

ABUSE IN TEEN RELATIONSHIPS

Definition

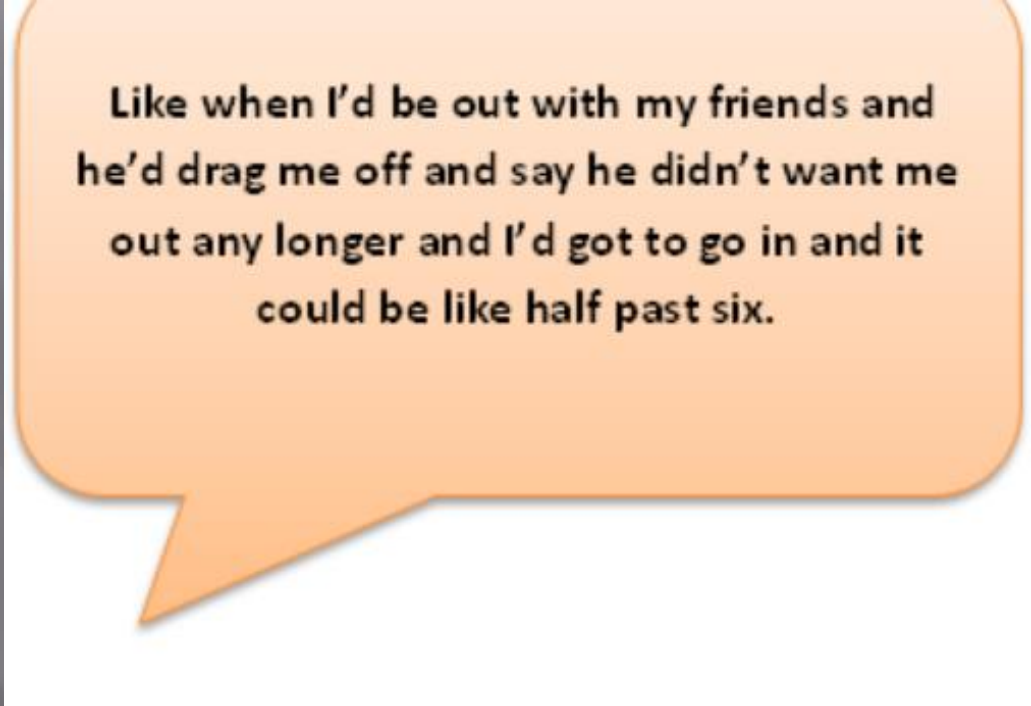
- ▣ Teenage relationship abuse is when there is actual or threatened abuse within a romantic relationship or a former relationship. One partner will try to maintain power and control over the other. This abuse can take a number of forms: physical, sexual, financial, emotional or social. This includes coercive and controlling behaviour.
- ▣ The current UK definition of domestic violence includes incidences between people aged 16 or over, but it is important to note that violence and abuse can occur in relationships between children and young people at any age.

Definition

- ▣ It can include, but is not limited to, the following types of abuse:
- ▣ psychological
- ▣ physical
- ▣ sexual
- ▣ financial
- ▣ emotional

- ▣ **Controlling behaviour** is: a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour

- ▣ **‘Coercive behaviour** is: an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim.’



Like when I'd be out with my friends and he'd drag me off and say he didn't want me out any longer and I'd got to go in and it could be like half past six.

Law

- ▣ In April 2013 the domestic violence definition was strengthened to include coercive and controlling behaviour and to include victims aged 16 and over.
- ▣ Teenage relationship abuse is covered by existing laws on specific offences like sexual assault, grievous bodily harm, stalking, and murder. It is covered through civil law to protect the victim/survivor and criminal law to punish the perpetrator.

Law

- ▣ During the teenage years, young people are influenced by a huge array of factors, which can increase vulnerability and risk.
- ▣ These can include; puberty and hormonal changes, wanting increased autonomy from family, peer pressure, body image and self esteem issues, the influence of the media, an increased capacity for cognitive reasoning etc.

TEEN ABUSE

Who to talk to

- ▣ ChildLine – 0800 1111 – www.childline.org.uk
NSPCC – 0808 800 5000
- ▣ National Domestic Violence Helpline – 0808 2000 247
- ▣ Get Connected – 0808 808 4994
- ▣ The Hideout – www.thehideout.org.uk
- ▣ Respect Not Fear – www.respectnotfear.co.uk

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