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Society often romanticises these gestures, even if they are unwanted, scary and intrusive. Stalking can also take many forms with perpetrators increasingly using technology and smart devices in the home to track, trace and monitor people's behaviour. Unfortunately, in some cases, stalking isn't taken seriously and the risk escalates causing distress, fear and alarm. Living with this can be debilitating.  **So what is stalking?**   * Stalking is described as a pattern of unwanted behaviours that are fixated or obsessive and can be intrusive. * Stalking behaviours can be carried out by current or ex-partners, family members or someone that is not known to the person being stalked. * It can include harassment that amounts to stalking or stalking that causes fear of violence or serious alarm or distress.   **What does stalking look like?** A pattern of unwanted behaviours that may include:   * Following someone or monitoring their movements * Turning up in unexpected locations * Watching someone * Moving things or leaving things around their home or place of work * Calling and messaging repeatedly * Monitoring someone's online movements * Using smart devices to record information or obtain information about someone * Planting recording devices * Putting tracking apps on their phone or using tracking devices * Causing damage to property * Acting in an intimidating way * Giving unwanted gifts such as chocolates and flowers, writing letters or making 'grand gestures'   Alarmingly, 76% of women murdered nationally had reported stalking in the previous 12 months. This increases to 85% for women who were murdered by their partner.  Find out more about Stalking and Harassment at our Live webinar, hosted by our Barnsley team on April 21st at 10 am - 10.45 am. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | [**Stalking and Harassment Webinar**](https://idas.us15.list-manage.com/track/click?u=fee1ce260057a461f69704177&id=1ce7b312a1&e=82dda5a0f8) | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | **Registrations are open for our annual fundraiser!**  We need your support to help us raise vital funds for our life saving services. Take part in a team or as an individual, you set your distance goal and choose how to cover it. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Domestic Abuse Bill**  The Domestic Abuse Bill has had it's final reading in the House of Commons and now returns to the House of Lords for 'Consideration of Amendments' before receiving Royal Assent and becoming law.  Much progress has been made to improve the Bill following tireless campaigning by many organisations in the sector.   Here is a summary of some key changes to existing legislation:   * The Bill will introduce a new legal definition of domestic abuse which will include economic abuse, coercive and controlling behaviour and acknowledge that domestic abuse can continue after the relationship has ended. Additionally, children will be recognised as victims in their own right. * Increased protections for survivors in Family Court, with improved access to special measures, the ability for Judges to appoint counsel to prevent cross questioning of victims by alleged perpetrators and * Domestic Abuse Protection Notices and Orders will be introduced as the 'go to' protective order. * Make non-fatal strangulation a specific, stand alone offence. * Put the guidance supporting the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (Clare's Law) on a statutory footing. * The Revenge Porn offence will be widened to cover threats to share intimate pictures.   Amendments that have not been adopted into the Bill:   * Adequate provision for the protection of migrants and those subject to 'No Recourse to Public Funds' * Commitment to fund essential community services * Mandatory training for Judges * A national serial perpetrators register   We are planning a series of webinars to discuss the Bill in detail and what this will mean in practice and from a policy perspective. Look out for the link to these in the next update email. | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | **Print our posters and put them up in your community or place of work.**  Help us to ensure that everyone can access the support they need. We have created printable posters to be put up in GP surgeries, testing centres, post offices and supermarkets. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | [**Print your posters now - Barnsley & North Yorkshire**](https://idas.us15.list-manage.com/track/click?u=fee1ce260057a461f69704177&id=de3050ebcc&e=82dda5a0f8) | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | [**Print your posters now - Sheffield**](https://idas.us15.list-manage.com/track/click?u=fee1ce260057a461f69704177&id=85f4691a74&e=82dda5a0f8) | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Thank you**  We are grateful for your continued support. | | | | |