**DOMESTIC ABUSE – QUICK REFERENCE CHECKLIST**

The prevalence of domestic abuse mandates that practitioners must develop adequate knowledge and skills to respond to domestic abuse, regardless of practice setting, in order to respond appropriately and effectively record **ALL** enquiries and actions undertaken.

This quick reference tool is a checklist to assist practitioners and managers\*\* in assessment processes and analysis of the information collated. It is a simple guide as to ‘what should practitioners be doing’ when domestic abuse is highlighted within a referral.

\*\*This quick reference checklist can also be utilised within supervision, discussion and decision making and case file auditing.

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| Use all sources of information |
| Read and understand the referral including the DASH Risk Assessment?  Consider the domestic abuse history  (previous referrals/incidents with current and any other previous partners) , you may wish  to consider using the [Harm Worry Matrix.](https://proceduresonline.com/trixcms2/media/8761/harm-worry-matrix.docx)  Make relevant initial enquiries-contact the referrer **and** the attending  Police Officer to understand and gain more information  (any injuries to the victim or child/Where was the child?/what  was the presentation of the child)  Have any outreach services such as Harbour has been offered  or accepted by the victim?  Has an Operation Encompass Alert been sent to the child’s school?  [Supporting children affected by domestic abuse - Durham County Council](https://www.durham.gov.uk/encompass)  Are there any safeguards in place? Has this been included in the  safety planning? (DVPO, DVPN, Legal orders or bail conditions?)  Has the victim or perpetrator completed any previous  domestic abuse programmes or has there been previous  safety plans in place?  Is the victim supportive of Police prosecution in relation to the abuser?  Are there any risks to practitioners undertaking home visits? (Victim or abuser) |

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| Practitioners to ensure all necessary action takes place |
| Have you completed a DASH Risk Assessment?  Please note this tool is found on the MARAC referral form.  <https://durham-scp.org.uk/professionals/multi-agency-safeguarding-arrangements/multi-agency-risk-assessment-conference>  Is a referral to MARAC required? [Marac@durham.police.uk](mailto:Marac@durham.police.uk).    <https://durham-scp.org.uk/professionals/multi-agency-safeguarding-arrangements/multi-agency-risk-assessment-conference>    Is a referral to specialist domestic abuse services required?  <https://www.durham.gov.uk/domesticabuse> |

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| Carry out and record assessment effectively |
| Have the children/young person been spoken to alone  specifically in respect of domestic abuse?  Have we offered Mind of My Own as a tool for direct  work with children? So that children can share their views and experiences even when we are not around.  Have age appropriate assessment tools been  used to obtain the child’s views, wishes and feelings  and to understand what daily life feels like for them?  [Three Houses Tool](https://proceduresonline.com/trixcms2/media/9557/three-houses.pdf)  Assessment should include analysis of what the impact  of the domestic abuse is on the child/children including  relevant research. We should pay attention to the worries,  strengths and safety. |

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| Recognise importance of good record keeping |
| Be explicit about what domestic abuse safety planning  including those actions by the family and professional network,  in the assessment and plan.  Record if there has been a MARAC referral or risk  assessment and what this means for the child/young person |

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| Implement effective multi agency working |
| Include information about the worries, strengths and safety  from other agencies in respect of the adults and children  in terms of domestic abuse.  Have you made all attempts to ensure that the abuser is considered  and spoken to throughout the assessment and safety planning? |

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| Value , challenge supervision and the child being central |
| Has the practitioner received a case allocation note with specific tasks  relating to domestic abuse?  Are practitioners and managers having reflective discussions about  the domestic abuse within supervision and discussion and  decision making forms? (despite other presenting issues of concern) |