendous guilt for not protecting an adult and may not attend school so as to be near a vulnerable parent.” *– a local social worker*

The Department for Children & Education (DCE) operates within the County Council and becomes involved with domestic violence in cases where children are exposed to incidents. DCE is notified by the police of all reported incidents where children are suspected of having been present and will follow up serious cases immediately. Others are acted upon if incidents recur at the same address. Follow-up takes the form of an initial assessment that is intended to establish the facts, find out what is going on and to see what help and support might be appropriate.

DCE aims to keep families together! Families are encouraged to cooperate in working with DCE to reduce violence and improve the overall family position. Help can include advice and assistance with counselling, re-housing, referral to other agencies and even financial support can be provided. Cooperation is usually forthcoming and additional support can include referral to a refuge and assistance with travel.