

# POLICE DOMESTIC ABUSE PUBLIC PROTECTION NOTIFICATION (PPN)

(June 2017)

## GUIDANCE FOR GPs ON MANAGEMENT OF PPN

**The definition of domestic abuse was updated by the Home Office in 2013:**

*Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. This can encompass but is not limited to the following types of abuse:*

- psychological*
- physical*
- sexual*
- financial*
- emotional*

**Controlling behaviour is:** a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour.

**Coercive behaviour is:** an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim.”\*

*\*This definition includes so called ‘honour’ based violence, female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage, and is clear that victims are not confined to one gender or ethnic group.*

### **Children**

Currently Dorset Police will distribute a PPN following a Domestic Abuse incident where there are children involved to health practitioners via the Dorset Healthcare Safeguarding Children Team. This vital information is shared with health visitors and school nurses, to enable them to assess the current and on-going risk to the victim and any children in the household and to ensure that relevant health staff are made aware of any potential risks to the family or other professionals having contact. Health visitors will share the PPN with the victim’s GP.

### **Adults at risk**

Dorset Police might also share a PPN direct with the GP surgery for adults who are vulnerable and deemed to be at risk.

**The information within the PPN will need to be assessed on an individual basis, and consideration to any additional information sharing or actions that need to be undertaken by the GP should take place.**

**For example:**

*If there is a child involved and this is not the first incident, triangulation of the events and consideration for discussion with the health visitor/school nurse, social care may be required*

**Or**

*If the victim seeks support, the GP can assess and signpost them either to police in an emergency of domestic abuse support services through the independent provider*

- Dorset – You Frist **0800 032 5204**
- Bournemouth – **BCHA 01202 209456**
- Poole – **BCHA 01202 710777**
- Poole IRIS - **07584 481839**

<https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/dvahelp>

**Or**

*If after your receive a PPN, you can consider either inviting the patient in for a follow up visit or make contact to offer support and information regarding the independent DA providers (Above)*

The information contained within a PPN may be helpful when undertaking a holistic assessment of the patient especially if attendances are related to mental health, substance misuse, employment or recurrent unexplained medical symptoms.

GPs may be aware of other issues, which place the children/ families / adults at risk of harm and the PPN information may escalate concerns, if so, a referral can be made to Children's safeguarding via the MASH or adult safeguarding.

**GPs can seek additional support or guidance regarding the PPN from:**

**The Safeguarding Designated team / named GPs at Dorset CCG on 01305 213 563**

**SCANNING and STORAGE OF INFORMATION**

Dorset Police **have agreed that scanning the PPN the Primary care patients' electronic notes of the victim is acceptable**, if the practice believes it is in the best interest of the family and patient and if the documents are stored in a safe area of the patients' notes.

**SYSTEM ONE**

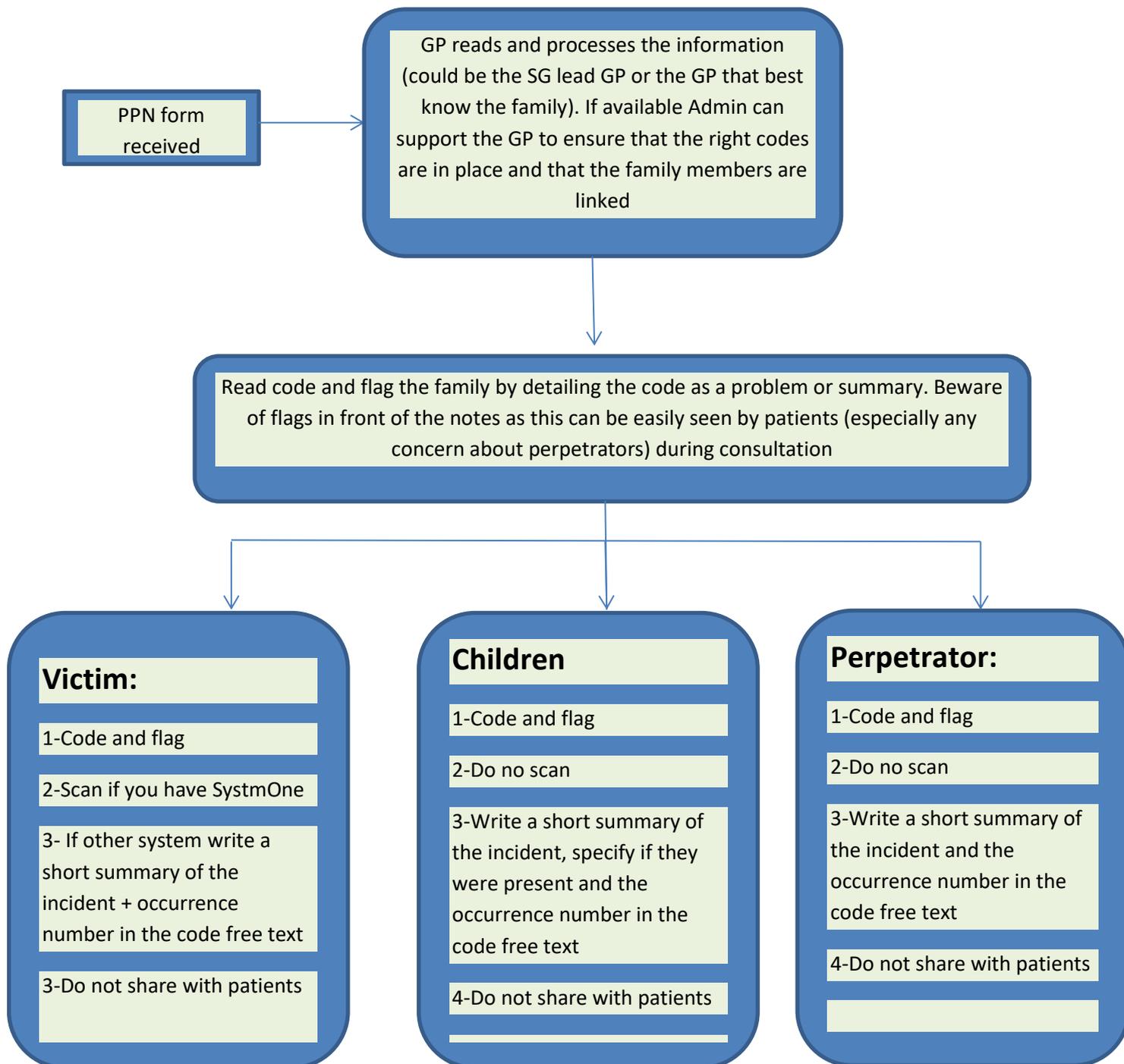
There is a **Safeguarding folder provided by System One**, it is however also important to flag and code the event including details of where the PPN can be found on the medical records. The safeguarding folder will contain all consultation or entries that are made safeguarding relevant and all the correspondence marked safeguarding relevant when documents are scanned in the notes

**EMIS and OTHER GP SYSTEMS**

**There is currently no facility to store this information in a safe designated area on either EMIS or other GP systems therefore it is not advised to scan the PPN unless you have system one.** It is important to flag and code the event including details of where the PPN can be found on the patient medical records.

#### **Current advice by Dorset Police as the originator of the PPN**

The PPN must not be shared with patients (victims, perpetrators or witnesses) and if in doubt the GP practice should contact Dorset Police for further advice via the MASH. However, if a health practitioner involved with the child / adult at risk is aware that the child / adult at risk is being seen in a secondary or tertiary care setting, and the information they hold is relevant, **under safeguarding** this information should be shared.



## Read Codes for Domestic Abuse

The Basic code that must be used in all is:

“Police domestic incident report received” (Xaaqr)

Then you could add if appropriate:

“Victim of domestic violence” (XaaSO) if there is clear indication and is not “one off” verbal altercation with partner

“at risk of domestic violence in the home” (13V) Especially for children

“Child is cause for concern” (13If / XaMzr) particularly if the child witnessed the incident

“Alleged perpetrator of domestic abuse and violence” (XaLVB)

“Subject of Multi-agency risk assessment conference” (13Hm)

“vulnerable adult” (XaKXv) important to add to your register, can be used for victims and perpetrators especially if combination of mental health and drug /alcohol problems

Beware that the patients will be able to see this code entry if online electronic coded records are requested and granted to a patient. So you might wish to hide this type of sensitive codes from being shown to the patients.