## BRACKNELL FOREST MULTI-AGENCY DOMESTIC ABUSE REFERRAL PATHWAY 2023

Domestic abuse is any single incident, course of conduct or pattern of abusive behaviour between individuals aged 16 or over who are personally connected to each other as a result of being, or having been, intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality. Children who see, hear or experience the effects of the abuse and are related to either of the parties are also considered victims of domestic abuse.

Abuse includes physical or sexual abuse; violent or threatening behaviour; controlling or coercive behaviour; economic abuse; or psychological, emotional or other abuse.



If there is no disclosure but you suspect otherwise, periodically 'ask the question'

<u>For Honour Based Abuse</u> (HBA) or <u>Forced Marriage</u> (FM) cases, share information on a strictly needs to know basis. Take active steps to ensure records are kept secure, confidential and where possible, restricted. <u>Forced Marriage Multi Agency Guidance</u>

For Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) cases, refer to your local <u>safeguarding</u> <u>procedures</u>

If there is any immediate danger call 999 immediately

DISCLOSURE at non domestic abuse specialist service or agency Reassure about confidentiality and explain the limits of this. Gain consent. Explain what actions you may have to take

Identify risks to the victim by using the DASH Risk Identification Checklist

For Honour Based Abuse cases, also complete the <u>HBA Screening</u>

Questions (H-DASH)

For Stalking cases, also complete the S-DASH Is your victim pregnant and/or do they have children?

Is your victim an adult with care and support needs?

Do you have concerns that a child or young person may be at risk of harm or neglect? Contact MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) on 01344 352005

If child/young person is made subject to CP or CIN, social worker can make adult victim and perpetrator referrals to <u>FSM DA workers</u>

Do you have concerns that an adult may be at risk of harm or neglect? Contact Adult Social Care on 01344 351500

Out of Hours Emergency
Duty Team for both
Children and Adults

01344 351999

5pm – 9am and weekends

Is the alleged perpetrator in a position of trust working with children?
Make contact with the Local

Authority

Designated

Officer (LADO)

01344 351572

LADO@bracknell -forest.gov.uk

Is the alleged

perpetrator in a position of trust working with vulnerable adults?
Make contact with Safeguarding 01344 351500

I have identified the victim as being at STANDARD / MEDIUM risk of serious harm

- Consider immediate and long term risks and needs
- Risk can fluctuate so regularly review risk levels and decision making
  - Discuss basic <u>safety planning</u> with the victim
- Ensure the victim knows where to go for help from specialist services
- Signpost / consent-based referral to Berkshire Women's Aid (referral form and DASH RIC required)
   0808 801 0882

www.berkshirewomensaid.org.uk

- Signpost / referral to other services (see <u>Cue</u>
   <u>Card</u> / <u>Services Map</u> / <u>Bracknell Forest</u>
   Services)
- For cases involving the most harmful and serial perpetrators, consider a referral to MATAC (Multi Agency Tasking & Coordination)

MATACWokandBrac@thamesvalley.police.uk

I have identified the victim as being at **HIGH** 

risk of serious harm

Speak to your agency's Designated MARAC
Officer (DMO) and complete MARAC (Multi
Agency Risk Assessment Conference) referral,
with or without consent

If your agency does not have a DMO, contact the MARAC Administrator for your area via the Police non-emergency number **101** 

If there are children in the family, a referral must be made to Children's social care

MARAC meeting takes place, information is shared

Action plan agreed. Agencies flag and tag files

IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Advocate) informed via Modus referral

IDVA contacts the victim and represents their views at the MARAC meeting

## In all circumstances (adults and children)

- Only ask questions about domestic abuse when the individual is on their own and in private
- Document any disclosure, or suspicion of domestic abuse, in professional records kept at your organisation (not in the victim's hand held records) and record what you are told in their own words
- Document decision making, actions taken to manage risk and rationale for sharing.
   or not sharing. information (with or without consent)
  - If you need to use interpreters, ensure they are professional. Never use family members, friends or children
- Consider risks associated with communication/correspondence e.g. the perpetrator finding letters/leaflets/text messages/phone call logs etc
- Consider referrals to support groups such as <u>Choices</u> (BWA), <u>Freedom</u> (Children's Centres), <u>BRAVE</u> (<u>Building Resilience And Valuing Emotions</u>)
- Consider support for children/young people e.g. <u>SAFE!</u>, <u>DART</u> (Domestic Abuse Recovering Together)
- Consider referrals to <u>perpetrator services</u> e.g. Plain Talking, <u>Respect Phoneline</u> (national)
- Consider making an application to the <u>Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS)</u>, also known as Clare's Law. Available for all genders

For more information and resources, visit the Bracknell Forest Council <u>website</u>



Berkshire Child Protection Procedures http://berks.proceduresonline.com

**RECOGNISE** 

**RESPOND** 

REFER

RECORD

Berkshire Safeguarding Adults Policies and Procedures <u>www.berkshiresafeguardingadults.co.uk</u>