**Domestic Violence Protection Notice and Orders**

The new Domestic Violence Protection Notice and Orders legislation came into force on Monday 2nd June 2014 in South Yorkshire.

Domestic violence protection orders are a new power introduced by the **Crime and Security Act 2010**, and enable the police to put in place protection for the victim in the immediate aftermath of a domestic violence incident.

The Domestic Violence Protection Notice (DVPN) allow police officers to act instantly to safeguard you and your children (if you have them) if they consider you to be under threat of domestic abuse – this may be from your partner, husband / wife, boyfriend / girlfriend or a family member. The Orders are used to intervene in cases where police believe someone may be at risk from violence or are worried about violent behaviour within a household, but do not have enough evidence to bring a criminal charge. Within 48 hours of a DVPN being issued, there is a hearing in the Magistrates’ court where the Police can apply for the notice to be made into an order (Domestic Violence Protection Order – or DVPO) and the length of the order is determined – this can be for up to 28 days.

The new measures give police the power to ban someone who is being violent to their partner or other family member from their homes for a length of time decided through the magistrates’ court (between 14 and 28 days). The order allows the victim to stay in their own home rather than have to flee themselves (e.g. to a friend’s home, or a refuge), to escape the abuser. This is intended to give you vital respite and time to consider your options. You will be given information about local support agencies who can provide assistance to you and help you consider your options e.g. whether you want to secure a longer-term injunction against the person who is abusing you.

A Domestic Violence Protection Notice can contain details such as telling the person who is being abusive not to text, call, write, email or ‘facebook’ you. If the person being abusive to you lives at your address it will do the following:

* Prohibit them from evicting or excluding you
* Prohibit them from entering the address
* Require them to leave the address
* Prohibit them from coming within a specified distance of you.

The Police may arrest the abuser without a warrant if the police believe that they have breached the Domestic Violence Protection Order.

A breach of the order by the abuser can result in a fine from **£50 to £5,000 or imprisonment** for up to 2 months.

For more information see <http://www.southyorks.police.uk/news-syp/domestic-violence-protection-orders-used-across-south-yorkshire>