

# Take a stand against domestic violence

**POLICE in the UK receive one domestic violence call every minute but less than half of all incidents are actually reported.**

This staggering fact comes from Women's Aid – the key national charity working to end domestic violence against women and children.

We treat domestic violence so seriously that a year ago we established a Public Protection Unit for Bassetlaw, Newark and Sherwood, based in Ollerton. This was the first of its kind

for Nottinghamshire Police.

Women's Aid gave their support to the new dedicated team of police officers and support staff and, for the first time, placed Women's Aid Independent Domestic Violence Advocates, in the same building to work as closely as possible with the police.

The emphasis of the team is to provide a professional response to sexual offending and domestic violence and to provide support to victims as well as manage perpetrators through the strong multi-agency partnerships

that have been formed.

Domestic violence can be physical, sexual, psychological or financial violence that takes place within an intimate or family-type relationship.

Nobody should have to suffer this type of controlling and abusive behaviour and I want to offer my support and reassurance to people who may be subject to such violence. It is a crime and you need to report it so that we can do something about it.

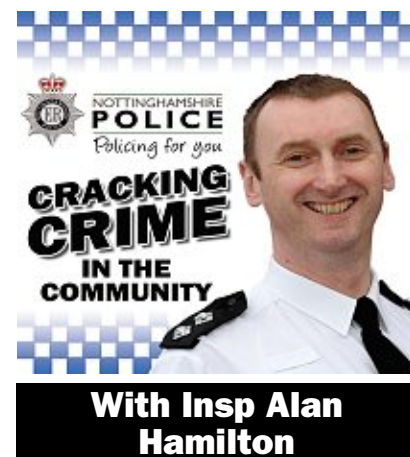
This type of criminal behaviour can inflict long-term physical and emotional damage to victims.

This cannot happen, we need to know it is happening to be able to do something to help.

Please don't be a victim, take a stand against domestic violence and report it.

If you are suffering domestic violence you can seek confidential advice and support from Women's Aid on 01909 533610 or report it to Nottinghamshire Police on 01909 500999, or in an emergency 999.

The freephone 24 hour National Domestic Violence Helpline, run in partnership between Women's Aid and Refuge is 0808 2000 247.



# DARE double for teacher Leah

**THIRTEEN years ago, Year 6 schoolteacher Leah Baxendale was one of the first pupils in Bassetlaw to take part in the DARE programme.**

A pupil at Worksop's St Augustine's School at the time, Leah and her classmates initially had no idea of what it was all about.

"We just knew that it would be something different to the usual curriculum lessons, especially when we saw our teachers would be policemen in uniform," she said.

But whereas most pupils said goodbye to the scheme when they moved on, Leah's association with DARE was to resume when she eventually took up a teaching post at Kingston Park Primary School in Carlton.

"I was really pleased to see that

**by Stuart Bussingham**

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DARE was still being taught in my new school's classroom," she said.

"And because I had been through the course as a student I was able to relate to it in a unique way and give it my full support."

Leah said that although the DARE programme has been running in this country for a number of years, it is still playing a key role in the fight against drugs and violence.

But teachers and parents currently have more resources than before to help them cope with the problems facing young people.

"The goals are still the same but nowadays youngsters have more evidence to illustrate what can happen," said Leah.

She added that the scheme is still working in much the same way as it has always done.

"The children look forward to the lessons and the graduation ceremony makes it all very special," she said.

"But whereas the DARE teeshirts were black in my day, they are now red."

DARE – Drug Abuse Resistance Education – first saw the light of day in 1983 when Los Angeles police chief Daryl Gates and Glenn Levant set about trying to prevent the use of illegal drugs, membership of gangs and violent behaviour.

DARE was based on the idea that the present generation was already hooked on drugs. The future lay in the hands of children. They believed that the best people to deliver the message were uniformed police officers in schools.

The current programme provides drug education and preventative activities to help young people to understand the dangers of the misuse of drugs.

Nowadays, DARE is part of an international organisation which is active in over 55 countries all over the world.



● Kingston Park Primary School Year 6 teacher Leah Baxendale with DARE officer Pc John Redfern (W81216/19)

Over 250,000 pupils have been taught the message by serving or ex-police officers.

It came to the UK in 1983 where it became firmly established, initially in Notts.

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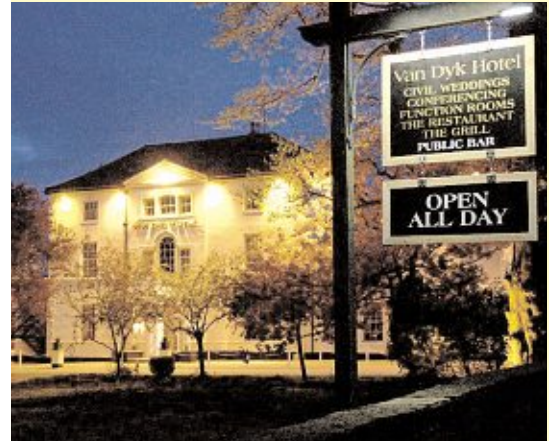
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