Practice Guidance

Identifying and Responding to Domestic Abuse

lancashire safeguarding adults board

Contents

Introduction **5**
Definition of Domestic Abuse 7
Types of Domestic Abuse 7
The Perpertrator 9
Impact of Domestic Abuse 10
Working with Specific Groups 11

Lancashire Multi-Agency Domestic Abuse Practice Principles **13**
Identification and Response to Domestic Abuse 14
Lancashire Local Authority Pathways 15
Multi-Agency Working 17
Lancashire Continuum of Need 18

Lancashire Constabulary Response to Domestic Abuse **21**

Assessment Toolkits **33**
Domestic Abuse Risk Assessment (DARA) Checklist 33
Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Harassment (DASH) Risk Indicator Checklist 33
Severity of Abuse Grid (SOAG) 33
Individualised Safety and Support Plan (ISSP) 34

Appendices **37**
Acronyms 38
Table of Services 40

Note for Practitioners:

For ease of reference, a table outlining key services available both within Lancashire and at a national level has been included in the appendix. This resource is designed to support frontline practitioners in identifying and accessing appropriate support options for individuals and families. Please refer to the appendix for full details.

Document Information

Document Reference	Version 1.0
Created	25/11/2025
Last Updated	25/11/2025
Launch Date	25/11/2025
Review Date	25/05/2026
Owned By	Children's Safeguarding Assurance Partnership

Contributors

Name	Role	Organisation
Alex Atkinson	Operations Manager	SafeNet
Liz Canavan	Senior Policy and Partnerships Manager	OPCC
Helene Cooper-Clark	Policy, Information & Commissioning Manager	Lancashire County Council
Karen Exell	Integrated Service Manager (Early Help)	Lancashire County Council
Lisa Farrell	Named Nurse for Safeguarding Children	HCRG Care Group
Rebecca Keech	Policy and Partnerships Manager	OPCC
Brendan Lee	Head of Service	Lancashire County Council
Elizabeth Martin	Safeguarding Detective Sergeant	Lancashire Constabulary
Michelle Molyneux	Specialist Safeguarding Practitioner	NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board
Susan Porter	Named Nurse for Safeguarding Adults and Children	Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust
Kelly Winter	Senior Manager	Lancashire County Council

Version	Date	Description of Change

Acknowledgements

Over several years of working with Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs) and domestic abuse services, SafeLives[1] have witnessed much variation in practice in relation to case management. They devised some of the resources created within this practice guidance to encourage more consistency. Practice guidance from a number of safeguarding partnerships has also been researched and our thanks to SafeLives and the partnerships for their resources to help create this resource.

Status of this Practice Guidance

This practice guidance has been produced through research of existing national resources from national domestic abuse charities and local safeguarding partnerships. This document has been consulted on through the Lancashire Domestic Abuse Partnership Board (LDAPB) and the Lancashire Safeguarding Boards (Children and Adults). Local specialist domestic abuse service providers have contributed to this practice guidance, and these providers have a workforce who have lived experience of domestic abuse and professional experience of local pathways and processes.

As this practice guidance has been contributed to and agreed by a range of partner agencies on three key local partnership boards, it applies to all practitioners within agencies across these partnerships. Any departure from the practice principles, pathways, processes and overall guidance provided in this document must be supported in agency records with clear rationale and supported by the agency's management.

To support practitioners in identifying domestic abuse, responding to the 3 MEs (victim, perpetrator and any children) please access the Lancashire safeguarding partnerships website to access training and other resources:

www.lancashiresafeguardingpartnership.org.uk

[1] SafeLives Website: https://safelives.org.uk/

Introduction

This guidance aims to provide the framework of a consistent and effective response to domestic abuse. This guidance pack is for you to use in day-to-day work with children and families, all the tools and guidance will also be available via the Safeguarding Partnerships.

This guidance recognises that domestic abuse can affect people of all genders, sexual orientations, and relationship types. It may occur in heterosexual and LGBTQ+ relationships and can be perpetrated by children or young people towards other family members, as well as involve the abuse of older adults within families. Domestic abuse can affect anyone, regardless of age, socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity, culture, religion, or identity.

No one agency can address all the needs of people affected by, or perpetrating, domestic abuse. For intervention to be effective, agencies and partner organisations need to work together, and, be prepared to take on the challenges that domestic abuse creates.

Domestic abuse and safeguarding overlap and it is important that connections are made between both, as understanding the definitions of each will inform how the victim and their family are supported, and how perpetrators are challenged about the risks they pose.

This document is for all multi-agency practitioners. Roles and responsibilities will be stated throughout the documents; however, it is a multi-agency responsibility to be familiar with the context of this guidance and to support the identification and response to domestic abuse as a whole system.

It aims to:

- Support decision making regarding what the right support, at the right time is for a child, adult and family, in a trauma informed way.
- Inform the steps to follow when responding to domestic abuse.
- The core components of practice when supporting a victim or perpetrator of abuse.
- Guidance on what tools to support professional judgement can be used and when, ensuring that risk is dynamically assessed and reviewed.
- Practitioners will use the DASH (Domestic Abuse, Stalking and 'Honour'- based abuse) risk checklist[2], this will help practitioners identify and understand the risk that victims of domestic abuse are facing.
- Guidance on how to use risk checklists, how to embed it into your practice and how it relates to the other parts of your role.
- Aide memoires for use in your day-to-day practice.
- Highlight the help and support that is available for victims of domestic abuse.

[2] DASH Risk Checklist: https://safelives.org.uk/resources-for-professionals/dash-resources/

Current estimates of domestic abuse

- Each year around 2.3m people aged 16 years and over suffer some form of domestic abuse - 1.6 million women (8.5% of the population) and 712,000 men (4.5% of the population).[3]
- Each year more than 100,000 people in the UK are at high and imminent risk of being murdered or seriously injured as a result of domestic abuse.
- The number of domestic abuse cases open to Lancashire's Children and Family Wellbeing service (CFW) rose by almost 17%, from an average of 839 in 2022/23 to an average of 981 in 2023/24. However, when comparing over the past five years, this is almost 22% lower than during the Covid-19 pandemic (March 2020/21), where there was an average of 1,256 cases open to the CFW service[4].
- Women are much more likely than men to be the victims of high risk or severe domestic abuse. Women are disproportionately affected by high-risk and severe domestic abuse:
    - They make up over 90% of high-risk cases referred to specialist services.
    - Are three times more likely than men to be victims of domestic homicide.
    - Within Lancashire 72% of victims were female, 26% male, and 2% other/unknown
- The police recorded over 1.4 million domestic abuse incidents in England and Wales in 2023.
- Seven women a month are killed by a current or former partner in England and Wales.
- 130,000 children live in homes where there is high-risk domestic abuse.
- 62% of children living with domestic abuse are directly harmed by the perpetrator of the abuse, in addition to the harm caused by witnessing the abuse of others.
- On average high-risk victims live with domestic abuse for 2.6 years before getting help.
- 85% of victims sought help five times on average from professionals in the year before they got effective help to stop the abuse
- Refuge data for 2018 found that 24% of its 3,500 service users had felt suicidal at some point, 18% had made plans to end their life and 3% had made at least one suicide attempt.
- Repeat victimisation remains a concern within Lancashire: 39% of high-risk cases discussed at the Multi-Agency Risk Reduction Assessment Co-ordination (MARRAC) in Q1 2025 were repeat cases, up from 27% in Q1 2024[5]

[3] Domestic abuse in England and Wales overview: https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/domesticabuseinenglandandwalesoverview/november2024
[4] https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/lancashire-insight/community-safety/domestic-abuse/
[5] https://safelives.org.uk/research-policy-library/marac-quarterly-datasets-2025/

Definition of Domestic Abuse

Domestic Abuse Act 2021[6] defines domestic abuse in sections 1 and 2 as:

Behaviour of a person ("A") towards another person ("B") is "domestic abuse" if:
(a) A and B are each aged 16 or over and are "personally connected" to each other, and
(b) the behaviour is abusive.

A & B are "personally connected" to each other if any of the following applies:
(a) they are, or have been, married to each other;
(b) they are, or have been, civil partners of each other;
(c) they have agreed to marry one another (whether or not the agreement has been terminated);
(d) they have entered into a civil partnership agreement (whether or not the agreement has been terminated);
(e) they are, or have been, in an intimate personal relationship with each other;
(f) they each have, or there has been a time when they each have had, a parental relationship in relation to the same child;
(g) they are relatives.

Behaviour is "abusive" if it consists of any of the following:
(a) physical or sexual abuse;
(b) violent or threatening behaviour;
(c) controlling or coercive behaviour;
(d) economic abuse;
(e) psychological, emotional or other abuse;

and it does not matter whether the behaviour consists of a single incident or a course of conduct.

Part 1 of the Domestic Abuse Act (2021) also defines that children are victims of domestic abuse:

Where behaviour of a person ("A") towards another person ("B") is domestic abuse… and the child is related to either person (parent, parental responsibility or relative) …a child who sees, hears or experiences the effect of the abuse is a victim of domestic abuse.

Types of Domestic Abuse

The statutory guidance accompanying the Domestic Abuse Act (2021) outlines the following types of domestic abuse:

- **Intimate Partner Abuse** – this is the most common type of domestic abuse and can continue or intensify when a relationship has ended (separation from abusive

[6] Legislation.gov.uk: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/17/contents

partners can raise both the likelihood and consequences of risk due to the perceived lack of control over a victim and or children). It also includes abuse facilitated by technology, harassment and stalking (the 2009-18 Femicide Census found of those women killed by their partner/spouse, 38% were killed in the first month of separation and 89% within the first year of separation).

- **Teenage Relationship Abuse** – where a victim or perpetrator are 16-19 years of age (for victims under the age of 16 experiencing abuse in an intimate relationship, child abuse would be the appropriate law to consider; for 16 and 17 year olds both child abuse and domestic abuse could be considered, but child abuse should be the primary process to follow) – teenagers may not self-identify as victims, perceiving their relationships as casual or not relationships at all, particularly when meeting partners through dating apps or other technology assisted means. Technology can also be a means by which teenagers are harassed, stalked and subject to intimate image abuse. Due to the age of the victim and perpetrators, one or both parties may not have the experience and knowledge of healthy relationships to identify abusive behaviours that stem from coercion, control and emotional abuse.

- **Abuse by Family Members** – this can be by parents, grandparents, siblings, children, those with 'parental responsibility' and members of a victim's in-laws and can encompass a number of harmful behaviours like 'honour-based abuse (HBA)', forced marriage, female genital mutilation (FGM), breast-flattening and reproductive coercion.

- **Child-to-Parent Abuse** – other common names of this type of abuse include Adolescent to Parent Violence/Abuse (APV/A) and Child and Adolescent to Parental Violence and Abuse (CAPVA) and can involve children of all ages abusing siblings, parents, carers, grandparents, aunts/uncles as well as other family members. Behaviours can encompass, but not limited to, violence, threats (including threats to self to coerce family members), humiliating and belittling language, jealous and controlling behaviours, criminal damage, stealing and inappropriate sexualised behaviours. Like other forms of abuse, stigma and shame may result in victims minimising the abuse and reluctance to report and take protective action.

The Domestic Abuse Act statutory guidance[7] also describes the many ways in which the above four types of abuse can be recognised, as the guidance sets out, abuse can encompass a wide range of behaviours happening at the same time or gradually worsening and that can be in-person, through third parties, through influencing professionals and in the online world. A perpetrator will likely use a wide range of tactics to gain power, demean and attempt to control victims:

Verbal Abuse – humiliating a victim through passive and aggressive verbal communication and is usually the most common gateway abuse type.

Physical Abuse, Violent and/or Threatening Behaviour – a wide range of physical acts with or without the threat or use of weapons (or objects used as weapons) and includes harm caused to those with disabilities or with medical needs.

[7] Domestic Abuse: statutory guidance: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/domestic-abuse-act-2021/domestic-abuse-statutory-guidance-accessible-version

Non-Fatal Strangulation & Non-Fatal Suffocation (NFS) - non-fatal strangulation and non-fatal suffocation (NFS) are specific criminal offences under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. NFS is a high-risk indicator for serious harm and future homicide and must never be minimised. NFS is a life-threatening experience which can quickly result in decreased oxygen levels to the brain. Loss of consciousness can occur in 6-8 seconds and only a little pressure needs to be applied to cause damage to the internal structures within the neck. NFS can cause brain damage, stroke, memory loss, miscarriage, hearing difficulties, and devastating psychological effects. NFS is often witnessed by children and can result in psychological trauma and is an adverse childhood experience.

Sexual Abuse – any form of coercion and contact where consent is not freely given amounts to sexual abuse including taking pictures and distributing them without consent.

Coercive & Controlling Behaviour - this 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. Some examples include:

- Victims are made to account for their time, or have restrictions on access to money and/or their movements
- Preventing victim from accessing medication or accessing care (especially relevant for those with disabilities)
- Threats of suicide/homicide/familicide
- Using children to control partner
- Constant criticism of victim's role as a partner, spouse or parent.

Harassment – repeated attempts of unwanted contact and communication that causes alarm, fear of violence/control and distress.

Stalking – can be in person such as being followed, loitering, spying, unwanted contact, interference with personal property or through communication means like defamatory online or print statements and monitoring online footprint.

Economic Abuse – controlling, restricting, exploiting and sabotaging a person's economic resources so that it creates dependency on the perpetrator and restricts financial freedom.

Emotional or Psychological Abuse – insulting, belittling, manipulating, humiliating, and threatening behaviours towards a victim, their loved ones in person or online. This abuse also involves significant elements of control, coercion and persuading the victim that they lack clarity to make decisions and remember events (gaslighting).

Technology-Facilitated Abuse – encompasses all the other types of abuse through the use of technology like phones, mobile phones, smart phones, internet (including monitoring of internet history), emails, social media, spyware, games consoles, GPS technology, personal and home security devices and smart devices (watches, smart home devices).

Abuse Relating to a Person's Protected Characteristics – age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnerships, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation, can all be used as a means to perpetrate by an individual, family unit or community.

The Perpetrator

A perpetrator will use many tactics when confronted by professionals to continue to exert control and power:

- Making false and vexatious allegations, including counter allegations themselves or doing so through family, friends, communities, in person or online.
- Disguised compliance and non-compliance with requests to change behaviours or address risky behaviours associated with substance misuse or mental health.
- Using legal processes, particularly family courts, to threaten and intimidate.
- Using protected characteristics to justify behaviours or accuse professionals of not respecting theirs to intimidate them.
- Using children's needs as a way to control a victim (please see updated CAFCASS guidance on contact visits).
- Using a victim's mental wellbeing, learning difficulties, physical disabilities, substance use, social/economic/professional status relative to the perpetrator, immigration status and general capacity as way to undermine their account of abuse with professionals.

Training is available on identification of all the abuse types via online training: Login - New Lancashire Me Learning.[8][9]

Impact of Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse can cause serious and devastating long and short term physical, mental, emotional, and psychological health impacts on adults and children.

Physical health and functional disorders issues can develop through injuries, through stress and psychosomatic symptoms.

Psychological and mental impact can be seen through depression, anxiety, PTSD, sleeping and eating disorders leading to self-harm and suicidal ideation/attempts.

Victims can develop addictions like smoking, using alcohol, using drugs or gambling to help cope. Perpetrators then may use these addictions to further manipulate and control the victim, particularly in child contact arrangements and engagement with family courts and Children's Services.

Ministry of Justice data for the 2013-18 period highlights that 57% of female offenders and 6% of male offenders have experienced domestic abuse[10]. Multiple disadvantage through involvement in the criminal justice system, mental health, substance misuse,

[8] Lancashire Me Learning: https://app.melearning.co.uk/auth/login
[9] Users without a Me Learning account can self-register.
[10] Ministry of Justice, under Section 95 of the Criminal Justice Act 1991

poverty, homelessness can have a prolonged and entrenched impact on a victim where they are inevitably blamed for a lifestyle choice.
Victim's livelihoods can be impacted by homelessness, unemployment, debt, coerced debt and poverty limiting their access to finance and financial independence.

In Plain Sight (Effective help for child victims of domestic abuse) - SafeLives[11] highlighted that two-thirds of children exposed to domestic abuse had been directly harmed through physical abuse, emotional abuse or neglect. Over half of children had behavioural problems, a third had difficulties adjusting at school and over half felt responsible or at fault for the domestic abuse. The NSPCC reported in 2022[12] that impact on children can include:

- Feeling anxious or depressed;
- Low self-esteem and difficulties with forming healthy relationships;
- Hypervigilance in reading body language or changes in mood and atmosphere;
- Having difficulty sleeping, nightmares;
- Physical symptoms such as stomach aches or bed wetting;
- Delayed development or deterioration in speech, language and communication;
- Reduction in school attainment, truancy, risk of exclusion from school;
- Increased application to activities outside the home, including academia or sports, as a distraction;
- Inconsistent regulation of emotions, including becoming distressed, upset or angry;
- Becoming aggressive or internalising their distress and becoming withdrawn;
- Managing their space within the home so they are not visible; and
- Using alcohol or drugs, or self-harming.

Working with Specific Groups

Older People

Research indicates that domestic abuse among older people is often overlooked. Several factors may prevent individuals from reporting abuse, including reliance on the perpetrator for care or support, as well as deeply rooted beliefs about marriage and gender roles. Abuse that began earlier in life may have contributed to long-term health issues. It is important to distinguish between abuse that has persisted throughout a relationship and abuse that has started later in life, as each may require different approaches to support and intervention.

Older people may also not be aware of the support services they can access, or they may find it difficult to accept help particularly if they are isolated. Open questions should be used to identify needs[13].

The national charity, Hourglass (formerly Action on Elder Abuse- AEA) defines abuse as 'single or repeated act or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust, which causes harm or distress to an older person.'

[11] In Plain Sight (Published in February 2014): https://safelives.org.uk/research-policy-library/in-plain-sight/
[12] https://www.nspcc.org.uk/about-us/news-opinion/?ac=247401
[13] Adult Safeguarding and Domestic Abuse 2015

Hourglass website[14] states that women over the age of 70 who are dependent, frail and alone are particularly vulnerable to abuse, which may take multiple forms.

The most common forms of abuse are physical, psychological, financial, sexual and neglect. Hourglass has found a prevalence of psychological abuse, usually by way of intimidation or coercion often linked to financial abuse.

People with Mental Illness

There is a strong correlation between domestic abuse and mental illness of both victim and perpetrator with 40% of high-risk victims reporting mental health issues. Furthermore, research indicates that people with mental illness are more likely to experience domestic abuse, research has shown that between 30 and 60% of psychiatric in-patients had experienced severe domestic abuse. Behaviours used by perpetrators to demean the victim will add to emotional distress and exacerbate mental illness and the psychological consequence for victims includes anxiety, depression, suicidal behaviour, low self-esteem and emotional detachment[15].

People with Learning Disabilities

Research indicates that adults with learning disabilities are more likely to experience domestic abuse than the general population but less likely to report it. Capacity of those with learning disabilities to make informed choices particularly in relation to arranged/forced marriage should be considered and the appropriate support services must be considered for this group.

People who Misuse Substances

Substance misuse may not be a direct cause of domestic abuse but it may increase the risk of or trigger it. Perpetrators of domestic abuse may exercise control over a victim who is dependent on substances although many perpetrators may themselves be dependent on substances in particular alcohol. Victims, in addition, may become dependent on substances as a coping mechanism and may wish to address the domestic abuse before their substance misuse.

Be aware that a perpetrator who goes through a detoxification programme increases the risk to the victim[16].

Carers

The Care Act 2014 (amended 2018) defines a carer as someone who 'provides or intends to provide care for another adult' (but not as a volunteer or contracted worker). The Local Authority has a duty to assess a carers need for support to maintain their well-being including protection from abuse. Carers may cause harm through abuse or neglect, the person they care for may abuse the carer or the carer may observe the abuse by and of others.

[14] Hourglass Website: https://wearehourglass.org/domestic-abuse
[15] SafeLives Website: www.safelives.org.uk
[16] Stella Project Website: www.avaproject.org.uk

Adults who are Vulnerable who Perpetrate Domestic Abuse

Harm may be intentional or unintentional and it is important to recognise that adults who may be considered vulnerable can also be perpetrators of domestic abuse and this can often go unrecognised or hidden by family or professionals alike. If the abuse is linked to the person's condition such as dementia or mental illness this does not mean the abuse should be minimised or tolerated, it is therefore crucial to identify and manage the risks posed to the victim and others.

Lancashire Multi-Agency Domestic Abuse Practice Principles

The Lancashire Domestic Abuse Partnership Board (LDAPB), Lancashire Childrens Safeguarding Assurance Partnership (LCSAP) and Lancashire Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB) have all agreed the following principles that all agencies working in Lancashire with families and adults (3 MEs of victim, perpetrator and child) will reflect in their practice and guidance when working with domestic abuse.

- Victims are not held responsible for the domestic abuse they are subjected to and are offered sufficient support utilising a trauma informed approach.

- Perpetrators are held accountable for their actions and offered a platform for change.

- Children who have witnessed domestic abuse, been within an abusive intimate relationship, or display abusive behaviours towards their family will be offered specialist support. In line with the Lundy Model of Participation, this support will ensure that children are provided with a safe space to express their views, are actively listened to, and that their voices inform the planning and delivery of interventions.

- A domestic abuse informed approach will be taken so that the source of any harms, the behaviours of the abuser and the impact on children and adults are assessed and analysed to inform our service responses.

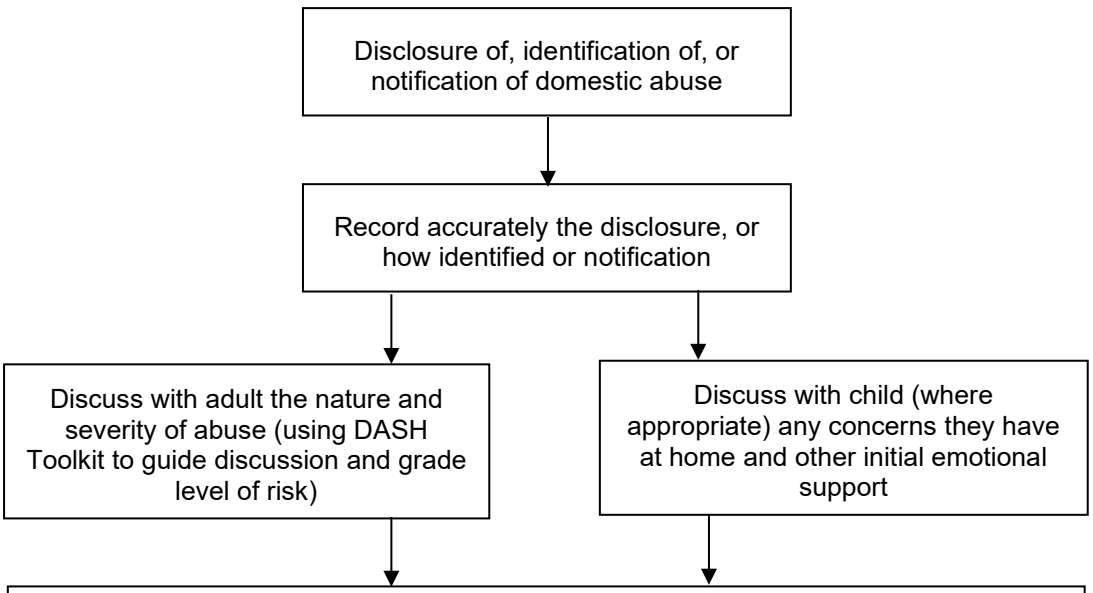
- A trauma Informed[17] approach will be taken through our identification and response to domestic abuse – agencies will emphasise trust, transparency, peer support, collaboration, empowerment and equalities in our service responses.

- Our responses will focus on the continuous patterns of behaviours (victimisation and perpetration) so that we do not assess, respond and provide services based on single incidents.

Lancashire's Multi-Agency Risk Reduction, Assessment and Co-ordination (MARRAC) has the following co-produced purpose: ***"Listen to me. Ask me and understand what I need. Help support me to stay safe from being at risk of experiencing, causing, or witnessing* serious harm or death *from domestic abuse".*** Our philosophy as partner agencies, is to work alongside one another with a common purpose to focus on the whole family and ensure that the needs of the individuals are met in order to reduce risk and prevent repeat victimisation and offending.

[17] Trauma Informed Lancashire: https://traumainformedlancashire.co.uk/

Identification and Response to Domestic Abuse



Indicative Levels of risk

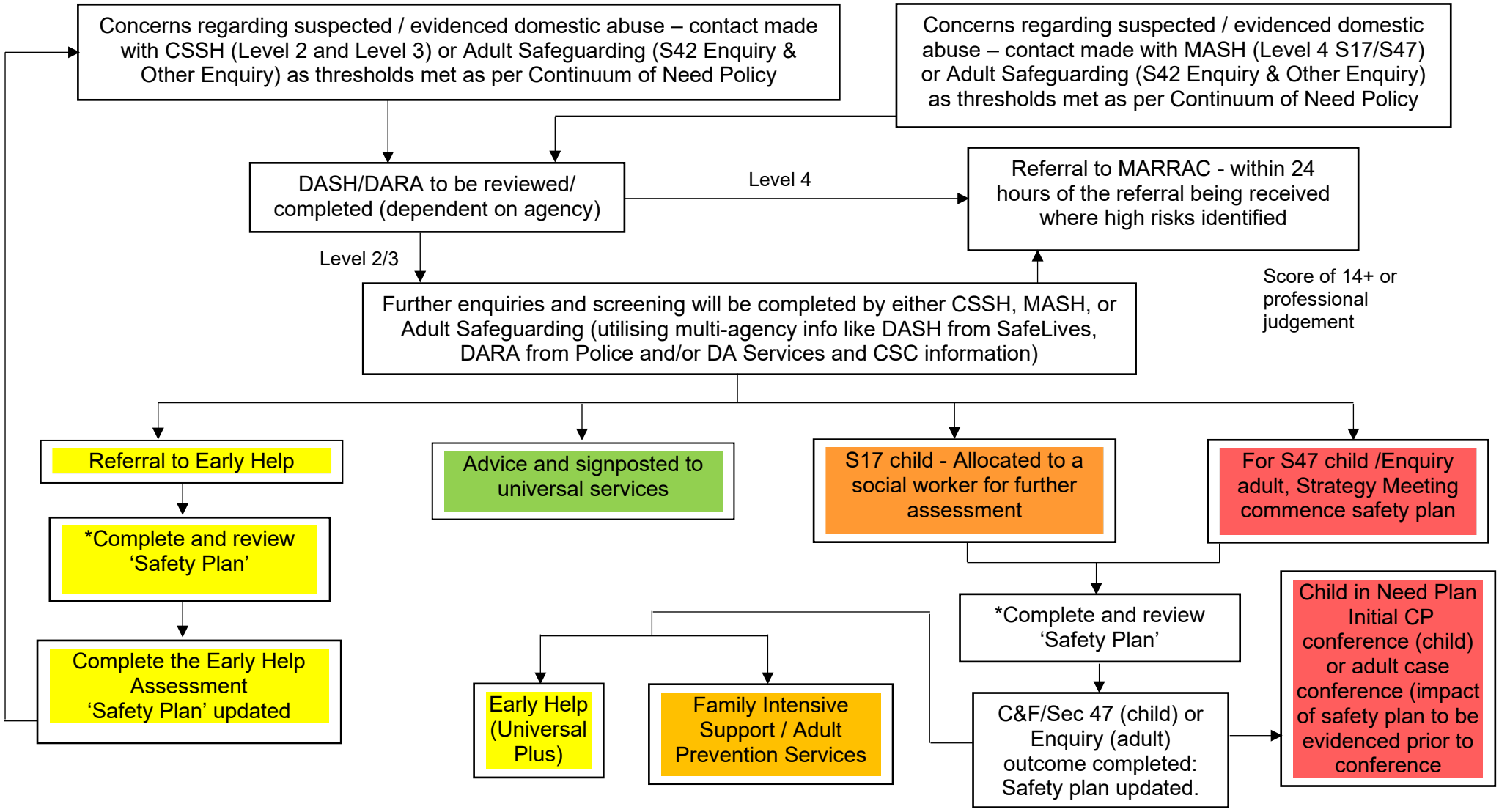
The majority of frontline professionals will use the SafeLives Domestic Abuse Stalking and Harassment Risk Indicator Checklist (page 33). This national checklist supports the identification of the risk the victim/survivor is currently in, as follows:

- **Low/standard** (child or adult) – signpost to local DA services (DASSL.org.uk) and consider Lancashire's Early Help Service – Lancashire victim support encouraged to report any crimes to Police
- **Medium** – discuss/refer to MASH for Children; signpost to local DA services (DASSL.org.uk) or victim support Lancashire, and Lancashire Early Help Service.
- **High** – Refer to MASH for Children; signpost to local DA services (DASSL.org.uk) or victim support Lancashire for adults 'at risk'. For adults with 'Care & Support Needs' also refer to Adult Safeguarding Team (LSBU@lancashire.gov.uk).
- If a victim/survivor is identified as being high risk, they should also be referred to MARRAC. (page 30)

N.B. The police use a DARA risk indicator (see page 33 for the police response).

Lancashire Local Authority Pathways

The below pathways should utilise professional judgement and curiosity throughout and is aimed to guide and support the application of the right support and approach for children, families and adults, at the right time. *The flowcharts that follow* describe local authority Children's Services and Adult Safeguarding process expected when dealing with a domestic abuse case (colours corresponding with relevant children or adult Continuum of Need).



When a new incident/information is shared re risk, the DASH/DARA and severity of abuse grid should be reviewed and updated. Where crimes are suspected, victim must be advised to report to Police. High risk incidents can be reported to Police without victim's consent.

Additional Guidance on Non-Fatal Suffocation/Strangulation (NFS)

- NFS is a high-risk marker for serious future harm/possible homicide.
- Suggest the victim seeks medical advice to identify any lasting damage incurred, as injuries may not appear visible.
- Discuss with victim the importance of reporting to the police and seek advice from your Safeguarding Lead if a victim declines. If the victim declines this should not be a barrier to offering a victim help and support.
- Refer to domestic abuse services for safety planning, risk management and support
- Instigate MARRAC referral procedures.
- Be aware of the effects upon children in the home and follow safeguarding children's procedures.
- Expect ongoing psychological impact.

The IFAS (Institute for Addressing Strangulation)[18] highlights red flag[19] signs following NFS.

These are:

- History of significant pressure to the neck – that can present as visible injuries to the neck or petechial haemorrhages to head, face ears or mouth, pain or difficulty swallowing, voice changes
- Neurological Symptoms - fitting, stroke, hearing loss, tinnitus, visual disturbances, numbness, severe headache, dizziness
- Altered mental state - loss of or near loss of consciousness, incontinence, loss of memory, confusion.

The Institute advise that if red flags are present within four weeks of a NFS incident the victim should receive an urgent scan to check for internal damage to the structures within the neck. If the incident happened over four weeks ago and red flags are present, then a scan is still advised. In both scenarios you should advise the victim to attend A&E. If no red flags are present and there is no history of red flags, the victim should be assessed and any medical problem responded to, they may need to see their GP.

[18] Institute for Addressing Strangulation: https://ifas.org.uk/
[19] Guidelines for clinical management of non-fatal strangulation: chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://ifas.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Guidelines_AcuteEmergency_Jul25.pdf

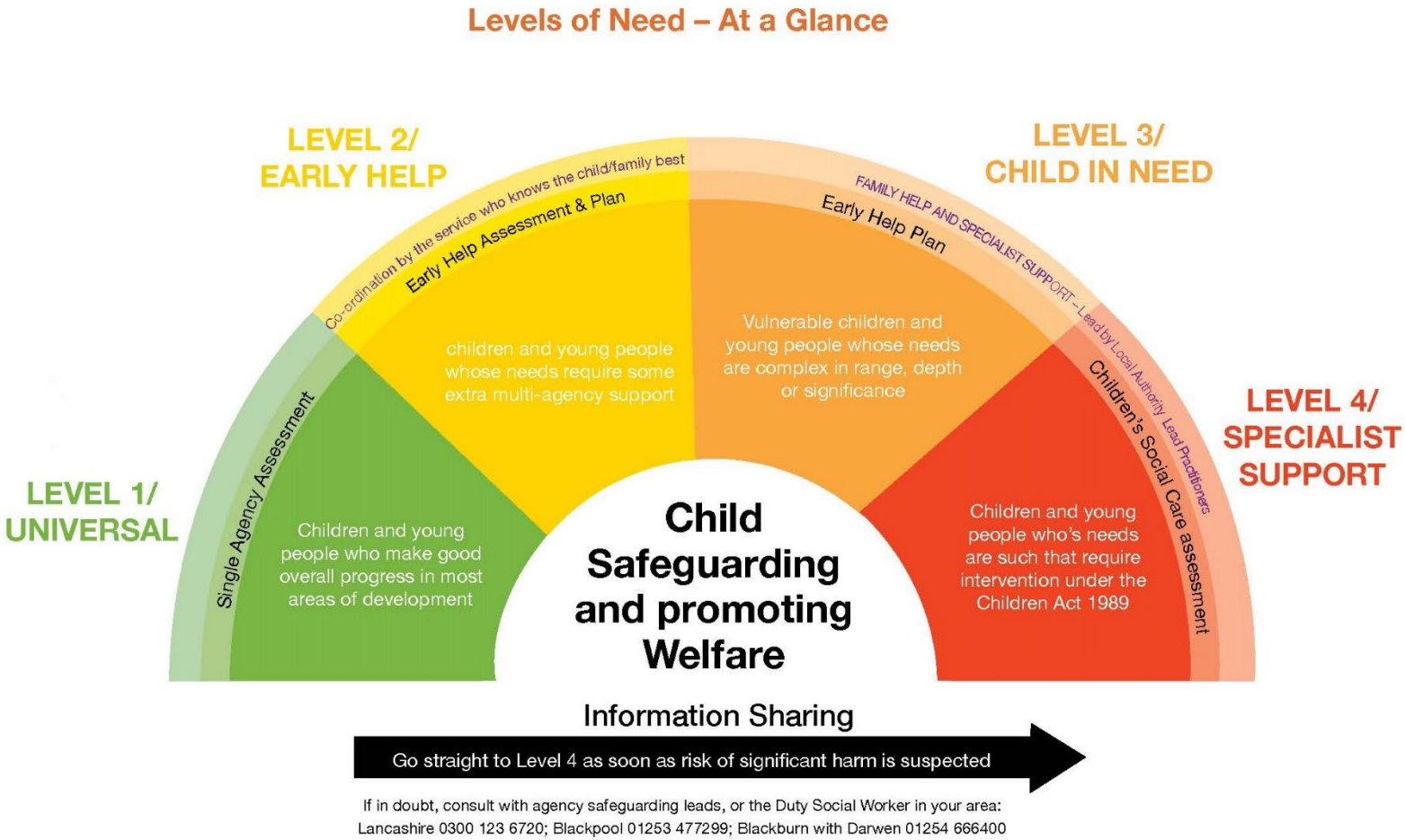
Multi-Agency Working

The table below has been adapted from the statutory guidance *Working Together to Safeguard Children (2023)* and highlights five key expectations, at all levels of an agency, that should be achieved to enhance the quality of multi-agency working. The expectations are equally applicable in child and adult safeguarding work.

Expectation	Leaders	Senior/Middle Managers	Frontline
Collaborate	Develop a shared vision for how their services work together to deliver shared goals	Decisions are based on a shared practice approach and constructive debate and analysis of information from all services	Share information to get a complete picture of what life is like for the child/adult. Collectively, they ensure the child/adult's voice is at the centre and the right support is provided
Learn	Use evidence from direct practice in their area so that they know and can evaluate what is and isn't working well for children and families	Their teams have time to engage in peer learning and knowledge exchange, peer audit, group supervision and observation	By drawing on the best available evidence from their individual fields and sharing their diverse perspectives during regular shared reflection on development, experiences, and outcomes
Resource	Are ambitious about helping, supporting, and protecting children and adults in their area and jointly prioritise and share resources accordingly	Ensure children and adults receive the holistic support they need, drawing in expertise from a wide range of agencies	Build strong relationships across agencies and disciplines to ensure they support and protect the children/adults with whom they work
Include	Create an inclusive culture where diversity is understood, and multi-agency and multi-disciplinary working is celebrated	Support staff to identify and challenge discrimination, disparity, and negative stereotypes	Recognise the differences between, and are confident to respond to, circumstances where adversity is experienced due to economic and social circumstances and acute family stress, and situations where harm due to abuse and neglect is faced
Mutual Challenge	Foster a culture of mutual accountability, where leaders and their teams take shared responsibility for the quality of partnership working.	Constructive challenge across agencies and disciplines is actively encouraged. Independent judgments are respected and given space alongside collective decision-making, helping to guard against conformity bias and promote balanced, informed outcomes.	Engage in constructive self-reflection, and service reflection, openly question assumptions, and work to resolve differences of opinion in a respectful and restorative manner.

Lancashire Continuum of Need

In ensuring the right holistic support is provided for families and adults, please use the following children and adult Continuum of Need frameworks to ensure referrals for support are made to the right services[20]. To raise a concern, please visit the Lancashire Safeguarding Website: https://lancashiresafeguardingpartnership.org.uk/p/report-a-concern.



[20] Working Well with Children and Families (Part 1 and 2): https://www.lancashiresafeguarding.org.uk/media/19299/wwwcf-part-1-and-2-final.pdf

Safeguarding concern for an Adult

Possibly raise a concern

Medium Risk, some harm or risk of harm

Gather more information to inform decision making and next steps

Speak to your Safeguarding lead

Apply Care Act 2014

Don't raise concern

Low risk, isolated incident

No or minor harm has occurred

Resolved with a proportionate approach taken to reduce a re-occurrence

Risk assessments/action plan in place and are being followed

Incident not caused by a Person in a Position of Trust (PiPoT)

Repeated incidents/patterns of similar Safeguarding concerns

Risk of escalation

Risk can/cannot be managed appropriately with current professional oversight.

Incident not caused by a Person in a Position of Trust (PiPoT)

Make Safeguarding personal

Raise concern

Medium to high risk

Some or significant harm or risk of harm

Significant impact on individuals health and wellbeing

Criminal act is suspected

Widespread, consistent ill treatment

Denial of human rights

Incident caused by/ concerns about a Person in a Position of Trust (PiPoT)

Refer to full guidance at **www.lancashire.gov.uk/safeguarding**

If a criminal act or emergency ring 999 or 101 non-emergency

Lancashire County Council

LANCASHIRE ADULT SAFEGUARDING PROTOCOL

Think Care Act

Think Responsibly

Level 1 Low Risk
Unlikely to raise
a Safeguarding concern

Adults experiencing no harm or isolated incident

Risk Indicators

- No or minor harm
- Isolated incident - Minimal impact to person
- Resolved with proportionate approach to reduce reoccurence
- Internal policies & procedures are Mental Capacity Act & Care Act compliant
- Comprehensive recording is in place
- Risk assessment/action plan in place
- Incident not caused by Person in Position of Trust

Example (Not exhaustive)

- Dispute between service users
- Poor handling/moving technique by inexperienced informal/ family carer
- Care plan in place, needs not met but no harm/distress
- Risk can be managed by current professional oversight
- Person does not receive prescribed medication (missed/ wrong dose). No harm occurs.
- One off incident of unpredictable low staffing. No harm caused

Actions

- Report any criminal act to Police 999/101
- Follow your organisation's Safeguarding procedure & routine assessments required
- Refer to additional guidance available on www.lancashire.gov.uk/safeguarding
- Review /refresh education
  - Staff Training & Mentoring | Conduct
  - Service user standards of conduct
- Referral to (as appropriate)
  - Occupational Therapy/Physiotherapy
  - Adult Social Care
- Signpost to appropriate universal services
  - Local Voluntary/Religious/Housing/Community services/ Mental Health/Domestic Abuse/Neighbourhood Policing

Level 2 Medium Risk
Possibly raise
a Safeguarding concern

Adults experiencing some harm or risk of harm

Risk Indicators

- Repeated incidents/patterns of similar safeguarding concerns
- Risk can/cannot be managed appropriately with current professional oversight or universal services
- Risk of escalation
- Incident not caused by Person in Position of Trust
- Risk of Escalation

Example (Not exhaustive)

- Care planning documentation not person centred
- Service provision does not respect equality and diversity principles
- Occasionally not having access to aids to independence e.g. services/equipment
- Repeated falls despite preventative advice - harm, distress and injury occurs
- Recurring missed medication or admin errors in relation to person - caused no harm

Actions

- Report any criminal act to Police 999/101
- Gather more information to inform decision making & next steps
- Follow your organisation's Safeguarding procedure & routine assessments required
- Refer to additional guidance available on www.lancashire.gov.uk/safeguarding
- Review /refresh education
  - Staff Training & Mentoring | Conduct
  - Service user standards of conduct
- Referral to (as appropriate)
  - Occupational Therapy/Physiotherapy
  - Adult Social Care
- Signpost to appropriate universal services
  - Local Voluntary/Religious/Housing/Community services/ Mental Health/Domestic Abuse/Neighbourhood Policing

Level 3 Medium to High Risk
Raise
a Safeguarding concern

Adults experiencing significant harm or risk of harm

Risk Indicators

- Humiliation or Threats
- Harm motivated by prejudice
- Recurring failure to meet specific needs associated with culture and diversity
- Incident caused by Person in Position of Trust
- Criminal act is suspected
- Continued failure to adhere to care plan

Example (Not exhaustive)

- Recurrent medication errors/deliberate maladministration of medication e.g. sedation
- Preventable pressure ulcer due to omission of care, serious injury or death as a result
- Unexplained or significant marks, lesions, cuts or grip marks
- Movement or threat to move into a place of exploitation or take part in activities against their will
- Repeated teasing by Person in Position of Trust causing distress
- Physical restraint outside of care plan

Actions

- Report any criminal act to Police 999/101
- Gather more information to inform decision making & next steps
- Follow your organisation's Safeguarding procedure & routine assessments required
- Raise a Safeguarding concern at www.lancashire.gov.uk/safeguarding

Lancashire County Council

Lancashire Constabulary Response to Domestic Abuse

Incidents and concerns can be reported via 101 or online for non-emergencies and 999 in an emergency. Information can be passed anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or online Independent UK charity taking crime information anonymously (Crimestoppers)[21].

There is no separate route for partner agencies or practitioners to report domestic abuse to the police. Deployment to domestic abuse reports is graded using a THRIVE assessment tool. The police response for victims is summarised below in terms of incident response, arrest, prevention, investigations and detention of the suspect.

- Respond – without delay
- Arrest – where there is a power to do so
- Prevent – further offending using safeguarding tools where appropriate
- Investigate – quality, context led investigations
- Detain – use the time available to build the case and secure charges where possible

All frontline officers and staff are required to attend the nationally recommended Domestic Abuse Matters trauma informed training. For all recorded domestic abuse crimes, the police will complete a DARA risk[22] assessment resource for professionals. This will be graded as Standard, Medium, or High risk.

Standard
Current evidence does not indicate a likelihood of causing serious harm.

Medium
There are identifiable indicators of the risk of serious harm. The perpetrator has potential to cause serious harm but is unlikely to do so unless there is a change in circumstances, for example, failure to take medication, loss of accommodation, relationship breakdown, drug or alcohol misuse.

High
There are identifiable indicators of the risk of serious harm. The potential event could happen at any time and the impact would be serious. Risk of serious harm – “A risk which is life threatening and/or traumatic and from which recovery, whether physical or psychological, can be expected to be difficult or impossible”.

Children
Details of any children present or that the victim/perpetrator have regular contact with/reside with, will also be recorded, and a vulnerable child report graded Standard, Medium or High will be completed. This is not a separate report, and details will be included within the Police Safeguarding Referral (PSR) summary. Should an involved adult be considered vulnerable, a graded report will be added in respect of them also.

[21] Crimestoppers: https://crimestoppers-uk.org/
[22] Domestic Abuse Risk Assessment (DARA) – Information for Stakeholders: https://library.college.police.uk/docs/college-of-policing/Domestic-Abuse-Risk-Assessment-2022.pdf

Police will share their reports with MASH. Where there is no crime recorded but the officer has concerns then a stand-alone vulnerable child/adult report will be created and shared with MASH. High Risk cases will be assessed for a referral to MARRAC. All recorded crimes will be transferred to commissioned victim advocacy services for additional support to be offered.

Police will complete Operation Encompass referrals for any involved children aged between 0-18 years old even if not present at the incident.

Operation Encompass

Operation Encompass is a partnership between police and schools, one of the principles of Operation Encompass is that all incidents of domestic abuse are shared with schools, not just those where an offence can be identified. This aim is to support children and young people and ensure the right supports are in place at the right time. The relevant school will be notified of an incident, and where sharing protocols exist, and limited details will be shared such as notification of domestic related incident(s) and where the children were present. The full PSR is not shared.

Additional Safeguarding tools and strategies available to the police;

A Critical Marker can be applied to the relevant addresses where the incident has been graded as high risk. This enables officers attending future incidents to have additional information surround risk at the address. It does not change the response time.

Where necessary a police monitored temporary alarm may be offered. This acts like a panic button. This offer is subject to certain police determined criteria.

Civil Orders will be considered by the police including, but not limited to, Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPO - this is for a maximum of 28 days), Stalking Protection Order (SPO), Violent Offender Orders (VOO). These orders seek to protect and prevent from further abuse. Police do not apply for non-molestation orders but do enforce breaches of this order. See page 30 for further information on protection orders.

Officers will seek an evidence-led prosecution of a suspect (without the victim's evidence) where the conditions are met.

Where applicable, officers will make representations to the Courts via the Crown Prosecution Service to remand suspects into custody if charged.

A restraining order (on conviction) will be request by police with the victim's consent for any case brought to court.

Where a suspect is bailed, conditions on that bail will be applied where applicable. Where a suspect is released from custody without charge or after receiving a simple caution for domestic related violence, a DVPO application will be considered.

Police will consider conditional cautions (CARA), introduced in line with the Hampton Trust model in 2024, to provide an avenue to divert first time, standard risk offenders to a behaviour change programme.

Early Help

Early help services offer a flexible continuum of support ranging from universal services through to statutory or specialist provision. The services focus on improving the lives of children, young people and families.

We deliver this as a strengths-based family safeguarding approach across the whole system, and as a fundamental way of working with children, young people, and their families. The Early Help service works with families where parental and family conflict is present utilising a variety of programmes including 'positive relationships, stronger families' (adopting principles of the Lundy model), which is supported through our reducing parental conflict leads.

We also continue to provide the Respect Young People Programme (RYPP). The RYPP is a programme for families where children and young people aged between 10 and 16 who are displaying abusive and violent behaviours towards the people close to them, particularly their parents or carers. The programme avoids blame and works together with both the parents/carers and the young person seeing them all as part of the solution. The programme is designed to enable families to identify negative behaviour patterns and work towards positive outcomes.

There may be occasions where families have been assessed and stepped down from children's social care and the needs of the family can be supported through early help services. Again, this decision making will take place following an updated assessment that evidences that threshold of need has decreased. Early help will support and complete work with victims/survivors, and children in relation to domestic abuse who are deemed standard risk. If safe to do so, early help services will work with perpetrators of domestic abuse in relation to the impact on their child and understand their capacity to change.

Early Help also has Domestic Abuse Practitioners who offer a high quality, proactive service to families of domestic abuse, using a whole family approach. Where appropriate, identify and implement evidenced based therapeutic approaches which will facilitate the repair of family relationships.

Child in Need (CIN)

When looking at the risk towards a child in the context of domestic abuse, it is vital that the lived experience of the child, victim and perpetrator are fully explored and assessed to inform what the right support is at that time.

The importance of safety planning and holding the perpetrator accountable for their harmful behaviour cannot be underestimated.

Within CIN it is expected that the assessment, completion and review of the safety plan informs threshold application. This will help understand the drivers to the presenting risk

and how able the primary care giver is to safeguard the child, in the context of a holistic multi-agency support plan. Victims of domestic abuse are often suffering from trauma and this must be considered within our approach to assessment, planning and intervention.

It is expected that a genogram (a genogram is a visual diagram that illustrates the structure of the family and their connections, often using symbols to represent individuals) is completed, and the family, friends and community support is swiftly pulled together to support the victim in safeguarding the child/ren. The role of the family and friends' network should be considered at the earliest opportunity, in order to ensure all the strengths and protective factors for the family are explored and utilised. A family network meeting can take place and a family group conference referral made.

In 2024 CAFCASS (Children and Family Court Advisory Support Services) published domestic abuse guidance for their practitioners (Domestic Abuse Practice Guidance.pdf)[23] and it summarises effectively the role of all practitioners must maintain when working with families:

- Being specific about what has already happened to the child and adult victim.
- Assessing the further risk of harm to them.
- The impact when a child may live with/unified/reunified/spend 'time with' a domestically abusive parent or carer.
- When there has been a report or disclosure of any form of domestic abuse (including any sexual offence) and a child is living with the accused parent, practitioners must urgently assess the child's safety and welfare, grounding this in an understanding of the accused parent's attitudes and behaviour, and a deep understanding of the child's experience and vulnerability.
- In considering recommendations for family time when there has been domestic abuse, practitioners cannot reliably predict what will be safe for a child and must assess the child's safety and welfare, grounding this in the child's experience, the evidence and information that is provided/known across partners; particular care must be made in assessing family time when a child is residing in refuge.
- When a perpetrator is seeking to spend time with children, there must be clear evidence that the perpetrator: recognises the harm their behaviour has caused; taken responsibility for the harm caused; taken action to address their harmful behaviour(s) and sustaining this change; has been assessed (using tools in this guidance) and any risk of future perpetration has reduced/removed.
- Where a domestic abuse incident involves sexual abuse, the child should be considered at risk of significant harm and any contact with the perpetrator should be suspended until all criminal and/or family court processes are concluded and provide direction on what is safe for that child.
- Must not dismiss or minimise domestic abuse as 'historical' or as a 'one-off' incident because this not only reveals a lack of understanding of the ongoing and long-term trauma of domestic abuse for victims but also perpetuates it. It may also increase the risk of harm or further harm to the adult or child victim. In trauma-informed practice, there is no such thing as 'historical' abuse.
- The analysis should include the impact on the parent victim and their capacity and safety if they are having to manage real or potential contact with an adult who is a risk to their child and to them.

[23] CAFCASS Domestic Abuse Practice Guidance: https://www.cafcass.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2024-05/DA%20Practice%20Guidance.pdf

- Describing the experiences, feelings, views and wishes of the child in their words.

Initiating and Initial Child Protection Conference

The welfare of the child remains paramount throughout the identification and response to domestic abuse. The impact of domestic abuse upon the child should always be the **first consideration** of the person/professional involved.

If the parent/carer is unable to keep the child safe, immediate action should be considered through a multi-agency strategy meeting. The strategy meeting will undertake its statutory functions as set out in Working Together to Safeguarding Children (2023)[24].

Additionally, the strategy meeting should make explicit roles and responsibilities in the safety plan for the victim and child and how the responsibility of the perpetrator will be fully acknowledged and made accountable through multi-agency planning and intervention.

The impact of progressing to a child protection conference should be fully considered in the context of the child and victims lived experienced, adverse childhood experiences and in the full context of the impact of the safety planning that has been put into place. This should be evidenced within a child and family assessment.

It is important to understand that the victim is likely to be experiencing the impact of trauma and abuse themselves and therefore the safety plan should reflect the appropriate level of support and actions from all agencies, family and friends, in order to keep the child and victim safe from harm.

Utilising the tools within this guidance, alongside Lancashire multi-agency risk assessment tools, including the capacity to change assessment tool, will support decision making that is holistic and centred on how we can best work with families.

Adult Safeguarding

Where an adult meets the section 42 Care Act (2014) criteria set out below:

- has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs), and
- is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect,
- as a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect

then the local authority is required to make enquiries.

Where an adult does not meet the above criteria fully, for example an adult is experiencing or at risk of abuse and is unable to protect themselves, but has no care/support needs, the local authority adult safeguarding team may still undertake an enquiry at its own discretion. This will be a ‘non-statutory’ or ‘other’ enquiry.

[24] Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023: Statutory Guidance

The objectives of an enquiry into abuse or neglect are to:

- Establish facts.
- Ascertain the adult's views and wishes.
- Assess the needs of the adult for protection, support and redress and how they might be met.
- Protect from the abuse and neglect, in accordance with the wishes of the adult.
- Make decisions as to what follow-up action should be taken with regard to the person or organisation responsible for the abuse or neglect.
- Enable the adult to achieve resolution and recovery.

The Care Act (2014) states the first priority should always be to ensure the safety and well-being of the adult. The adult should experience the safeguarding process as empowering and supportive. Practitioners should wherever practical, seek the consent of the adult before taking action. However, there may be circumstances when consent cannot be obtained because the adult lacks the capacity to give it, but it is in their best interests to undertake an enquiry. Whether or not the adult has capacity to give consent, action may need to be taken if others are or will be put at risk if nothing is done or where it is in the public interest to take action because a criminal offence has occurred. The Care Act (2014) states it is the responsibility of all staff and members of the public to act on any suspicion or evidence of abuse or neglect and to pass on their concerns to a responsible person or agency.

The agreed Safeguarding Adult Board's (SAB) procedures will be used to conduct enquiries, and the guidance can be accessed at: Pan-Lancashire - Safeguarding Adults Multi-Agency Policy[25]

We recognise that professionals, services, agencies will have their own policies, procedures and toolkits. This document is not exhaustive and is to be considered alongside standard operating procedures.

Support to Professionals

Supporting safeguarding practitioners within a multi-agency partnership requires a trauma-informed and collaborative approach that recognises the emotional complexities of safeguarding work. Practitioners across health, education, social care, and policing are frequently exposed to distressing and high-risk situations, making them vulnerable to vicarious trauma.

It is therefore essential that all agencies commit to providing regular, reflective supervision—not merely to review casework, but to prioritise the emotional wellbeing of staff. This supervision should offer a safe, non-judgemental space for practitioners to process their experiences, build resilience, and access peer, mental health or managerial support.

[25] Safeguarding Adults Pan-Lancashire Multi-Agency Policy: chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://lancashiresafeguardingpartnership.org.uk/assets/52adba21/pan_lancs_multi-agency_policy.feb2025.pdf

Promoting professional curiosity across agencies is equally important; it encourages practitioners to ask thoughtful questions, challenge assumptions, and explore the wider context of a child or adult's circumstances. Embedding these principles into the culture and practice of multi-agency safeguarding partnerships ensures a more resilient, reflective, and effective workforce, ultimately leading to better outcomes for those at risk.

Domestic Abuse Support Services Lancashire (DASSL)

Lancashire County Council Commissioned Safe Accommodation and Outreach Support for Adults and Children across Lancashire. The commissioned service is delivered by specialist Domestic Abuse Service Providers across Lancashire.

As a partnership, are Women's Aid National Quality Standards Accredited. DASSL frontline teams are trauma responsive and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) informed, placing victim-survivors at the heart of services, with inclusive accessible pathways to safety and recovery. We aim to continuously improve survivor safety, reducing risk, building independence and resilience, and improving health.

DASSL supports survivors of domestic abuse and their families to safely leave an abusive relationship if they are experiencing abuse from a current or ex-partner or family member(s) or to stay more safely in a relationship, and their home.
Our Community Outreach Service is available for adults and their children offers.

- Domestic Abuse Practitioners and Support Workers: support for victims at all levels of risk help with completing risk assessments, agreeing safety plans with victims, supporting victims through criminal, civil and family courts, providing emotional support and referrals to other services access to counselling, mental health, support for substance misuse, housing, benefits/debt management, immigration and social care.
- Access to support for victims from BAME communities, LGBTQ+ and Non-binary those with substance misuse issues and victims of stalking.
- Refuge and safe accommodation for adults and families with relevant wrap-around support
- Outreach support for victims in the community for both adult and children and young people.
- Domestic Abuse group support and Recovery programmes help victims to understand the abuse they have experienced: Power to Change, Hope to Recover and bespoke Domestic Abuse Peer Group Support.
- Children & Young People programmes on recovery (children who are experiencing abuse; Helping Hands, Expect Respect, Young People's Expect Respect)
- Support is based on their needs via a co-produced support plan. Together, support plans are developed based on survivors' experiences and help with referrals to other services as needed.
- We will listen, believe you and help survivors to make informed choices about their future.
- Support can be accessed in various ways to suit needs - this includes face-to-face, telephone and video call.

Our Safe Accommodation Service offer:

There are different types of safe accommodation, they can accommodate victim/survivors of abuse, and children and young people in refuge with the non-abusing parent. We also provide other safe spaces that are a mix of staffed provisions or dispersed for men, non-binary and the trans community.

There are different types of safe accommodation, they can accommodate victim/survivors of abuse, and children and young people in refuge with the non-abusing parent.

We have different types of safe accommodation such as:

- Safe accommodation (Refuge): 24 hr safe accommodation for women and children
- Specialist safe accommodation: for women and children with additional vulnerabilities.
- Specialist safe accommodation for trans and non-binary survivors.
- Men's safe accommodation: 24 hr safe accommodation and dispersed safe houses

Housing Needs Offer

Victims referred through Housing Needs services in Lancashire often include individuals and families experiencing or at risk of homelessness due to domestic abuse, financial hardship, or other vulnerabilities. Local authorities assess and support those who are homeless or threatened with homelessness, offering relief and prevention duties under the Homelessness Reduction Act[26].

Victims of domestic abuse are a key group, with referrals made to specialist services such as safe accommodation, sanctuary schemes, and Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVAs). Support is tailored to meet complex needs, including physical and sensory disabilities, ensuring safe accommodation and access to community-based help.

Victims with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF)

Where a victim becomes homeless and has no recourse to public funds, so will not be able to present at the local authority for homeless relief provision, there are a number of routes that should be explored to determine which agency can best support interim (until immigration status can be changed) housing needs.

For a victim with children also looking to be re-housed, the local domestic abuse services should be initially contacted to determine the availability of local safe accommodation provision. The service, once the family is accommodated, will assist

[26] Services for the Homeless: https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/lancashire-insight/population-and-households/households-and-housing/homeless-households-in-priority-need/

them with immigration applications. Where safe accommodation is not available, Children's Services may be able to assist with funding as an interim measure.

For a lone adult victim/survivor, or one with adult dependants, the local domestic abuse services should be initially contacted to determine the needs of the victim/survivor. The service can support the victim/survivor with immigration applications and can apply to the local authority for access to discretionary funds to cover subsistence costs, where appropriate.

Where local domestic abuse services do not have any vacant safe accommodation places, immediate accommodation may have to be sourced, for a short term, through local hotels. The police, where they are leading on protecting the victim may have access to a few days' worth of accommodation funding. Equally, the local authority housing team may also have discretionary funding available for a short period. There are also provisions under s18, s19 or s20 of the Care Act (2014) where an adult without 'ordinary' residence can be assisted in an emergency, until their needs (section 9 under Care Act) and safeguarding are assessed (s42 or other enquiry under the Care Act). Agencies will need to work together to determine which agency will fund emergency accommodation, for how long, what other support like subsistence is required and who delivers this support, and who will assist the victim to complete benefits and immigration applications to provide medium to longer term stability for the victim.

Lancashire Youth Justice Service (YJS)

YJS Prevention

Children and young people who are identified as potentially being involved in personal abusive relationships (be it parental or peer to peer) can be referred into the Youth Justice Service (YJS) under Prevention. The prevention offer is for those children who are on the cusp of criminalisation, an example being, several police call outs without charge or formal outcome. These are screened to ensure that universal services have already been offered as it is imperative that children and young people are not drawn into criminal justice services where other agencies are able to address the behaviour.

The response could be bespoke interventions via the Prevention Officer or other identified person within the YJS.

YJS Statutory

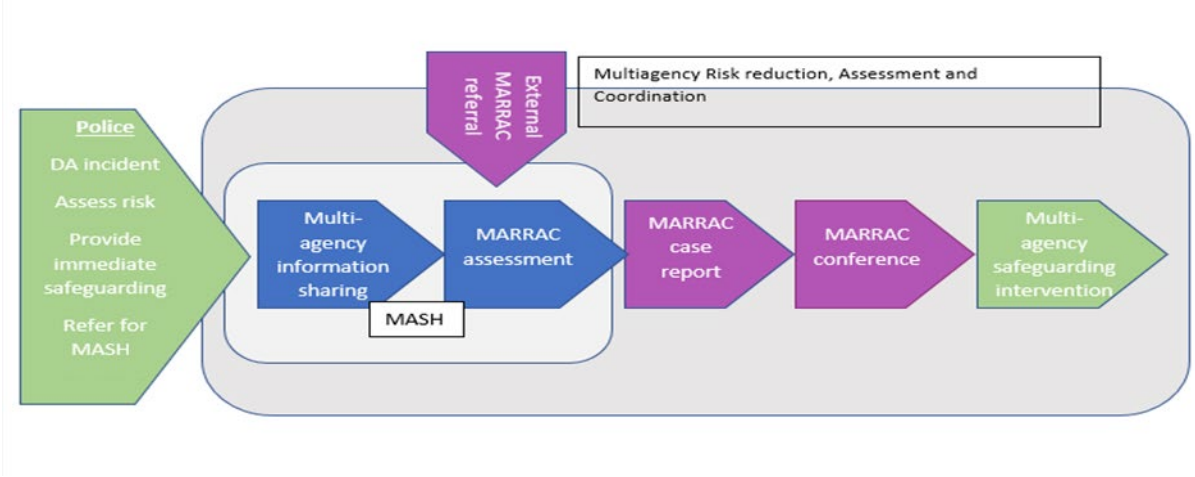
For those children who are deemed to have committed an offence within their relationships with their parents or carers, or peer on peer, a similar approach will be taken. Entry to the system in this case would be via police decision to charge and via the court, or police referral to a Child Resolution Panel. In terms of direct work, the approach is similar to the above where referrals may be made to specialised interventions, or one to one intervention can be delivered as directed by the Youth Court or Child Resolution Panel. Any interventions by YJS would be adapted to the child and could include healthy relationship work, conflict resolution, 'ok, not ok' behaviour in families.

Multi-Agency Risk Reduction Assessment Co-ordination (MARRAC) in Lancashire

The MARRAC (Multi Agency Risk Reduction Assessment and Co-ordination) model in Lancashire centres around a whole family approach and each referral is managed and coordinated according to the individual needs of the victim, children, and perpetrator – the 'Three MEs.

MARRAC is a multi-agency team of safeguarding partners who co-ordinate High-Risk Domestic Abuse cases and formulate individual safety and support plans to reduce the risk of serious harm.

The core MARRAC Team, along with the support from partners, drive pathways to provide a consistent approach to reduce harm from domestic abuse.



Protection Options Available

An Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) or Domestic Abuse Practitioner (DAP) working within Community or Safe Accommodation Services can advise and support victims through the following protection options, including access to legal support where required and helping them to understand their rights and how to access the options available. They can also support the development of safety plans which will record accurate details of the protection measures so that a victim can be effectively protected and supported.

Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS) - Clare's Law

The scheme is named after Clare Wood, who was murdered in 2009 by her ex-boyfriend who had a history of violence against women. The scheme allows a victim or a third party to apply to the police for information they hold on a person in relation to domestic abuse offences and convictions. If police checks show that an individual has a record of violent behaviour or something that may put a victim at risk of harm, it will be considered for sharing.

Application for DVDS can be made by:

- calling 101;
- at a local police station;

- online at Request information under Clare's Law: Make a Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS) application | Police.uk;[27]

Domestic Violence Protection Notice (DVPN) & Domestic Violence Protection Order (DVPO)

A Domestic Violence Protection Notice (DVPN) can be served on an alleged abuser who the police view as posing a continuing risk of violence to someone in the family home, often their partner or ex-partner. It is used where there is insufficient evidence to charge a perpetrator and give protection to a victim via bail conditions. A police officer has to give a written notice to a perpetrator by hand.

A DVPN lasts for 48 hours and requires the abusive partner to leave the premises and not contact the victim. The Notice can be extended by up to 28 days by a Magistrates Court, who will issue a Domestic Violence Protection Order (DVPO). Survivors can use that time to consider their options and seek further support. Breach of an order can result in fines.

Whilst a DVPN/DVPO is served on an alleged perpetrator, a Domestic Abuse practitioner can support the victim by providing emotional and practical support from the point of crisis, assessing risk, and explaining the Domestic Violence Protection Notice (DVPN) purpose, duration, and benefits. They help the victim understand their rights, gather relevant evidence, and liaise with police to ensure the risk is clearly communicated. They also assist with safety planning and reporting any breaches once the notice expires.

Non-Molestation Orders (NMO)

A non-molestation order (NMO), sometimes referred to as an 'injunction', is typically issued to prohibit an abuser from using or threatening physical violence, intimidating, harassing, pestering or communicating with a victim. An order could prevent the abuser coming within a certain distance of the victim or can specify home and work addresses that the abuser is prohibited from coming near. Application for a NMO is through the Family Court and details of an order must be recorded by agencies to ensure the prohibitions are known and reported when breached. Breach of NMO is a criminal offence and persistent breaches can result in fines, tagging, curfews and custodial sentences.

Restraining Orders

This is the criminal court equivalent of a non-molestation order to protect an abused person from violence, the threat or fear or violence or harassment. A Restraining Order is applied for following a criminal conviction of an abuser for a domestic abuse related offence. Once an abuser has been convicted and prior to sentencing, the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) will request the police to seek the wishes of the victim with respect to invoking a Restraining Order. The police may speak directly with the victim

[27] Request information under Clare's Law: https://www.police.uk/rqo/request/ri/request-information/cl/triage/v2/request-information-under-clares-law/

or ask the allocated Domestic Abuse practitioner to seek the wishes of the victim. Like NMOs, details of the restrictions in a Restraining Order must be recorded by agencies to ensure breaches are reported and victims are effectively protected. Like NMOs, breach of a Restraining Order is a criminal offence and persistent breaches can result in fines, tagging, curfews and custodial sentences.

Stalking Protection Orders (SPO)

Stalking Protection Orders (SPO) are applied for by the police to a magistrates' court either as an interim or full order. An interim SPO can be applied for initially to provide immediate temporary protection. A full order is granted when evidence is placed before magistrates that a SPO is necessary to protect a victim from stalking. No prior conviction of stalking is required to request a SPO. Breach of a SPO is a criminal offence and persistent breaches can result in fines, tagging, curfews and custodial sentences. Details of an order must be recorded by agencies to ensure the prohibitions and positive requirements (actions for a perpetrator to take to reduce the risks of further stalking) are fully known so that they can be detailed in safety plans and reported when breached.

A Domestic Abuse practitioner will help the victim report incidents clearly to police, and support the creation of a stalking diary, complete a Stalking DASH assessment to identify behaviours and risks, and provide emotional support and safety planning throughout. They will also IDVA assist in gathering evidence from digital platforms and third parties, prepares the victim for court, and acts as a liaison between the victim and police. Once an order is granted, they ensure the victim understands how to report breaches and access further support if stalking escalates.

Harassment Orders (Injunctions)

The Protection from Harassment Act (1997) makes harassment a criminal offence, but a victim also has civil options to use to protect themselves. A victim could instruct a solicitor to write to a perpetrator with a 'Cease and Desist Notice' as an initial warning that further civil or criminal action can be taken. A victim can apply to Magistrates for an Injunction. Breach of the Injunction would be a criminal offence where fines, tagging, curfews and custody are options to punish the perpetrator.

Other orders that can be used to protect victims of domestic abuse include:

- Occupation Orders – applied at Family Court to determine who will reside at the family home, thereby removing a perpetrator from the home for a fixed time period
- Prohibited Steps Orders – applied at Family Court restricting a person with parental responsibility from taking a child away from a victim.

Assessment Toolkits

1. **Domestic Abuse Risk Assessment (DARA) Checklist (used by Lancashire Constabulary only)**

   On 14 July 2025, Lancashire Constabulary implemented the Domestic Abuse Risk Assessment (DARA) tool, replacing the previous DASH (Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Harassment) model. This change aligns with a national rollout of DARA as the new standard for domestic abuse risk assessment.

   For further information, please refer to the College of Policing guidance on DARA.

   https://library.college.police.uk/docs/college-of-policing/Domestic-Abuse-Risk-Assessment-2022.pdf

2. **Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Harassment (DASH) Risk Indicator Checklist**

   Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Harassment (DASH) risk checklist is a structured tool used by IDVAs and frontline professionals to assess the level of risk faced by individuals experiencing domestic abuse, stalking, or 'honour'-based violence. Based on extensive research, it helps identify high-risk cases for referral to MARRAC and supports consistent, evidence-based decision-making across agencies. As risk can change over time, the checklist should be reviewed after any new incident.

   https://safelives.org.uk/resources-library/dash-risk-checklist/

3. **Severity of Abuse Grid (SOAG)**

   The SOAG is useful for capturing detailed information about the abuse the person is experiencing. Using both SOAG and DASH tools together will help gather a more comprehensive picture of abuse and the specific risks a victim is experiencing.

   https://safelives.org.uk/resources-library/severity-of-abuse-grid/

Individualised Safety and Support Plan (ISSP)

The ISSP is a structured document designed to support individuals at risk of domestic abuse. It consists of two key components:

Risk-Based Action Planning

This section captures the specific risks identified through tools such as the DASH (Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Honour-Based Violence Risk Identification Checklist) and the SOAG (Safeguarding Overview and Action Guide). It provides a framework for outlining concerns raised by either the practitioner or the individual, and for recording potential actions that may help mitigate those risks. These actions can range from addressing immediate threats (such as the presence of weapons) to enhancing protective factors like social support networks.

Personalised Safety Planning

This part of the ISSP documents the safety options and advice discussed with the individual. It includes a broad spectrum of responses suitable for high-risk domestic abuse situations. The plan may include strategies for staying safe within a relationship, preparing to leave, or responding to future incidents of violence or abuse. It also serves as a record of the support and guidance provided by local services and can be updated to reflect changes in available resources or referral pathways.

The ISSP is intended to result in a tailored, practical plan that the individual can take with them. It evolves over time, beginning with immediate safety needs and expanding to include short and medium term goals as circumstances change. It also encourages forward-thinking, helping individuals consider how they might respond to potential future risks.

Working agreements should never be used with victims of domestic abuse.

Provided below for demonstration is a completed version of the safety plan which offers prompts to the practitioner on vital questions which need to be explored. The safety plan is broken down into key areas.

- General safety planning;
- Separation/post separation;
- Children;
- Legal;
- Finance;
- Housing and security;
- Health and wellbeing;
- Additional support factors;

These key areas should be completed by a practitioner and victim together, ideally face to face and adjusted accordingly when/if further incidents occur.

The multi-agency professionals involved with the family should all be held accountable within the safety plan to ensure the systems around the child and victim are working together to improve outcomes and ensure safety. Therefore the safety plan should be

actively reviewed within children's services through meetings and home visits. The safety plan should be formally reviewed by management within supervision monthly.

If a safety plan is not achieving the desired outcome/s, it should be meaningfully reviewed to support the underlying risk factors for the victim/survivor and child/ren being understood and effectively addressed.

For example: If the safety plan advises the victim to prevent contact between the child/ren and perpetrator, is this a realistic, achievable goal?

Is the victim's perception of the management of risk the same as the practitioners?

Has the risk the perpetrator presented to the victim been explored when they didn't allow them contact in the past?

If a victim is being perceived as 'allowing' the child contact with the perpetrator which may result in the child being placed at further risk, this should be fully explored.

Are insightful questions being asked before assumptions are made?

The lead professional and multi-agency group should explore why contact is continuing, considering the research around Domestic Abuse, including if the victim is fearful, able to put this boundary in place and how the contact commenced in the first place.

Questions to Consider when Working with Victim/Survivors

General Safety Planning

- Think about the unique risks posed to your person in the home/work/social settings through your risk assessment. Is your person aware of them?
- Plan escape routes.
- Advise them to develop code words with children or people they know to tell them you need help.
- Encourage them to carry a phone charger, keep their phone charged and carry small change for a public phone.
- Change routine where possible? E.g. Use a different bus route.
- What about their safety at work? Do their employers know what is happening?
- Refer high risk cases to MARRAC?

Health & Wellbeing

- Does the person need any medical assistance because of the incident?
- Do they need access to general health services? e.g. GP/dentist/ante natal services
- Do they need to access a SARC or a sexual health clinic?
- Are there any substance misuse issues?
- Does the person need any access to mental health services?
- Does the person have a disability that affects the safety options available to them?
- What about the person's wider support networks?

Housing & Security:

- Does the person need to access temporary accommodation?
- What about other housing options? What is the safest option for your person? What about longer term housing solution?
- Is refuge suitable and necessary?
- What about security measures? i.e. Sanctuary / occurrence markers / cocoon watch / target hardening
- Fire Safety Assessment
- Does the housing association/authority know what is happening? Is there a notification flag on the address?
- Are there any arrears?
- What about housing action against perpetrator?

Separating and Post Separation

- NB: Separation and the several months afterwards is a dangerous time for your person. If possible, keep in regular contact.
- Code words can be a useful way for your person to tell you and others they need help.
- Talk through your person's escape route.
- Advise them to prepare a bag in case they leave in an emergency.
- If your person goes to a scheduled regular event each week (i.e. baby clinic/baby group/college) they could use this window of time to leave.
- Once they have left, encourage them to change their number & routine.
- They should only tell people they trust about their plans to leave.

Legal

- What criminal legal options are available?
- Encourage police reporting and police response.
- Do you need to support person at court?
- What civil legal options are available? Referral to solicitor?
- Are there any breaches of bail / civil / criminal orders
- Are there any children? Is there any legal protection needed for children?
- Any immigration issues? Do you need to refer on for immigration advice?
- Does the person's financial situation have an impact on the above options?
- Is probation involved with person / perpetrator? How can they help?

Financial

- Does the person have access to finances? If so, what? Benefits? Child benefits? In employment?
- Does perpetrator and / person have access?
- Any debts? Any housing arrears? Whose are they?
- Are there any perpetrator / person drug or alcohol issues which impact finances?
- Are there any immigration issues affecting persons access to finances?

Additional Support Factors

- Any substance misuse, mental health or disability issues?
- Are there any services to refer the person to?

Emergency Bag: What to Pack:

- Change of clothes for you and child(ren)
- ID for you and child(ren) (e.g. passports/birth certificates/driving license)
- Money – access to money/bank cards/cheque book
- House & car keys
- Benefits info & access to benefits
- N.I. number
- Any medication and repeat prescriptions
- House & car docs
- Health/house/car insurance docs
- Diary
- Child(ren) toys
- Family photos
- Recent photo of perpetrator – useful for service of civil orders and police investigation.

It might not be safe to do this ahead of leaving. If it is, think about where you can hide it or ask someone you trust to look after it.

Children

- Does the perpetrator have access to the children?
- Do they have PR / custody?
- Is the school aware of the situation?
- Is the school a flash point?
- Do they need to be factored into any order(s)?
- Do they have copies of orders?
- Consider what support the children might need.

Appendices

Acronyms

Acronym	Meaning
ACE	Adverse Childhood Experiences
AEA	Action on Elder Abuse (now Hourglass)
APV/A	Adolescent to Parent Violence/Abuse
BAME	Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic
BWV	Body Worn Video
CAFCASS	Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service
CAPVA	Child and Adolescent to Parental Violence and Abuse
CARA	Cautioning and Relationship Abuse
CSC	Children's Social Care
CEOP	Child Exploitation and Online Protection
CFW	Children and Family Wellbeing Service
CIN	Child in Need
CSPR	Child Safeguarding Practice Review
CSSH	Childrens Services Support Hub
DA	Domestic Abuse
DAP	Domestic Abuse Protection
DARA	Domestic Abuse Risk Assessment
DASH	Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Harassment
DHR	Domestic Homicide Review
DVDS	Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (Clare's Law)
DVPN	Domestic Violence Protection Notice
DVPO	Domestic Violence Protection Order
EHA	Early Help Assessments
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
GHT	Golden Hour Task
HBA	Honour-Based Abuse

Acronym	Meaning
ICB	Integrated Care Board
IDVA	Independent Domestic Violence Advisor
IFAS	Institute for Addressing Strangulation
ISSP	Individualised Safety and Support Plan
ISVA	Independent Sexual Violence Advisors
LCSAP	Lancashire Children's Safeguarding Assurance Partnership
LDAF	Lancashire Domestic Abuse Forum
LDAPB	Lancashire Domestic Abuse Partnership Board
LGBTQ+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, and others
LSAB	Lancashire Safeguarding Adults Board
MAPPA	Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements
MARAC	Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference
MARRAC	Multi-Agency Risk Reduction Assessment and Co-ordination
MASH	Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub
MHCLG	Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
MVDAC	Migrant Victims of Domestic Abuse Concession
NFS	Non-Fatal Strangulation / Non-Fatal Suffocation
NMO	Non-Molestation Order
NRPF	No Recourse to Public Funds
PSR	Police Safeguarding Referral
RYPP	Respect Young People Programme
SARs	Safeguarding Adults Reviews
SOAG	Severity of Abuse Grid
SPO	Stalking Protection Order
YJS	Youth Justice Service
VOO	Violent Offender Order

Table of Services

Services supporting victims/survivors of domestic abuse, rape, sexual assault and sexual abuse

If you feel someone is at risk of significant harm or death, please call 999
share with victims: The Silent Solution

A system that enables a 999 mobile caller who is too scared to make noise, or speak, to press 55 when prompted – to inform police they are in a genuine emergency.

If you become aware of any changes to services please contact:

LSBU@lancashire.gov.uk

The services listed below will deliver more than what's stated, please contact them directly to find out more.

Lancashire Safe Accommodation and outreach support for victims/survivors of domestic abuse

The following service providers are part of the Domestic Abuse Support Services Lancashire Partnership (DASSL) you can contact them directly or visit the website www.dassl.org.uk for further information Call 24 hrs a day 7 days a week FREE and confidential on 0300 3033 581			
Be Free	**Pendle & Rossendale**	Support in safe accommodation and outreach support for children and adults.	**Tel: 01282 726000** **Email: befree@p-a-c.org.uk** **Website: www.p-a-c.org.uk**
Loving Me	**Lancashire**	Support in safe accommodation and outreach support for adult victim-survivors who are from the trans and non-binary community.	**Tel: 07902 478958** **Email: help@lovingme.uk** **Website: www.lovingme.uk**
Fylde Coast Women's Aid	**Fylde & Wyre**	Support in safe accommodation and outreach support for children and adults.	**Tel: 01253 596699.** **Email: info@fcwa.co.uk** **Website: www.fcwa.co.uk**
HARV	**Hyndburn & Ribble Valley**	Support in safe accommodation and outreach support for children and adults.	**Tel: 01254 879855** **Email: info@harvoutreach.org.uk** **Website: www.harvoutreach.org.uk**
Key	**Chorley & South Ribble**	Support in safe accommodation and outreach support for children and adults.	**Tel: 01772 435865** **Text: 07790971225** **Email: clarehouse@keycharity.org.uk** **Website: www.keycharity.org.uk**
Liberty Centre	**West Lancashire**	Support in safe accommodation and outreach support for children and adults.	**Tel: 0808 100 3062** **Email: enquiries@thelibertycentre.org.uk** **Website: www.thelibertycentre.org.uk**
SafeNet	**Burnley, Lancaster & Preston**	Support in safe accommodation and outreach support for children and adults.	**Tel: 0300 3033 581** **Email: contact@safenet.org.uk** **Website: www.safenet.org.uk**

Victim Support Lancashire	**Lancashire**	Support for all age victims of domestic abuse at high or medium risk. Support for all age victims of sexual abuse. (Support for child victims of any other crime type – NEST.)	**Tel: 0300 323 0085 (9am – 6pm)** **Website: www.victimsupport.org.uk**

Victim Care Lancashire	**Lancashire**	Support for victims of general crime and standard-risk domestic abuse by providing emotional support, practical help, signposting and advocacy to help victims move forward and recover.	**Tel: 01772 410410** **Email: support@victimcarelancashire.org** **Website: https://victimcarelancashire.org/**
Preston Domestic Violence Services (PDVS)	**Preston**	Community services - • Helpline Monday–Friday 10am – 3pm (until 6pm on Thursday) • Outreach service for on-going emotional and practical support	**Tel: 01772 201601** **Email: enquires@pdvs.org.uk** **Email: hope@pdvs.org.uk** **Website: www.pdvs.org.uk**
The Wish Centre	**Lancashire**	Aimed at 11 –19-year-olds who are displaying harmful behaviours in their own relationships.	**Tel: 01254 260465** **Email: info@thewishcentre.org** **Website: www.thewishcentre.org/services/young-people/young-peoples-programmes/**
Paladin	**Lancashire**	A trauma-informed service assisting high risk victims of stalking in England and Wales.	**Tel: 020 3866 4107** **Website: https://www.paladinservice.co.uk/**
Humraaz	**East Lancashire**	Supports women survivors and their families affected by violence against women & girls including domestic and sexual abuse. They offer advice, advocacy and access to safe refuge to move from crisis to safety and independence. Their service is holistic and multi-lingual.	**Tel: 01254 695800** **Email: info@humraaz.org.uk** **Website: https://humraaz.co.uk/**

Counselling & Support Services for Survivors of Sexual Abuse, Sexual Assault and Rape

Birchall Trust	**Lancashire**	Counselling & Supporting Survivors of Rape and Sexual Abuse Support to anyone aged 4 years and above affected by rape, sexual abuse or sexualised violence.	**Tel: 01524 239595** **Email: enquiries@birchalltrust.org.uk** **Website: www.birchalltrust.org.uk**
The Magdalene Project	**Rossendale and Pendle**	Delivers effective counselling and psychotherapy services; specialising in supporting the survivors of sexual trauma/abuse and their carers.	**Tel: 01706 870939** **Email: office@themagdaleneproject.co.uk** **Website: www.themagdaleneproject.co.uk**
The Survivors Trust	**Umbrella Agency**	Provides a range of counselling, therapeutic and support services working with women, men and children who are victims/survivors of rape, sexual violence and sexual abuse.	**Tel: 08088 010 818** **Email: helpline@thesurvivorstrust.org** **Email: info@thesurvivorstrust.org** **Website: www.thesurvivorstrust.org**

The Lancashire SAFE Centre – Rape and sexual assault referral centres (SARC)	**Lancashire (Based in Preston)**	Provides forensic examinations, advice and comprehensive support services for women, men and children of all ages who have experienced rape or sexual assault.	**Tel: 01772 523 344.** **Website: https://www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/our-services?service=58**
Trust House Lancashire	**Lancashire**	Support for people affected by any kind of sexual violence or abuse to move through and beyond their experience.	**Tel: 01772 825288** **Email Address: support@trusthouselancs.org** **Website: www.trusthouselancs.org**
Chorley Women's Centre - Release	**Chorley and South Ribble**	Specialises in offering counselling to women and men affected by sexual abuse, rape, or sexual assault, whether this is historic or current experience.	**Phone: 07786 829126** **Email Address: releasecounselling@protonmail.com** **Website: https://www.chorleywomenscentre.com/counselling-services**
Chorley Women's Centre - Circle	**Chorley and South Ribble**	Specialises in offering counselling to women, men, and children over the age of 13 affected by domestic abuse recently or in the past.	**Phone: 07810 308966** **Email Address: circlecounsellingservice@gmail.com** **Website: https://www.chorleywomenscentre.com/counselling-services**

Other specialist services

Lancashire Women	**Lancashire**	Provide safe, dedicated space to support women who at any one time may be dealing with a range of issues including: social isolation and exclusion, homelessness, poverty, mental ill-health, or offending behaviour.	**Tel: 0300 330 1354** **Email: TalkToUs@lancashirewomen.org** **Website: www.lancashirewomen.org**
Surviving Economic Abuse (SEA)	**National**	Provide information on support that is available for victims experiencing economic abuse.	**Website: www.survivingeconomicabuse.org/i-need-help/**
SignHealth	**National**	Provide a specialist domestic abuse service to support Deaf people in finding safety and security.	**Tel: 07800 002 421** **Email: da@signhealth.org.uk** **Website: https://signhealth.org.uk/for-professionals/domestic-abuse-service/**

Hourglass	**National**	Supporting older people who are affected by abuse and neglect. Their services are also used by professionals, and family and friends who are concerned about an older person.	**Tel: 0808 808 8141** **Text: 07860 052906** **Website: wearehourglass.org/hourglass-services**
FLOWS – Finding Legal Options for Women Survivors	**National**	Provide advice about legal options available to women who are survivors of domestic abuse.	**Tel: 0203 745 7707** **Email: flows@rcjadvice.org.uk** **Website: www.rcjadvice.org.uk/family/flows-finding-legal-options-for-women-survivors**
Endeavour	**Northwest**	Endeavour, formally Paws for Kids, are a Northwest Charity providing pet fostering for people fleeing domestic abuse.	**Tel: 01204 394 842** **Email: enquiries@endeavourproject.org.uk** **Website: www.endeavourproject.org.uk/pet-fostering**
Halo Project	**National**	Specialist by and for black and minoritised community national charity working to eliminate forced marriage, honour-based abuse and female genital mutilation within society.	**Tel: 01642 683 045** **Website: https://www.haloproject.org.uk/**
Refuge	**National**	National Domestic Abuse Helpline	**Tel: 0808 2000 247** **BSL Helpline:** **https://www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk/bsl/** **Website: https://www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk/**
Respect	**National**	Specialist support for male survivors of domestic abuse	**Tel: 0808 8010327** **Website: mensadviceline.org.uk**
ManKind Initiative	**National**	Specialist support for male victims of domestic abuse across the UK as well as their friends, family, neighbours, work colleagues and employers.	**Tel: 0808 800 1170** **Helpline: 01823 334 244** **Website: https://mankind.org.uk/**
Galop	**National**	Specialist support for LGBT+ survivors	**Tel: 0800 999 5428** **Website: galop.org.uk**
Suzy Lamplugh	**National**	Personal safety charity and leading stalking authority.	**Tel: 0808 802 0300** **Website: suzylamplugh.org**
Karma Nirvana	**National**	Support for honour-based abuse.	**Tel: 0800 5999 247** **Website: karmanirvana.org.uk**
Revenge Porn Helpline	**National**	Supporting adults (aged 18+) who are experiencing intimate image abuse, also known as, revenge porn.	**Tel: 0345 6000 459** **Website: revengepornhelpline.org.uk**
Savera UK	**National**	Provides specialist intervention services and expert advice in cases or suspected cases of HBA and harmful practices.	**Tel: 0800 107 0726** **Website: https://www.saverauk.co.uk/**

Muslim Women's Network Helpline	**National**	National specialist faith and culturally sensitive service which offers information, support, guidance and referrals for women who are victims of abuse.	**Tel: 0800 999 5786** **Website:** **https://www.mwnhelpline.co.uk/page.php?id=101**

Wider Support Services

Noor Food Bank	**Preston and wider community**	A non-profit organisation with the goal to provide food for those who need it.	**Email: hello@noorfoodbank.co.uk**
Trussell Trust	**Nationwide**	An anti-poverty charity and community of food banks.	**Website: https://www.trussell.org.uk/emergency-food/find-a-foodbank**
Support from district councils (links include localised food banks)	**Find out what support is available in your area from your local district council website link.**	Support in your district.	• **Burnley Together** • **Chorley Borough Council** • **Fylde Borough Council** • **Hyndburn Borough Council** • **Lancaster City Council** • **Pendle Borough Council** • **Preston City Council** • **Rossendale Borough Council** • **South Ribble Borough Council** • **West Lancashire Borough Council** • **Wyre Borough Council**
Under One Roof Essential Household Goods Support	**Lancashire**	Lancashire County Council's Essential Household Goods Support Scheme is a non-statutory service that provides support for the people of Lancashire.	**Tel: 0800 246 5740** **Website: https://selnet-underoneroof.org.uk/**
Recycling Lives Charity	**Lancashire**	Changing lives through offender rehabilitation, residential support and food redistribution	**Website: https://www.recyclinglives.org/**
Lancashire Open Access Integrated Sexual Health Service	**Lancashire**	All Age Specialist integrated Sexual Health Service. Provides expert advice, guidance and treatment on all aspects of sexual health. This includes sexually transmitted infections, HIV and contraception Their team of doctors and nurses provide Sexual Health Services across Blackpool and Lancashire.	**Tel: 0300 1234 154**. **Website:** **https://www.lancashiresexualhealth.nhs.uk/**