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## The Domestic Abuse Act 2021

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/17/contents/enacted>

The Act aims to protect and support victim survivors and brings

- ➔ the first statutory definition of domestic abuse
- ➔ the Domestic Abuse Commissioner, Nicole Jacobs (from 2021)
- ➔ a new Domestic Abuse Protection Notice and Order (from 2023)
- ➔ local authority support in safe accommodation (2021)
- ➔ help for people to give their best evidence in the criminal courts by the use of video, screens etc. (2021 to 2022)
- ➔ protection for victims and witnesses in family court proceedings from trauma by being cross-examined by their abuser (2021)
- ➔ offences involving violent and abusive behaviour (2021 and 2022)

The DAA draft statutory guidance framework  
[Domestic Abuse Act statutory guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

DAA Factsheets  
[Domestic Abuse Bill 2020: factsheets - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

## Definitions

### 1 The first statutory definition of domestic abuse, under the Domestic Abuse Act:

Person A's behaviour towards person B is "domestic abuse" if:

- ➔ A and B are each aged **16 or over**
- ➔ and are **personally connected** to each other,
- ➔ and the **behaviour is abusive**, that is
  - physical or sexual abuse
  - violent or threatening behaviour
  - controlling or coercive behaviour
  - economic abuse
  - psychological, emotional, or other abuse.

- ➔ It does not matter whether the behaviour consists of a single incident or a course of conduct (pattern of behaviour)
- ➔ Behaviour towards B includes towards another person eg B's child

## 2 Definition of “personally connected”

They

- ➔ are or have been, married or civil partners, to each other
- ➔ have agreed to marry one another or enter into a civil partnership (whether or not the agreement has been terminated)
- ➔ are, or have been, in an intimate personal relationship with each other
- ➔ each have, or there has been a time when they each have had, a parental relationship in relation to the same child
- ➔ are relatives

The definition is regardless of sex, sexuality, or gender identity.


## 3 Children as victims of domestic abuse

- ➔ Applies where behaviour of a person A towards another person B is domestic abuse
- ➔ A child is a victim of domestic abuse under the Act:
  - if a child sees, or hears, or experiences the effects of the abuse
  - and they are related to person A or B – that is A or B is their parent, or has parental responsibility, or they are relatives

Domestic abuse includes Honour Based Violence, Female Genital Mutilation, and forced marriage. It takes place within all communities.

## Care Act 2014 Care and support statutory guidance

Domestic abuse is one of the types and patterns of abuse illustrated by the Care and Support Statutory Guidance, as are physical abuse, sexual abuse, financial abuse, and psychological abuse.

 [Care and support statutory guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/care-and-support-statutory-guidance)

### Coercive and controlling behaviour

- ➔ Control and coercion is a purposeful pattern of behaviour, over time, to exert power and control.
- ➔ Controlling behaviour is a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape, and regulating their everyday behaviour”.
- ➔ Coercive behaviour is an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim.
- ➔ The person feels fear at least twice, that violence will be used against them.
- ➔ The offence of coercive and controlling behaviour in intimate and familial relationships was introduced into the Serious Crime Act 2015. The offence will impose a maximum 5-year imprisonment, a fine or both.
- ➔ The Serious Crime Act definition of coercion and control was amended by Domestic Abuse Act 2021 to include ex-partners, and other family members the person lives with.

“It is now accepted without reservation that it is possible to be a victim of controlling or coercive behaviour or threatening behaviour without ever sustaining a physical injury...specific incidents, rather than being seen as free-standing matters, may be part of a wider pattern of abuse or controlling or coercive behaviour.”

[H-N And Others \(Children\) \(Domestic Abuse: Finding of Fact Hearings\) \(Rev 2\) \[2021\] EWCA Civ 448 \(30 March 2021\) \(bailii.org\)](#)

 [Coercive or controlling behaviour statutory guidance framework](#)

In the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 “Economic abuse” means any behaviour that has a substantial adverse effect on person B’s ability to:

- acquire, use or maintain money or other property, or
- obtain goods or services

Economic abuse is often part of controlling and coercive behaviour.

Surviving Economic Abuse [[Surviving Economic Abuse: Transforming responses to economic abuse](#) ] reports the impact can go on long after a relationship has ended.

An example might be family neglect and disregard of the person for financial gain, control of their personal budget or benefits.



### Why

Always power and control  
Sometimes financial gain  
Can be traumatized individual re-victimisation of others



### When

30% of domestic abuse starts, or gets worse, in pregnancy.  
Safelives report that on average people seek help five times before receiving effective help.  
[Getting it right first time - complete report.pdf \(safelives.org.uk\)](#)  
The most dangerous time is when leaving or shortly after leaving a relationship with an abusive or coercive person.  
Leaving may not end the risk or the threat and abuse; 70% of women report post-separation violence.



### Who and where

Anyone can be affected by or at risk of domestic abuse, including parents, single people, teenagers, children, older people, people in work, unemployed people, people in rural areas, towns and cities, wealthy people, people in poverty, adults with needs for care and support, and carers. Disabled people are at twice the risk, and women are at risk of more severe abuse or of being killed, repeated abuse and of coercive control.

Domestic abuse can take place anywhere: the adult’s own home, in care homes, day services, and hospitals, on the street, at school, college or university, in court, in public, in private, on social media.

## Prevalence and trends

Domestic abuse affects all ages, but the ONS crime survey only asks about 16- to 74-year-olds. March 2020 is the latest available ONS crime survey report about domestic abuse. Police crime data at March 2021 was collected but may be an underestimate as domestic abuse is often not reported to police.

### ONS March 2020:

- 7.3% of women experience domestic abuse
- 3.6% of men experience domestic abuse

### Disabled people are more likely to experience domestic abuse:

- 14.7% of women with a disability compared to 7.3%
- 7.5% of men with a disability compared to 3.6%

### Police domestic abuse crime data March 2021

- the majority of women abused were aged 30 to 34
- the majority of men abused were aged 75 and over



[Domestic abuse prevalence and trends, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#)

- 3 domestic homicides each week
- 19% of all homicides were domestic homicides

## Home Office Homicide Index data to March 2020

- 76% of domestic homicides the victim was female
- 18%, the largest proportion by age of domestic homicides, were 70 and over
- 59% women killed by partner /ex-partner
- 32% killed by family member
- 9% men killed by partner/ex-partner

## March 2021 data from 26 police forces showed

- in 73% of domestic abuse-related crimes, the victim survivor is a woman
- in 93% of domestic abuse-related sexual offences the victim survivor is a woman



[Domestic abuse victim characteristics, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk)

## How to recognise it?

### Possible indicators of domestic violence or abuse

- ➔ low self-esteem
- ➔ feeling that the abuse is their fault when it is not
- ➔ physical evidence of violence such as bruising, cuts, broken bones
- ➔ verbal abuse and humiliation in front of others
- ➔ fear of outside intervention
- ➔ damage to home or property
- ➔ isolation – not seeing friends and family
- ➔ limited access to money

### Barriers to leaving

- ➔ Fear of being killed
- ➔ Impact of other factors – shame, denial, age, culture, disability
- ➔ Trauma, erosion of self-belief, isolation
- ➔ Impact on children
- ➔ Practical factors, pets, access
- ➔ Needs for care and support

A TED talk by Leslie Morgan Steiner 'Why domestic violence victims don't leave' explains



<https://www.womensaid.org.uk/information-support/what-is-domestic-abuse/women-leave/>

## Domestic abuse and needs for care and support

People with needs for care and support due to learning disability, physical disability, substance misuse, mental health issues, or frailty due to age will be more likely to experience domestic abuse; it may also follow other abuse within the family or a care setting. They may be less able to access domestic abuse services or gain civil legal remedies for domestic abuse.

There are additional barriers for people with care and support needs:

- They may be dependent on their abuser for personal care or mobility;
- They may find it harder to see health and social care professionals on their own;
- Their accommodation may have been especially adapted;
- They may worry that the abuser is the only person stopping them from living in institutional care.

## Older people and domestic abuse

ONS statistics are not collected about domestic abuse for people aged 75 and over so it is very likely under-reported; from 2023 the ONS will collect data about domestic abuse and people over 74.

Healthcare professionals during hospital admission and discharge may be the most likely to become aware there may be domestic abuse.

### **Hourglass** (formerly Action on Elder Abuse) **research in 2020 found tolerance of abuse and neglect:**

- More than 1 in 3 (34%) UK residents and 44% of London residents don't believe that 'acts of domestic violence directed towards an older person' count as abuse.
- Nearly half (49%) of all those surveyed reported that 'not attending to an older person's needs in a timely fashion' doesn't constitute abuse (49%). Six out of every 10 Londoners don't believe this sort of neglect equates to abuse (59%).

### **Age UK's analysis of the Crime Survey for England and Wales for 2017/18 found:**

- One in four (23%) victims of domestic homicide was over the age of 60
- In 2017/18 @ 139,500 older women and @ 74,300 older men experienced domestic abuse in England and Wales; of these, two in three victim survivors were female (67%) and four in five abusers were male (81%)
- Older people were almost equally likely to be killed by their (adult) children or grandchildren (44%) as they were by a partner or spouse (46%)



[Age UK - at least 200000 older people experienced domestic abuse last year but the experiences of over 75s are being entirely overlooked](#)

### **Safe Later Lives: Older people and Domestic Abuse Report (2016) found that:**

- older people are invisible in domestic abuse services and to professionals;
- older people may "feel additional pressures to stay with an abusive partner related to the length of time they have experienced the abuse. For example, they may feel increased anxiety about leaving behind a lifetime of contributions to...homes, assets"
- older people are more likely to have a disability as well
- older people are more likely to be living with abusive person after reporting it
- generational attitudes about abuse make it harder to identify
- there is an increased risk of adult family abuse
- services don't always target older people nor meet their needs
- older people should be targeted with messages that empower them to recognise their situation as abuse.



[Safe Later Lives - Older people and domestic abuse.pdf \(safelives.org.uk\)](#)

## **Dementia and domestic abuse**

A combination of domestic abuse and dementia can be complex.

Repeated physical assaults may have an effect on someone's mental functioning. Violence such as injury to the head or strangulation can cause memory loss, and traumatic brain injury. Head injuries increase the risk of developing dementia.

- Glasgow and Edinburgh researchers (who found the link between professional footballers and dementia) have been funded by The Drake Foundation to carry out research into the long-term consequences of physical domestic abuse on the brain.



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-57356328>

If there was already domestic abuse before the development of dementia, whether by the person being abused or the person causing harm, harm is likely to increase as dynamics change. Dementia can increase social isolation, and therefore risk. Harm may become more disguised, eg hidden as carer stress. Consider if there is a pattern of incidents, of coercion and control? Physical signs of domestic abuse – bruises, poor hygiene, weight loss, urinary tract infection – may wrongly be attributed to dementia or the person's needs for care and support.

- If the perpetrator develops dementia, they may be more unpredictable. The victim survivor, now in an intimate caring role, may find it harder to be safe.
- The victim survivor who develops dementia may not be believed, may re-live previous abuse and trauma, and may forget how to get help. If dementia results in a lack of inhibition and the victim survivor is more likely to tell, they may be at more risk as the perpetrator tries to keep it hidden.

Domestic abuse is about power and control. In a relationship where there was no domestic abuse previously:

- If a person with dementia develops perceived abusive or aggressive behaviour, it is likely to be due to the condition and would not be regarded as domestic abuse.
- If a carer becomes abusive when there was none before consider carer stress. Harm may be unintentional or due to a failure to manage caring leading to neglect or abuse.

### In all cases a safeguarding adults response is required as well.

Use of the Mental Capacity Act 2005 is essential.

- If a person loses capacity to consent to the relationship and their partner is abusive, action must be taken by professionals who are aware of the situation.
- It is a criminal offence under the MCA for someone including family members or partners to ill-treat or wilfully neglect a person in their care who lacks capacity or who they reasonably believe to lack capacity.

The Centre for Age Gender and Social Justice provides resources including an adapted Duluth power wheel, Domestic Violence and Abuse in Later Life.

New in January 2022: Centre for Age Gender and Social Justice Forgotten Victims Practitioner Toolkit, Domestic abuse and the co-existence of dementia; also a film is available.



[Resources - Centre For Age Gender and Social Justice \(dewischoice.org.uk\)](https://dewischoice.org.uk)

## Domestic abuse and mental health

“abuse (both in childhood and in adult life) is often the main factor in the development of depression, anxiety and other mental health disorders, and may lead to sleep disturbances, self-harm, suicide and attempted suicide, eating disorders and substance misuse”.



[The survivors' handbook – Domestic abuse your mental health](#)

- Adults receiving support from mental health services report much higher incidences of domestic abuse than those from the general population.
- This quick guide highlights the signs to look out for, the questions to ask, and gives tips on how to respond.



<https://www.womensaid.org.uk/the-survivors-handbook/domestic-abuse-and-your-mental-health/>

## Domestic abuse and learning disability

Research from McCarthy et al (2015) found evidence that women with a learning disability may be targeted by men who exploit factors such as low self-esteem, lack of confidence, compliant behaviour, loneliness, and a wish for a relationship. The research identified warning red flags.



[study of women with learning disabilities who were victims of domestic abuse](#)

**“If you get it right for people with a learning disability you get it right for everyone”**

The Transform Toolkit provides accessible information to help start the conversation.



[The Transform Toolkit: Improving Support for People with Learning Difficulties Experiencing Abuse - Ann Craft Trust](#)

Safe Lives 10 key practice points:



[http://safelives.org.uk/practice\\_blog/10-key-practice-points-supporting-clients-learning-disabilities](http://safelives.org.uk/practice_blog/10-key-practice-points-supporting-clients-learning-disabilities)

## Domestic abuse and physical disability


“Disabled people are more likely to experience physical, sexual, emotional and financial domestic abuse than people without disabilities” (Public Health England, 2015)

Abuse that especially affects people with disabilities includes neglect, withholding necessities, increased physical restrictions, and abuse by the ‘hero carer’. People may also have internalised a lack of self-worth.



<https://www.anncrafttrust.org/disability-domestic-abuse/>

 <https://www.reducingtherisk.org.uk/cms/content/disability>

 DeafHope – domestic abuse resources from Signhealth  
<https://www.signhealth.org.uk/our-projects/deafhope-projects/>

## Women's Aid Domestic Abuse Report 2022



States that of the refuge vacancies available in May 2021, only 1.4% had wheelchair access and 1.2% were accessible for persons with limited mobility.

- Only 14.5% of refuge services offered specialist mental health support
- Only 9.3% offer specialist drug or alcohol use support

 [Microsoft Word - Annual Audit - Early Release - Final version \(womensaid.org.uk\)](https://www.womensaid.org.uk/microsoft-word-annual-audit-early-release-final-version)

## The Domestic Abuse Report 2019 stated



- Only 21.4% of refuge services offered support for women with learning difficulties
- Only 20% of refuge services said they were able to accommodate a care assistant
- Only 3.3% of refuge centres employ staff proficient in British Sign Language

## We Matter Too

Report by the Ann Craft Trust about disabled young people's experiences of services when they experience domestic abuse. Young people aged 17 to 25, some with autism, physical and or sensory disabilities, or learning difficulties.

### The research found that:



- young people are often not understood, especially when distressed
- It is essential to see the distress being communicated that is behind the behaviour
- Sometimes they only tell someone when moved away from home for other reasons

“A significant group who remain hidden are those young people who do not have a diagnosis, or their disability recognised, but who have learning needs and who have already experienced other losses, trauma or neglect and/or who may have been excluded from education.”

The report includes how to improve practice which would be relevant for working with all adults.

 [We Matter Too - Disabled Young People and Domestic Abuse - Ann Craft Trust](https://www.anncrafttrust.org.uk/we-matter-too-disabled-young-people-and-domestic-abuse)

 [We-Matter-Too-Final-Report-9-Dec-2019.pdf \(anncrafttrust.org\)](https://www.anncrafttrust.org.uk/we-matter-too-final-report-9-dec-2019)

## Domestic abuse and alcohol or substance misuse

“In the UK, almost a fifth of all women, and 10% of men, aged 16-59 years, have been the victim of physical domestic violence. Alcohol is estimated to be a factor in a third of all incidents of domestic violence, with many aggressors having consumed alcohol prior to the assault. Victims of domestic violence may also use alcohol as a coping mechanism and, in some cases, this may be used by violent partners as an excuse for continued abuse.”

 [http://www.ias.org.uk/uploads/pdf/Women/bs\\_alcohol\\_violence.pdf](http://www.ias.org.uk/uploads/pdf/Women/bs_alcohol_violence.pdf)

Useful article to help identify links between alcohol, domestic abuse, and coercion and control, and that alcohol abuse does not cause domestic abuse, but can trigger abuse and increase serious risk of harm.

 [http://www.hiddenhurt.co.uk/alcohol\\_and\\_domestic\\_violence.html](http://www.hiddenhurt.co.uk/alcohol_and_domestic_violence.html)

If an adult is using alcohol or substances as a coping mechanism for domestic abuse, they may have fluctuating capacity around the decision to stay in the relationship.

 [Adult safeguarding & domestic abuse: a guide to support practitioners & managers: 2nd edition](https://www.hiddenhurt.co.uk/adult-safeguarding-domestic-abuse-a-guide-to-support-practitioners-managers-2nd-edition)

The guide updated in 2015 says that victims of abuse who misuse substances felt they were consistently judged and stigmatised by agencies, and that false assumptions were frequently made.

### Good practice includes:

- Recognising the relationship between abuse and substance misuse (conduct assessment in line with 'safe enquiry' principles)
- Victims may wish to address the effects of abuse before tackling their substance misuse, needing harm minimisation support as a result
- Substance misuse may make it difficult for a victim to accurately assess risk posed to them (it may 'dull' their perception)
- Awareness that, if the perpetrator goes through a detoxification programme, the risk to the victim can increase

## Learning from Safeguarding Adult Reviews and other reviews

### Recommendation 3 from the SAR in respect of Leanne Patterson:

- The need to consider referrals to all appropriate multi-agency procedures (in line with agency role), and that referral to one of these should not substitute or be given preference over another.
- That is both a MARAC and the safeguarding adults response should take place in parallel (see Durham procedural flowchart).

Link to SAR


 [Adult-U-Executive-Summary-report-PUBLISH.pdf \(northumberland.gov.uk\)](#)

On page

 [Northumberland County Council - Safeguarding adults](#)

### Appreciative enquiry (lessons learned) Winnie Smith, Gateshead

- There needs to be greater awareness of the impact of coercive and controlling behaviour upon actions, mental capacity and decision making
- Make timely use of mental capacity act, formal assessment for specific decisions and Best Interest decisions, rather than blanket statements of capacity assumed and recorded as opinion

 <https://www.tsab.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/TSAB-Learning-from-Regional-and-National-SAR-Cases-July.docx.pdf>

## Trauma informed practice and disruption approaches

### Understanding disruption through a 'trauma lens'

“disruption approaches are crucial in implementing targeted, persistent and robust safeguarding responses, enabling professionals to step in to safeguard in a timely way, even where individuals resist and appear to be making a 'choice' to return to the sources of harm.”

 <https://www.nwgnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/NWG-Disruption-Toolkit-3.pdf>

### Psychological Trauma – What Every Trauma Worker Should Know

 <http://www.zoelodrick.co.uk/home>

Paper by Zoe Lodrick explaining the brain's instinctive, non-thinking response to threat, fear and stress, and its prioritisation for survival. Responses are one of five Fs: flight, fight, freeze, friend, and flop.

### Tips for working with traumatised people

- Be predictable, sameness – being aware that the practitioner's attitude and behaviour will be interpreted by individual through their trauma lens – eg if you are tired (because taken antihistamine) will be seen as sign you are angry with them / they are in danger
- Recovery can only take place in the context of relationships

 <http://www.zoelodrick.co.uk/services/training>

Abi Blake, speaking about work in West Cheshire on coercive control etc.

 [BBC.co.uk/news/stories-I-didn't-know-it-was-abuse-until-I-nearly-died](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/stories-I-didn't-know-it-was-abuse-until-I-nearly-died)



# A basic introduction to Trauma Informed Care.

Presentation by Homeless Link

 <https://www.homeless.org.uk/our-work/resources/webinar-catchup/basic-intro-TIC>

## Trauma informed care - easy read leaflet

 [4.1.10-L989E-v2-LD-TW-Trauma-informed-care.pdf \(tewv.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/4.1.10-L989E-v2-LD-TW-Trauma-informed-care.pdf)

## What to do

### The four Rs framework

- 1 Recognise** – risk and abuse, domestic abuse, coercion and control. Use this guide and other toolkits
- 2 Respond** - don't do nothing; you have to do something. If you suspect abuse start a conversation; respond to a disclosure
- 3 Report** appropriately to Social Care Direct / Harbour / Police
- 4 Record** incidents within your procedures, accurately - may need later as evidence eg for enquiries, court, domestic homicide review

### Key messages for practice



- Question and find out more
- Respond to concerns
- Assessing risk, DASH
- Additional consideration due to care and support needs
- What not to do/ask i.e. contact abuser
- Safety planning
- Capacity assessments
- Disruption approaches

### Challenges for practitioners



- Balance risk and choice, capacitated unwise decisions with lack of capacity
- Fluctuating capacity
- Lack of accessible support services

### Questions to consider [from 7-minute briefing template]



- Who is at risk?
- Do I know the signs?
- Am I clear on what I need to do if someone makes a disclosure?
- Where do I go to find out more?

## If there are children involved in cases of domestic abuse

- ➔ In all cases of domestic abuse, you must find out if there are children in the household who may need support or are at risk.
- ➔ If so, you must make a referral to First Contact (for additional early help support or safeguarding children).
- ➔ Ensure there is a proactive interface between children's and adults' services; don't assume other services are involved.
- ➔ Adult and children's services must work together to consider risk and cumulative harm, using a whole family/think family approach.
- ➔ If an adult is deemed to make an unwise decision (as assessed under the Mental Capacity Act) there is still a responsibility of the adult, staff and family to ensure the child's needs are paramount; to 'see' the child.

## Child and Adolescent to Parent Violence and Abuse (CAPVA)

### Awareness of children being abusive to parents is increasing.

- ➔ CAPVA is a form of family abuse where children/adolescents use a range of harmful behaviours towards parents/caregivers in an attempt to get their own way, hurt or punish, communicate distress and/or control their environment
- ➔ Behaviours include physical violence, verbal abuse, behaviours that are emotionally and/or psychologically abusive, and those which damage property and/or hurt parents financially. Abuse can also be sexual in nature.

Once a child turns 16 it would be included in the DAA definition of domestic abuse.

Such abuse may continue after the child becomes an adult.

Safeguarding adults is relevant if the parent has needs for care and support



Watch this space for a new CAPVA handbook for Durham



[CAPVA | Respect](#)



[CAPVA-Rapid-Literature-Review-Full-November-2021-Baker-and-Bonnick.pdf \(domesticabusecommissioner.uk\)](#)

### See parents, think children

Learning from case reviews involving voluntary organisations.

When voluntary organisations are involved in case reviews, it is often due to the multi-agency and complex nature of the cases. This review found that where organisations are providing services to adults, they should also think about the child and the impact of the parents' problems on their ability to care for and safeguard their child. Organisations should also formalise conversations about concerns into referrals; then if it seems no action has been taken, follow up to check with relevant teams after making a referral.



[https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/media/1356/learning-from-case-reviews\\_voluntary-agencies.pdf](https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/media/1356/learning-from-case-reviews_voluntary-agencies.pdf)

### Change that lasts: Yasmin's story –



Infographic on what actually happened and what might have happened with needs led intervention



[Women's Aid - Change that lasts: Yasmin's Story Open Infographic on what actually happened and might have happened with needs led intervention](#)

### Local services and support

#### County Durham and Darlington multi-agency domestic violence and abuse procedural flowchart



[revised-durham-and-darlington-da-pathway-flowchart-dsp-1-july-2019.pdf \(darlington-safeguarding-partnership.co.uk\)](#)

**Harbour** offer services in Durham including refuge services, community-based support, outreach, counselling, work with people who are abusive, Independent Domestic Abuse Advocates (IDVAs)

**Call: 03000 20 25 25**



[www.myharbour.org.uk](http://www.myharbour.org.uk)

There are four **women's refuges** in Co Durham. A women's refuge provides emergency temporary accommodation and support services to women and children who are affected by domestic abuse and homelessness.



<http://www.durham.gov.uk/article/3573/Women-s-refuges>

**DAN Service** Domestic Abuse Navigator Service for clients with complex needs **Call 0191 386 2303**



[Complex Needs and Domestic Abuse Navigator Service | Durham Locate](#)

#### Durham County Council page



<https://www.durham.gov.uk/article/2867/Domestic-abuse>



[Safe accommodation - our strategy - Durham County Council](#)

## Assessment and tools

### Durham Risk Threshold Tool and Risk Factor Recording Sheet

-  [Safeguarding Adults Website – Policies and Procedures](#)
-  [Durham Information Sharing Good Practice Toolkit for practitioners](#)

### MARAC

A Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference, MARAC is a regular local confidential meeting to plan how to help people at high risk of murder or serious harm in domestic abuse situations and address their ongoing safety.

- ➔ Any member of staff who is concerned about a victim survivor of domestic abuse can refer to MARAC using their organisation's procedures
- ➔ Do not let the perpetrator know

### Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Harassment and Honour Based Violence (DASH 2009) Risk Identification and Assessment Checklist for Co Durham & Darlington.



The DASH risk identification and checklist has been slightly adapted by Durham Constabulary so that agencies within Co Durham and Darlington can use the form as part of the MARAC referral documentation. The national DASH question set is under review, aiming to gain more narrative in the responses.

- ➔ The DASH checklist is at the end of the MARAC form.

-  [MARAC / DASH Referral Form \(PDF, 1.0mb\)](#)

### Safe Lives good practice to DASH:

If you work with someone with communication and cognition difficulties, you may need to take a different approach to the DASH form.

-  [http://safelives.org.uk/practice\\_blog/10-key-practice-points-supporting-clients-learning-disabilities](http://safelives.org.uk/practice_blog/10-key-practice-points-supporting-clients-learning-disabilities)
-  [The Transform Toolkit](#) includes an easy read MARAC DASH risk assessment prompt sheet for professionals to use with the adult

### Dementia Domestic Abuse Checklist: Cheshire East's toolkit to use with the DASH assessment:

-  [A5 Booklet Care Provider Response final \(stopadultabuse.org.uk\)](#)

### MARAC: Safe Lives Guidance for multi-agency forums, managing complex cases and more:

-  [Safe Lives: Resources for MARAC Meetings](#)

### Legal remedies




#### Civil remedies include:

- Injunctions: non-molestation orders and occupation orders
- Forced marriage prevention orders



#### Criminal remedies – via police

- Clare's Law – domestic violence disclosure scheme
-  [https://www.myharbour.org.uk/images/downloads/Clares\\_Law\\_Leaflet\\_Durham.pdf](https://www.myharbour.org.uk/images/downloads/Clares_Law_Leaflet_Durham.pdf)
- Coercion and control offence
- Disruption
- Criminal offences

### Reporting

#### Follow your own organisation's procedures

Concerns about an adult call:



**Social Care Direct 03000 26 79 79**

Concerns about a child due to domestic abuse call:



**First Contact 03000 26 79 79**

**If there is any immediate danger call 999. To connect to the police automatically if you are unable to talk: on a mobile press 55 if prompted; leave background-only noise on landlines**

## National helplines



### **National Domestic Violence Helpline 0808 2000 247**

For women and children who are experiencing or who have experienced domestic abuse, open 24 hours, 7 days a week



### **Mankind 01823 334 244**

For men who are experiencing or who have experienced domestic abuse, weekdays, 10am to 4pm



### **Women's Aid instant messaging service etc**

<https://www.womensaid.org.uk/>



### **Men's Advice Line 0808 801 0327**

A confidential helpline for men experiencing domestic violence from a partner or ex-partner (or from other family members)



[www.mensadvice.org.uk](http://www.mensadvice.org.uk)



### **The Traveller Movement UK helpline for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller women 0754 1637 795**

[Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence | The Traveller Movement](#)



### **National LGBT+ Domestic Abuse Helpline 0800 999 5428**

Monday to Friday, 10am to 5pm. Wednesday and Thursday, 10am to 8pm



[help@galop.org.uk](mailto:help@galop.org.uk)



<https://www.galop.org.uk/domesticabuse/>



### **Respect 0808 802 404**

confidential helpline offering advice, information and support to help you stop being violent and abusive to your partner



[www.respectphoneline.org.uk](http://www.respectphoneline.org.uk)



[info@respectphoneline.org.uk](mailto:info@respectphoneline.org.uk)



### **Age UK Advice Line: 0800 678 1602**

Free to call, open 8am to 7pm, 365 days a year



### **Victim Support National Homicide Service 0300 303 1984**

Support to navigate the criminal justice system and statutory inquiries and a wide range of practical help on offer



[Homicide Service - Victim Support](#)

## Further resources



### **Durham Safeguarding Adults Partnership (DSAP)**

[DurhamSafeguardingAdults Home Page - Durham Safeguarding Adults](#)



### **Safelives Covid-19 resources**

[Domestic abuse and COVID-19 | Safelives](#)



### **SCIE Recognising and responding to domestic violence and abuse: A quick guide for social workers. January 2020**

<https://www.scie.org.uk - recognising domestic violence>



### **ADASS resource**

<https://www.local.gov.uk/adult-safeguarding-and-domestic-abuse-guide>



### **Disabled people and domestic abuse**

[http://www.safelives.org.uk - disabled people and domestic abuse](http://www.safelives.org.uk - disabled-people-and-domestic-abuse)



### **DeafHope – resources from Signhealth**

<https://www.signhealth.org.uk/our-projects/deafhope-projects/>



[The lasting impact of violence against women and girls - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#)



[Domestic abuse: how to get help - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)



### **Office of the Public Guardian to report abuse by an attorney or deputy**

<https://www.gov.uk/report-concern-about-attorney-deputy-guardian>



### **Advocacy After Fatal Domestic Abuse (AAFDA)**

Advocacy and support for families and friends after homicide, suicide, or unexplained death following domestic abuse including through statutory inquiries e.g. Domestic Homicide Reviews and Mental Health Reviews. Offers advice for professionals.

[Home - AAFDA](#)