



Keeping Swindon **Safe**

Domestic Abuse: Domestic Abuse Stalking, Harassment & Honour Based Violence (DASH) Risk Identification Checklist (RIC) and MARAC Practice Brief

25/3/22 Developed by Jackie Barstow in liaison with Lin Williams (Domestic Abuse Lead) Jackie Chipping (Principal Social Worker), Debbie Greenough (Community Safety Development Manager) and Abbi Dunkley (Community Safety Development Manager).

Thanks also to Jade Downie and Michelle Sharma (NHS Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire Clinical Commissioning Group) for reviewing and feedback.

Health Warning

You may find some of the content of this resource difficult to read due to the subject matter. If this triggers or upsets you please look after yourself and seek some support.

You can contact either -

- Your Line Manager
- Human Resources
- Your Union or
- Swindon Domestic Abuse Support Service on 01793 610610 or visit their website [SWA Domestic Abuse – Swindon Domestic Abuse Support Service](#)

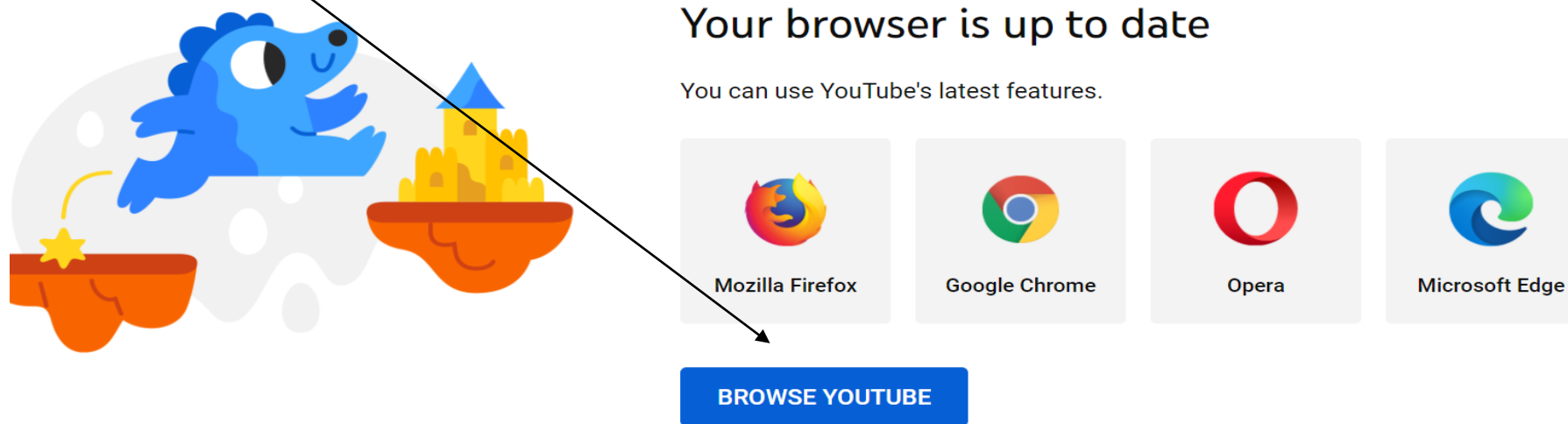
How to use this document

The aim of this document is to raise awareness of the DASH Risk Identification Checklist (RIC) and MARAC process. This provides some general information and definitions and signposting to additional resources. Please share this resource widely.

This is a large document and you can look at it as a whole or dip in and out at your convenience. If completed in full it may take approximately 3 hours.

There are also hyperlinks to external resources such as websites which can be accessed by either ctrl+click on the image/icon or hyperlink. Alternatively you can use your mouse to right click and select open link from the options.

If you click on the hyperlink to view a video clip and you see the following slide. Please click the blue box 'Browse YouTube' and it should take you directly to the relevant video clip.



What is domestic abuse?

The Government Statutory Definition of Domestic Abuse outlined in The Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

States that domestic abuse covers a wide range of behaviours that are used to control, threaten or intimidate victims.

Behaviours are classed as domestic abuse if:

- Both the individuals are over 16 years of age
- Both the individual are 'personally connected' to each other and the behaviour is abusive

Behaviour is considered abusive if it consists of one or more of the following:

- Physical or sexual abuse
- Psychological or emotional abuse
- Coercive or controlling behaviour – intimidation, threats, humiliation that is used to punish, harm, isolate a victim and prevent them from enjoying life
- Economic abuse – any behaviours that prevents a victim having the ability to acquire, use or maintain money or obtain goods or services.

Who can be a victim of Domestic Abuse?

ANYONE

Regardless of gender, sexual orientation, age*, social class & background or disability

Further information can be found on the Safelives website

[Who are the victims of domestic abuse? | Safelives](#)

* If the person is under 18 years a referral should also be made to [MASH](#)

Statutory Definition of Domestic Abuse: Domestic Abuse Act 2021

Domestic abuse covers a wide range of behaviours that are used to control, threaten or intimidate victims. Behaviours are classed as domestic abuse if:

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Behaviour is considered abusive if it consists of one or more of the following:

- **Physical or sexual abuse psychological or emotional abuse**
- **Coercive or Controlling behaviour** – intimidation, threats, humiliation that is used to punish, harm, isolate a victim and prevent them from enjoying life
- **Economic abuse** – any behaviour that prevents a victim having the ability to acquire, use or maintain money, or obtain goods or services

Statutory Definition of Domestic Abuse: Domestic Abuse Act 2021 - Children & Young People

The definition now also recognises Children and Young People as victims in their own right:

Any reference in the Act to a victim of DA includes CYP (U18) who:

a) Sees or hears or experiences the effects of abuse

and

b) Is related to A or B

A child is related if:

a) is a parent of or have PR for the child

or

b) the child and the persons are related

source: [Domestic Abuse Act 2021 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/51/section/39)

Factsheet: [Statutory definition of domestic abuse factsheet - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statutory-definition-of-domestic-abuse-factsheet)

Coercive Control



What is it? Coercive control is a term used to describe a pattern of behaviour which seeks to take away the victims sense of liberty or freedom. This controlling behaviour is designed to make a person dependent by isolating them from support, exploiting them, depriving them of independence and regulating their everyday behaviour. Short video clips provide more information. (Right click on text and select open hyperlink. If in slideshow click on hyperlink) Five minute clip [Staffordshire Police - Coercive Control](#) clip. 3 minute clip [Wakefield Council](#).



What should we do? Be open to any disclosure made. Be sensitive, gather information and make any appropriate referrals. Think about the impact on the child. For more information go to the [Swindon Community Safety Partnership website](#):

What is the impact? Coercive control reduces a victim's power to make decisions, which limits the ability to exercise independence, making it difficult to break away from the abuser. It can lead to: Increased levels of suicide, self-harm, and substance misuse; deterioration of mental health; risks to children in the family including emotional and physical abuse.

The law: The offence of coercive control came into force on 29th December 2015 and applies to behaviour that has happened since that date. It enables charges to be brought in domestic abuse cases where there is evidence of repeated controlling or coercive behaviour and carries a maximum penalty of five years' imprisonment and a fine.

Coercive control is: a form of domestic abuse. Many perpetrators never use physical violence. Some may use what is best described as minor assaultive violence such as pushing, grabbing and/or getting "up in a victim's face". Others may threaten physical violence. Some may follow through on these threats, but only when they are losing control over the victim.

Grooming: Often coercive control starts through grooming to win the trust of their victim. This will then lead to a pattern of behaviour including: Isolating a person from their friends and family; depriving them of their basic needs; monitoring their time; repeatedly putting them down such as telling them they are worthless; controlling the finances; threats to hurt or kill.

Why it matters. One study found that 95 out of 100 domestic abuse survivors reported experiencing coercive control. (Kelly et al, 2014) Wiltshire Police data for 2019-20 recorded 117 reports were made relating to coercive control. Of those 4 victims were male and 113 victims were female.



For further information regarding training available [click here](#)

Domestic Abuse Act (2021)

1. Introduction. The Domestic Abuse Act (2021) will: a) **Raise awareness** and understanding about the devastating impact of domestic abuse on **victims, children, and families**. b) **Further improve** the effectiveness of the justice system in providing protection for victims of domestic abuse and bringing perpetrators to justice c) **Strengthen** the support for victims of abuse given by statutory agencies. d) The Act was signed into law on the 29th April 2021.

2. Key Features of the Act. The Act creates a **statutory definition** of domestic abuse, emphasising that domestic abuse is not just physical violence, but can also be emotional, coercive or controlling, and economic abuse. As part of the statutory definition, **children will be explicitly recognised as victims** if they see, hear or otherwise experience the effects of abuse. The Act will **extend the control-ling or coercive behaviour offence** to cover post-separation abuse, and the **'revenge porn' offence** to cover the threat to disclose intimate images with the intention to cause distress.

3. Key Features of the Act. The Act establishes in law the office of **Domestic Abuse Commissioner** to stand up for victims and survivors, raise public awareness, monitor the response of local authorities, the justice system and other statutory agencies and hold them to account in tackling domestic abuse. The Act will create a statutory presumption that victims of domestic abuse are **eligible for special measures** in the criminal, civil and family courts (for example, to enable them to give evidence via a video link). Violent and sexual offence committed abroad by UK citizens will be able to **be tried in UK courts**.

4. Key Features of the Act . The Act places the guidance supporting the **Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme ("Clare's law")** on a statutory footing. The Act **prohibits perpetrators of abuse from cross-examining their victims** in person in family and civil courts, and **invalidates any courtroom defence of consent** where a victim suffers serious harm or is killed. The Act provides for a new **Domestic Abuse Protection Notice and Domestic Abuse Protection Order**, which will prevent perpetrators from contacting their victims.



7. For further information:
Swindon Multi Agency Domestic Abuse Strategy 2021-2024
Swindon Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy 2021-2024
Domestic Abuse Act (2021) Factsheet [click here](#)
SafeLives [Home](#) | [Safelives](#)

6. What happens next? The government will also publish a **domestic abuse perpetrator strategy** as part of a holistic domestic abuse strategy)
The Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls Board will ensure the provisions of the Act are shared with all partners, and oversee changes to policies, procedures and guidance.
SSP Multi-agency **Domestic Abuse training** will include reference to the key features of the Act

5. Key Features of the Act . Domestic abuse offenders can be subject to **polygraph testing** as a condition of their licence following their release from custody
The Act places a **duty on local authorities in England to provide support to victims of domestic abuse and their children** in refuges and other safe accommodation, and provides that all eligible **homeless victims of domestic abuse automatically have 'priority need' for homelessness assistance**
When local authorities rehouse victims of domestic abuse, they will **not lose a secure lifetime or assured tenancy**





Domestic Abuse Risk Factors and Assessment

Domestic Abuse Risk Factors and Assessment

The following slides will help you understand domestic abuse risk factors and why risk assessments are carried out.

DASH stands for Domestic Abuse, Stalking, Harassment & Honour Based Violence.

It is based on research and analysis by Criminologist Dr Laura Richards and is informed by:

- [Domestic related homicides over 10 years](#)
- So called 'honour' based violence – [Banaz Mahmood](#)
- Serious cases of stalking & harassment – [Claire Bernal](#)

For more information on the research base behind the DASH risk checklist, please read our [FAQs](#)

It contains 24 questions for professionals to complete with the victim. A common language regardless of which agency is completing the checklist.

- Each question requires a yes or no tick
- 14 or more ticks denotes high risk or it can be based on professional judgment

****** victims may minimise the risk they are facing ******

Why and how do we assess risk

- ✓ Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) have identified common risk factors.
- ✓ Escalation: There may have been up to 35 incidents before the victim discloses domestic abuse.
- ✓ What does high risk look like and how do we better understand it.
- ✓ Identification allows for earlier, more intensive intervention that can prevent escalation.
- ✓ Allows evidence based approach to decision making.
- ✓ Allows opportunity for joint safety planning which includes the victim.

An introduction to risk identification in domestic abuse cases



For best results review this in slide show. Video clips lasts 4.17 minutes.

Link to clip [An introduction to risk identification in domestic abuse cases - YouTube](#)

DASH RIC Guidance for professionals: before you begin to complete this with the victim...

- Explain why you are completing the risk assessment.
- Is it safe and confidential for the client to complete the risk assessment ?
- Explain your organisations confidentiality and safeguarding policy.
- Explain that if assessed as high risk they will be referred to MARAC, gain consent for this to be done.
- **Referrals to MARAC can be made without the consent of the victim. The victim's consent is not required when they are assessed to be at high risk of serious injury or homicide.**
- If it is unsafe to carry out a DASH RIC with the victim, you can complete it with the information you know. This should be noted on the form.
- Quick start guidance for DASH RIC – [Click here](#)
- To access the DASH RIC including guidance [click here](#)

DASH RIC Questions...

Q1 Has the current incident resulted injury?

- Identify and document current injury – ask if medical attention was sought.
- How does this compare to previous injuries – is this the worst incident ?
- If no current injury, has there been physical violence in relationship and when was this?

Please explain that the purpose of asking these questions is for the safety and protection of the individual concerned.			
Tick the box if the factor is present. Please use the comment box at the end of the form to expand on any answer.			
It is assumed that your main source of information is the victim. If this is not the case , please indicate in the right hand column			
	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW
1. Has the current incident resulted in injury? Please state what and whether this is the first injury.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Are you very frightened? Comment:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. What are you afraid of? Is it further injury or violence? Please give an indication of what you think [name of abuser(s)] might do and to whom, including children. Comment:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Do you feel isolated from family/friends? ie, does [name of abuser(s)] try to stop you from seeing friends/family/doctor or others? Comment:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Are you feeling depressed or having suicidal thoughts?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Have you separated or tried to separate from [name of abuser(s)] within the past year?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Is there conflict over child contact?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Questions 2 and 3

Please explain that the purpose of asking these questions is for the safety and protection of the individual concerned.				
Tick the box if the factor is present. Please use the comment box at the end of the form to expand on any answer.				
It is assumed that your main source of information is the victim. If this is <u>not</u> the case, please indicate in the right hand column				
	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW	State source of info if not the victim (eg police officer)
1. Has the current incident resulted in injury? Please state what and whether this is the first injury.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2. Are you very frightened? Comment:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3. What are you afraid of? Is it further injury or violence? Please give an indication of what you think [name of abuser(s)] might do and to whom, including children. Comment:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4. Do you feel isolated from family/friends? I.e, does [name of abuser(s)] try to stop you from seeing friends/family/doctor or others? Comment:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5. Are you feeling depressed or having suicidal thoughts?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6. Have you separated or tried to separate from [name of abuser(s)] within the past year?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
7. Is there conflict over child contact?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Q2 Are you frightened?

Q3 What are you afraid of? Is it further injury or violence?

- If the victim does express significant concern about safety this needs to be taken seriously.
- Frightened victims are significantly more likely to experience additional violence, threats and emotional stress.

Question 4

Please explain that the purpose of asking these questions is for the safety and protection of the individual concerned.				State source of info if not the victim (eg police officer)
Tick the box if the factor is present. Please use the comment box at the end of the form to expand on any answer.				
It is assumed that your main source of information is the victim. If this is <u>not</u> the case, please indicate in the right hand column	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW	
1. Has the current incident resulted in injury? Please state what and whether this is the first injury.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2. Are you very frightened? Comment:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3. What are you afraid of? Is it further injury or violence? Please give an indication of what you think [name of abuser(s)] might do and to whom, including children. Comment:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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5. Are you feeling depressed or having suicidal thoughts?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6. Have you separated or tried to separate from [name of abuser(s)] within the past year?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
7. Is there conflict over child contact?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

**Q4 do you feel isolated from family/friends?
Does.....try to stop you seeing them, your doctor or others?**

- Abusive relationships often start with isolating the victim.
- DA is about Power & Control. Perpetrators want to 'own' and control victims – they don't want them to interact with others in case they may be able to assist them.
- Honour Based Abuse – being policed at home, unable to attend college/other events. Extended family or community reinforce abuse in terms of bringing shame on the family/community – the Honour.

Question 5

Please explain that the purpose of asking these questions is for the safety and protection of the individual concerned.				
Tick the box if the factor is present. Please use the comment box at the end of the form to expand on any answer.				
It is assumed that your main source of information is the victim. If this is <u>not</u> the case, please indicate in the right hand column				
	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW	State source of info if not the victim (eg police officer)
1. Has the current incident resulted in injury? Please state what and whether this is the first injury.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2. Are you very frightened? Comment:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3. What are you afraid of? Is it further injury or violence? Please give an indication of what you think [name of abuser(s)] might do and to whom, including children. Comment:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
4. Do you feel isolated from family/friends? ie, does [name of abuser(s)] try to stop you from seeing friends/family/doctor or others? Comment:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5. Are you feeling depressed or having suicidal thoughts?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6. Have you separated or tried to separate from [name of abuser(s)] within the past year?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
7. Is there conflict over child contact?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Q5 Are you feeling depressed or having suicidal thoughts?

- Between 6-8 domestic abuse victims kill themselves every year and around 30 victims will attempt suicide daily.
- Suicide may be “the only way out”.
- Assess seriousness of intent – previous attempts? Serious attempt?
Does the victim appear desperate?
Alcohol/drug use by the victim may increase impulsivity and risk?

Question 6

Please explain that the purpose of asking these questions is for the safety and protection of the individual concerned.				
Tick the box if the factor is present. Please use the comment box at the end of the form to expand on any answer.				
It is assumed that your main source of information is the victim. If this is <u>not the case</u> , please indicate in the right hand column				
	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW	State source of info if not the victim (eg police officer)
1. Has the current incident resulted in injury? Please state what and whether this is the first injury.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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5. Are you feeling depressed or having suicidal thoughts?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6. Have you separated or tried to separate from [name of abuser(s)] within the past year?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
7. Is there conflict over child contact?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Q6 have you separated or tried to separate from within the last year?

- Attempts to end relationships are strongly linked to intimate partner homicide or family homicide – suicide; the risk is highest during the first 2 weeks after separation, but this can be anything up to a year after.

These questions could be asked:

- If you are planning to separate, have you told the perpetrator?
- Does the perpetrator make threats related to you ending the relationship: “if you ever leave, I’ll kill you and/or children” or “if I can’t have you then no one can”.

Question 7

Please explain that the purpose of asking these questions is for the safety and protection of the individual concerned. Tick the box if the factor is present. Please use the comment box at the end of the form to expand on any answer. It is assumed that your main source of information is the victim. If this is not the case, please indicate in the right hand column				State source of info if not the victim (eg police officer)
	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW	
1. Has the current incident resulted in injury? Please state what and whether this is the first injury.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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6. Have you separated or tried to separate from [name of abuser(s)] within the past year?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
7. Is there conflict over child contact?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Q7 Is there conflict over child contact?

- Many incidents happen at handover or as a result of disputes over child contact or residency.
- Child contact after separation can result in the victim and children being vulnerable to continued abuse.
- DASH RIC is concerned with identification of risk to adult victim.

Things we always need to ask to help inform risk to children

- Details of all children – including other children of perpetrator.
- Increased risk to step children from perpetrator.
- Formal/informal contact/residency arrangements?
- Threats to take the children?
- Threat to use the children against the victim?
- All Police Domestic Abuse reports where children are present/resident are shared with the MASH (PPN1).

Question 8

Please explain that the purpose of asking these questions is for the safety and protection of the individual concerned.				YES	NO	DON'T KNOW	State source of info if not the victim (eg police officer)				
Tick the box if the factor is present. Please use the comment box at the end of the form to expand on any answer.											
It is assumed that your main source of information is the victim. If this is <u>not</u> the case, please indicate in the right hand column											
8. Does [name of abuser(s)] constantly text, call, contact, follow, stalk or harass you? Please expand to identify what and whether you believe that this is done deliberately to intimidate you? Consider the context and behaviour of what is being done.				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					
9. Are you pregnant or have you recently had a baby (within the last 18 months)?				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					
10. Is the abuse happening more often?				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					
11. Is the abuse getting worse?				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					
12. Does [name of abuser(s)] try to control everything you do and/or are they excessively jealous? For example: in terms of relationships; who you see; being 'policed' at home; telling you what to wear. Consider 'honour'-based violence (HBV) and specify behaviour.				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					
13. Has [name of abuser(s)] ever used weapons or objects to hurt you?				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					
14. Has [name of abuser(s)] ever threatened to kill you or someone else and you believed them? If yes, tick who: You <input type="checkbox"/> Children <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) <input type="checkbox"/>				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					

Q8 Does Constantly text, call, contact, follow, stalk or harass you?

- Significant stalking and harassment is considered a precursor to serious harm or murder.
- If the victim feels they are being stalked ask them to clearly describe what is happening – need for context and detail especially if behaviour is felt to be deliberately intimidating.
- stalking and harassment is highest up to 2 months post separation and will usually tail off after 6 months. DA stalking at 2 years post separation is a very significant risk factor.
- Nature of any unwanted 'gifts' left – ask what the significance of gifts are.
- Some victims feel it necessary to 'engage with the perpetrator thinking if they can talk them round into stopping the behaviour – this gives the perpetrator what they want – victims attention – this is particularly relevant to victims reluctance to change phone number.

Question 9

Please explain that the purpose of asking these questions is for the safety and protection of the individual concerned.				YES	NO	DON'T KNOW	State source of info if not the victim (eg police officer)				
Tick the box if the factor is present. Please use the comment box at the end of the form to expand on any answer.											
It is assumed that your main source of information is the victim. If this is not the case, please indicate in the right hand column											
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10. Is the abuse happening more often?				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					
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12. Does [name of abuser(s)] try to control everything you do and/or are they excessively jealous? For example: in terms of relationships; who you see; being 'policed' at home; telling you what to wear. Consider 'honour'-based violence (HBV) and specify behaviour.				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					
13. Has [name of abuser(s)] ever used weapons or objects to hurt you?				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					
14. Has [name of abuser(s)] ever threatened to kill you or someone else and you believed them? If yes, tick who: You <input type="checkbox"/> Children <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) <input type="checkbox"/>				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					

Q9 Are you currently pregnant or have you recently had a baby in the past 18 months?

- Pregnancy can be a time when abuse begins or escalates.
- Abusers can feel threatened by a shift of attention onto unborn or baby and escalate their controlling and abusive behaviour to ensure the victim's attention in on them.
- Does the perpetrator know the victim is pregnant? Is it their child?
- Children under the age of 18 months are most vulnerable to homicide.

The Impact of Domestic Abuse on children and young people

Key findings

- In 2020/21 (1st April 2020 – 31st March 2021) the NSPCC helpline responded to over 11,600 contacts about domestic abuse, an increase of 35% compared to 2019/20.
- Contacts from parents and carers about domestic abuse increased by a third (33%) in 2021/21, compared to 2019/20.
- Domestic abuse has a serious impact on children's welfare and increases the risk of harm to a child.
- Parents and carers reported that children experiencing domestic abuse had become withdrawn, sad, timid, emotional and in some cases displayed aggressive behaviour. Some parents and carers shared concerns that their children were having suicidal thoughts or had attempted suicide.
- Living in a home where domestic abuse happens can have a serious impact on a child or young person's mental and physical wellbeing, which can last into adulthood.

In 2022 the Domestic Abuse Act recognised children as victims of domestic abuse in their own right

being exposed to domestic abuse has serious consequences for children and young people; and it can affect how they feel, think and behave in harmful ways. ([NSPCC](#))

Additional Resources:

Video clips:

- **Trigger warning: domestic abuse**
- Womens Aid clip [160,000 children – YouTube](#) (clip lasts 1.00 minute)
- NSPCC [Why is domestic abuse a safeguarding and child protection issue? – YouTube](#) (clip lasts 4 minutes)

Additional Resources:

Podcast:

[Podcast: why domestic abuse is a child protection issue | NSPCC Learning](#)

Briefings:

[The impact of domestic abuse on children and young people: helplines insight briefing | NSPCC Learning](#) (2021)

[Protecting children from domestic abuse | NSPCC Learning](#) (2021)

Statutory Definition: Domestic Abuse Act 2021

Children and Young People as victims:

Any reference in the Act to a victim of DA includes CYP (U18) who:

a) Sees or hears or experiences the effects of abuse

and

b) Is related to A or B

A child is related if:

a) is a parent of or have PR for the child

or

b) the child and the persons are related

Source: [Domestic Abuse Act 2021 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/1/section/1)

Question 10 and 11

Q10 Is the abuse happening more often?

Q11 is the abuse getting worse?

Violence tends to escalate as it is repeated. Consider:

- ✓ When was the last incident?
- ✓ How many have there been in the last 12 months?
- ✓ Are they happening more often?
- ✓ Is this incident worse than the last incident, if so how?

Please explain that the purpose of asking these questions is for the safety and protection of the individual concerned. Tick the box if the factor is present. Please use the comment box at the end of the form to expand on any answer. It is assumed that your main source of information is the victim. If this is <u>not</u> the case, please indicate in the right hand column	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW	State source of info if not the victim (eg police officer)
8. Does [name of abuser(s)] constantly text, call, contact, follow, stalk or harass you? Please expand to identify what and whether you believe that this is done deliberately to intimidate you? Consider the context and behaviour of what is being done.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
9. Are you pregnant or have you recently had a baby (within the last 18 months)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10. Is the abuse happening more often?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11. Is the abuse getting worse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
12. Does [name of abuser(s)] try to control everything you do and/or are they excessively jealous? For example: in terms of relationships; who you see; being 'policed' at home; telling you what to wear. Consider 'honour'-based violence (HBV) and specify behaviour.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
13. Has [name of abuser(s)] ever used weapons or objects to hurt you?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
14. Has [name of abuser(s)] ever threatened to kill you or someone else and you believed them? If yes, tick who: You <input type="checkbox"/> Children <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Question 12

Please explain that the purpose of asking these questions is for the safety and protection of the individual concerned.				
Tick the box if the factor is present. Please use the comment box at the end of the form to expand on any answer.				
It is assumed that your main source of information is the victim. If this is <u>not</u> the case, please indicate in the right hand column	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW	State source of info if not the victim (eg police officer)
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9. Are you pregnant or have you recently had a baby (within the last 18 months)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10. Is the abuse happening more often?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11. Is the abuse getting worse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
12. Does [name of abuser(s)] try to control everything you do and/or are they excessively jealous? For example: in terms of relationships; who you see; being 'policed' at home; telling you what to wear. Consider 'honour'-based violence (HBV) and specify behaviour.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
13. Has [name of abuser(s)] ever used weapons or objects to hurt you?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
14. Has [name of abuser(s)] ever threatened to kill you or someone else and you believed them? If yes, tick who: You <input type="checkbox"/> Children <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Q12 Controlling and/or excessive jealous behaviour

Some overlap with Q4 (isolation) DA is about abuse of power and control in a relationship and this question is about extreme dominance.

If yes, what do they do? Examples may include:

- ✓ Being made to account for time and whereabouts
- Isolation from family and friends
- Interception of mail/phone calls
- Financial control
- Preventing victim from taking medication
- Think about the possibility of honour based violence

Question 13

Please explain that the purpose of asking these questions is for the safety and protection of the individual concerned.				
Tick the box if the factor is present. Please use the comment box at the end of the form to expand on any answer.				
It is assumed that your main source of information is the victim. If this is <u>not</u> the case, please indicate in the right hand column				
	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW	State source of info if not the victim (eg police officer)
8. Does [name of abuser(s)] constantly text, call, contact, follow, stalk or harass you? Please expand to identify what and whether you believe that this is done deliberately to intimidate you? Consider the context and behaviour of what is being done.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
9. Are you pregnant or have you recently had a baby (within the last 18 months)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10. Is the abuse happening more often?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11. Is the abuse getting worse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
12. Does [name of abuser(s)] try to control everything you do and/or are they excessively jealous? For example: in terms of relationships; who you see; being 'policed' at home; telling you what to wear. Consider 'honour'-based violence (HBV) and specify behaviour.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
13. Has [name of abuser(s)] ever used weapons or objects to hurt you?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
14. Has [name of abuser(s)] ever threatened to kill you or someone else and you believed them? If yes, tick who: You <input type="checkbox"/> Children <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Q13 has ... ever used a weapon or objects to hurt?

- Consider not just weapons like guns or knives but objects like ashtrays, mobile phones, glass, shoes, aggressive animals.
- DA perpetrators who have used a weapon on intimate partners or others to threaten to use a weapon are more likely to be violent again and to cause more harm.

Consider:

- Does the perpetrator have access to weapons through friends/acquaintances/employment/hobbies? (see last page of RIC) – consider legitimate firearms access from military and rural activities.
- Also consider risk to workers who may visit property including Police and consider flagging the risk with agencies.
- If concerned about licensed access to firearms go to Wiltshire Police website [Contact the firearms licensing team | Wiltshire Police](#).

Question 14

Please explain that the purpose of asking these questions is for the safety and protection of the individual concerned.				
Tick the box if the factor is present. Please use the comment box at the end of the form to expand on any answer.				
It is assumed that your main source of information is the victim. If this is <u>not</u> the case, please indicate in the right hand column				
	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW	State source of info if not the victim (eg police officer)
8. Does [name of abuser(s)] constantly text, call, contact, follow, stalk or harass you? Please expand to identify what and whether you believe that this is done deliberately to intimidate you? Consider the context and behaviour of what is being done.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
9. Are you pregnant or have you recently had a baby (within the last 18 months)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10. Is the abuse happening more often?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11. Is the abuse getting worse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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14. Has [name of abuser(s)] ever threatened to kill you or someone else and you believed them? If yes, tick who: You <input type="checkbox"/> Children <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Q14 has ever threatened to kill you or anyone else and you believed the threat?

- A credible threat of violent death can very effectively control people particularly where physical violence has been used.
- Threats to loved ones of the victim are very effective in controlling the victim particularly if the victim is resigned that they will have a poor outcome.
- If they have threatened to kill others, who are they?
- Abuser may make threats of homicide-suicide e.g. I will kill the children, then you and then myself.

Question 15

Tick the box if the factor is present. Please use the comment box at the end of the form to expand on any answer.	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW	State source of info
15.Has [name of abuser(s)] ever attempted to strangle / choke / suffocate / drown you?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
16.Does [name of abuser(s)] do or say things of a sexual nature that make you feel bad or that physically hurt you or someone else? If someone else, specify who.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
17.Is there any other person who has threatened you or who you are afraid of? If yes, please specify whom and why. Consider extended family if HBV.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
18.Do you know if [name of abuser(s)] has hurt anyone else? Consider HBV. Please specify whom, including the children, siblings or elderly relatives: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div>Children</div> <input type="checkbox"/> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div>Another family member</div> <input type="checkbox"/> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div>Someone from a previous relationship</div> <input type="checkbox"/> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div>Other (please specify)</div> <input type="checkbox"/> </div>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
19.Has [name of abuser(s)] ever mistreated an animal or the family pet?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
20.Are there any financial issues? For example, are you dependent on [name of abuser(s)] for money/have they recently lost their job/other financial issues?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Q15 Has ever attempted to strangle/choke/suffocate/drown you?

- Attempts to block the victims airway should be taken seriously as strangulation is the second most common method of death in domestic homicides.

You could ask:

- How many occasions?
- When was the last?
- What did they do? Did they use their hands or something like a belt, shoelaces?
- Have you ever lost consciousness or had any other injury arising from this? i.e. marks to the neck, blood pooling around the eyes?

Question 16

Tick the box if the factor is present. Please use the comment box at the end of the form to expand on any answer.	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW	State source of info
15.Has [name of abuser(s)] ever attempted to strangle / choke / suffocate / drown you?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
16.Does [name of abuser(s)] do or say things of a sexual nature that make you feel bad or that physically hurt you or someone else? If someone else, specify who.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
17.Is there any other person who has threatened you or who you are afraid of? If yes, please specify whom and why. Consider extended family if HBV.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
18.Do you know if [name of abuser(s)] has hurt anyone else? Consider HBV. Please specify whom, including the children, siblings or elderly relatives: Children <input type="checkbox"/> Another family member <input type="checkbox"/> Someone from a previous relationship <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
19.Has [name of abuser(s)] ever mistreated an animal or the family pet?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
20.Are there any financial issues? For example, are you dependent on [name of abuser(s)] for money/have they recently lost their job/other financial issues?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Q16 Does do or say things of a sexual nature that make you feel bad or that physically hurt you or someone else?

- May appear a difficult question to ask, you could try “some victims I have talked to in the past have told me about their partner doing or saying things of a sexual nature that make them feel bad or that physically hurt them. Does this happen/happened to you?
- Using sexual insults as a form of humiliation is very common in abusive relationships.
- Many victims will say that they experience duress to engage in sexual activity they don’t want but will not identify this as rape.
- Is this a “first account”? Reporting delay for sexual violence can be significant and you could consider taking a full note and inviting victim to sign your note if they wish to report later.
- Consider any sexual health needs that the victim may have.
- Tell victim about [Sexual Assault Referral Centre \(SARC\)](#) as a sources of support if appropriate – including facility for anonymous reporting.

Other Examples:

- Refusal to use contraception or have safe sex/unwanted touching including use of objects, inflicting pain during sex.
- Exploiting the victim through taking videos/pictures, threatening to expose them to friends/family/colleagues with material. (Revenge Porn)
- Forcing the victim to have sex with other people or prostitution.

Question 17

Tick the box if the factor is present. Please use the comment box at the end of the form to expand on any answer.	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW	State source of info
15.Has [name of abuser(s)] ever attempted to strangle / choke / suffocate / drown you?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
16.Does [name of abuser(s)] do or say things of a sexual nature that make you feel bad or that physically hurt you or someone else? If someone else, specify who.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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19.Has [name of abuser(s)] ever mistreated an animal or the family pet?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
20.Are there any financial issues? For example, are you dependent on [name of abuser(s)] for money/have they recently lost their job/other financial issues?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Q17 Is there any other person that has threatened you or that you are afraid of?

- Victim may also have been threatened by someone else and/or live in fear of harm from others e.g. friends, family or associates of abuser.
- Consider whether victims new partner, children or their siblings are also at risk.
- Consider the risk to workers and home visiting risk – abusers often make threats to professionals.
- Consider so called Honour based abuse.

What is 'Honour' Based Abuse

- Murder in the so called name of Honour. Can also include other acts such as;
 - forced marriage
 - child marriage
 - forced suicide
 - acid attacks
 - imprisonment
 - abduction and rape
- Predominantly women killed for perceived immoral behaviour
- Honour code means that women must follow rules that are set by male relatives – 'trigger incident'
- Breach of honour code of a family or community which causes shame
- "Izzat" (honour, reputation, or prestige. "the Izzat of the household was at stake")
- Triggers may include:
 - inappropriate dress/makeup
 - Being 'western'
 - an unapproved relationship
 - (family/community) rejection of religion/instruction
 - Refuse to marry
 - Reporting domestic abuse
 - Being a victim of rape
 - Wanting to continue education, interfaith relationships
 - Honour Based Abuse can also affect other groups including victims from LGBTQ+ and Gypsy & Travellers Communities

Honour Based Abuse continued

- Breaking rules that bring shame on the family. Honour killing will restore family honour.
- 'Family Council' plans the murder of the victim. The victims existence may be denied.
Death will be celebrated not mourned.
- HBA is common in South Asia, Middle East and Africa and in the UK.
- Is different from other forms of domestic abuse, with more than one perpetrator and it is usually committed with a degree of approval and/or collusion with family members.
- Usual networks of support for victims from family, friends, community can put a victim at great risk in HBA cases.

Further information [What Is Honour-Based Abuse? – YouTube](#) (2020) video clips lasts 1.19 minutes.

Golden Rules for Honour Based Abuse Cases

- ✓ Treat potential victims concerns seriously
- ✓ Child protection referral if victim is under 18
- ✓ Contact forced marriage unit if indicated
- ✓ Specialist DA agency or police should take the lead
- ✓ Refer to MARAC
- ✓ See victim in a safe place. NEVER with friends or family present
- ✓ Reassure about confidentiality – disclosures will NEVER be shared with family or community. (If you need an interpreter use language line or someone from outside the local area **Not family or friends**)
- ✓ Agree safe contact arrangements
- ✓ NEVER mediate or discuss with family or community. Consider who else may be at risk

Question 18

Tick the box if the factor is present. Please use the comment box at the end of the form to expand on any answer.	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW	State source of info
15.Has [name of abuser(s)] ever attempted to strangle / choke / suffocate / drown you?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
16.Does [name of abuser(s)] do or say things of a sexual nature that make you feel bad or that physically hurt you or someone else? If someone else, specify who.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
17.Is there any other person who has threatened you or who you are afraid of? If yes, please specify whom and why. Consider extended family if HBV.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
18.Do you know if [name of abuser(s)] has hurt anyone else? Consider HBV. Please specify whom, including the children, siblings or elderly relatives: Children <input type="checkbox"/> Another family member <input type="checkbox"/> Someone from a previous relationship <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
19.Has [name of abuser(s)] ever mistreated an animal or the family pet?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
20.Are there any financial issues? For example, are you dependent on [name of abuser(s)] for money/have they recently lost their job/other financial issues?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Q18 Do you know if has hurt anyone else?

- Abusers commonly have repeated patterns of aggression especially DA perpetrators and allows us identify links to others.
- May highlight if a [Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme \(DVDS\) application](#) may be required.
- Honour Based Abuse – other siblings, threat to non-approved boyfriend.
- Also ask if anyone else may be at risk – ex partner many have moved on to a new relationship.
- If current relationship has ended may be risk of abuser returning to previous relationship.

Question 19

Tick the box if the factor is present. Please use the comment box at the end of the form to expand on any answer.	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW	State source of info
15.Has [name of abuser(s)] ever attempted to strangle / choke / suffocate / drown you?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
16.Does [name of abuser(s)] do or say things of a sexual nature that make you feel bad or that physically hurt you or someone else? If someone else, specify who.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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19.Has [name of abuser(s)] ever mistreated an animal or the family pet?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
20.Are there any financial issues? For example, are you dependent on [name of abuser(s)] for money/have they recently lost their job/other financial issues?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Q19 Hasever mistreated an animal or the family pet?

- Links between animal cruelty, domestic abuse and child abuse, well documented.
- Use of threat of abuse against companion animals is often used to control the victim. Companion animals can be very important to abuse victims.
- Victims may not want to enter refuge/emergency accommodation as animals aren't allowed.
- Barrier to leaving as some landlords won't accept pets.

Further information is available on:

[Animal abuse & the link to family violence – advice for practitioners : Manchester Safeguarding Boards \(manchestersafeguardingpartnership.co.uk\)](http://manchestersafeguardingpartnership.co.uk)

[The link between animal cruelty and child protection - Community Care \(2008\)](#)

Free eLearning [Animal Welfare Courses Online & Training for Violent Homes | Virtual College \(virtual-college.co.uk\)](http://virtual-college.co.uk) (need to register to complete)

Question 20

Tick the box if the factor is present. Please use the comment box at the end of the form to expand on any answer.	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW	State source of info
15.Has [name of abuser(s)] ever attempted to strangle / choke / suffocate / drown you?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
16.Does [name of abuser(s)] do or say things of a sexual nature that make you feel bad or that physically hurt you or someone else? If someone else, specify who.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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18.Do you know if [name of abuser(s)] has hurt anyone else? Consider HBV. Please specify whom, including the children, siblings or elderly relatives: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div>Children</div> <input type="checkbox"/> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div>Another family member</div> <input type="checkbox"/> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div>Someone from a previous relationship</div> <input type="checkbox"/> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div>Other (please specify)</div> <input type="checkbox"/> </div>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
19.Has [name of abuser(s)] ever mistreated an animal or the family pet?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
20.Are there any financial issues? For example, are you dependent on [name of abuser(s)] for money/have they recently lost their job/other financial issues?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Q20 Are there financial issues?

- Can be a significant barrier to leaving due to unaffordability of living on their own.
- There may be large debts accrued that the victim is liable for. Credit Cards/Loans/re-mortgage taken out in victims name.
- Universal Credit – paid to one person in household. Increases risk of financial abuse in abusive relationships.
- Victim may not have access to money, abuser controls all finances.
- Surviving Economic Abuse.

<https://survivingeconomicabuse.org/Understanding-economic-abuse-Surviving-Economic-Abuse>

Question 21

Please explain that the purpose of asking these questions is for the safety and protection of the individual concerned.			
Tick the box if the factor is present. Please use the comment box at the end of the form to expand on any answer.			
It is assumed that your main source of information is the victim. If this is <u>not</u> the case, please indicate in the right hand column	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW
			State source of info if not the victim (eg police officer)
21. Has [name of abuser(s)] had problems in the past year with drugs (prescription or other), alcohol or mental health leading to problems in leading a normal life? If yes, please specify which and give relevant details if known. <div> Drugs <input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol <input type="checkbox"/> Mental health <input type="checkbox"/> </div>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
22. Has [name of abuser(s)] ever threatened or attempted suicide?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
23. Has [name of abuser(s)] ever broken bail/an injunction and/or formal agreement for when they can see you and/or the children? You may wish to consider this in relation to an ex-partner of the perpetrator if relevant. <div> Bail conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Non Molestation/Occupation Order <input type="checkbox"/> Child contact arrangements <input type="checkbox"/> Forced Marriage Protection Order <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> </div>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
24. Do you know if [name of abuser(s)] has ever been in trouble with the police or has a criminal history? If yes, please specify: <div> Domestic abuse <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual violence <input type="checkbox"/> Other violence <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> </div>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q21 has had problems in the past with drugs, alcohol or mental health that impact on leading a normal life?

- When perpetrators have aggravating problems they are also more likely to injure the victim, use weapons and lead to escalation in frequency and severity of violence.
- Victim may also blame substance misuse/mental health for the abuse – alcohol and drugs do not cause domestic abuse but they are triggers for escalation.
- Victim may be reluctant for the police or any agency knowing about the abuse for fear of the perpetrators substance misuse/mental health issues.
- Victim and perpetrator may share problematic use of substances – maybe accessing same services/dealers.

Consider:

- ✓ How often do they drink/use drugs?
- ✓ Are they dependant?
- ✓ Are the drugs illegal, prescription or ‘legal highs’?

Continued on next slide

Q21 drugs/alcohol/mental health continued

- Alcohol and substance misuse can also be a coping strategy for domestic abuse by victims. Increasing dependency, vulnerability and a barrier to entering refuge.
- Controlling the victim by encouraging them to use/engage with alcohol and substance misuse can be a strategy used.

Mental Health – consider:

- Does the perpetrator have a mental health diagnosis?
- Are they receiving support or intervention?
- Has there been a recent change in perpetrators mental health?
- Are there other triggers to violent behaviour?

Question 22

Please explain that the purpose of asking these questions is for the safety and protection of the individual concerned.		YES	NO	DON'T KNOW	State source of info if not the victim (eg police officer)
<p>Tick the box if the factor is present. Please use the comment box at the end of the form to expand on any answer.</p> <p>It is assumed that your main source of information is the victim. If this is not the case, please indicate in the right hand column</p>					
<p>21. Has [name of abuser(s)] had problems in the past year with drugs (prescription or other), alcohol or mental health leading to problems in leading a normal life?</p> <p>If yes, please specify which and give relevant details if known.</p> <p>Drugs <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Alcohol <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Mental health <input type="checkbox"/></p>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<p>22. Has [name of abuser(s)] ever threatened or attempted suicide?</p>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<p>23. Has [name of abuser(s)] ever broken bailian injunction and/or formal agreement for when they can see you and/or the children?</p> <p>You may wish to consider this in relation to an ex-partner of the perpetrator if relevant.</p> <p>Bail conditions <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Non Molestation/Occupation Order <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Child contact arrangements <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Forced Marriage Protection Order <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Other <input type="checkbox"/></p>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<p>24. Do you know if [name of abuser(s)] has ever been in trouble with the police or has a criminal history?</p> <p>If yes, please specify:</p> <p>Domestic abuse <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Sexual violence <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Other violence <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Other <input type="checkbox"/></p>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Q22 Has ever threatened or attempted suicide?

- Depression and suicidal ideation/intent can be a pre-cursor to escalation of violence – the perpetrator needs to control the relationship.
- This is a manipulative tactic and is often associated with the victim attempting to end the relationship – abuser attempts to make the victim ‘feel sorry’ for them.
- Could be linked to Q2 and Q3 – victim may fear that perpetrator will kill victim and/or children and themselves (homicide-suicide).

Question 23

Please explain that the purpose of asking these questions is for the safety and protection of the individual concerned.		YES	NO	DON'T KNOW	State source of info if not the victim (eg police officer)
<p>21. Has [name of abuser(s)] had problems in the past year with drugs (prescription or other), alcohol or mental health leading to problems in leading a normal life?</p> <p>If yes, please specify which and give relevant details if known.</p> <p>Drugs <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Alcohol <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Mental health <input type="checkbox"/></p>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<p>22. Has [name of abuser(s)] ever threatened or attempted suicide?</p>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<p>23. Has [name of abuser(s)] ever broken bail/an injunction and/or formal agreement for when they can see you and/or the children?</p> <p>You may wish to consider this in relation to an ex-partner of the perpetrator if relevant.</p> <p>Bail conditions <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Non Molestation/Occupation Order <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Child contact arrangements <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Forced Marriage Protection Order <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Other <input type="checkbox"/></p>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<p>24. Do you know if [name of abuser(s)] has ever been in trouble with the police or has a criminal history?</p> <p>If yes, please specify:</p> <p>Domestic abuse <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Sexual violence <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Other violence <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Other <input type="checkbox"/></p>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Q23 Has ever breached bail/injunction/formal agreement for seeing children?

- Previous violations of criminal or civil orders may be associated with increased risk because of disregard for authority and sanctions.
- Victims may be reluctant to proceed with criminal proceedings or obtaining civil orders if there has been lots of previous breaches or if they feel they have had a past negative experience of the criminal justice system.
- Victims may be reluctant to disclose breach of current bail conditions for fear of getting the offender into trouble.
- If there are current/possible criminal proceedings – could inform what conditions are appropriate – restraining order or licence conditions on release from prison.
- Consider possibility of offences outside the UK.

Question 24

Please explain that the purpose of asking these questions is for the safety and protection of the individual concerned.			
Tick the box if the factor is present. Please use the comment box at the end of the form to expand on any answer.			
It is assumed that your main source of information is the victim. If this is <u>not</u> the case, please indicate in the right hand column			
	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW
	State source of info if not the victim (eg police officer)		
21. Has [name of abuser(s)] had problems in the past year with drugs (prescription or other), alcohol or mental health leading to problems in leading a normal life? If yes, please specify which and give relevant details if known.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Drugs <input type="checkbox"/>			
Alcohol <input type="checkbox"/>			
Mental health <input type="checkbox"/>			
22. Has [name of abuser(s)] ever threatened or attempted suicide?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
23. Has [name of abuser(s)] ever broken bail/an injunction and/or formal agreement for when they can see you and/or the children? You may wish to consider this in relation to an ex-partner of the perpetrator if relevant.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bail conditions <input type="checkbox"/>			
Non Molestation/Occupation Order <input type="checkbox"/>			
Child contact arrangements <input type="checkbox"/>			
Forced Marriage Protection Order <input type="checkbox"/>			
Other <input type="checkbox"/>			
24. Do you know if [name of abuser(s)] has ever been in trouble with the police or has a criminal history? If yes, please specify:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Domestic abuse <input type="checkbox"/>			
Sexual violence <input type="checkbox"/>			
Other violence <input type="checkbox"/>			
Other <input type="checkbox"/>			

Q24 Do you know if has ever been in trouble with police or has a criminal history?

- DA offenders are often serial perpetrators, increasing the risk of them causing serious harm.
- DVDS has evidenced that offenders will minimise and blame the victim for convictions and offending behaviour.
- Sometimes victims will be vague on detail and their answer can help you determine if a DVDS application is appropriate.
- Abusive people can make up convictions to control and intimidate victims.
- Honour Based Abuse cases – perpetrators will often have no previous convictions.
- Offences against the person particularly DA/SV carry more weight when assessing risk.

Communicating risk to the client

- Sensitive communication is important, particularly if assessed as high risk – potential for causing alarm.
- Reflect back – “based on what you have told me today it is my assessment that you are at risk of further harm.... How does that make you feel? Was that what you were expecting?”
- If not high risk – sometimes victims feel that they are not important or that concerns are not being taken seriously – different types of support needed for standard, medium and high risk clients.

Determining Risk Level

Standard Risk 1 -10

Medium Risk 10 – 13

A referral can be made to Swindon Domestic Abuse Support Service for support either through worker or self-referral.

High Risk 14 and above

Case should be referred to the MARAC Coordinator for inclusion in the next available MARAC.

Professional judgement: if there are less than 14 ticks you can refer to MARAC by using your professional judgement if you believe there are additional risks e.g. minimisation by the victim. Please document your rationale.

The MARAC Coordinator will refer to the IDVA service for intensive, specialist support and advice.



Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)

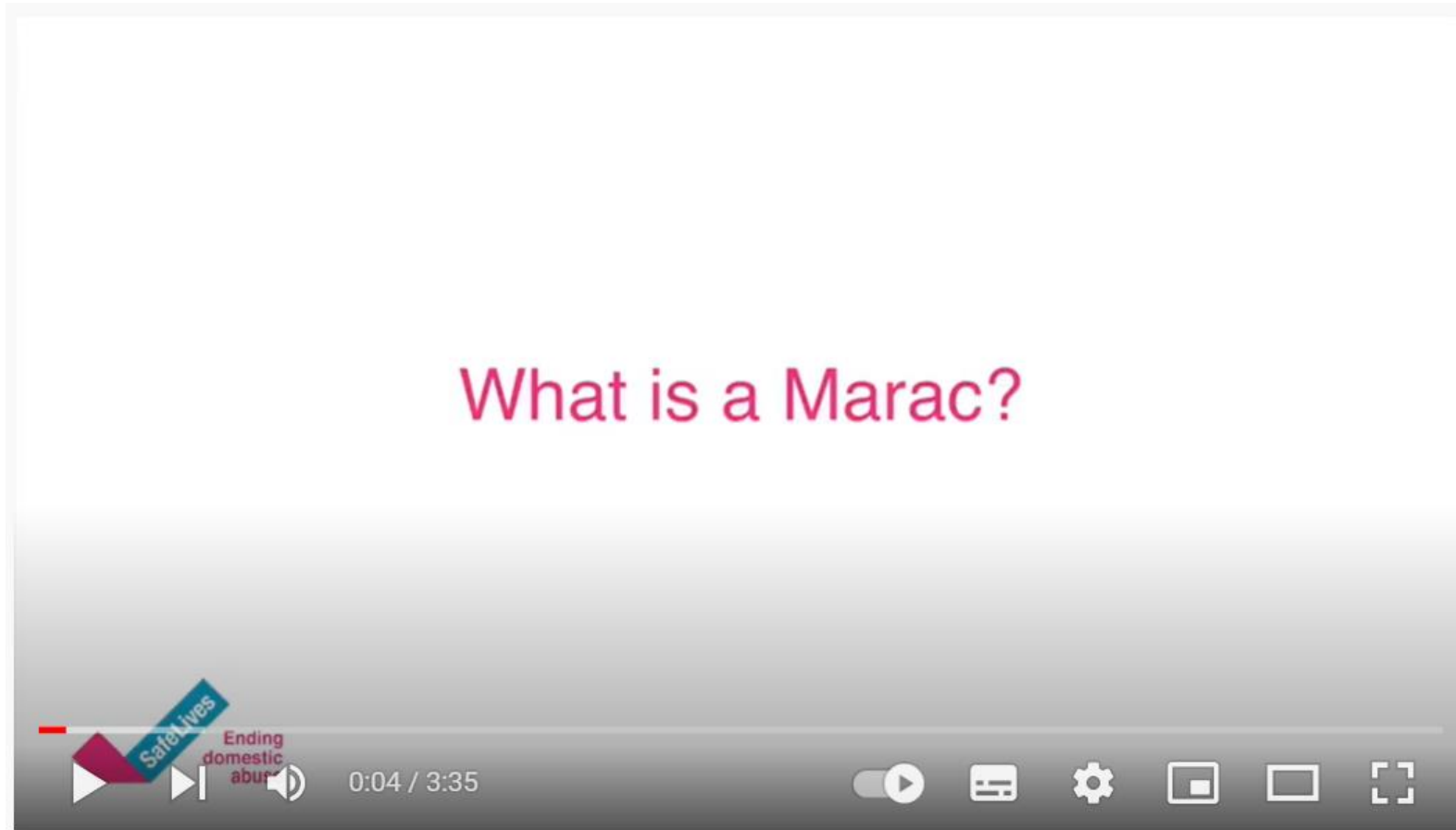
Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)

- Deals with domestic abuse victims who are identified as high risk.
- The risk assessment process, MARAC procedures and standards for operating the meetings have been developed by SafeLives (formerly CAADA) who oversee the MARAC process on behalf of the Home Office.
- MARAC's are held fortnightly in Swindon.

Aim of MARAC is to:

- Share information to increase safety, health & well being of victims & their children.
- Victim focused – However it also determines if the perpetrator poses significant risk to a particular individual or general community.
- Collectively develop a risk management plan to provide professional support to all those at risk and to reduce the risk of serious harm or death.

What is a Marac?



This video explains why Maracs were set up, how they help victims of domestic abuse at high risk of serious harm or murder, and what types of professionals are expected to attend. Clip lasts 3.35 minutes. For best results view in slide show. Or you can access via this link [What is a Marac? - YouTube](#)

The Marac meeting : roles and information sharing



If you have been invited to attend a Marac, this short film should give you an idea of what to expect and how to prepare. Video clip lasts 5.26 minutes. For best results view in slideshow. Or you can access via this link [The Marac meeting: roles and information sharing - YouTube](#)

The Marac meeting : action planning



An essential part of the Marac meeting is ensuring action points are assigned to each of the risks identified in relation to the victim and their children. Video clip lasts 4.20 minutes. For best results view in slideshow. Or you can access via this link [The Marac meeting: action planning - YouTube](#)

Swindon MARAC

- First one held in 2007
- Meets fortnightly on a Tuesday
- Representatives from around 12 agencies attend (Police, Health, Probation, Children's Social Care, Adult Social Care, Housing, IDVA, Education Welfare Mental health, Drug & Alcohol Services)
- Chaired by Wiltshire Police Inspector
- Administered & managed by the Community Safety Partnership Coordinator
- Between 400 and 600 cases discussed every year
- Over 600 children living in households where there is high risk domestic abuse

When should a referral be made to MARAC?

- ✓ Numerical high risk – 14 yes answers on the DASH RIC
- ✓ Professional Judgment – a professional believes the victim to be high risk, at imminent risk of harm, and maybe minimising the risk
- ✓ Where escalation appears to be occurring

Information Sharing at MARAC

- Information sharing is limited to the aims of the meeting.
- A confidentiality declaration is agreed by everyone at the start of each meeting.
- Information gained at the MARAC cannot be used for other purposes without permission from the referring agency.
- There is a process for authorising disclosure when required.
- It is preferable to get consent from the victim to refer to MARAC, however you can refer without consent when thresholds are met.
- It is good practice to record your rationale for sharing without consent.

The MARAC process

- ✓ The closing date for MARAC referrals is 5pm on the previous Tuesday.
- ✓ The referrals are uploaded to SharePoint as they are received to allow agencies to add their research.
- ✓ At the meeting the referring agency presents the case and their concerns.
- ✓ Other agencies input any other **new** relevant information they hold.
- ✓ Risks are summarised by the Chair.
- ✓ Agencies volunteer actions to reduce the identified risks.
- ✓ After the MARAC, agency updates and actions are added to the Action Tracker on SharePoint. Agencies are obliged to update the Action Tracker.
- ✓ The case is not usually discussed again unless there is a further incident or significant change in the risk.

Making a Referral to MARAC

- Once you have completed the DASH RIC.
- Complete a [MARAC Referral Form](#).
- Send the MARAC Referral Form and the DASH Risk Identification Checklist to: SwindonMARAC@swindon.gov.uk and referral@swindonwomensaid.org (if sent from a secure email. If not emails will need to be encrypted).
- If children are involved or were present during an incident a separate referral must be made to [MASH](#).

If you require help and advice with a referral you can contact:
Community Safety Coordinator at SwindonMARAC@swindon.gov.uk

Case study

There is now an opportunity to use your knowledge. Please review the information in Case Study 1 - Claire [click here](#) to access. Complete a [DASH RIC](#) on the information shared. Also look at the additional questions at the end of form.

Consider:

- What risk level would you attribute to this case?
- What would be your next steps?
- Are there any other agencies that need to be involved?

There is an opportunity to discuss this scenario and any related DASH RIC or MARAC questions with professionals at the DASH/MARAC reflective discussion on 15th June 2022 between 1000-1130 am.

To book a place please click on this hyperlink [DASH/MARAC webinar - A reflective discussion - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership](#).

Please ensure you have reviewed and complied with the pre-course requirements prior to attending this session.

RESOURCES

Further information for professionals working in Swindon.

- Useful contact numbers and support services [Domestic abuse advice information help sheet November 2021 - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership.](#)
- [Domestic abuse - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership.](#)
- [Safeguarding is for everyone - Know your role - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership](#) A resource focusing on safeguarding adults, includes information about different types of harm and abuse, how to spot the signs , responding and recording concerns and reporting concerns.
- Free online learning [Supporting victims of domestic violence - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership.](#)
- [Our Services – SWA Domestic Abuse](#) – including work with children.
- [Spotlights: Hidden victims | Safelives.](#)
- [Getting it right first time: top tips for professionals | Safelives.](#)
- Information about [Swindon and Wiltshire Sexual Assault Referral Centre](#) and [forensic medical examinations.](#)
- Wiltshire Police [Advice about domestic abuse | Wiltshire Police](#) .
- [Request information under Clare's Law: Make a Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme \(DVDS\) application | Wiltshire Police.](#)
- [Understanding economic abuse - Surviving Economic Abuse.](#)

RESOURCES

- Swindon Safeguarding Partnership (SSP) website access to [7 minute briefs and practice briefs](#) on a variety of themes.
- Domestic Abuse Advice and Information Help Sheet [click here](#)
- SSP [Adults policies and guidance - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership](#) [Adult safeguarding and domestic abuse guide to support practitioners and managers](#)
- IDVA – (Independent Domestic Violence Advisor) – works with high risk victims, Contact SDASS (Swindon Domestic Abuse Support Service) on 01793 610610
- [Our Services – SWA Domestic Abuse](#)
- ISVA – (Independent Sexual Violence Advisor) – works with victims of sexual assault and rape.
- Contact Tel: 01793 317482 Enquiries: isva@splitz.org Website: <https://www.splitz.org/wiltshire/wiltshire-phoenix-project/isva.html>
- The Hideout – Support for children & young people experiencing/witnessing domestic abuse
- <https://thehideout.org.uk/>
- Research in Practice - a variety of resources for practitioners includes a podcast from a survivor of domestic abuse about the complexities of being in an abusive relationship. [The complexities of being in an abusive relationship \(researchinpractice.org.uk\)](#)
- [Karma Nirvana](#) run the national Honour Based Abuse Helpline, also information and resources for professionals.