Domestic abuse handbook and referral forms 2017
This booklet is intended to give basic information and an overview of domestic abuse support and services in North Somerset and is aimed at workers. For more information please visit www.endabuse.org.uk or contact one of the agencies listed directly.

For further copies, to amend details, or make additions to this booklet please contact the Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator
tel: 01934 426 343 or email: community@n-somerset.gov.uk

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Telephone and online support

Local Domestic Abuse FreeFone Service (DAFFS line)
Tel: 0800 694 9999

From 9am to 6pm on weekdays this number is answered by Gemini Services who provide local support. Callers can get advice and contact details for the best North Somerset service for anyone, male or female, affected by domestic abuse.

National Women’s Aid / Refuge Domestic Violence Helpline
Tel: 0808 2000 247 24 hours a day
Website: www.womensaid.org.uk

This helpline is for women affected by domestic abuse, although male victims have reported that the call handlers are helpful to them too. It is staffed by fully trained and experienced female helpline workers and volunteers. If there is a very high volume of calls there may be an answer phone but if callers leave their contact details someone will get back to them as soon as possible.

The Helpline is an emergency service and is not intended to offer general information on domestic violence. Helpline staff respond according to each caller’s needs and may for example:

- Refer women (with or without children) to emergency safe accommodation.
- Provide information about legal, housing or welfare rights and options and referral to relevant services and professions.
- Carry out online crisis and safety planning.
- Offer emotional support and (if appropriate) refer to counselling services.
- Refer women to face-to-face local support.
- Refer callers to the online Survivors Handbook or send them an information pack, with a range of help and information leaflets that are all available in different languages.

In addition to offering confidential support and information, Helpline staff are a source of practical help and information about housing rights and entitlements, information on getting injunctions or reassurance about calling the police.

This is not an excuse
Website: thisisnotanexcuse.org

An Avon and Somerset wide website which gives practical information and details of support services for anyone affected by domestic abuse or sexual abuse, including family and friends.

The Lighthouse
Tel: 101
Website: lighthousevictimcare.org

The website provides details of independent support available for victims of crime in all areas of Avon and Somerset. Staff act as the link with the Criminal Justice System for victims of domestic abuse crimes.

National Samaritans
Tel: 08457 90 90 90 24 hours a day
Website: www.samaritans.org

Samaritans provide confidential non-judgemental emotional support, 24 hours a day for anyone who is experiencing feelings of distress or despair. Relationship problems are amongst the most common reasons for calling.
Helplines with restricted hours

National MALE Men’s Advice Line
Tel: 0808 801 0327 and 0808 802 4040
Monday – Friday 10am–1pm and 2pm–5pm
Website: www.mensadviceline.org.uk
The Men’s Advice Line offers emotional support, practical advice and information on a wide range of services for men affected by domestic abuse.

If the lines are busy or outside of service hours, if callers leave a message with their name and a safe number MALE will call them back within two working days. People can also email on: info@mensadviceline.org.uk and they will reply within two working days. The website has a downloadable booklet with advice and guidance specifically for male victims.

National Broken Rainbow
Tel: 0300 999 5428
Monday and Thursdays 10am–8pm,
Tuesdays and Wednesdays 10am–5pm
Website: www.broken-rainbow.org.uk
This is a national helpline specifically for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people experiencing domestic abuse and violence.

Local Victim Support
Tel: 0808 1689 111 national support line
Website: www.victimsupport.org.uk
The Victim Care Unit offers confidential support and information to victims of domestic abuse.

The definition

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 or sexuality. This can encompass, but is not limited to, the following types of abuse:

- psychological
- financial
- physical
- emotional
- sexual

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.’’

This definition includes so called ‘honour’ based violence, female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage, and is clear that victims are not confined to one gender or ethnic group.

People may endure years of abuse before admitting it to anyone. Therefore, giving people the opportunity to talk about domestic abuse can be very important as it may be the only time that someone feels able to ask for help.

Asking about domestic abuse

- “opens the door” to considering options and reducing isolation, that s/he is not alone, and that there are people who can help
- indicates your willingness to discuss the issue when s/he’s ready
- shows how important you believe this subject to be
plants the seed that certain behaviours are abuse, and abuse is wrong shows that you care.

Professionals should never assume that someone else will be dealing with the domestic abuse – they may be the only person the victim has told about it.

**How to ask**
The person asking about domestic abuse needs to make it easy for the person to talk about their experiences; supporting and reassuring them, and to be non-judgemental.

Framing the question: (some examples of ways to introduce the subject):

- “because, unfortunately, domestic abuse is so common in our society, I have started asking all of my clients about it”.
- “I don’t know if this is a problem for you, but many of the people I see are dealing with abusive relationships. Some are too afraid or uncomfortable to bring it up themselves, so I’ve started asking about it routinely”.
- “domestic abuse affects many families. Abuse in the home may result in physical and emotional problems for you and your child. We are offering services to anyone who may be concerned about domestic abuse in their home”.

**Asking the question:**
Victims are usually afraid or uncomfortable to raise the issue themselves, so people must ask sensitively, but preferably directly:

- “Can you tell me what’s been happening?”
- “You seem upset, is everything alright at home?”
- “It sounds to me as though something frightening has been happening to you. Have you ever been threatened or hurt by your partner?”
- “Does your partner or ex-partner ever make you feel afraid?”

“Do you every feel afraid to make a particular decision or to do certain things because of what your partner might do or say to you or to the children?”

“Has your partner ever threatened to harm the children or to take them away from you?”

**What if the answer is yes?**

The worker’s ability to respond to someone reporting domestic abuse will depend upon their role, relationship with the person reporting it and their experience and knowledge of the issue. Professionals should refer to their own agency’s procedures and policies on this issue or talk to their manager and respond accordingly. Living with domestic abuse is a cause of significant harm to children. If the person reporting domestic abuse has children then the worker must follow their agency’s Child Protection policy.

In many cases a referral to a specialist agency may be most helpful. A list of local domestic abuse specialist agencies follows. It may be most appropriate to give someone reporting domestic abuse details of these agencies or to contact the agency directly concerning the case. Any of the local agencies listed will be happy to give advice to anyone trying to support someone living with domestic abuse.

This booklet is freely available and so can be given to someone experiencing domestic abuse. Further copies and a range of leaflets are available from community@n-somerset.gov.uk tel 01934 426 343 or by visiting www.endabuse.org.uk.

In high risk cases please refer to the next chapter.
Screening for abusers

Men may find it particularly difficult to admit that they are experiencing domestic abuse and to ask for help. Unfortunately many male perpetrators claim to be victims at some time and agencies need to be aware of this. However, this does not in any way imply that many men do not suffer from domestic abuse. The following screening questions may help with the process of identifying genuine victims in order to help them:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Genuine survivor of abuse</th>
<th>Predominant abuser</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fearful of their partner</td>
<td>Does not express or demonstrate fear of partner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fearful of the abuse</td>
<td>Does not express or demonstrate fear of the abuse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confused about what’s happening</td>
<td>Presents themselves confidently</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has tried to leave (unsuccessfully) or tried to repair the relationship</td>
<td>Partner has recently left or is in the process of leaving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feels empathy for their partner’s current problems or childhood experiences</td>
<td>Little or no empathy with partner. Focussing solely on themselves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimises the severity of the abuse but is able to provide details in a chronological order, given time</td>
<td>Is good at focussing on one incident but is vague about incidents or events when you enquire further</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feels ashamed of the abuse and of being a victim</td>
<td>Assertively claims the victim status and does not find fault in themselves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feels guilt or remorse for having retaliated</td>
<td>Feels aggrieved and in the right</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excuses the actions or expectations of their partner and carries the responsibility for the problems in the relationship</td>
<td>Blames their partner for the abuse, presenting them, for example, as an unreasonable or unstable character</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worries about how it is affecting the children</td>
<td>Doesn’t consider the children’s experiences or feelings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feels a sense of obligation to protect the abusive partner</td>
<td>Negative or unreasonable attitudes or statements about their partner</td>
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</table>

The MALE helpline has expertise in screening for domestic abuse and offers advice and support for male victims. Its number is **0808 801 0327** (Mon–Fri 10am–1pm and 2pm–5pm). Further information on screening for domestic abuse perpetrators may be found at [www.mensadviceline.org.uk/pages/toolkit.html](http://www.mensadviceline.org.uk/pages/toolkit.html).
Responding to domestic abuse – flowchart

**What to do if an adult discloses domestic abuse**

If an adult discloses domestic abuse, follow these steps:

**They are in danger of immediate harm**
- **Tell them to call the Police**
  - If they agree, go to next step.
  - If they refuse, ask if there is a child or vulnerable person affected.
  - **If there is a child or vulnerable person affected:**
    - Ask if there is immediate risk of harm to the child or vulnerable.
      - **Yes:** Call the Police 999 in an emergency or 101 to talk to the police.
      - **No:** DASH risk assess.
  - **If there is no immediate risk:**
    - DASH risk assess.

**They refuse to call the Police**
- **Call the Police 999 in an emergency or 101 to talk to the police**
  - For Gemini, MARAC referral and DASH risk assessment forms see appendices 1–3 or call DAFFS 0800 69 49 999

**They are not in danger of immediate harm**
- **DASH risk assess**
  - Ask if they are vulnerable or if there is a child in the household.
    - **Yes:** Call Care Connect 01275 888 801 and Advise them of the information in the DASH form.
    - **No:** DASH risk assess.

**If DASH finds:**
- **HIGH RISK** – make IDVA and MARAC referrals
- **LOW to MEDIUM risk** – refer to Gemini services (see page 10) or call DAFFS 0800 69 49 999

For further information on processes, copies of forms and to arrange domestic abuse training contact the **Community Safety and Drug Action Team community@n-somerset.gov.uk 01934 426 752**

**Always refer to your agency’s own safeguarding procedures.**

For information on how to make MARAC and IDVA referrals visit [www.endabuse.org.uk](http://www.endabuse.org.uk) (click on “information for professionals supporting people suffering domestic abuse”). If you do not feel confident in completing a DASH risk assessment contact the DAFFs line for advice.

**DAFFS (Domestic Abuse FreeFone) 0800 69 49 999** 9am to 6pm on weekdays for advice on supporting someone experiencing domestic abuse.

**Care Connect 01275 888 801** for all social care enquiries in North Somerset including safeguarding vulnerable adults and children. From 8am–6pm on weekdays.

For Gemini, MARAC referral and DASH risk assessment forms see appendices 1–3 or call **DAFFS 0800 69 49 999**

**Domestic abuse support in North Somerset** 7
The long term impact of any domestic abuse can be devastating and families who are affected by it may need support. If you work for an agency which has domestic abuse and/or safeguarding procedures you should follow these.

If you do not feel confident in supporting someone affected by domestic abuse you could:

- Contact the DAFFS line yourself (as below) for advice
- Give the person the DAFFS line number so they can speak to a specialist worker themselves.

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If you are concerned about the welfare of a child or vulnerable adult you should follow your Safeguarding procedures and/or contact Care Connect 01934 888 801 Mon – Fri 8am–6pm. Outside these hours please call 01454 615 165

If you are in a position to offer more support you should:

- Identify the type and level of risk using the DASH Risk Identification Checklist (this is at Appendix 3). This is important as over 100 people die in England and Wales every year due to domestic abuse.
- If the situation is identified as high risk either through actual risk (14 yes responses within the DASH RIC), escalation or professional judgement you should consider making a referral to MARAC and to the IDVA service (see next section)
- If the situation is medium risk refer to the Gemini Service see page 10 and Appendix 1 for referral form
- If the situation is low risk and/or the abuse is historic you could:
  - Provide direct support. Contact DAFFs (as above) or North Somerset’s Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator on 01934 426 343 or visit www.endabuse.org.uk for advice.
  - Give the person the DAFFS line number so they can seek support directly. Contact the Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator for a range of leaflets.

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**Risk Assessment**

In order to identify and assess the level of risk in domestic abuse cases CAADA has developed the Domestic Abuse, Stalking, Harassment and ‘Honour’-Based Violence Risk Identification Checklist (DASH RIC) form. This checklist should be used whenever domestic abuse is disclosed and is a basis for all referral to domestic abuse support services. See Appendix 3 for a DASH form or visit www.caada.org.uk for a downloadable copy or by contacting the Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator on 01934 426 343 or the MARAC Co-ordinator on 01935 402 203

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**Support for high risk victims**

- **Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)**

MARAC is a multi agency meeting (currently held once every month) to facilitate information sharing regarding the safety, health and wellbeing of people experiencing “high risk” domestic abuse. The aim of the meeting is to reduce the risk of further abuse to the individual concerned (and their children) through safety action planning. The service user is usually represented by the IDVA or other agency representatives with whom they have had contact.

Referrals are only accepted for MARAC via the appropriate referral form and should be accompanied by a DASH – referrals are then sent via secure means to your agency’s MARAC representative (see MARAC Operating Protocol). If you are unaware of your agency MARAC representative or if your agency has not signed up to the MARAC Information Sharing protocol and therefore is not represented at MARAC you should contact the MARAC Co-ordinator on 01278 644 772 SouthernMARAC@avonandsomerset.pnn.police.uk or the Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator at community@n-somerset.gov.uk 01934 426 343 for advice.
Training on MARACs and identifying risk is available and can be accessed by visiting http://nsomersetcpd.webbased.co.uk/

For a DASH Risk Identification Checklist form see Appendix 3, or contact the MARAC Co-ordinator on 101 and ask for the Southern Safeguarding Co-ordination Unit (SCU)

Independent Domestic Violence Adviser (IDVA) Service

North Somerset IDVA service provides intensive support to people experiencing domestic abuse / violence who are at high risk of harm; their aim is to reduce risk. They provide practical and emotional support to service users and act as their voice with other agencies.

Self referrals are generally not accepted and referrals should come from agencies that have completed a DASH Risk Identification Checklist and IDVA referral form. (If referring to MARAC there is no need to complete an additional IDVA referral form). For the forms – see Appendices 1–3, visit www.endabuse.org.uk or contact community@n-somerset.gov.uk 01934 426343

Referrals should be sent via secure email to northsomerset.idva@chapter1.cjsm.net

If someone experiencing domestic abuse thinks that they need the IDVA service they should, in the first instance, contact DAFSS, Victim Support or their social worker, police officer, health visitor or other professional and talk to them about this.

So called ‘honour’ based violence


The national Forced Marriage Unit offers confidential advice and assistance to:

- those who have been forced into marriage
- those at risk of being forced into marriage
- people worried about friends or relatives
- professionals working with actual or potential victims of forced marriage.

In North Somerset the MARACs panel and North Somerset Safeguarding Boards have developed an interagency protocol for responding to “honour” based violence. For a copy of the protocol contact Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator tel: 01934 426 343 or email: community@n-somerset.gov.uk

Most “honour” based violence cases are high risk and so an IDVA referral may be most appropriate – see previous section for details. Also, Gemini Services tel: 08700 664 234 can offer local support around this issue.
New Beginnings
Drop In

Any women who have been affected by Domestic Abuse are very welcome.

For more information contact DAFFS 0800 69 49 999

- Drop In for coffee and friendly Chit-Chat.
- Free Raffle.
- Gemini staff available for guidance and advice.
- Gain information on services available in North Somerset.
- Child Care costs available if needed.
- Guest speaker once a month on topics that may be of interest to you.
Specialist domestic abuse services in North Somerset for medium or low risk cases

Gemini Services provides specialist, dedicated domestic abuse support in North Somerset.

Gemini Services
Gemini Services provides safe, emergency accommodation and floating support in North Somerset to women, men and children (up to the age of 16) fleeing domestic abuse. People can self refer to Gemini or can be referred by another agency.

Referrals for refuge accommodation will be taken through the referral hub – 08700 664 233

Referrals for floating support should be made using a referral form (Appendix 1 or available at www.endabuse.org.uk under information for professionals or contact 08700 664 234 for one to be emailed). The form should be sent via secure email to. DAFSReferrals@chapter1.org.uk.cjsm.net

Self referrals should be directed to the referral hub number or the DAFFS helpline – 0800 694 9999

See previous section for information on dealing with high risk cases and making referrals to IDVAs and MARAC.

Non public enquiries
For advice or to talk to one of the team about a client. Please use this number rather than the referral line for any other enquiries. 08700 664 234

Alliance Homes Domestic Abuse Courses
Contact DAFFS 0800 694 9999
Key to Change and Breaking the Chains are courses available from Alliance Living for people who are suffering or are recovering from domestic abuse. They will help participants break the patterns of behaviour which may lead them to returning to an abusive partner or entering into another abusive relationship and help change negative life-long patterns.

Reclaim Project (formerly the Women’s Project)
Tel: 0791 944 0233 (answer machine)
Reclaim Project offers free counselling to any adult in North Somerset who has been affected by domestic abuse.

Victim Support
Tel: 0845 45 66 099 or 0845 30 30 900
8am–8pm Monday to Friday
www.victimsupport.org.uk
The Victim Support victim care unit offers confidential support and information to victims of any crime, including domestic abuse and also to witnesses attending court. On-going support in the community is also offered to anyone who requires it. Some volunteers have received specialist domestic abuse training and have considerable experience in supporting men and women affected by domestic abuse.

The Mankind Initiative Tel: 01823 334 244
10am–4pm and 7pm–9pm Monday to Friday
www.mankind.org.uk
This helpline gives emotional and practical support to any man affected by domestic abuse or anyone supporting him.

Standing Together, North Somerset
Tel: 01934 426 343
This group works to provide limited funding support to anyone with difficulties in accessing domestic abuse support in North Somerset due to an equalities issue. This may be due to:

- No recourse to public funds
- Age
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Marriage and civil partnership
- Pregnancy and maternity
Race
Religion and belief
Sex
Sexual orientation
People trafficking
Another equalities issue agreed by the committee on a case by case basis

Self referrals are not generally accepted so anyone wishing to apply should contact Gemini Services or one of the other local support services to discuss.

Services led by domestic abuse survivors

GEMMA Tel: 07771 548 359
Gemma is a group of survivors who support North Somerset’s Gemini refuge. It provides welcome packs for new residents, furniture for people, moving out and a newsletter. To join the group or to make a donation contact the number above.

Support for children affected by domestic abuse

The Adoption and Children Act 2002 makes it clear that children suffer harm when seeing or hearing the ill treatment of another, particularly in the home. This does not mean that all families experiencing domestic abuse require Children’s Social Care intervention but that all agencies need to work together to risk assess and respond to domestic abuse.

The North Somerset interagency protocol and practice guidance – Safeguarding Children and Young People Affected by Domestic Abuse sets out the responses which agencies will make to domestic abuse and gives good practice guidance. Anyone working with children and young people who may be affected by domestic abuse should obtain a copy of the guidance by contacting the Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator tel: 01934 426 343 or email: community@n-somerset.gov.uk.

Safeguarding Children

If anyone is concerned that a child is at immediate risk of harm from domestic abuse they should call the police on 999 or contact:

Children’s Social Care (Child Protection)
Tel: 01275 888 808 Child Protection Team
(Monday to Thursday 8.45am–5pm and Friday from 8.45am–4.30pm.
(Outside these hours Tel: 01454 615165)
www.northsomersetlscb.org.uk for local procedures.

Information for Parents and Carers

If anyone is worried about how domestic abuse is affecting their children they are advised to:

- Seek support and help as soon as possible – the Family Information Service can give advice on local supportive agencies. Phone them on 01934 426 300
- Look at the survivors’ handbook on the Women’s Aid website which includes a section on supporting children www.thehideout.org.uk. If someone does not have internet access the Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator can provide a hard copy of the survivors’ handbook Tel: 01934 426 343
- Report their concerns about their family or someone else to the police
- Talk to their children about what is happening and encourage them to visit the Hideout website www.thehideout.org.uk which has information and support for children and young people
- Parents need to know that children need time to talk about the feelings they have about violence. They need to know that it is not their fault and that this is not the way it should be.
- Parents can take part in My Kids and Me – a course which explores parenting after domestic abuse. Contact the DAFFS line for details

12 DAFFS 0800 694 9999
Many agencies in North Somerset offer support for children including those who have been affected by domestic abuse, the Family Information Service Tel: 01934 426 300, www.n-somersetcsd.org.uk can give details. In addition, the following services have some specialisation in domestic abuse support:

Gemini Services
Tel: 0870 066 4233

A Children’s Worker is funded to work with families who are accommodated through Gemini. She offers 1 to 1 support to each child and parenting advice to parents helping them recognise and develop strategies to minimise the effects that living with domestic abuse may have had. She provides activities, outings and play sessions for Gemini families which is made possible by accessing further grant funding or charitable donations. She is involved in delivering multi agency training and has delivered My Kids and Me and the FAST programme recently delivered in a local primary school.

Her work also involves joint working with schools to ensure children settle into new placements, she continues to support schools, children and their parents to address any ongoing concerns or issues. She is also able to work jointly with Social Care and Health Services to address any Safeguarding concerns.

There is a minimal capacity to continue to work with families who move on from Gemini accommodation but the aim is to do this where the need arises. The Children’s Worker will support families to access local groups, children’s centres and children’s support services to ensure that families receive continued support when moving on.

Support for vulnerable adults affected by domestic abuse

The definition of a vulnerable adult is someone aged 18 or over, who depends on others for care and who may be less able to protect themselves from being abused than the general population. When a vulnerable adult experiences domestic abuse it is important that the response is sensitive and supportive and that agencies work together to ensure the best response for the individual.

If there are concerns that someone is being abused or may be at risk of abuse contact:

Care Connect
Tel: 01934 888 801 or 01275 888 801
Monday – Friday, 8am-6pm.
Outside of these hours Tel: 01454 615 165

There is a section on links with schools in the Co-ordinated work to respond to domestic abuse section.
Co-ordinated work to respond to domestic abuse in North Somerset

For details of the work of the North Somerset Domestic Abuse Strategy Group (DASG) contact:

Community Safety and Drug Action Team
Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator
Email: community@n-somerset.gov.uk
Tel: 01934 426 343
website: www.endabuse.org.uk

Training by the DASG:

The DASG facilitates a rolling programme of training sessions which cover:

- Domestic Abuse Awareness
- Understand definitions of domestic abuse
- Consider the cycle of abuse and why women stay
- Understand the experience from the point of view of a survivor
- Become familiar with police role and responses
- Become aware of local resources and support available
- Raise awareness of the MARAC and its objectives
- Increase understanding of the MARACs process and how to make a referral
- Increase understanding of risk assessment and give practical examples of using the CAADA DASH risk assessment
- Explore options for responses to domestic abuse cases
- Safety planning

Inter Agency Child Protection, Domestic Abuse is part of North Somerset Safeguarding Children Board’s (NSSCB) Inter Agency Training programme, and is designed for practitioners from all agencies who have a responsibility for Child Protection. Participants’ role should include work with families and children affected by domestic abuse.

For further information or to book a place on any of the above courses visit the CPD online website http://nsomersetcpd.webbased.co.uk/ and search on domestic abuse for details and dates of these and all current courses.

Alternatively contact the Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator Tel: 01934 426 343 or email: community@n-somerset.gov.uk

Links with Schools:

North Somerset Council has produced guidance for schools, youth workers and day care providers, including childminders, day nurseries, pre schools and children’s centres in supporting children affected by domestic abuse – Guidelines for Those Working with Children and Young People in North Somerset. For the latest information visit the website or contact the Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator – details below.

In addition, the DASG is keen to work with schools to explore healthy relationships with all children and has produced guidance on this – Domestic Abuse – a Guide to Supporting Preventative Work with Young People. The group has helped plan and facilitate sessions in various schools and has a library of resources for use by schools.

Parenting after domestic abuse

The DASG has developed a group work programme My Kids and Me which helps mothers to improve their relationships with their children and increase their confidence in their parenting abilities following domestic abuse. The course is administrated by Alliance Homes and referrals should be made via the DAFFS line 0800 694 9999
In addition the DASG has:

- Further information on support services
- Downloadable documents including the IDVA and MARAC referral forms and DASH risk assessment form
- Leaflets to give to service users

For further details of all of the above or to become involved in domestic abuse work in North Somerset contact the Domestic Abuse Co-ordinator – details at the start of this section, or visit www.endabuse.org.uk

### Contact details for other support in North Somerset

The following agencies provide support which may be required by someone experiencing domestic abuse. However, they do not specialise purely in domestic abuse support provision.

**Alcohol and Substance**

**Addaction**
Tel: 01934 427 940

**Battle Against Tranquilisers**
Tel: 08448 269 317

**Benefits**

**North Somerset Jobcentre Plus Offices:**
Weston-super-Mare Jobcentre Plus
Regent House
High Street
Weston-super-Mare BS23 1JH
Tel: 0845 604 3719
textphone 0845 608 8551

Clevedon Jobcentre Plus
28 Old Street
Clevedon BS21 6DF
Tel: 0845 604 3719
textphone 0845 608 8551

**National Job Centre Plus Advice and Claim line**
Tel: 0800 055 6688 Textphone: 0800 023 4888
8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday
For advice and to claim benefits for those who: are on a low income, have dependent children, are ill, disabled, a carer, over 60, bereaved or pregnant who may be entitled to some benefits

**Housing Benefits and Council Tax**
Tel: 01934 888 8800
www.northsomerset.gov.uk
(search under B for Benefits)
For advice and to make a claim for housing benefits and council tax benefit

**Citizens Advice North Somerset (CANS)**
Tel: 08444 111 444 or 0300 3300 650
Monday to Friday 10am to 2pm
www.northsomersetcabs.org
Badger Centre
3–6 Wadham Street
Weston-super-Mare BS23 1JY
Support and advice on claiming benefits as well as debt and money problems and legal matters

**Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) support**

**Refugee Action South West**
Tel: 0800 917 2719
Mon, Thurs & Fri 10am to 12.30pm and 2pm to 4.30pm
www.refugee-action.org.uk/bristol

**BME network**
Tel: 01934 414 455
12 Orchard Place
Weston-super-Mare BS23 1QP
The BME network can provide support for people from all ethnic backgrounds. It has over 500 members from 52 different countries and has groups in Weston-super-Mare, Nailsea, Clevedon and Portishead.
Children

The Family Information Service
Tel 01934 426 300
Website: www.n-somerset.gov.uk/Education/Parents+and+carers/Childcare+and+childminders

The Family Information Service can provide information on local services for families, including childcare, early education, activities, parenting and family support.

The information is available on the North Somerset Online Directory www.n-somerset.gov.uk/nsod or call 01934 426 300.

Children with complex needs
Contact Care Connect for information on support for children with additional needs.
01275 888 801

Counselling

Positive Step
positivestep.org.uk
Contact your GP if you feel you would benefit from a referral to an agency which can help you cope with low mood or other mental health issues

Wellspring Counselling
Tel: 01275 810 879

The Reclaim Project
Tel: 07919 440 233
The Reclaim Project offers free counselling to all survivors of domestic abuse in North Somerset
counselling-directory.org.uk

For contact details of private therapists and counsellors in the UK

Disability support

DIAL (Disablement Information Advice Line)
Tel: 01934 419 426
West of England for Inclusive Living (WECIL Ltd
Tel: 0117 947 9911
www.wecil.co.uk minicom:0117 377 1013

Health

Hospitals
- Bristol Royal Infirmary (BRI)
  Tel: 0117 9230 000
- Clevedon Hospital
  Tel: 01275 872212
- Weston General Hospital
  Tel: 01934 636363

Stand Against Racism and Inequality (SARI)
Tel: 0800 171 2272
To provide support for any victim of hate crime, including racist, faith-based, disablist, homophobic, transphobic, age-based or gender-based.
Housing
North Somerset Council HomeChoice and Housing Advice Team
Tel: 01934 426 330
For housing advice, homelessness applications and to join the HomeChoice register
Out of Hours emergency housing (evenings and weekends) Tel: 01934 622 669

Shelter
Tel: 0808 800 4444
For independent housing advice

Safeguarding
If you want to find a refuge ANYWHERE ring the Women’s Aid 24-Hour Domestic Violence Helpline
0808 2000 247

Pets
RSPCA Pet retreat Tel: 0300 123 8278

Legal advice (see also solicitors section)
Citizens Advice North Somerset
Tel: 03444 111 444
9.45am–1pm Monday to Friday
online advice citizensadvice.org.uk
For provision of free advice in North Somerset.

Sexual Abuse
www.survivorpathway.org.uk
A guide for anyone wanting to find support around sexual abuse

The Bridge
Tel: 0117 342 6999
www.thebridgecanhelp.org
24 hours for forensic medical service, other services are 9am–5pm

The Bridge supports anyone (men, women and young people) in Avon and Somerset who has been raped or sexually assaulted. Experienced professionals provide:
- Sexual health information and referral services;

Information about reporting to the police and judicial processes;
- Forensic medical facilities;
- Counselling;
- Post-sexual assault follow-up care;
- Support through the criminal justice system;
- Practical support and referrals to other community services;
- Consultation services to other professionals

Somerset and Avon Rape and Sexual Abuse Support (SARSAS)
Tel: 0808 801 0456 for women.
0808 801 0464 for men and boys
www.sarsas.org.uk
Mon and Fri 11am–2pm
Tues, Weds, Thurs 6pm–8:30pm
(Male helpline Mon and Tues only)
Email support@sarsas.org.uk for confidential advice

SARSAS is a confidential specialist support service for girls and women who have experienced rape or sexual abuse at any time in their lives. Includes structured support by a trained volunteer, counselling, helpline and email support.

LGBT support
Bristol Lesbian and Gay Switchboard (BLAGS)
Tel: 0117 922 1328 10am to 11pm 7 days a week
National Helpline
Tel: 0300 999 5428

Mental health
Mental Health Team
Under 65 years old Tel: 01934 523 600
Over 65 years old Tel: 01275 335 300

1in4
Tel: 01934 622 292 Weston-super-Mare
Tel: 01275 342 368 Clevedon
This national helpline offers advice and information to people who are worried that they are abusive to their partners and who wish to change.

**Solicitors**
The following solicitors have indicated that they provide legal advice around family law and domestic abuse. Non-inclusion of a solicitor does not mean that they do not provide advice on this issue. Find a Legal Aid Solicitor at find-legal-advice.justice.gov.uk or ask solicitors for advice on what their charges may be. Many offer free or reduced advice in the first instance.

**Solicitors in Weston-super-Mare**
- **Berry Redmond, Gordon and Penny**
  Tel: 01934 414 161
- **John Hodge and Co**
  Tel: 01934 425 999
- **Powells**
  Tel: 01934 623 501
- **Wards**
  Tel: 01934 413 535 (Boulevard) or Tel: 01934 428 811 (Worle)

**Solicitors in Clevedon**
- **John Hodge**
  Tel: 01275 879 292
- **Wards**
  Tel: 01275 850 470

**Solicitors in Congresbury**
- **Laurence Holmes**
  Tel: 01934 838 445

**Solicitors in Nailsea**
- **Star Legal**
  Tel: 01275 858 266
- **Wards**
  Tel: 01275 858515

**Solicitors in Portishead**
- **Burroughs Day**
  Tel: 01275 843 213
- **David Playford & Co**
  Tel: 01275 840 111 (Office hours)
  24hr Tel Emergency No: 07802 822 682
- **Wards**
  Tel: 01275 850 460

**Solicitors in Winscombe**
- **Berry Redmond, Gordon and Penny**
  Tel: 01934 842 811

**Solicitors in Yatton**
- **John Hodge**
  Tel: 01934 833 208
Referral forms to specialist support.

Where ever possible please complete and submit electronically.

Forms can be obtained from community@n-somerset.gov.uk
The following referral forms are intended to be completed online and emailed securely to the relevant agency as follows:

1. Gemini Services Outreach form – email securely to DAFSReferrals@chapter1.org.uk.cjsm.net

2. MARAC and IDVA referral form – email securely to your MARAC representative (who will email to SouthernMARAC@avonandsomerset.pnn.police.uk)

   If you do not know your MARAC rep contact 01935 402 203 or community@n-somerset.gov.uk for advice

3. DASH risk assessment form – to be emailed securely with above referral forms – Gemini services outreach, IDVA and MARAC

Further details can be found at www.n-somerset.gov.uk/da and forms can be obtained from community@n-somerset.gov.uk
# Appendix 1

**GEMINI SERVICES OUTREACH FORM**

**PLEASE COMPLETE ELECTRONICALLY**

For Gemini staff use
Accepted: Y / N

If no reason –

If yes date of first appointment –

## GEMINI OUTREACH REFERRAL FORM

Interpreter required [ ]

### SECTION 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Details of referring agency</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name of referrer:</td>
<td>Date:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Job Title</td>
<td>Relationship to client</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agency:</td>
<td>Tel:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Name of staff taking referral details:

Client aware of referral?  
YES / NO  
If no give reason:

CAADA DASH RA completed Y/N  
RA Score .....................
# Gemini Services Referral Form

## Client Details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name:</th>
<th>Male / Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Safe contact details: (phone, mobile, text, e-mail, letter, other)</td>
<td>Safe Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age:</td>
<td>Date of Birth:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marital status:</td>
<td>Nationality:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current address:</td>
<td>Temporary address (if applicable):</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Post code: | Post code: |
| Time at address: | Time at address: |
| Is it unsafe to remain in current address? | Any areas that you consider to be unsafe: |

**YES / NO**
**Give details:**

| Name of Current Local Authority: | Immigration status: |

## Brief Description of Domestic Abuse and any previous Refuge / Safe House / DA Support

Continue overleaf if necessary

## Type of Current Accommodation (please circle)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Temporary</th>
<th>Parental Home</th>
<th>Refuge / Safe House</th>
<th>Home Owner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Housing Association or Local Authority</td>
<td>Private Rented</td>
<td>B&amp;B</td>
<td>Other (please state)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Type of tenure held, joint / single – by whom? |

---

Gemini Services Referral form complete and email to **DAFSReferrals@chapter1.org.uk**

for an emailable form visit **www.endabuse.org.uk**

---

for an emailable form contact community@n-somerset.gov.uk
Employment / Economic Status:
- Job Seekers Allowance
- Income Support
- Employment Support Allowance / Incapacity
- Disability Allowance
- Sick Pay (statutory / company)
- Other benefits

Are any of the above joint claims?

Give Details

Funding arrangements – recourse to public funds?

National Insurance no.: if known

Total income (weekly / fortnightly / monthly):

Any additional income (savings, settlement, pension, winnings, maintenance):

Names of children: |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Do they live with you?</th>
<th>Age:</th>
<th>D.O.B.</th>
<th>M/F</th>
<th>Relationship to perpetrator</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Name of others living with you |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age:</th>
<th>D.O.B.</th>
<th>M/F</th>
<th>Relationship to you</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Are you or anyone living with you pregnant?

Yes / No

Who: Expected date:

Support Needs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If yes record more information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Do you need support for drug issues?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes / No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Question</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you need support for alcohol issues?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you need support for a mental health illness?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you need support regarding self harming?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you need support for suicidal thoughts / intentions?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you need support relating to criminal activity?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you need support in relation to you being violent?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Do you have a **[criminal history]**?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Violence</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arson</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offences against children / Sex offenders register</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-Social Behaviour</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary/Theft</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please state)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Details:

If you have received a caution, conviction or court hearing for any of the above, please give details:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Other agencies / professionals / support? (Continue overleaf if more space is needed)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Job Title:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name:</th>
<th>Tel No:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Job Title:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Do we have your consent to talk about your support by contacting the above persons?
Yes / No (please circle)

- Cultural Needs

### Additional Support Needs

- [ ] Rent Arrears
- [ ] Debt / Finance / Budgeting
- [ ] Form filling / paperwork
- [ ] Mobility (Wheelchair access / stairs)
- [ ] Other

Details:
# Perpetrator Information:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name:</th>
<th>Male / Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Address / location if known</td>
<td>DOB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relationship to Client</td>
<td>Relationship to others in household</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Relevant info (lifestyle, behaviours, access to car etc)

Additional risks (weapons, drugs, alcohol, history of offences)

---

**YOU MUST COMPLETE AND APPEND A DASH RICK INDICATOR CHECKLIST (APPENDIX 3)**

**YOU CAN RETURN THE COMPLETED FORM AND DASH RIC TO:**

DAFSReferrals@chapter1.org.uk.cjsm.net for an emailable form visit www.endabuse.org.uk
DIVERSITY MONITORING FORM

CHAPTER 1 VALUES THE DIVERSITY WHICH EACH SERVICE USER BRINGS. OUR AIM IS TO TREAT ALL PERSONS WITH DIGNITY AND RESPECT IN AN ENVIRONMENT FREE FROM UNLAWFUL DISCRIMINATION.

To help us ensure that we are not inadvertently discriminating against those who apply to access our services, we ask you to help us monitor this by supplying the information below.

The information collected here will be used solely for internal monitoring purposes. We will not use this information to decide whether to offer you a service.

**Ethnicity**

Ethnicity is how a person describes their heritage, in terms such as common ancestry or culture. Please tick the box that describes your ethnic group.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>White</th>
<th>Black/Black British/African/Caribbean</th>
<th>Caribbean</th>
<th>African</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>British/English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irish</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gypsy, Romany or Irish Traveller.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please state)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mixed</th>
<th>Arab or Middle Eastern</th>
<th>Arab</th>
<th>North African</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White &amp; Black Caribbean</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White &amp; Black African</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White &amp; Asian</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please state)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Asian or Asian British</th>
<th>Other group</th>
<th>Other (please state)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indian</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistani</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangladeshi</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (please state)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prefer not to say</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Pregnancy and Maternity**

As well as being protected against sex discrimination, women who are pregnant or have recently given birth are granted additional protection under the Equality Act 2010.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Are you pregnant?</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Prefer not to say</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Have you recently given birth (within the last six months)?</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Prefer not to say</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
**Nationality**

Nationality describes which nation a person belongs to, usually the nation of their birth.

What is your nationality?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Option</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UK National resident in the UK</td>
<td>European Economic Area country* (please state)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK National returning from overseas</td>
<td>Any other country (please state)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prefer not to say</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*European Economic Area countries are Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Republic of Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

**Gender and Gender Identity**

Gender identity describes the gender a person self-identifies as. This is not necessarily the same as the gender they were assigned at birth.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Option</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Would you describe yourself as</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other (please state)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prefer not to say</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Option</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Is your gender identity the same as the one assigned to you at birth?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prefer not to say</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sexual Orientation**

Sexual orientation describes the gender(s) a person feels an emotional, romantic and/or sexual attraction towards.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Option</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What is your sexual orientation?</td>
<td>Bisexual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gay Man</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gay Women / Lesbian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Heterosexual / Straight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Questioning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other (please state)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prefer not to say</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

for an emailable form contact community@n-somerset.gov.uk
Disability and Long-Term Health Conditions

Many people who may not consider themselves to have a disability may still be protected by the Equality Act 2010.

- Do you have a physical or mental impairment or long-term health condition?
- Is it expected to last, or has it lasted, a year or longer?
- Does this make it difficult for you to do things that most people do fairly regularly and frequently?

If so, you may be included under the act (with a few exceptions, such as sight problems which can be corrected with glasses or contact lenses).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Do you consider yourself to have a disability or long-term health condition?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes ..............................................................................................................</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No ..........................................................................................................</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prefer not to say ....................................................................................</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you answered “Yes”, please tick the box(es) that describe your condition.

| Mobility ................................................................................................. |
| Visual Impairment .................................................................................. |
| Hearing impairment ............................................................................... |
| Progressive Disability or Chronic Illness (e.g., MS, Cancer) ................. |
| Prefer not to say .................................................................................... |
| Mental Health ......................................................................................... |
| Learning Disability ............................................................................... |
| Autistic Spectrum Condition ................................................................ |
| Speech impediment ............................................................................... |
| Other (please state) ............................................................................... |

Age

Please record your date of birth:

Date of birth (dd/mm/yyyy): ........................................................................ |
| Prefer not to say .................................................................................... |

Religion and Belief

The Equality Act 2010 protects the rights of a person to hold religious beliefs or other philosophical beliefs, or not to hold such beliefs.

Please tick the box that best describes you:

| Buddhist ............................................................................................... |
| Christian .............................................................................................. |
| Hindu .................................................................................................. |
| Jewish ................................................................................................. |
| Muslim ................................................................................................. |
| Sikh .................................................................................................... |
| Other religion or belief (please state) .................................................. |
| None .................................................................................................... |
| Prefer not to say .................................................................................. |

Partnership Status

Please indicate your current partnership status:

| Married / Civil Partnership .................................................................. |
| Never married / never in a civil partnership ....................................... |
| Separated, but still in a legal partnership ............................................ |
| Widowed (or surviving partner of a civil partnership) ......................... |
| Divorced (or civil partnership dissolved) ............................................. |
| Other (please state) ............................................................................. |
Appendix 2  RESTRICTED WHEN COMPLETE

SOMERSET
(including Somerset East, West, and the Unitary Authority of North Somerset)

Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference and IDVA Referral Form

Date of Referral:

Has victim previously been at the MARAC?  □ YES  □ NO

If YES date of last MARAC:

To be referred to the MARAC for (indicate which area)

□ MENDIP  □ NORTH SOMERSET  □ SEDGEMOOR
□ SOUTH SOMERSET  □ TAUNTON DEANE  □ WEST SOMERSET

VICTIM

Name/Alias:

DOB:

Address: If victim is at temporary address or has moved in the last 12 months please include both current and previous addresses

Ethnic Origin and/or religion: Please highlight any possible language/religious or similar barriers

ETHNIC ORIGIN

White British - White Irish - Any other white background

White & Black Caribbean - White & Black African - White & Asian - Any other mixed background

Indian – Pakistani – Bangladeshi - Any other Asian background – Caribbean – African - Any other other black background

Chinese - Any other ethnic group

Disability: As defined by the Disability Discrimination Act – someone who has a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities

Preferred method of contact (select a minimum of one option)

□ mobile  □ landline  □ text  □ letter  □ email  □ third party (eg care worker etc)
RESTRICTED WHEN COMPLETE

Contact details:
Specify days/time of when it is considered safe to contact victim:

Is victim aware of the referral to MARAC? □ YES □ NO
If NO give reason: Have you discussed the MARAC process with the victim? Do they understand the purpose of the MARAC? If victim is unaware of the referral please give reasoning

Is victim aware that an IDVA will contact them to offer support? □ YES □ NO
If NO give reason:

Has victim given consent to share information? □ YES □ NO
If NO can you satisfy requirement to share information without consent: Any case referred to MARAC must reach the threshold for sharing information without consent in terms of the risk to life and risks to children. The risk indicator checklist is an important tool when identifying whether or not a case has reached the threshold for sharing information without consent. See Appendix 4 of the MARAC Operating Protocol – CAADA Information Sharing without Consent Form

PERPETRATOR

Name/Alias:
DOB:
Address: If perpetrator is at temporary address/bail address or has moved in the last 12 months please include both current and previous addresses
Status of Relationship with Victim:

CHILDREN

Name(s) & DOB(s):
Address of children:

Are there Child Protection Issues? □ YES □ NO
Are there Adult Safeguarding Issues? □ YES □ NO
If you have answered yes to either of the above have you made the appropriate referral? □ YES □ NO
If NO give reason

The MARAC does not replace any established protection procedures

RESTRICTED
Please complete all sections

for an emailable form contact community@n-somerset.gov.uk
RESTRICTED WHEN COMPLETE

CAADA DASH RIC Score = Insert number of yes responses

Referred on  [ ] ACTUAL RISK (Local Threshold = 14 or above)
              [ ] ESCALATION
              [ ] PROFESSIONAL JUDGEMENT

Referred due to incident of  [ ] Violence or threats of violence
                             [ ] Stalking or harassment
                             [ ] Rape or sexual abuse

REASON(S) FOR REFERRAL:
This should be the reason why the DASH was completed; i.e. incident, disclosure, significant concerns - include timelines
Provide details of trigger incident(s).
If referring due to escalation include details of frequency/severity.
If referring under professional judgement detail significant concerns, vulnerability issues etc. leading to your decision.
In the case of a repeat referral please outline the incident(s) since the previous referral to MARAC

BACKGROUND:
Summarise details of previous domestic abuse/incidents prior to those detailed above and/or history. Include details regarding timeline, frequency, severity and type of abuse. Has there been abuse with previous partners?

SPECIFIC RISKS ISSUES IDENTIFIED:
Include known risks associated to victim and perpetrator identified through the Risk Indicator Checklist such as weapons, firearms, violence, self harm, alcohol/substance misuse, mental health issues
Information specific to risk issues for IDVA and lone working

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
What if any contact has been made with the victim? - what are their hopes, concerns etc
What support has already been provided?
Summarise actions/safeguarding measures already taken or in progress
Non-molestation orders/injunctions, contact arrangements etc
Dates, court details, bail conditions, previous convictions - Are there any other outstanding cases against the offender?
Details of other agencies/individuals that have been involved who you feel should either be invited to the MARAC or asked to provide a research report

Referrals will not be accepted unless form completed in full

RESTRICTED
Please complete all sections
What to do now:

Please attach completed DASH and send to your agency MARAC Designated Officer. Contact SouthernMARAC@avonandsomerset.pnn.police.uk or louise.branch@n-somerset.gov.uk if you do not know who this is.

MARAC designated Officer – once you are satisfied that the referral is in order please forward securely to both the MARAC co-ordinator and the IDVA service
Appendix 3

CAADA Risk Identification Checklist (RIC) & Quick Start Guidance for Domestic Abuse, Stalking and ‘Honour’-Based Violence

You may be looking at this checklist because you are working in a professional capacity with a victim of domestic abuse. These notes are to help you understand the significance of the questions on the checklist. Domestic abuse can take many forms but it is usually perpetrated by men towards women in an intimate relationship such as boyfriend/girlfriend, husband/wife. This checklist can also be used in gay, bisexual relationships and for situations of ‘honour’-based violence or family violence. Domestic abuse can include physical, emotional, mental, sexual or financial abuse as well as stalking and harassment. They might be experiencing one or all types of abuse; each situation is unique. It is the combination of behaviours that can be so intimidating. It can occur both during a relationship or after it has ended.

- The purpose of the RIC is to give a consistent and simple tool for practitioners who work with adult victims of domestic abuse in order to help them identify those who are at high risk of harm and whose cases should be referred to a MARAC meeting in order to manage their risk. If you are concerned about risk to a child or children, you should make a referral to ensure that a full assessment of their safety and welfare is made.

- The RIC should be introduced to the victim within the framework of your agency’s:
  - Confidentiality Policy
  - Information Sharing Policy and Protocols
  - MARAC Referral Policies and Protocols

- Before you begin to ask the questions in the RIC:
  - Establish how much time the victim has to talk to you? Is it safe to talk now? What are safe contact details?
  - Establish the whereabouts of the perpetrator and children;
  - Explain why you are asking these questions and how it relates to the MARAC

- Whilst you are asking the questions in the RIC:
  - Identify early on who the victim is frightened of – ex-partner/partner/family member
  - Use gender neutral terms such as partner/ex-partner. By creating a safe, accessible environment LGBT victims accessing the service will feel able to disclose both domestic abuse and sexual orientation or gender identity.

- Revealing the results of the RIC to the victim: Telling someone that they are at high risk of serious harm or homicide may be frightening and overwhelming for them to hear. It is important that you state what your concerns are by using the answers they gave to you and your professional judgement. It is then important that you follow your area’s protocols when referring to MARAC and Children’s Services. Equally, identifying that someone is not currently high risk needs to be managed carefully to ensure that the person doesn’t feel that their situation is being minimised and that they don’t feel embarrassed about asking for help. Explain that these factors are linked to homicide and serious harm and that if s/he experiences any of them in future, they should get back in touch with your service or with the emergency services on 999 in an immediate crisis.

- Please pay particular attention to a practitioner’s professional judgement in all cases. The results from a checklist are not a definitive assessment of risk. They should provide you with a structure to inform your judgement and act as prompts to further questioning, analysis and risk management whether via a MARAC or in another way.

The responsibility for identifying your local referral threshold rests with your local MARAC.

- Resources: Be sure that you have an awareness of the safety planning measures you can offer, both within your own agency and other agencies. Be familiar with local and national resources to refer the victim to, including specialist services. The following websites and contact details may useful to you:

  - National Domestic Violence Helpline - 0808 2000 247 - For assistance with refuge accommodation and advice
  - ‘Honour’ Helpline - 0800 5999247 - For advice on ‘forced marriage and ‘honour’ based violence
  - Sexual Assault Referral Centres - http://www.rapecrisis.org.uk/Referralcentres2.php
  - Broken Rainbow - 08452 604460 – www.broken-rainbow.org.uk for advice for LGBT victims

Web www.caada.org.uk E-mail marac@caada.org.uk Tel 0117 317 8750
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**Risk Identification Checklist Quick Start Guidance**

We ask about **PHYSICAL ABUSE** in questions 1, 10, 11, 13, 15, 18, 19 & 23
- Physical abuse can take many forms from a push or shove to a punch, use of weapons, choking or strangulation.
- You should try and establish if the abuse is getting worse, or happening more often, or the incidents themselves are more serious. If your client is not sure, ask them to document how many incidents there have been in the last year and what took place. They should also consider keeping a diary marking when physical and other incidents take place.
- Try and get a picture of the range of physical abuse that has taken place. The incident that is currently being disclosed may not be the worst thing to have happened.
- The abuse might also be happening to other people in their household, such as their children or siblings or elderly relatives.
- Sometimes violence will be used against a family pet.
- If an incident has just occurred the victim should call 999 for assistance from the police. If the victim has injuries they should try and get them seen and documented by a health professional such as GP or A&E Nurse.

We ask about whether the victim is experiencing any form of **SEXUAL ABUSE** in question 16
- Sexual abuse can include the use of threats, force or intimidation to obtain sex, deliberately inflicting pain during sex, or combining sex and violence and using weapons.
- If the victim has suffered sexual abuse you should encourage them to get medical attention and to report this to the police. See above for advice on finding a Sexual Assault Referral Centre which can assist with medical and legal investigations.

**COERCION, THREATS AND INTIMIDATION** is covered in questions 2, 3, 6, 8, 14, 17, 18, 19, 23 & 24.
- It is important to understand and establish: the fears of the victim/victims in relation to what the perpetrator/s may do; who they are frightened of and who they are frightened for (i.e. children/siblings). Victims usually know the abusers behaviour better than anyone else which is why this question is significant.
- In cases of 'Honour' Based Violence there may be more than one abuser living in the home or belonging to the wider family and community. This could also include female relatives.
- Stalking and harassment becomes more significant when the abuser is also making threats to harm themselves, the victim or others. They might use phrases such as "If I can't have you no one else can..."
- Other examples of behaviour that can indicate future harm include obsessive phone calls, texts or emails, uninvited visits to the victim's home, workplace etc. loitering and destroyed or vandalised property.
- Advise the victim to keep a diary of these threats, when and where they happen, if anyone else was with them and if the threats made them feel frightened.
- Separation is a dangerous time: establish if the victim has tried to separate from the abuser or has been threatened about the consequences of leaving. Being pursued after separation can be particularly dangerous.
- Victims of domestic abuse sometimes tell us that the perpetrators harm pets, damage furniture and this alone makes them frightened without the perpetrator needing to physically hurt them. This kind of intimidation is common and often used as a way to control and frighten.
- Some perpetrators of domestic abuse do not follow court orders or contact arrangements with children. Previous violations may be associated with an increase in risk of future violence.
- Some victims feel frightened and intimidated by the criminal history of their partner/ex-partner. It is important to remember that offenders with a history of violence are at increased risk of harming their partner, even if the past violence was not directed towards intimate partners or family members, except for 'honour'-based violence, where the perpetrator(s) will commonly have no other recorded criminal history.

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**ECONOMIC ABUSE** – Question 20

- Victims of domestic abuse often tell us that they are financially controlled by their partners/ex-partners. Consider how the financial control impacts on the safety options available to them. For example, they may rely on their partner/ex-partner for an income or do not have access to benefits in their own right. The victim might feel like the situation has become worse since their partner/ex-partner lost their job.
- The Citizens Advice Bureau or the local specialist domestic abuse support service will be able to outline to the victim the options relating to their current financial situation and how they might be able to access funds in their own right.

**CHILDREN & PREGNANCY** – Questions 7, 9 & 18 refer to being pregnant and children and whether there is conflict over child contact.

- The presence of children including step children can increase the risk of domestic abuse for the mother. They too can get caught up in the violence and suffer directly.
- Physical violence can occur for the first time or get worse during pregnancy or for the first few years of the child’s life. There are usually lots of professionals involved during this time, such as health visitors or midwives, who need to be aware of the risks to the victim and children, including an unborn child.
- The perpetrator may use the children to have access to the victim, abusive incidents may occur during child contact visits or there may be a lot of fear and anxiety that the children may be harmed.
- Please follow your local Child Protection Procedures and Guidelines for identifying and making referrals to Children’s Services.

We ask about **EMOTIONAL ABUSE** and **ISOLATION** in questions 4, 5 & 12. This can be experienced at the same time as the other types of abuse. It may be present on its own or it may have started long before any physical violence began. The result of this abuse is that victims can blame themselves and, in order to live with what is happening, minimise and deny how serious it is. As a professional you can assist the victim in beginning to consider the risks the victim and any children may be facing.

- The victim may be being prevented from seeing family or friends, from creating any support networks or prevented from having access to any money.
- Victims of ‘honour’ based violence talk about extreme levels of isolation and being ‘policed’ in the home. This is a significant indicator of future harm and should be taken seriously.
- Due to the abuse and isolation being suffered victims feel like they have no choice but to continue living with the abuser and fear what may happen if they try and leave. This can often have an impact on the victim’s mental health and they might feel depressed or even suicidal.
- Equally the risk to the victim is greater if their partner/ex-partner has mental health problems such as depression and if they abuse drugs or alcohol. This can increase the level of isolation as victims can feel like agencies won’t understand and will judge them. They may feel frightened that revealing this information will get them and their partner into trouble and, if they have children, they may worry that they will be removed. These risks are addressed in questions 21 & 22.
Risk Identification Checklist Quick Start Guidance

If you are a professional working with domestic abuse and would like to know more about the Risk Identification Checklist you can find the following publications on our website:

✓ **CAADA-DASH MARAC Risk Identification Checklist (RIC) 2009 for the identification of high risk cases of domestic abuse, stalking and honour based violence**
  

This is a helpful guide for IDVAs or practitioners new to the RIC and who want to become more familiar and confident in managing the process. It takes you through the process of completing the RIC with your client and provides detail on why and how to ask each question. This guide also provides supplementary questions to gather additional detail about each risk factor and provides general safety planning advice. It includes the Severity of Abuse Grid (SAG). The SAG gives practitioners the chance to profile the domestic abuse in more detail and identify significant concerns which may be relevant to include in a safety plan or share at a MARAC.

✓ **CAADA-DASH Risk Identification Checklist – without guidance**
  
http://www.caada.org.uk/marac/RIC_without_guidance.doc

This is a basic version of the RIC to download and use in everyday practice.

✓ **CAADA-DASH Risk Identification Checklist – Frequently Asked Questions**
  
http://www.caada.org.uk/marac/RIC_FAQs.pdf

This addresses a number of practical questions relating to the use of the checklist.

✓ **We also have a library of resources and information about training for frontline practitioners at**
  
http://www.caada.org.uk/marac/Information_about_MARACs.html

**Other MARAC toolkits and resources**

If you or someone from your agency attends the MARAC meeting, you can download a **MARAC Representative’s Toolkit** here: http://www.caada.org.uk/marac/Toolkit-MARAC-representative.pdf. This essential document troubleshoots practical issues around the whole MARAC process.

Other **前线 Practitioner Toolkits** are also available from http://www.caada.org.uk/marac/Resources_for_people_who_refer_to_MARAC.html. These offer a practical introduction to MARAC within the context of a professional role. Please feel free to signpost colleagues and other agency staff to these toolkits where relevant:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>A&amp;E</th>
<th>LGBT Services</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ambulance Service</td>
<td>MARAC Chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bramer Services</td>
<td>MARAC Coordinator</td>
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<tr>
<td>Children and Young People’s Services</td>
<td>Mental Health Services for Adults</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drug and Alcohol</td>
<td>Police Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Probation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fire and Rescue Services</td>
<td>Social Care Services for Adults</td>
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<td>Sexual Violence Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health Visitors, School Nurses &amp; Community Midwives</td>
<td>Specialist Domestic Violence Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>Victim Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent Domestic Violence Advisors</td>
<td>Women’s Safety Officer</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

For additional information and materials on Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs), please see the http://www.caada.org.uk/marac/10_Principles_Oct_2011_full.doc. This provides guidance on the MARAC process and forms the basis of the MARAC Quality Assurance process and national standards for MARAC.
CAADA-DASH Risk Identification Checklist (RIC)

Aim of the form:
• To help front line practitioners identify high risk cases of domestic abuse, stalking and ‘honour’-based violence.
• To decide which cases should be referred to MARAC and what other support might be required. A completed form becomes an active record that can be referred to in future for case management.
• To offer a common tool to agencies that are part of the MARAC process and provide a shared understanding of risk in relation to domestic abuse, stalking and ‘honour’-based violence.
• To enable agencies to make defensible decisions based on the evidence from extensive research of cases, including domestic homicides and ‘near misses’, which underpins most recognised models of risk assessment.

How to use the form:
Before completing the form for the first time we recommend that you read the full practice guidance and Frequently Asked Questions and Answers. These can be downloaded from http://www.caada.org.uk/marac/RIC_for_MARAC.html. Risk is dynamic and can change very quickly. It is good practice to review the checklist after a new incident.

Recommended Referral Criteria to MARAC

1. Professional judgement: If a professional has serious concerns about a victim’s situation, they should refer the case to MARAC. There will be occasions where the particular context of a case gives rise to serious concerns even if the victim has been unable to disclose the information that might highlight their risk more clearly. This could reflect extreme levels of fear, cultural barriers to disclosure, immigration issues or language barriers particularly in cases of ‘honour’-based violence. This judgement would be based on the professional’s experience and/or the victim’s perception of their risk even if they do not meet criteria 2 and/or 3 below.

2. ‘Visible High Risk’: the number of ‘ticks’ on this checklist. If you have ticked 14 or more ‘yes’ boxes the case would normally meet the MARAC referral criteria.

3. Potential Escalation: the number of police callouts to the victim as a result of domestic violence in the past 12 months. This criterion can be used to identify cases where there is not a positive identification of a majority of the risk factors on the list, but where abuse appears to be escalating and where it is appropriate to assess the situation more fully by sharing information at MARAC. It is common practice to start with 3 or more police callouts in a 12 month period but this will need to be reviewed depending on your local volume and your level of police reporting.

Please pay particular attention to a practitioner’s professional judgement in all cases. The results from a checklist are not a definitive assessment of risk. They should provide you with a structure to inform your judgement and act as prompts to further questioning, analysis and risk management whether via a MARAC or in another way.

The responsibility for identifying your local referral threshold rests with your local MARAC.

What this form is not:
This form will provide valuable information about the risks that children are living with but it is not a full risk assessment for children. The presence of children increases the wider risks of domestic violence and step children are particularly at risk. If risk towards children is highlighted you should consider what referral you need to make to obtain a full assessment of the children’s situation.

1 For further information about MARAC please refer to the 10 Principles of an Effective MARAC: http://www.caada.org.uk/marac/10_Principles_Oct_2011_full.doc
2 For enquiries about training in the use of the form, please email training@caada.org.uk or call 0117 317 8750.

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for an emailable form contact community@n-somerset.gov.uk
CAADA-DASH Risk Identification Checklist for use by IDVAs and other non-police agencies \(^3\) for identification of risks when domestic abuse, 'honour'-based violence and/or stalking are disclosed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Yes (tick)</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Don't Know</th>
<th>State source of info if not the victim e.g. police officer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Has the current incident resulted in injury? (Please state what and whether this is the first injury.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Are you very frightened? Comment:</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. What are you afraid of? Is it further injury or violence? (Please give an indication of what you think (name of abuser(s)) might do and to whom, including children). Comment:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>4. 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? Comment:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Are you feeling depressed or having suicidal thoughts?</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Have you separated or tried to separate from (name of abuser(s)).... within the past year?</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Is there conflict over child contact?</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. Does (.....) 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.)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>9. Are you pregnant or have you recently had a baby (within the last 18 months)?</td>
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<tr>
<td>10. Is the abuse happening more often?</td>
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<tr>
<td>11. Is the abuse getting worse?</td>
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<tr>
<td>12. Does (.....) try to control everything you do and/or are they excessively jealous? (In terms of relationships, who you see, being 'policed at home', telling you what to wear for example. Consider 'honour'-based violence and specify behaviour.)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>13. Has (.........) ever used weapons or objects to hurt you?</td>
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<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

\(^3\) Note: This checklist is consistent with the ACPO endorsed risk assessment model DASH 2009 for the police service.
### Name of victim:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Restricted when complete</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Tick box if factor is present. Please use the comment box at the end of the form to expand on any answer.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Don’t Know</th>
<th>State source of info if not the victim</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

14. Has (………) ever threatened to kill you or someone else and you believed them? (If yes, tick who.)
   - You □ Children □ Other (please specify) □

15. Has (………) ever attempted to strangle/choke/suffocate/drown you?

16. Does (………) 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.)

17. 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.)

18. Do you know if (………) has hurt anyone else? (Please specify whom including the children, siblings or elderly relatives. Consider HBV.)
   - Children □ Another family member □
   - Someone from a previous relationship □ Other (please specify) □

19. Has (………) ever mistreated an animal or the family pet?

20. Are there any financial issues? For example, are you dependent on (…..) for money/have they recently lost their job/other financial issues?

21. Has (………) had problems in the past year with drugs (prescription or other), alcohol or mental health leading to problems in leading a normal life? (If yes, please specify which and give relevant details if known.)
   - Drugs □ Alcohol □ Mental Health □

22. Has (………) ever threatened or attempted suicide?

23. Has (………) ever broken bail/an injunction and/or formal agreement for when they can see you and/or the children? (You may wish to consider this in relation to an ex-partner of the perpetrator if relevant.)
   - Bail conditions □ Non Molestation/Occupation Order □
   - Child Contact arrangements □
   - Forced Marriage Protection Order □ Other □

24. Do you know if (………) has ever been in trouble with the police or has a criminal history? (If yes, please specify.)
   - DV □ Sexual violence □ Other violence □ Other □

Total 'yes' responses
This checklist reflects work undertaken by CAADA in partnership with Laura Richards, Consultant Violence Adviser to ACPO. We would like to thank Advance, Blackburn with Darwen Women’s Aid and Berkshire East Family Safety Unit and all the partners of the Blackpool MARAC for their contribution in piloting the revised checklist without which we could not have amended the original CAADA risk identification checklist. We are very grateful to Elizabeth Hall of Cafcass and Neil Blacklock of Respect for their advice and encouragement and for the expert input we received from Jan Pickles, Dr Amanda Robinson, James Rowlands and Jasvinder Sanghera.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of victim:</th>
<th>Date:</th>
<th>Restricted when complete</th>
</tr>
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</table>

**For consideration by professional:** 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 and minimisation. Are they willing to engage with your service? Describe:

Consider abuser’s occupation/interests - could this give them unique access to weapons? Describe:

What are the victim’s greatest priorities to address their safety?

**Do you believe that there are reasonable grounds for referring this case to MARAC? Yes / No**

If yes, have you made a referral? Yes/No

Signed: | Date:

---

**Do you believe that there are risks facing the children in the family? Yes / No**

If yes, please confirm if you have made a referral to safeguard the children: Yes / No

Date referral made: ............................................................

Signed: | Date:

Name: | Date:

Practitioner’s Notes

email with MARAC and IDVA referral forms
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Council documents can be made available in large print, audio, easy read and other formats. Documents on our website can also be emailed to you as plain text files.

Help is also available for people who require council information in languages other than English.

For more information contact: community@n-somerset.gov.uk or telephone: 01934 426 752