

Responding to Domestic Abuse

Guidance for Professionals



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Introduction

Domestic abuse affects 1 in 4 women and 1 in 6 men in their lifetime¹.

Home Office Definition of Domestic Violence

Any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between adults² who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality." This includes issues of concern to black and minority ethnic (BME) communities such as so called 'honour based violence', female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage.³

Domestic abuse can have a significant effect on children and young people, impacting on their physical, emotional and behavioural development. Domestic violence can affect children and young people in many ways, from being direct victims, exposure to, or intervening during, incidents and experiencing abuse within their own adolescent relationships.

The East Sussex Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) has recognised the serious impact on children and young people and as such has identified domestic violence and abuse as a priority for all partners.

This guidance document has been created to support professionals to effectively respond to any adult disclosure of abuse or suspected abuse. The guidance offers some basic information and can be used as a quick reference tool.

Much of this information reflects the LSCB Domestic Violence Recognition and Response course and the material contained with the participant pack for this course. All practitioners are strongly advised to attend this course as a basis for their learning in relation to domestic abuse.

If you have any training or other development needs then please contact:

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2012

¹ Mirrlees-Black, C. 1996. 'Domestic Violence: Findings from a new British Crime Survey self-completion questionnaire. Home Office Research Study 191.

² Note that East Sussex include ages 16+ within definition

³ The Home Office are currently (March 2012) undertaking a consultation on the cross-government definition of domestic violence.

Abbreviations

CAADA: Coordinated Action against Domestic Abuse

DA: Domestic Abuse

DV: Domestic Violence

DASH: Domestic Abuse Stalking and Harassment risk assessment

IDVA: Independent Domestic Violence Advisor/ Advocate

LSCB: Local Safeguarding Children Board

MARAC: Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference

Please note that the terms domestic violence and domestic abuse will be used interchangeably throughout the document

DOMESTIC ABUSE RESPONSE FLOWCHART

INDIVIDUAL APPROACHES ANY SERVICE 1



ASK DV/DA ROUTINE QUESTION 2



NO DISCLOSURE AND NO INDICATORS PRESENT
Deal with presenting issue 3a

DOMESTIC ABUSE DISCLOSED
3b

NO DISCLOSURE BUT INDICATORS OF ABUSE PRESENT
3c



If the individual is in immediate danger you will need to take urgent action e.g. calling 999, accessing refuge or temporary accommodation



CONDUCT DASH RISK ASSESSMENT 4



FURTHER ACTION

Immediate safety planning Identify further sources of support e.g. children's centre, Homestart, counselling, Victim Support etc Share any relevant information with involved practitioners' e.g. Allocated SW if appropriate Initiate CAF	STANDARD
Referral to the IDVA service if medium/high risk Child protection/ Adult at risk of abuse referrals where necessary Referral to MARAC via your MARAC agency representative	MEDIUM
	HIGH 5



Follow up support



Responding to domestic abuse flowchart guidance

2. Routine Questioning/ Enquiry⁴

Routine questioning is used by a variety of agencies in relation to domestic violence. Within East Sussex organisations are encouraged to assess how they can implement routine questioning where they do not already have this system in place. Routine enquiry involves screening every individual by asking a direct question in relation to abuse. This process helps with early identification and provides a standardised approach to enquiring about abuse.

Routine enquiry refers to asking *all* women who are using the service direct questions about their experiences, if any, of domestic violence regardless of whether there are signs of abuse or whether violence is suspected. *

(A) Practice note: You must not attempt to ask a routine question with *anyone else* present. The only exception to this is when you are using a professional interpreter. You may need to create opportunities to be alone with the individual.

Ask your routine question in an open, sensitive and supportive manner. Examples of routine questions include

- ✓ We know that 1 in 4 women and 1 in 6 men experience domestic abuse during their lifetime. For this reason we ask all our individuals whether domestic abuse is an issue in their relationships.
- ✓ How safe do you feel at home?
- ✓ Are you afraid of yourself or your children being hurt?

3a. No disclosure of abuse and no indicators present

If you receive a negative answer to the routine question you have asked and there are no indicators of abuse present then you will not need to explore this issue any further (please see Appendix 1 for potential indicators of abuse). However, as with routine questioning, you can use this opportunity to tell the individual a key piece of information relating to help and support e.g. *'I always let people know that if this does become an issue for them in the future that there is help and support available both locally and nationally, for example the national domestic violence 24 hr helpline'*.

⁴ The literature demonstrates a wealth of different uses of terms like 'screening' and 'routine enquiry'. The definitions given here are based on those found useful in the Crime Reduction Programme (CRP) Violence Against Women Initiative (VAWI) projects which were evaluated. Home Office: 'Tackling Domestic Violence: the role of health professionals'. 2nd Edition.

* Although the above definition refers to women, routine definition should be used for anyone accessing the service.

(B) Practice note: Even if you receive no disclosure and there are no indicators of abuse present you should be aware that abuse may still be taking place. An individual may not disclose abuse for a range of reasons and some types of abuse may be harder to spot than others. Therefore try to always give out some information/ helpline to every individual. Remember to do this in a safe way (see above practice note).

You might consider initiating the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) process at this stage depending on the circumstances and other presenting issues. The CAF is a standardised tool which helps a practitioner to assess whether a child had additional needs and to help decide how best to meet those needs (see Appendix 5).

3b. Domestic abuse disclosed

If domestic abuse is disclosed, you will need to ensure the immediate safety of the individual and any children. If there are immediate concerns to safety then you will need to take urgent action. This may involve one or a combination of the following actions:

- ✓ Contact 999: If you feel that someone is in immediate danger you will need to contact the police. An example of this might be if the perpetrator has followed the individual to their appointment and is waiting for them, there have been threats to kill or the individual does not feel safe to return home.
- ✓ When you are asking about domestic abuse you might be told by the individual that they feel unable to return to their accommodation. If this is the case then you can support them to contact the National Domestic Violence Helpline (0808 2000 247) who can let you know the availability of refuge accommodation outside East Sussex. If the individual wishes to remain in East Sussex you will be able to contact Refuge, the local refuge provider to ascertain whether there is any refuge space available locally. Alternatively, the individual may wish to approach any local authority housing department as homeless (note that they will need to satisfy certain criteria to be eligible for assistance).

(C) Practice note: Remember your own safety. Adhere to any relevant policies and procedures e.g. Lone Working policy.

Following a disclosure of domestic abuse you will need to conduct the Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Harassment (DASH) risk indicator checklist (see stage 4).

(D) Practice note: Before you begin your risk assessment ensure that you will have enough time to work through the process with the individual.

3c. No disclosure of abuse and indicators present

It is important to remember that the presence of indicators does not automatically mean that someone has experienced abuse. However, there may be times where you have asked a routine question and have not received a disclosure but you believe there may be issues of domestic abuse present. See Appendix 1 for examples of some indicators. Depending on why you have suspicions you might be able to gently question the individual further e.g. if you have seen an injury that does not tally with the explanation given you could ask the following *'It's unusual to see that type of injury for the incident you have described. Is there anything else you'd like to tell me?'*

Despite no disclosure you can still use this opportunity to impart some information about sources of support for example, the National Domestic Violence 24hr Helpline number 0808 2000 247 *'in case she or someone she knows ever needs it'*.

If there is no disclosure of abuse but there is evidence of domestic violence posing a risk of significant harm to the child then contact should be made with Children's Services.

(E) Practice note: Remember to think about safety issues when you are handing out literature. Is it going to be safe for the individual to take the information away with them or will it put them in further danger?

4. Use of DASH (Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Harassment and Honour Based Violence) Risk Identification Checklist (RIC)

The DASH-RIC was developed by Laura Richards on behalf of the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) in partnership with Coordinated Action against Domestic Abuse (CAADA). The model has been developed by researching thousands of domestic abuse cases which involved homicide, serious violence and 'near misses'. Its evidence base means that DASH provides an effective common tool and a shared understanding of risk for all agencies.

Assessment of risk is a complex area. Those staff that are trained in the use of DASH-RIC are usually best placed to assess the risk of harm. The DASH checklist of risk indicators is a guide for professionals to help assess the risk of harm and has been shaped by focus groups to ensure that the phraseology elicits effective responses in relation to risk. Risk of harm cannot be assessed solely on an actuarial score. However, if the number of "yes" responses is 14 or more, then it should be assumed that there is a high risk of serious harm occurring. Where there is a high risk of harm the case should be referred to the local Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC).

If you are not DASH-RIC trained and you have had a disclosure of domestic abuse, you will need to make a judgement about whether it is better to conduct an assessment of risk yourself, using the DASH-RIC to assist you, or whether you should refer this to someone in your, or another, service whom you know is DASH-RIC trained. When making this judgement you should consider the likelihood of the person who has disclosed abuse to you withdrawing if you refer them to a colleague, resulting in a missed opportunity to engage. If, on balance, you decide that it is better to use the DASH-RIC yourself, it is advisable to review your findings with a colleague who is DASH-RIC trained afterwards, whilst respecting confidentiality.

When using the DASH-RIC you should ensure that it is completed fully so that all the possible indicators of risk are checked. You should consider victim safety when completing the DASH-RIC and ensure there is enough time available to complete the checklist.

5. Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)

The MARAC brings together professionals from a broad range of agencies and aims to piece together what each agency knows about domestic abuse cases considered to have a high risk of serious harm. This assists all agencies to build a fuller picture of risk and to develop multi-agency plans to reduce the risks. The Hastings and Rother MARAC and the Eastbourne, Lewes and Wealden MARAC both meet on a monthly basis. The MARAC is a victim-focused meeting where the primary aim is to improve the safety of the person being abused and the safety of their children. For more information on the MARAC please see the MARAC Operating Protocol link in appendix 5, or go to www.safeineastsussex.org.uk/MARAC.html for information about how to refer.

You should refer domestic abuse cases to the appropriate MARAC (where the victim of domestic abuse currently resides) if:

- Your professional judgement is that there is a high risk of serious harm.
“Serious harm” means ‘a risk which is life threatening and/or traumatic and from which recovery, whether physical or psychological, can be expected to be difficult or impossible’.
“High Risk” means that there are identifiable factors of risk of serious harm: the potential event could happen at any time and the impact would be serious.
- “Visible High Risk” - there are 14 or more “yes” responses to the DASH Risk Indicator Checklist
- “Potential Escalation” - if the number of incidents may suggest that the abuse is getting more frequent or severe. For example Sussex Police will refer to MARAC if they have been called to three incidents in six months even if the risk level is not high at any of the incidents.

Working with perpetrators of domestic abuse

Your role might involve you working with perpetrators of domestic abuse. There is some good practice guidance and resources available that can help you with this area of work.

Basic good practice guidelines

- ✓ Anger management is not an appropriate intervention for domestic violence perpetrators. Abusive relationships within a domestic violence context are generally underpinned by an unequal balance of power and control, with one person exerting power and control over another. Therefore the dynamic is not about anger or a loss of control.
- ✓ Couple counselling is not an appropriate intervention for domestic violence perpetrators. Couples counselling indicates a position of equality between both parties and does not recognise the unequal power and control dynamic.

Interventions

Building Safer Relationships (Pilot)- Community Based Perpetrator Programme: Building Safer Relationships is a 16 week community based group-work programme delivering skills and services for men who are perpetrators of domestic abuse or where there are concerns about domestic abuse within relationships. This includes men who are considered 'violent male carers' which is a definition that encompasses fathers, step fathers and importantly other men involved in women and children's lives. Due to the potential risks posed to women who have been or still are in a relationship with men attending the group it is required that they take part in an initial risk assessment and engage with the woman safety worker (provided by CRI) for the duration of the programme. Referral to the course is limited to men whose child/children are subject to Children's Services involvement and where domestic abuse has been a significant factor in the family's life.

Integrated Domestic Abuse Programme (IDAP): IDAP is a mandated programme run by probation. It is a group based programme run over approximately 27 weeks. The course is usually linked to a sentence or prison licence. A women's safety worker will work with the partners/ex partners of those men attending the group.

Resources

If you are working with a family where there has been domestic abuse, it would be a good idea to complete a risk assessment with both parties (these need to be conducted separately). The DASH should be used for the victim and the Respect Risk Identification Checklist, which has been developed alongside the DASH, can be used for the perpetrator. This can be downloaded from the link below:

<http://www.respect.uk.net/pages/the-respect-risk-identification-checklist-ric.html>

Respect runs a helpline for domestic violence perpetrators. The helpline provides confidential information and advice.

0808 802 4040

Appendix 1: Indicators that may alert you to domestic abuse

Sometimes you may not have a direct disclosure of abuse but you might have a suspicion based on the behaviour being exhibited. Below is a list of some of these behaviours. It should be noted that the presence of these factors does not comprehensively identify domestic abuse and the absence of the factors does not mean that domestic abuse is not occurring.

Victim	Perpetrator
<i>Behavioural:</i>	
May cover body with clothing hiding Marks/injuries Attends late or cancels Attends frequently Always accompanied (think about same sex abusers and family members) Seems frightened of partner Seems passive Evasive or embarrassed about any injuries or home situation Over-vehement denial or minimisation of violence Alcohol or drug use Suicide attempt	May encourage survivor to hide injuries Partner cancels on her behalf Partner always attends with her and never leaves her side Seems bullying Seems over-protective Similarly evasive or adamant about cause of injury Over-vehement denial or minimisation of violence
<i>Physical:</i>	
Unexplained burns or bruises Multiple injuries in various stages of healing	

<p>Repeated or chronic injuries</p> <p>Injuries in areas of the body inconsistent with falls or explanation offered</p> <p>Injuries to the breast, chest and abdomen – abused women are 13 x more likely to be injured here</p> <p>Injuries to face, head or neck</p> <p>Perforated eardrums, detached retinas</p> <p>Evidence of sexual abuse or frequent gynaecological problems High incidence of miscarriage, terminations, preterm labour</p> <p>Frequent visits with vague complaints or symptoms or just “vague”</p> <p>Frequent use of pain medication or tranquillisers</p> <p>Damage to sutures following operation or delivery</p>	
<i>Emotional:</i>	
<p>Panic attacks, symptoms of anxiety Depression Feelings of isolation</p>	

- Perpetrators of domestic abuse often employ a number of different tactics including:
- ✓ Having different public and private behaviour: often family members, friends etc are unaware of abuse. By presenting a different public persona the abuser is able to deceive others into thinking they are incapable of abuse. This helps to reinforce the fear for a survivor that they will not be believed.
 - ✓ Use of power and control to abuse e.g. changing the ‘rules’ unexpectedly and expecting the survivor to comply in order to avoid abuse- an example of this would be unexpectedly impose social isolation therefore a survivor might be punished for arranging to meet a friend even though previously this has been acceptable.
 - ✓ Projecting blame: The abuser might blame the victim for ‘provoking’ the abuse. This locates the blame with the survivor and means the perpetrator can avoid taking responsibility for their abuse.

- ✓ Minimising and denying abuse: Abusers may often justify their abuse, minimise the abuse or deny that it is taking place.
- ✓ Are there any diversity issues which the perpetrator may manipulate e.g. LGBT – threat of 'outing' the individual, acting as an interpreter if the survivor is unable to speak English, if the perpetrator is a carer for the survivor they may manipulate this situation to perpetrate further abuse.

Appendix 2: Safety Planning

Staying in relationship	Leaving the relationship- leaving the home	Leaving the relationship- remaining in the home	Workplace safety	Safety after a relationship has ended	Children's safety
Neighbours- can you ask your neighbours to call the emergency services if they hear something which indicates a violent situation?	Keep a bag in a safe place with money, important documents (e.g. passports, benefits info, bank details, health info, keys, children's toys, money etc)- you might want to keep this somewhere outside the house e.g. a friend's house etc (try to avoid mutual friends)	If you are staying in the home and the perpetrator has left you might want to consider whether you are eligible for an non-molestation order and/or occupation order	Provide your workplace with a photo of the perpetrator and inform security	Tell your children's school and give them a copy of any court orders that you have in place re child contact.	Teach your child to dial 999 and give the appropriate information e.g. name and address
If you suspect an imminent attack try to go to a part of the house where the risks may be lower e.g. away from the kitchen where there are sharp objects, away from anywhere with no escape route. If possible you should try to get to a room where there is an escape route or a phone	Speak to a local domestic abuse organisation to discuss your options beforehand.	If you are staying in the same property you might want to inform neighbours that the relationship has ended and they should call the police if they see the perpetrator	Ask whether there is the possibility to a transfer to another branch/office within your workplace	Try to make changes to your usual routine and access different services e.g. different GP, shops, banks etc	Try to devise a safety plan with your children so they know what to do in an emergency e.g. is there a way for them to safely leave the house, is there a neighbour they can go to or someone they can contact?
Pre programme a speed dial for 999 on your phone.	Remember you might not be able to return to the property later so think about everything you need to take with you.	Check whether your local authority offers the sanctuary scheme to increase security in the home. If this is not offered or you are not eligible you could think about installing a spy hole, installing more locks on doors and windows, add some outside lighting	Try to vary your route to and from your workplace	Think about any statements being sent to your previous home e.g. bank statements will show the location of cash withdrawals.	Teach your children a code word and explain to them that this will mean that they should call the police/leave the house etc
You may have recognised some patterns which tell you when the perpetrator is about to become	Plan to leave when you know the perpetrator will not be around.	Teach children not to answer the door or the phone	Check whether your workplace has a domestic abuse policy	If you are staying in the home and the perpetrator has left you might want to	Explain to children that they might need to keep their address/phone

abusive. Learn to recognise these signs so you can protect you and your children			as this might outline other ways they can support you.	consider whether you are eligible for an injunction and referral to your local sanctuary scheme.	number a secret- explain that there are some 'safe' adults they can share this information with e.g. the police
Keep a bag in another location with your important items in case you have to leave in an emergency (e.g. passports, benefits info, bank details, health info, keys, children's toys, money etc)	Do you have any pets-think about what you might do with them if you have to move somewhere temporarily	If you have a landline you could request a new phone number. You could also request caller ID and call blocking to protect your number when you make outgoing calls	If you think you are being followed try to make your way to a large public building and get someone to call the police	Change your phone number	Identify with your children a safe place to meet if you have to leave the home separately in an emergency
	Think about what you might do if you have to leave in an unplanned way e.g. during an incident- how will you get out?	You can request a 'Cyclops' safety alarm by speaking to the police at the Anti-Victimisation Unit	If you have any court orders in place you should keep a copy of these with you. You could also ask your workplace to store a copy of the court order on your file	If you are staying in the same property you might want to inform neighbours that the relationship has ended and they should call the police if they see the perpetrator	Teach your children not to leave school with anyone else unless you have told them in advance
	Think about where you might go when you leave- try to get as much information about your options as possible		If you are able to travel to work with someone you should try to do this	Think about any actions that might compromise your safety e.g. remember not to disclose personal information on social networking sites such as Facebook	
	If you have planned to leave the home you might want to request a police escort to accompany you				

Guidelines for using Children's Safety Plan

The Children's Safety Plan should ideally be used when you are working with a child/ family where there is known domestic abuse.

You will need to find a quite safe and private space to work through the safety plan with the child or young person. Depending on the age of the child, you may wish to complete the safety plan with the non abusing parent present. However, some older children/young people will be able to complete this alone. Use the child or young person's words when discussing the safety plan.

How to complete the plan

Start by having a general open questioned conversation with the child/ young person about times they feel happy and times they feel sad/scared at home. You can then use this conversation to lead onto the questions.

1. Is there somewhere in their home that the child/young person likes to go to when they are feeling scared? In the space here you can write down where they go to in the house. You could also ask what they do when they are there.
2. Ask the child/ young person- if they had to leave their home quickly and safely which do they think would be the quickest safest exit? Explore front door, back door any ground floor windows.
3. If the child/ young person did have to leave their home quickly is there someone they could get to safely?- this might be dependent on their age e.g. for a younger child, you might consider asking them whether they could go to a neighbour's house. An older child might know their way to the police station or to someone's house. Ideally you want to help think of places that are as close by as possible e.g. short walking distance. Think of places that the child/young person would be able to go to at different times of the day e.g. where would they go if an incident happened at night?
4. Explore with the child/young person any adult they feel they have a trusted relationship with. This could be a teacher or it may be a family friend or relative.
5. Work out the best contact details for the person and enter them here.
6. Ask the child/young person what happens at the moment when there is an incident- there may be safety measures that the young person already takes e.g. ensuring siblings are safe, texting/calling someone etc

Work through the checklist with the child/young person:

- ✓ Has the child/young person had to call 999 previously? How did they feel about doing this? Discuss with them what a 999 call would involve- asking for the right service, giving their name and address, describing what is happening
- ✓ Have you ever tried to stop something happening or tried to get involved? What happened? Explain that the child/young person's parent would want to know that they are safe and wouldn't want them to be upset or to get hurt. The best way to make sure this doesn't

happen is either to go to the place in the house where they feel safe or to leave the house and go somewhere else they feel safe.

- ✓ Ask whether the child/young person is able to store the helpline numbers etc on their phone. If the child/young person does not have a phone or this is not a possibility then try to work out somewhere that the numbers/the safety plan could be safely hidden without being found.
- ✓ For some children/young people (this checkpoint may not need to be discussed with all children) going into a refuge or moving accommodation might be something that is being discussed. You may want to talk to the individual about what going into the refuge involves and that they might need to keep their new address a secret from friends and family.

At the bottom of the safety plan there are some helpline numbers which can be called for some advice or just for someone to listen. If you are somewhere with internet access you could show the child/young person how to access the Hideout which has separate sections for children and young people.

* You will be using this tool alongside your normal referral routes e.g. you would still refer onto children's services where appropriate. It may not be appropriate for you to use this tool during an initial disclosure but if you are conducting ongoing work with the young person you will be able to introduce it.

Safety plan for:

1. This is the place that I feel the safest at home when I'm scared _____ (place within the home)
2. These are the safe exits from my house _____
3. If I am able to leave the house this is somewhere safe I can get to by myself _____ (location)
4. This is the name of the grown up whom I trust to help me and who I can talk to _____ (name)
5. I can contact _____ (name) by ringing this number _____ or _____ (email, physical location etc)
6. Other things I can think of to help keep myself safe

- ✓ I know how to ring 999 and give my personal details like name and address
- ✓ When there is something happening that makes me feel scared I won't try and get involved
- ✓ I will keep all my important phone numbers on my mobile or somewhere I can get them easily and they won't be found
- ✓ If I have to move somewhere else I know that I might have to keep my address a secret
- ✓ **KEEP MY SAFETY PLAN HIDDEN SOMEWHERE SAFE**

Police- 999

Freephone 24hr national domestic violence helpline- 0808 2000 247

Childline- 0800 1111

www.thehideout.org.uk

Appendix 3: Useful Contacts

East Sussex

24hr Referral Number for Refuge- East Sussex – 07795 968400

CRI IDVA Service – 01424 716629/ 01323 419340 – provides information and support to female and male victims of domestic abuse living in the community with the aim to reduce risk level.

CRI Children’s Therapeutic Service-01424 716629/ 01323 419340 –therapeutic services for children and young people who have experienced domestic abuse

Sussex Police – 101/ 0845 60 70 999- deal with all domestic abuse cases. High risk cases are dealt with by the Adult Protection Team detectives

Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) Support Officer

Information and MARAC documents are available on the Safer Communities Partnership Website

www.safeineastsussex.org.uk/MARAC.html

01323 466549

Contact to make referrals to Hastings and Rother MARAC and Eastbourne, Lewes, and Wealden MARAC

Housing Options Teams

The housing options teams can offer you a range of information and advice about housing options in your local area.

Hastings Housing Options Team - 01424 451212

Rother Housing Options Team - 01424 787999

Wealden Housing Options Team- 01323 443380

Eastbourne Housing Options Team- 01323 415302

Lewes Housing Options Team- 01273 484261

National

National Domestic Violence Helpline – 0808 2000 247 – run in partnership between Refuge and Women’s Aid, provides advice, information, and support to women and children experiencing domestic violence, and arranges referrals to Refuge accommodation (including East Sussex refuges). **Open 24 hrs**

National Stalking Helpline- 0808 802 0300- The National Stalking Helpline provides guidance and information to anybody who is currently or has previously been affected by harassment or stalking. **09:30 – 16:00 Weekdays (except Wed 13:00 – 16:00)**

Men's Advice Line – 0808 801 0327 – confidential helpline for men who experience violence from their partners or ex-partners. **Monday - Friday 10am-1pm and 2pm-5pm**

Broken Rainbow- 0300 999 5428 – support for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people experiencing domestic violence. **Monday 2pm-8pm, Wednesday 10am-5pm and Thursday 2pm-8pm**

Respect- 0845 802 4040- Confidential helpline for people who are abusive or violent towards their partners. **Monday - Friday 10am-1pm and 2pm -5pm**

Shelter – housing advocacy – 0844 515 1393 **8am-8pm Monday-Friday 8am-5pm Saturday-Sunday**

Victim Support – supports victims to cope with the effects of crime, provides support through criminal procedures – 0845 30 30 900. **9am – 9pm Mondays to Fridays, 9am – 7pm weekends, 9am – 5pm bank holidays**

Useful Websites and Resources

Below are a list of useful resources that can be used both by professionals and the individuals they are working with.

Women's Aid

Women's Aid is the key national charity working to end domestic violence against women and children. We support a network of over 500 domestic and sexual violence services across the UK. Women's Aid runs the National Domestic Violence Helpline in partnership with Refuge.

womensaid.org.uk

Refuge

Refuge offers a range of services which gives women and children access to professional support whatever their situation. These include refuges, culturally specific services and outreach services. Refuge runs the National Domestic Violence Helpline in partnership with Women's Aid.

refuge.org.uk

Survivors Handbook

The Survivors Handbook is a free resource that is available on the Women's Aid website and can be downloaded in 11 community language. The handbook provides practical support and advice for women experiencing abuse.

womensaid.org.uk

Improving Safety, Reducing Harm: Children, Young People and Domestic Violence

This toolkit provides specific information about children, domestic violence and related issues. The toolkit provides practical advice for front-line professionals.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/@ps/documents/digitalasset/dh_116914.pdf

Responding to domestic abuse: A handbook for health professionals

This handbook gives practical guidance to healthcare professionals on working with patients who may have experienced or are experiencing domestic abuse.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/documents/digitalasset/dh_4126619.pdf

The Hideout

This website provides useful information for children and young people relating to life in a refuge, abusive relationships and support services. There are two separate areas: one for children and one for young people.

hideout.org.uk

Penny Beale Memorial Fund

The Penny Beale Memorial Fund is a local charity working to raise awareness of domestic violence and provide support to victims. The charity provides education and training services.

pennybealememorialfund.org

Coordinated Action against Domestic Abuse (CAADA)

CAADA provides practical tools, training, guidance, quality assurance, policy and data insight to support professionals and organisations working with domestic abuse victims.

The aim is to protect the highest risk victims and their children – those at risk of murder or serious harm.

caada.org

Teen Abuse Campaign

The campaign and website is aimed at helping teens to recognise abusive behaviour and get help both if they are using or experiencing abuse within their relationships.

thisisabuse.direct.gov.uk

Refuge runs a vacancy emailing list which informs agencies when there is a vacancy in an East Sussex refuges – to be added to this emailing list, please contact Jo Egan-Payne (jo_eganpayne@refuge.org.uk)

Appendix 4: Training Packages

The LSCB, in collaboration with local partners, run a number of domestic violence training courses. These are listed below

- Domestic Violence: Recognition and Response
- Domestic Violence: Recognition and Response Train the Trainer
- Domestic Violence and the Impact on Children
- Working with perpetrators of Domestic Violence and their Families
- Domestic Violence and Young People- Impact and Intervention

If you have any queries about the domestic violence training packages then please contact the Domestic Violence Project Officer at jo.enright@eastsussex.gov.uk

Links to supporting documentation

The MARAC Operating Protocol (MOP)

This protocol sets out how partner agencies contribute to the effective operation of the MARAC. It sets out the aims, membership and process of the East Sussex MARACs to ensure that a helpful and consistent response to domestic abuse/violence is provided by all agencies, who have a duty of care towards adults and children. It states the accountability, governance and performance management structures.

<http://www.safeineastsussex.org.uk/content/files/file/East%20Sussex%20MARAC%20Operating%20Protocol%202010.pdf>

Common Assessment Framework (CAF)

The Common Assessment Framework (CAF) is a shared assessment tool. It allows practitioners to assess all the needs of children and families at an earlier stage. Practitioners can then work in partnership with families, alongside other practitioners and agencies to meet those needs.

<https://czone.eastsussex.gov.uk/partnerships/trust/workingtogether/isa/caf/Pages/CAFresources.aspx>

The Domestic Abuse, Stalking, Harassment and Honour Based Violence (DASH) Risk Indicator Checklist (RIC)

The purpose of the RIC is to give a consistent and simple tool for practitioners who work with adult victims of domestic abuse in order to help them identify those who are at high risk of harm and whose cases should be referred to a MARAC meeting in order to manage their risk.

<http://www.caada.org.uk/marac/Quick%20Start%20Guidance%20&%20RIC%2009062009.doc>

Pan Sussex SCB Procedures

The Pan Sussex SCB Procedures provides guidance for practitioners including how and when to make a child protection referral. The procedures also provide considerations for children in specific circumstances.

<http://pansussexscb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/contents.html>

Sussex Multi-Agency Policy & Procedures for Safeguarding Adults at Risk

The Sussex Multi-Agency Policy and Procedures for Safeguarding Adults at Risk provides guidance for practitioners including how and when to make an adult at risk referral. If an adult at risk, covered by the safeguarding adult's procedures, experiences domestic abuse, then an alert should be made under the adults safeguarding procedures.

<http://pansussexadultssafeguarding.proceduresonline.com/chapters/contents.html>