

COVID-19 LATEST: Boots consultation rooms to become 'safe spaces' for patients facing domestic abuse



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The domestic abuse charity Hestia is overseeing a safe space model in consultation rooms at most of the 2,400 Boots pharmacies across the country to provide access to support for anyone experiencing domestic abuse.

People who wish to use the safe space consultation room need to ask at the pharmacy counter. Once inside, they will find the 24-hour national domestic abuse helpline, the men's advice line and phone numbers for services specific to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

There will be signposting to download Hestia's mobile app Bright Sky, which provides support and information to anyone who may be in an abusive relationship.

Lyndsey Dearlove, the head of Hestia's UK SAYS NO MORE campaign, said: "While lockdown and social distancing measures continue, it is restricting victims of domestic abuse reaching out to their friends, family and co-workers for support.

"We recognise that key workers in pharmacies hold a unique position within the community as a single point of contact for victims. By creating this safe space in Boots pharmacies, we hope many will be able to safely access support while following government guidelines."