



WORAID: West Oxfordshire Rural Areas Initiative on Domestic Abuse

A 2019 study discovered that domestic abuse in rural areas is under-reported by 50% compared to urban areas, and victims suffer for 25% longer than urban survivors. The lockdown and other social pressures during the COVID pandemic made the situation even more difficult.

Would you see or recognise the signs of abuse; and, if you do, would you know what to do? Are you one of the many people who want to be able to do more about this critical issue?



If you want to help **reduce the risk of rural domestic abuse**, you can now invite a Reducing the Risk Champion to come and talk with you and a group of people in your community. These 2-hour sessions will be provided free of charge by West Oxfordshire District Council¹ for groups of 10 or more people who can book a local hall or other suitable venue. We are able to offer these sessions in November or December. To register your interest in organising a local session, please [click here](#)

These local sessions will describe what to do if you are concerned about possible cases of domestic abuse and will also give you the opportunity, in the near future, to be trained as a Domestic Abuse (DA) Champion for your community. As a Champion you would provide advice when people contact you and know how to contact specialists who can intervene and/or arrange protection for victims. We are keen to identify and identify and train an additional 100 volunteers as DA Champions for communities across West Oxfordshire.

If you would like more information have a look at our [online toolbox](#)

¹ These sessions are being provided through COVID Contain Outbreak Management Funding.