

## **Blow the whistle on domestic abuse**

The 2008 UEFA European Football Championship, commonly referred to as Euro 2008, will take place between 7<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> June. Research has shown that alcohol consumption can rise during large-scale sporting events, and with estimates that approximately 45 percent of perpetrators who assault their partners do so under the influence of alcohol, this in turn could have implications for those in an abusive relationship.

Alcohol does not cause domestic abuse, but it can trigger arguments between partners who may find themselves in a cycle of violence, abuse and alcohol misuse.

If a person is suffering domestic abuse there are a number of local support services they can speak to for confidential help and advice. One such service is Berkshire Women's Aid who run an Outreach service, "surgeries", helpline and refuge accommodation across the Bracknell area. The locations are kept confidential so people can visit them safely. The Outreach workers keep all information confidential and can provide on going support to women suffering domestic abuse but who do not want to move into refuge accommodation.

If you wish to speak to someone in confidence, call Berkshire Women's Aid on 0118 9504003. Men suffering domestic abuse can speak to Victim Support Berkshire on 01344 411 411.

Help is available for any man worried about their abusive behaviour: call the Changing Ways East Berkshire & Wokingham Perpetrator programme on 07818 054563.

Details of other domestic abuse support agencies in Bracknell can be found at the Bracknell Forest Borough Council website <http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/domesticviolence.htm>

Domestic abuse is a crime and Thames Valley Police operate a positive intervention policy holding offenders accountable for their actions. At its extreme, domestic abuse can result in murder – on average one woman will be killed by a current or former partner every three days. Thirty men a year are killed by a current or former partner. To report domestic abuse to the police in an emergency call 999. Call 0845 8 505 505 in a non emergency.