



Together We Can
22nd February 2016



A new campaign is being launched today to raise awareness of domestic abuse in Essex, Southend and Thurrock and the support available for victims.

Every day, Essex Police respond to 80 calls reporting domestic violence; over a year, this adds up to more than 26,000 calls, although due to under-reporting police believe that the actual number of incidents may be as high as 125,000. The Office for National Statistics estimates that 1.4 million women and 700,000 men nationally fall victim to domestic abuse every year, with two women killed every week by a current or former partner. Domestic violence also has a higher rate of repeat victimisation than any other crime; a victim will be assaulted an average of 35 times before they first call the police.

It's this last figure that the #TogetherWeCan campaign aims to confront. Victims of domestic abuse are discouraged from discussing their experiences by the fear of not being taken seriously, not receiving the right support, or encountering stigma. By showing their support on social media, the people of Essex, Southend, and Thurrock can break down the dangerous silence surrounding domestic abuse, making communication easier and support more readily available.

To show your support, [print off the campaign sign HERE](#) and take a picture with it, or upload it directly and post it on social media with the hashtag #TogetherWeCan. Increasing the visibility of support for victims of domestic abuse can diminish feelings of isolation, and posting a link to the Essex Police and Crime Commissioner's new website can help victims access the guidance and support they need to make a change.

www.essexvictimsgateway.org is designed to raise awareness and offer support for victims of crime in the county. The site also provides support and guidance on topics ranging from antisocial behaviour and hate crime to sexual violence and modern slavery, providing links to useful information and organisations that can offer help to victims and guidance to those concerned about someone they know.

A postcode search on the site allows users to find resources and assistance in their area, ensuring that victims of crime can find support even when an incident has not been reported to the police or where an offence happened in the past. The site also offers a "leave this site" option at the top of each page, linked directly to Google to offer an added level of security to users who may need to leave the site quickly.

More information about domestic abuse is also available from Essex Police, Essex County Council, Thurrock Council and Southend-on-Sea Borough Council. For more information on the #TogetherWeCan campaign, follow [@EssexPoliceUK](#), [@SouthendBC](#), [@Essex_CC](#), and [@thurrockcouncil](#) on Twitter