

Making a Referral to NIDAS Refuge

Please read these guidance notes to help you complete a referral on behalf of your client.

We have a purpose-built refuge in Newcastle for women and their children. The accommodation offers self-contained flats with up to three bedrooms. The refuge is staffed 24 hrs a day, our refuge provides a safe place for women and their children who are moving from abusive relationships.

Residents are expected to be able to manage their regular daily living and care needs whilst staff provide support with issues relating to domestic abuse/moving/re-housing/finances etc.

We also support women and children to begin to recover from their experiences of domestic abuse.

Most of our residents receive support from Housing Benefit to pay their rent. A small weekly personal service charge is paid by each resident which takes care of utility bills costs.

Refuge referral process

Referral forms can be completed via the telephone or sent to us via secure email, details on the referral form.

If you are submitting via email it is good practice to ring to make sure it has been received and it alerts us to begin to process the referral.

Once the forms are returned to us, we will provide you with an update within an hour. It is always best to put in as much information as possible as this enables us to make an informed decision much quicker.

The referrals will be considered in order the referral forms are received. We will consider the first one received as number one on the list and move along to the second and so on. We will consider a maximum of 4 referrals at any one time.

Referral decisions will be made during normal office hours; however, arrangements can be made for women and their children to arrive at refuge outside of office hours.

Referrer Details and Consent

Please ensure that the contact details you give are correct as we will need to contact you when we are considering the referral.

We require consent by the client for the referral to be made, please confirm that you have it.

Client Details

For individuals seeking support (in their own right), the minimum age we can accept is 16 years old.

To keep everyone safe it is usually not practicable for us to accept women and their children into our refuge accommodation who live in close proximity to the refuge (approximately within a 3-mile radius). This is also usually the case if a perpetrator or their family live close by too. However, each case will be looked at on an individual basis as it may be possible in exceptional circumstances for us to accommodate this family.

We MUST have the client's National Insurance Number before we can consider their application. If they do not have it please give details of the reason.

Please provide a safe contact telephone number, unless it is not safe to do so we will always speak directly to the client before accepting a new resident into refuge.

Please indicate preferred language and if a translator is required so that we can ensure we provide an inclusive service.

Current tenancy details:

When fleeing domestic abuse it is sometimes possible to get housing costs paid on both the refuge and previous property for a short while (Dual Housing Costs"). This gives some breathing space to decide if they are safe to return eg a court order may be put in place, or perpetrator remanded into custody leaving the victim safe to return home. We can provide support with this so as much detail as possible is helpful.

Equalities Monitoring

We strive to ensure our services are welcoming to all victims of domestic abuse. Access to our services are risk led and high-risk referrals will be prioritised.

Identification

Please try, if it is safe to do so, to bring your ID documents with you when you move into refuge. If this is not possible taking a photograph of the document on a phone or noting down the reference numbers can help when proving ID for a new bank account, benefit claim or renewing the documents.

Benefits

We can provide support with benefits, by providing details it can help speed up any claims. All refuge residents on moving day are required to change their address on any benefit claim to show refuge as their new place of residence and a screenshot of the change provided to staff. This is to ensure that housing benefit claim for refuge rent can be made. If this is not provided the resident may then become liable for rent payments.

Citizenship/Immigration Status

We can provide support for women who need to apply for a Destitute Domestic Violence Concession this allows a breathing space to sort out their residence/immigration status. However, if the client does not have any access to public funding (“no recourse”) we will work with other agencies to try to find a way to temporarily fund this refuge place. For example, if the client has children the local children’s social care may fund the place under safeguarding duties.

Children

The maximum age we can accept male children into refuge with their mother is 16, however, in exceptional circumstances older aged male children under 18 will be considered on a case-by-case basis. To make sure we can provide the right support for women and their children it is important that any questions are answered openly and honestly. We provide support for women and their children who are working with social care as part of the safeguarding process and can participate in for example, child protection conferences, TAF meetings and with Early Help.

Background Information

We get a high volume of requests for refuge accommodation. The information in this section will help staff make an informed decision so please be as detailed as you can.

The DASH risk assessment will also inform our decision. It may be worth completing the DASH as the same time as you answer these questions as they will inform each other.

Please give dates and details of any contact with the police, included an “no further action” call outs.

Any MARAC referrals, current or historical, should be clearly listed.

If the woman has lived in a refuge before we will contact the previous refuge before accepting a referral.

Perpetrator Details

This information helps us to keep the woman and her children as safe as possible. We will not contact the perpetrator, but the information may need to be used if we need to contact the police or make a MARAC referral.

Additional Support Needs

Although we support women with complex needs within the refuge it is important that we are given clear information so that we can assess if we can effectively support the woman and her children. We will expect that women are able to function independently and be able to benefit from our services by engaging in the support offered.

In considering any referral for refuge accommodation, but especially when the women or family may require intensive levels of support, we will take into account the balance of the needs of other residents already resident in our refuge. This is so that every resident can be provided with an appropriate level of support that suits their needs.

We can accept victims with drug or alcohol issues if they have been and will continue to actively engage in treatment programmes.

We will judge all referrals on their own merit where women or their children have been involved in offending. We will make an individual assessment based on each individual circumstance.

We have some flats on the ground floor and one is adapted for anyone with mobility issues. We endeavour to ensure our services are accessible for all women with any disability be it hidden or otherwise.

Monitoring Systems & information Sharing & Confidentiality Consent Form

To provide effective support to you, monitor our work and receive funding to continue the work we do, NIDAS/Thirteen must record information about you on computer systems and in paper files. We record information from the point of receiving a referral, whether we can accept the referral or not.

About this information

Information we collect is stored securely in accordance with the Thirteen policies and the Data Protection Act 2018 (including GDPR). The information is only accessed by Thirteen staff or parties authorised by Thirteen staff to do so. The information kept confidential.

What information is recorded?

We need to record personal information including data about your support needs. We will also record any data you are willing to provide for the purposes of monitoring. Our duty is to provide services in line with Equality and Diversity legislation.

What is the information used for?

Information is used to help us assess whether we can support you. It is also used to create statistics about our services, which do not contain personally identifiable data.

Information Sharing

From time to time we are required to share information about you with other agencies in accordance with our policies and the Data Protection Act 2018.

There may be times when we share information about you or your situation with other agencies. Unless it is a high risk, safeguarding situation, we will always ask for your permission to share information and you can say yes or no. Sometimes we must share information about you to other agencies without your permission if we feel you or your children are at risk of serious harm. We will always try to talk to you about this first, unless it is not safe to do so, or we cannot contact you. We will only share relevant information that will improve you or your children's safety and will support you with this.

Sometimes we might need to share your information with researchers or other agencies so that we can improve the service we offer. When we do this, we will always make your details and information anonymous and your identity will never be revealed.

Can I see this information?

Under the Data Protection Act 2018, you must have a right to access the information that is held about you. To access this information, you must submit a request in writing to governance.compliance@thirteengroup.co.uk

Declaration

I have read the above information and consent to Thirteen obtaining, recording, and sharing personal information about me in accordance with legislation. I understand that the information will remain confidential, and I know how to request access to this information if I wish to. I certify that the information provided is accurate to the best of my knowledge.

NAME: (print)	SIGNATURE:	DATE:
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**NEWCASTLE INTEGRATED DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICE
REFERRAL FORM FOR REFUGE ACCOMMODATION**

**For a referral to be considered we must have a completed
Referral Form and a DASH risk assessment**

Please return to:

Nidas.Team@thirteengroup.co.uk

or

nidas.team@thirteen.cjism.net (secure email, please call 0191 2146501 if you are sending this way so we can confirm it has been received as not all emails are compatible with cjism.net)

If you require assistance, please ring 0191 214 6501

DETAILS PERSON WHO IS MAKING THE REFERRAL (if not self-referral)

AGENCY DETAILS:

CONTACT NAME:

CONTACT TEL:

CONTACT EMAIL:

PLEASE CONFIRM THAT YOU HAVE THE CONSENT OF THE CLIENT TO SUBMIT THIS REFERRAL:

Signed:

(Referrals will not be processed without client consent)

Client details

Full Name:

Any Previous Names:

DOB:

NATIONAL INSURANCE NO:

Safe Contact Tel:

(Please establish if this Tel no. is safe to use, if not provide details of safe contact times or/and method)

What is your preferred Language?

Do you require a translator/interpreter?

Benefits:

Are you currently receiving benefits?

If yes, which benefits?

If no, how will you support yourself and pay rent at refuge?

Citizenship/Immigration status:

Are you a British citizen?

If yes, please move into the next section of this form.

If no, please answer the following questions below.

Do you have Settled Status under the EEA scheme?

If Yes, please provide details.

Do you have a right to reside in the UK?

Please provide details of current immigration status and evidence to support this i.e. type of visa, proof of BRP, immigration solicitor details.

Children:**Please give details of children, who will be moving into refuge with you;**

Name:

DOB:

Gender:

Ethnic Origin:

School/nursery:

Relationship to perpetrator:

Additional support needs:

Contact arrangements:

Name:

DOB:

Gender:

Ethnic Origin:

School/nursery:

Relationship to perpetrator:

Additional support needs:

Contact arrangements:

Name:

DOB:

Gender:

Ethnic Origin:

School/nursery:

Relationship to perpetrator:

Additional support needs:

Contact arrangements:

Name:

DOB:

Gender:

Ethnic Origin:

School/nursery:

Relationship to perpetrator:

Additional support needs:

Contact arrangements:

Do you have children who do not live with you?

If yes, please give details:

Are you pregnant?

If yes, when is your due date:

Are you currently receiving support from social services?

If yes, please give the name and contact details of your social worker or support worker:

Have you received support from social services in the past?

If yes, please give details of the support provided.

Have you ever received support from any other professionals or support agencies?

If yes, please give the name, contact details and details of the type of support provided.

Background Information:

*Please give details of the reason you require
refuge accommodation:*

Date of latest incident of domestic abuse:

*Do you have any connection with Newcastle
upon Tyne/the North East region: eg family
members in area*

*Have you ever lived in a refuge before?
If yes, please the contact details, dates of
residence and reason for leaving.*

*Have you ever contacted the police because of
the domestic abuse?*

*If yes, please give dates & further detail of any
call outs, arrests, charges or convictions.*

*Have you ever been referred into the MARAC
process?*

*If yes, please give details of dates and actions
taken.*

*Has a DVPO/DVPN or any civil protection
orders been issued?*

Perpetrator details:

Name:

What is your relationship to perpetrator?

DOB:

Address:

Description:

Height:

Eye colour:

Please detail any known risks to professionals

Hair colour and style:

Ethnicity:

Build:

Distinguishing features i.e. Tattoos:

Details of cars they drive/have access to:

PLEASE NOTE: WE DO NOT CONTACT ANYBODY LISTED AS A PERPETRATOR. IF YOU ARE ACCPETED INTO REFUGE, WE ASK FOR THESE DETAILS TO ENSURE YOUR SAFETY WHILST YOU ARE STAYING HERE.

Additional support needs: If you have any of the additional support needs outlined below please complete the further details requested.

Please note we are an independent living facility, you must be able to meet your own personal care and daily living needs.

Drugs and alcohol:

Have you ever been drug or alcohol dependent?

If yes, are you currently drug or alcohol dependent? What substances are you currently using?

Have you ever had professional support for drug or alcohol use?

Are you participating in a support/recovery programme?

If yes, how long have you participated for?

Offending:

Have you ever been in trouble with the police? (This can include spent and unspent convictions, any arrests, any cautions, time spent in prison?)
If yes, please provide details.

Accessibility requirements:

Please give details of any support you may need to allow you to access our services fully

Health/medial questions:

Name, address, and Tel number of current GP:

Physical health needs:

Have you been diagnosed with any physical health conditions?

If yes, do you take any prescribed medication in relation to this condition.

Mental health:

Have you received a diagnosis of a mental health condition? If yes, please give details;

Are you currently receiving support with your mental health?
If yes, please provide details of the support.

Have you ever self-harmed or attempted suicide?

If yes, please give details of latest incident?

Do you take any medication in relation to your mental health?

If yes, what have you been prescribed?

Have you ever received any therapeutic support in relation to your mental health?
If yes, please give details

Signature:

Date:

PLEASE NOW COMPLETE A DASH RISK ASSESSMENT WHICH YOU WILL FIND AT THE END OF THE GUIDANCE NOTES BELOW

SafeLives Dash risk checklist

Quick start guidance

You may be looking at this checklist because you are working in a professional capacity with a victim of domestic abuse. These notes are to help you understand the significance of the questions on the checklist. Domestic abuse can take many forms but it is usually perpetrated by men towards women in an intimate relationship such as boyfriend/girlfriend, husband/wife. This checklist can also be used for lesbian, gay, bisexual relationships and for situations of 'honour'-based violence or family violence. Domestic abuse can include physical, emotional, mental, sexual or financial abuse as well as stalking and harassment. They might be experiencing one or all types of abuse; each situation is unique. It is the combination of behaviours that can be so intimidating. It can occur both during a relationship or after it has ended.

The purpose of the Dash risk checklist 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. If you are concerned about risk to a child or children, you should make a referral to ensure that a full assessment of their safety and welfare is made.

The Dash risk checklist should be introduced to the victim within the framework of your agency's:

- Confidentiality policy
- Information sharing policy and protocols
- Marac referral policies and protocols

Before you begin to ask the questions in the Dash risk checklist:

- Establish how much time the victim has to talk to you: is it safe to talk now? What are safe contact details?
- Establish the whereabouts of the perpetrator and children
- Explain why you are asking these questions and how it relates to the Marac

While you are asking the questions in the Dash risk checklist:

- Identify early on who the victim is frightened of – ex-partner/partner/family member
- Use gender neutral terms such as partner/ex-partner. By creating a safe, accessible environment LGBT victims accessing the service will feel able to disclose both domestic abuse and their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Revealing the results of the Dash risk checklist to the victim

Telling someone that they are at high risk of serious harm or homicide may be frightening and overwhelming for them to hear. It is important that you state what your concerns are by using the answers they gave to you and your professional judgement. It is then important that you follow your area's protocols when referring to Marac and Children's Services. Equally, identifying that someone is not currently high risk needs to be managed carefully to ensure that the person doesn't feel that their

situation is being minimised and that they don't feel embarrassed about asking for help. Explain that these factors are linked to homicide and serious harm and that if s/he experiences any of them in future, that they should get back in touch with your service or with the emergency services on 999 in an immediate crisis.

Please pay particular attention to a practitioner's professional judgement in all cases. The results from a checklist are not a definitive assessment of risk. They should provide you with a structure to inform your judgement and act as prompts to further questioning, analysis and risk management whether via a Marac or in another way. **The responsibility for identifying your local referral threshold rests with your local Marac.**

Resources

Be sure that you have an awareness of the safety planning measures you can offer, both within your own agency and other agencies. Be familiar with local and national resources to refer the victim to, including specialist services. The following websites and contact details may be useful to you:

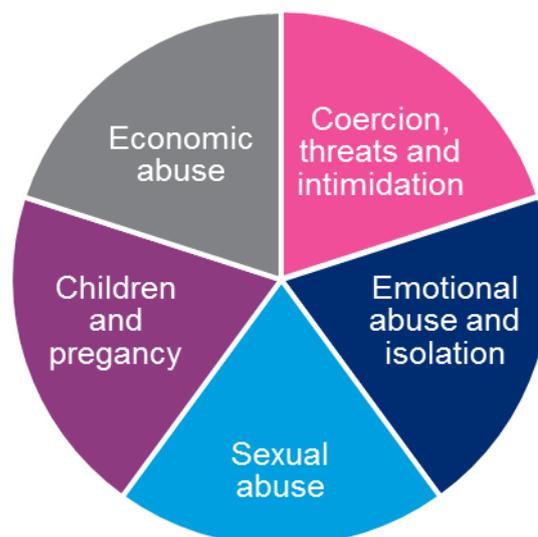
- **National Domestic Violence Helpline** (tel: 0808 2000 247) for assistance with refuge accommodation and advice.
- **'Honour' Helpline** (tel: 0800 5999247) for advice on forced marriage and 'honour' based violence.
- **Sexual Assault Referral Centres** (<http://www.rapecrisis.org.uk/Referralcentres2.php>) for details on SARCs and to locate your nearest centre.
- **Broken Rainbow** (tel: 08452 604460 / web: www.brokenrainbow.org.uk) for advice for LGBT victims) for advice and support for LGBT victims of domestic abuse.

Asking about types of abuse and risk factors

Physical abuse

We ask about physical abuse in questions 1, 10, 11, 13, 15, 18, 19 and 23.

- Physical abuse can take many forms from a push or shove to a punch, use of weapons, choking or strangulation.
- You should try and establish if the abuse is getting worse, or happening more often, or the incidents themselves are more serious. If your client is not sure, ask them to document how many incidents there have been in the last year and what took place. They should also consider keeping a diary marking when physical and other incidents take place.
- Try and get a picture of the range of physical abuse that has taken place. The incident that is currently being disclosed may not be the worst thing to have happened.
- The abuse might also be happening to other people in their household, such as their children or siblings or elderly relatives.
- Sometimes violence will be used against a family pet.



- If an incident has just occurred the victim should call 999 for assistance from the police. If the victim has injuries they should try and get them seen and documented by a health professional such as a GP or A&E nurse.

Sexual abuse

We ask about whether the victim is experiencing any form of sexual abuse in question 16.

- Sexual abuse can include the use of threats, force or intimidation to obtain sex, deliberately inflicting pain during sex, or combining sex and violence and using weapons.
- If the victim has suffered sexual abuse you should encourage them to get medical attention and to report this to the police. See above for advice on finding a Sexual Assault Referral Centre which can assist with medical and legal investigations.

Coercion, threats and intimidation

Coercion, threats and intimidation are covered in questions 2, 3, 6, 8, 14, 17, 18, 19, 23 and 24.

- It is important to understand and establish: the fears of the victim/victims in relation to what the perpetrator/s may do; who they are frightened of and who they are frightened for (e.g. children/siblings). Victims usually know the abuser's behaviour better than anyone else which is why this question is significant.
- In cases of 'honour' based violence there may be more than one abuser living in the home or belonging to the wider family and community. This could also include female relatives.
- Stalking and harassment becomes more significant when the abuser is also making threats to harm themselves, the victim or others. They might use phrases such as "If I can't have you no one else can..."
- Other examples of behaviour that can indicate future harm include obsessive phone calls, texts or emails, uninvited visits to the victim's home or workplace, loitering and destroying/vandalising property.
- Advise the victim to keep a diary of these threats, when and where they happen, if anyone else was with them and if the threats made them feel frightened.
- Separation is a dangerous time: establish if the victim has tried to separate from the abuser or has been threatened about the consequences of leaving. Being pursued after separation can be particularly dangerous.
- Victims of domestic abuse sometimes tell us that the perpetrators harm pets, damage furniture and this alone makes them frightened without the perpetrator needing to physically hurt them. This kind of intimidation is common and often used as a way to control and frighten.
- Some perpetrators of domestic abuse do not follow court orders or contact arrangements with children. Previous violations may be associated with an increase in risk of future violence.
- Some victims feel frightened and intimidated by the criminal history of their partner/ex-partner. It is important to remember that offenders with a history of violence are at increased risk of harming their partner, even if the past violence was not directed towards intimate partners or family members, except for 'honour'-based violence, where the perpetrator(s) will commonly have no other recorded criminal history.

Emotional abuse and isolation

We ask about emotional abuse and isolation in questions 4, 5 and 12. This can be experienced at the same time as the other types of abuse. It may be present on its own or it may have started long before

any physical violence began. The result of this abuse is that victims can blame themselves and, in order to live with what is happening, minimise and deny how serious it is. As a professional you can assist the victim in beginning to consider the risks the victim and any children may be facing.

- The victim may be being prevented from seeing family or friends, from creating any support networks or prevented from having access to any money.
- Victims of 'honour' based violence talk about extreme levels of isolation and being 'policed' in the home. This is a significant indicator of future harm and should be taken seriously.
- Due to the abuse and isolation being suffered victims feel like they have no choice but to continue living with the abuser and fear what may happen if they try and leave. This can often have an impact on the victim's mental health and they might feel depressed or even suicidal.
- Equally the risk to the victim is greater if their partner/ex-partner has mental health problems such as depression and if they abuse drugs or alcohol. This can increase the level of isolation as victims can feel like agencies won't understand and will judge them. They may feel frightened that revealing this information will get them and their partner into trouble and, if they have children, they may worry that they will be removed. These risks are addressed in questions 21 & 22.

Children and pregnancy

Questions 7, 9 and 18 refer to being pregnant and children and whether there is conflict over child contact.

- The presence of children including stepchildren can increase the risk of domestic abuse for the mother. They too can get caught up in the violence and suffer directly.
- Physical violence can occur for the first time or get worse during pregnancy or for the first few years of the child's life. There are usually lots of professionals involved during this time, such as health visitors or midwives, who need to be aware of the risks to the victim and children, including an unborn child.
- The perpetrator may use the children to have access to the victim, abusive incidents may occur during child contact visits or there may be a lot of fear and anxiety that the children may be harmed.
- Please follow your local Child Protection Procedures and Guidelines for identifying and making referrals to Children's Services.

Economic abuse

Economic abuse is covered in question 20.

- Victims of domestic abuse often tell us that they are financially controlled by their partners/ex-partners. Consider how the financial control impacts on the safety options available to them. For example, they may rely on their partner/ex-partner for an income or do not have access to benefits in their own right. The victim might feel like the situation has become worse since their partner/ex-partner lost their job.
- The Citizens Advice Bureau or the local specialist domestic abuse support service will be able to outline to the victim the options relating to their current financial situation and how they might be able to access funds in their own right.

We also have a library of resources and information about training for frontline practitioners at <http://safelives.org.uk/practice-support/resources-frontline-domestic-abuse-workers-and-idvas>

Other Marac toolkits and resources

If you or someone from your agency attends the Marac meeting, you can download a **Marac Representative's Toolkit** here:

http://safelives.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/Representatives%20toolkit_0.pdf. This essential document troubleshoots practical issues around the whole Marac process.

Other **frontline Practitioner Toolkits** are also available from <http://safelives.org.uk/practice-support/resources-marac-meetings/resources-people-referring>. These offer a practical introduction to Marac within the context of a professional role. Please signpost colleagues and other agency staff to these toolkits where relevant:

A&E	LGBT Services
Ambulance Service	Marac Chair
BAMER Services	Marac Coordinator
Children and Young People's Services	Mental Health Services for Adults
Drug and Alcohol	Police Officer
Education	Probation
Fire and Rescue Services	Social Care Services for Adults
Family Intervention Projects	Sexual Violence Services
Health Visitors, School Nurses & Community Midwives	Specialist Domestic Violence Services
Housing	Victim Support
Independent Domestic Violence Advisors	Women's Safety Officer

For additional information and materials on Multi-agency risk assessment conferences (Maracs), please see the <http://safelives.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/The%20principles%20of%20an%20effective%20MARAC%20%28principles%20only%29%20FINAL.pdf>. This provides guidance on the Marac process and forms the basis of the Marac quality assurance process and national standards for Marac.

SafeLives Dash risk checklist

Aim of the form

- To help front line practitioners identify high risk cases of domestic abuse, stalking and 'honour'-based violence.
- To decide which cases should be referred to Marac and what other support might be required. A completed form becomes an active record that can be referred to in future for case management.
- To offer a common tool to agencies that are part of the Marac¹ process and provide a shared understanding of risk in relation to domestic abuse, stalking and 'honour'-based violence.
- To enable agencies to make defensible decisions based on the evidence from extensive research of cases, including domestic homicides and 'near misses', which underpins most recognised models of risk assessment.

How to use the form

Before completing the form for the first time we recommend that you read the full practice guidance and FAQs. These can be downloaded from:

<http://safelives.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/FAQs%20>

Recommended referral criteria to Marac

1. **Professional judgement:** if a professional has serious concerns about a victim's situation, they should refer the case to Marac. There will be occasions where the particular context of a case gives rise to serious concerns even if the victim has been unable to disclose the information that might highlight their risk more clearly. ***This could reflect extreme levels of fear, cultural barriers to disclosure, immigration issues or language barriers particularly in cases of 'honour'-based violence.*** This judgement would be based on the professional's experience and/or the victim's perception of their risk even if they do not meet criteria 2 and/or 3 below.
2. **'Visible High Risk':** the number of 'ticks' on this checklist. If you have ticked 14 or more 'yes' boxes the case would normally meet the Marac referral criteria.
3. **Potential Escalation:** the number of police callouts to the victim as a result of domestic violence in the past 12 months. This criterion can be used to identify cases where there is not a positive identification of a majority of the risk factors on the list, but where abuse appears to be escalating and where it is appropriate to assess the situation more fully by sharing information at Marac. It is common practice to start with 3 or more police callouts in a 12 month period but **this will need to be reviewed depending on your local volume and your level of police reporting.**

about%20Dash%20FINAL.pdf. Risk is dynamic and can change very quickly. It is good practice to review the checklist after a new incident.

Please pay particular attention to a practitioner's professional judgement in all cases. The results from a checklist are not a definitive assessment of risk. They should provide you with a structure to inform your judgement and act as prompts to further questioning, analysis and risk management whether via a Marac or in another way. **The responsibility for identifying your local referral threshold rests with your local Marac.**

¹ For further information about Marac please refer to the 10 principles of an effective Marac:
http://www.safelives.org.uk/marac/10_Principles_Oct_2011_full.doc

What this form is not

This form will provide valuable information about the risks that children are living with but it is not a full risk assessment for children. The presence of children increases the wider risks of domestic violence and step children are particularly at risk. If risk towards children is highlighted you should consider what referral you need to make to obtain a full assessment of the children's situation.

SafeLives Dash risk checklist for use by Idvas and other non-police agencies² for identification of risks when domestic abuse, 'honour'- based violence and/or stalking are disclosed

<p>Please explain that the purpose of asking these questions is for the safety and protection of the individual concerned.</p> <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 <u>not the case</u>, please indicate in the right hand column</p>	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW	<p>State source of info if not the victim (eg police officer)</p>
<p>1. Has the current incident resulted in injury? Please state what and whether this is the first injury.</p>				
<p>2. Are you very frightened? Comment:</p>				
<p>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:</p>				
<p>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:</p>				
<p>5. Are you feeling depressed or having suicidal thoughts?</p>				

² Note: This checklist is consistent with the ACPO endorsed risk assessment model DASH 2009 for the police service.

6. Have you separated or tried to separate from [name of abuser(s)] within the past year?				
7. Is there conflict over child contact?				
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.				
9. Are you pregnant or have you recently had a baby (within the last 18 months)?				
10. Is the abuse happening more often?				
11. Is the abuse getting worse?				
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.				
13. Has [name of abuser(s)] ever used weapons or objects to hurt you?				
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"/>				
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?				
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.				
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.				

<p>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:</p> <p>Children <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Another family member <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Someone from a previous relationship <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Other (please specify) <input type="checkbox"/></p>				
<p>19. Has [name of abuser(s)] ever mistreated an animal or the family pet?</p>				
<p>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?</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? 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>				
<p>22. Has [name of abuser(s)] ever threatened or attempted suicide?</p>				
<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? 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>				
<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>				
<p>Total 'yes' responses</p>				

For consideration by professional

<p>Is there any other relevant information (from victim or professional) which may increase risk levels? Consider victim's situation in relation to disability, substance misuse, mental health issues, cultural / language barriers, 'honour'-based systems, geographic isolation and minimisation.</p> <p>Are they willing to engage with your service? Describe.</p>	
<p>Consider abuser's occupation / interests. Could this give them unique access to weapons? Describe.</p>	
<p>What are the victim's greatest priorities to address their safety?</p>	

<p>Do you believe that there are reasonable grounds for referring this case to Marac?</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>If yes, have you made a referral?</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Signed</p>	<p>Date</p>
<p>Do you believe that there are risks facing the children in the family?</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>If yes, please confirm if you have made a referral to safeguard the children?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>Signed</p>	<p>Date referral made</p>
<p>Name</p>	<p>Date</p>

Practitioner's notes

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