**Safelives - Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Harassment and ‘Honour’ Based Violence (DASH 2009) Risk Model**

**Adapted by Safe Durham Partnership for use by Multi-Agencies in Co Durham**

This process can be applied to all victims of domestic abuse. *Domestic Abuse is – Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners OR family members, regardless of gender and sexuality. This can encompass but is not limited to the following types of abuse: psychological, physical, financial, sexual and emotional (Domestic Abuse Act, 2021)*

Risk assessments have four stages -

* Risk identification
* Risk assessment
* Professional judgment
* Risk management

This should be a dynamic process that will adjust the risk assessment of harm up or down as circumstances change. The DASH risk assessment checklist is a tool used by practitioners who work with adult victims of domestic abuse to identify level of risk, assess and enable appropriate safety planning to manage risk. DASH should be completed as soon as possible, with all domestic abuse victims / survivors, reviewed regularly and always reviewed following a change in circumstances / escalation of abuse / further Incidents.

Pages 7 & 8 provide guidance regarding actions to be taken once DASH completed.

**Key indicators – high risk, highlighted throughout checklist in bold. Professional Judgement is important – if scoring doesn’t automatically meet high risk threshold, however, you have significant concerns - Please state in professional judgement box and follow high risk pathway.**

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 identifies children as victims of domestic abuse, in their own right, through their seeing, hearing or experiencing of domestic abuse. If DASH completion indicates any concerns regarding the safety of a child, safeguarding procedures must be followed.

If you see, hear or suspect that an adult with care and support needs is being harmed, abused or neglected, contact Social Care Direct – 03000 267979. When supporting DASH completion with victim /survivors with learning disabilities, please visit - [1907-CDAS-Toolkit.pdf (anncrafttrust.org)](https://www.anncrafttrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/1907-CDAS-Toolkit.pdf) Victims / survivors with Dementia - [A5 Booklet\_Care Provider Response final (stopadultabuse.org.uk)](http://www.stopadultabuse.org.uk/pdf/a5-booklet-care-provider-response-final.pdf)

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| DASH Risk Assessment | | | | | |
| Please complete ALL applicable questions | | | | | |
| *Please explain that the purpose of asking these questions is for the safety and protection of the individual concerned. Tick the box if the factor is present. Use the comment box at the end of the form to expand on any answer.*  *It is assumed that your main source of information is the victim. If this is not the case, please indicate in the right-hand column along with any information.* | | Yes | No | Don’t Know | State the Source of information e.g.(victim)  Any comments or additional information? |
| 1. Has the current incident resulted in injury? | |  |  |  | Click here to enter text. |
| 1. **Are you very frightened**? | |  |  |  | Click here to enter text. |
| 1. What are you afraid of? Is it further abuse or violence?   Please give an indication of what you think [name of abuser(s)] might do and to whom, including children. | |  |  |  | Click here to enter text. |
| 1. **Do you feel isolated from family/friends?**   I.e., does [name of abuser(s)] try to stop you from seeing  Friends/family/doctor or others? | |  |  |  | Click here to enter text. |
| 1. **Are you feeling depressed or having suicidal thoughts?** | |  |  |  | Click here to enter text. |
| 1. **Have you separated or tried to separate from (name of abuser(s)….) within the past year?** | |  |  |  | Click here to enter text. |
| 1. **Are there disputes over child contact? (please state what)** | |  |  |  | Click here to enter text. |
| 1. **Does the abuser(s) constantly text, call, contact, follow, stalk or harass you?** (Please expand to identify what and whether you believe that this is done deliberately to intimidate you? Consider the context and behaviour of what is being done) | |  |  |  | Click here to enter text. |
| 1. **Are you currently pregnant or have you recently had a baby (in the past 18 months)** | |  |  |  | Click here to enter text. |
| 1. Are there any children, step-children that aren’t in the household? OR are there other dependents in the household (i.e. older relative)? | |  |  |  | Click here to enter text. |
| 1. **Has the abuser(s) ever hurt the children/dependents? (This can be physically and / or emotionally)** | |  |  |  | Click here to enter text. |
| 1. Has the abuser(s) ever threatened to hurt or kill the children/dependents? | |  |  |  | Click here to enter text. |
| 1. **Is the abuse happening more often?** | |  |  |  | Click here to enter text. |
| 1. **Is the abuse getting worse?** | |  |  |  | Click here to enter text. |
| 1. **Does [name of abuser(s)] try to control everything you do and/or are they excessively jealous?**   ***For example: in terms of relationships; who you see; being ‘policed’ at home; telling you what to wear. Consider ‘honour’-based violence (HBV) and specify behaviour.*** | |  |  |  | Click here to enter text. |
| 1. **Has [name of abuser(s)] ever used weapons or objects to hurt you?** | |  |  |  | Click here to enter text. |
| 1. **Has [name of abuser(s)] ever threatened to kill you or someone else and you believed them?** | |  |  |  | Click here to enter text. |
| 1. **Has [name of abuser(s)] ever attempted to strangle / choke / suffocate / drown you?** | |  |  |  | Click here to enter text. |
| 1. **Does [name of abuser(s)] do or say things of a sexual nature that make you feel bad or that physically hurt you or someone else?**   **If someone else, specify who.** | |  |  |  | Click here to enter text. |
| 1. **Is there any other person who has threatened you or who you are afraid of?**   If yes, please specify whom and why. Consider extended family if HBV. | |  |  |  | Click here to enter text. |
| 1. **Do you know if [name of abuser(s)] has hurt anyone else?**   Consider HBV. Please specify whom, including the children, siblings or elderly relatives: | |  |  |  | Click here to enter text. |
| 1. **Has [name of abuser(s)] ever mistreated an animal or the family pet?** | |  |  |  | Click here to enter text. |
| 1. Are there any financial issues?   *For example, are you dependent on [name of abuser(s)] for money/have they recently lost their job/other financial issues?* | |  |  |  | Click here to enter text. |
| 1. **Has [name of abuser(s)] had problems in the past year with drugs (prescription or other), alcohol or mental health leading to problems in leading a normal life?** | |  |  |  | Click here to enter text. |
| 1. **Has [name of abuser(s)] ever threatened or attempted suicide?** | |  |  |  | Click here to enter text. |
| 1. Has [name of abuser(s)] ever broken bail/an injunction and/or formal agreement for when they can see you and/or the children? | |  |  |  | Click here to enter text. |
| 1. Do you know if [name of abuser(s)] has ever been in trouble with the police or has a criminal history? | |  |  |  | Click here to enter text. |
| Consideration by professional | | | | | |
| Other relevant information which may impact upon risk grading applied. Consider the occupation / interests of suspect / offender and whether this may provide unique access to weapons, i.e., ex-military, police, pest control etc. |  | | | | |
| Is there any other relevant information (from victim or professional) which may increase risk levels? Consider victim’s situation in relation to disability, substance misuse, mental health issues, cultural / language barriers, ‘honour’- based systems, geographic isolation, and minimisation.  Are they willing to engage with your service? Describe. | Click here to enter text. | | | | |
| What are the victim’s greatest priorities to address their safety? | Click here to enter text. | | | | |

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| **CHILDREN** | |
| 1. What immediate risks are there to the children? | Click here to enter text. |
| 1. What are the on-going or cumulate risks to the children? | Click here to enter text. |
| 1. Has the child suffered any injury (If a pre-mobile baby, has unexplained injuries, seek advice & consider immediate safeguarding) | Click here to enter text. |
| 1. Was the child in the household or location at the time of the incident? | Click here to enter text. |
| 1. Has the child(ren) been taken into Police Protection? | Click here to enter text. |
| 1. Has the child been moved as a result of the most recent reported incident? If yes, specify location & details of carer(s) | Click here to enter text. |
| 1. Does the perpetrator or victim have any child(ren) who are currently cared for elsewhere than in the home address? Or care for any children outside of this family unit? If yes, please provide details of children | Click here to enter text. |

**Number of ticks -**

**Professional Judgement -**

**Number of indicators identified: -**

* **1-9:** Standard risk – current evidence does not indicate likelihood of serious harm however referral to specialist service required.
* **10-13:** Medium risk - There are identifiable indicators of risk of serious harm. The perpetrator has the potential to cause serious harm but is unlikely to do so unless there is a change in circumstances e.g., relationship breakdown, failure to take medication, drug/alcohol misuse.
* **14 and above:** High risk - There are identifiable indicators of risk of serious harm. The potential event could happen at any time and the impact would be serious.

**These are suggested risk levels only – other factors may increase risk level but will not reduce it. Remember to review regularly and following every incident / change in circumstances. Consider the number and frequency of high-risk factors and any escalation in behaviour.**

**If a case scores below 14 but professional judgement indicates serious concerns regarding a victim’s safety case should still, be referred to MARAC.**

Complete DASH Risk Identification Form

Professional Judgement – Can override scoring criteria – if you have significant concerns – follow high risk pathway

Score of 14+ - High Risk

Score of 10-13 – Medium Risk

Score of 1-9 – Standard Risk

Make referral to Harbour

[Home (myharbour.org.uk)](https://www.myharbour.org.uk/)

Remember to review risk, using DASH regularly and following every incident / change in circumstances.

If you feel that someone is in immediate danger telephone 999

Make referral to MARAC immediately

Remember – **separation does not increase safety**. DASH should be revisited regularly and always when a change of circumstance.

**Safeguarding is paramount** – if you are worried about the safety or a child or adult with care and support needs – always follow safeguarding procedure

Make referral to Harbour Support Services