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| **County Durham Multi-Agency Domestic Abuse Procedural Flow Chart** |
| **This referral pathway is applicable to all victim / survivors of domestic abuse.**The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 defines Domestic Abuse as – Any incident or course of conduct between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members. The abuse can include but is not limited to – physical or sexual abuse, violent or threatening behaviour, controlling or coercive behaviour, economic abuse, psychological and emotional abuse. The Act also recognises children as victims of Domestic Abuse in their own right if they see, hear or experience the effects of the perpetrators abuse. | For information on support service available for victims / survivors and those causing harm in County Durham visit – [Domestic abuse - get help - Durham County Council](https://www.durham.gov.uk/article/3386/Domestic-abuse-get-help)For Clare’s Law Disclosures - [Clare's Law](https://www.durham.police.uk/Advice-Centre/Personal-safety/Clares-Law.aspx)  |
| **Early Intervention is crucial** – domestic abuse commonly escalates and can increase in severity over time. **Separation does not ensure safety** – perpetrators often escalate abuse when victim / survivor is attempting to leave. Consult domestic abuse specialist support services for safety planning advice if the victim / survivor wishes to separate. [Harbour Support Services](https://www.myharbour.org.uk/)Did you know – domestic abuse specialist services also offer support to those causing harm? [Harbour Support to Perpetrators](https://www.myharbour.org.uk/how-we-help/those-being-abusive) |
| **In all circumstances – In an emergency or if you are worried that someone is in immediate danger, call the Police on 999**. Top Tips when supporting individuals affected by domestic abuse - Never assume that someone else will act on the domestic abuse issues. You should seek confirmation that other professionals / agencies have acted in a way that you would expect. If appropriate, consult with other partners to clarify roles and responsibilities, share information and seek advice e.g. Police, Health, Housing, DA specialists. Follow up any referrals you make to check they have been received and appropriately dealt with. When signposting to other agencies on behalf of the victim always consider risks associated with perpetrator finding the information. You may be the victim’s first and only contact. Deal with any immediate risks including risk to yourself and others. Check internal records for risk information and / or warning markers. Document conversations, decision making, actions take to manage risk and rationale for sharing / not sharing information. Remember that victims can deny abuse is happening or minimize the risk. Discuss any concerns with your manager, assess the risk level and act accordingly.  |
| If you have evidence or suspect someone is a victim of domestic abuse, in order to identify appropriate pathway response, the **DASH risk assessment should be completed with the victim at the earliest opportunity**, if this is safe to do so. The DASH risk assessment can be completed by following this link -[**DASH**](https://durham-scp.org.uk/download/dash-risk-assessment/#:~:text=The%20DASH%20risk%20assessment%20can%20be%20used%20for,working%20for%20mainstream%20services%20such%20as%20the%20Police.)**.** The DASH risk assessment tool is used to assist in identifying high risk cases of domestic abuse, stalking and ‘honor’ based violence. The checklist should be used at commencement of involvement and should be revisited regularly. Always revisit following any further reported incidents of domestic abuse or change in circumstances. Please note – If immediate safeguarding concerns present, a referral to safeguarding services should be made and does not require prior DASH completion**Complete DASH Risk Assessment** [**DASH**](https://durham-scp.org.uk/download/dash-risk-assessment/#:~:text=The%20DASH%20risk%20assessment%20can%20be%20used%20for,working%20for%20mainstream%20services%20such%20as%20the%20Police.) |
| **Case meets MARAC Criteria**(People aged 16 or over) | **Case meets safeguarding adult’s criteria** | **Case does not meet MARAC****or safeguarding adults criteria** | **Cases where children are involved**(people aged under 18) |
| Be clear with the victim / survivor about confidentiality and MARAC information sharing procedures.Always use the Risk Identification Checklist as a starting point - [DASH](https://durham-scp.org.uk/download/dash-risk-assessment/#:~:text=The%20DASH%20risk%20assessment%20can%20be%20used%20for,working%20for%20mainstream%20services%20such%20as%20the%20Police.) Complete this with victim at first disclosure if possible.**Where the case is visible high risk (14 ‘yes’ ticks); or, based on your professional judgement, you have serious concerns about a victim’s situation you must make a referral into MARAC with or without consent**.Forward MARAC referral form directly to marac@durham.police.uk **Your agency SPOC for MARAC:** The MARAC Coordinator reviews the referral to ensure the high-risk threshold is met. MARAC meetings take place frequently during which key agencies share relevant information and agree an action plan to manage the risks posed by the perpetrator. **Contact details for MARAC -** 0191 3752072 | Domestic abuse is a form of abuse covered by multi-agency safeguarding adults policy and procedures.A Safeguarding Adults referral must be made where the victim of domestic abuse is an adult at risk, as defined by the Care Act 2014:* aged 18 or over; and
* Has needs for care and support (whether those needs are being met or not) and
* As a result of those needs is unable to protect him or herself, from the risks of or experience of abuse and neglect

To report a concern – Telephone Social Care Direct (03000 26 79 79) or contact allocated Social Worker if you are aware they have one.Following referral, a decision will be made whether safeguarding Adults Enquiry needs to progress, if so, a Safeguarding Adults Plan will be developed. **It is good practice to make a safeguarding adults and a****MARAC referral if both criteria are met, however, DASH is not compulsory for a safeguarding adults referral.**[Good practice guidance for professionals - Durham Safeguarding Adults (safeguardingdurhamadults.info)](http://www.safeguardingdurhamadults.info/article/18076/Good-practice-guidance-for-professionals)[Policies, procedures and forms - Durham Safeguarding Adults (safeguardingdurhamadults.info)](http://www.safeguardingdurhamadults.info/article/18051/Policies-procedures-and-forms)[DurhamSafeguardingAdults Home Page - Durham Safeguarding Adults (safeguardingdurhamadults.info)](http://www.safeguardingdurhamadults.info/) | **You still need to take action and support the victim**.**In all circumstances**:1. Consider immediate and long-term risks.
2. Inform the victim / survivor of their options of support (domestic abuse or otherwise) and signpost / refer them, with consent.
3. Develop a safety plan alongside victim, covering different situations, ensure they know where to go for help if they need it. For safety plan / specialist domestic abuse support contact Harbour (03000 20 25 25)
4. Share information with other relevant agencies if appropriate.
5. Keep timely, accurate, descriptive records of any disclosures made, actions discussed, and referrals made.
6. Review DASH regularly

If you have **long term involvement** – Continue to monitor the situation, review the DASH and safety plan following any further incidents of abuse or change in victims’ circumstances.**Short term involvement**1. Review any previous decision making in relation to domestic abuse and safeguarding adults – do not assume that needs remain the same.
2. Consider whether victim requires a longer-term support practitioner, if so, consider which agency could provide this.
3. Ensure recording is clear for future practitioners who may become involved.
 | Children are always impacted by domestic abuse and are defined by the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 as victims in their own right. If you are concerned a child is experiencing domestic abuse refer to your own agency safeguarding procedures.To report safeguarding concerns for a child, telephone Children’s First Contact (03000 26 79 79)[Report a concern about a child - Durham County Council](https://www.durham.gov.uk/firstcontact) If the case does not meet safeguarding thresholds, Early Help support may be offered.   |
| **Child Adolescent to Parent Violence and Abuse****(CAPVA)**CAPVA is a form of family abuse where children/adolescents use a range of harmful behaviours towards parents/care givers this can include but is not limited to, physical violence, verbal abuse, behaviours that are emotionally and/or psychologically abusive, and those which damage properties and/or hurt parents financially. For friendly, professional and non-judgemental support around CAPVA contact - First Contact on 03000 267 979. |

**Good practice guidance when responding to a child who is a victim of domestic abuse**