



Domestic Abuse: A Referral Pathway for Hampshire

What is domestic abuse?

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 victims of domestic abuse.

Behaviour is 'abusive' if it consists of any of the following: physical or sexual abuse; violent or threatening behaviour; controlling or coercive behaviour; economic abuse; or psychological, emotional or other abuse. This includes incidents where the abusive party directs their behaviour at another person (e.g. a child).

Routine enquiry

Proactive routine questions about domestic abuse will increase the chances of victims speaking out and accessing help. Many victims may not yet identify their experience as domestic abuse so ask exploratory questions without jargon or assumptions. Ask in private.

Research tells us that victims are more likely to disclose abuse and seek help if asked a direct question.

Example questions

"Many people experience intimidation or violence at home and I know it can be hard to talk about..."

"Is there anyone in your life that ever hurts you or who you're scared of?"

"Do you feel worried about anyone being angry about things you do?"

"Has this ever been an issue for you?"

Using open questions to follow up can help people tell their story, e.g. "tell me more about that" or, "what sort of things does he/she do?"

Key messages:

- Ask
- Be professionally curious. For more information, [see this guide](#).

What is risk assessment?

Risk assessment is a crucial part of helping to deal with domestic abuse. Levels of threat, danger and violence need to be identified and established to ensure the most appropriate course of action, and also to ensure the victim's safety. In Hampshire we recommend the DASH risk assessment which helps to identify cases needing to be referred to MARAC or HRDA. However, professional judgement is as important when assessing risk.

Professional judgement

If you can't do a formal risk assessment, you are encouraged to use your professional judgement and still refer on as appropriate. You can still refer to MARAC and HRDA based on professional judgement.

Professional judgement will be informed by the practitioner's knowledge of domestic abuse and its manifestations and can be informed by the DASH checklist. However, in addition to using the DASH it is crucial that professionals use their full range of knowledge to make an assessment; this knowledge will usually be gained through experience, reflection and deliberation.

What are MARAC and HRDA?

In a single monthly meeting, a domestic abuse Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) combines up-to-date risk information with a comprehensive assessment of a victim's needs. It identifies the actions needed to keep them safe and the most appropriate services for all those involved: victim, children and perpetrator.

HRDA meetings are the daily version of MARAC that the highest risk cases are heard at, receiving a more immediate response.

Complete a MARAC referral form and email it, together with the DASH assessment if you have one, to hampshire.mash.admin@hampshire.pnn.police.uk

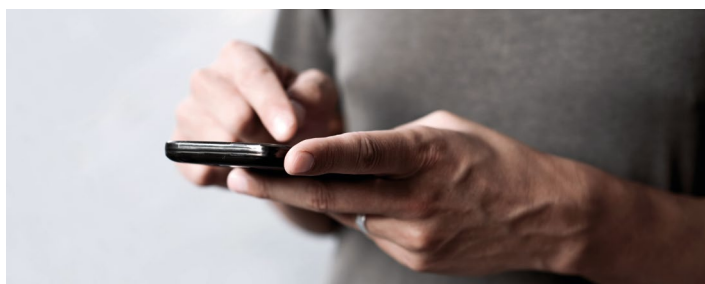
The MASH will decide if the case will be heard at MARAC or HRDA, you do not need to make this assessment or decision. You can also call **01329 316 113** to make referrals to MARAC/HRDA or to seek further advice.

For more information about MARAC/HRDA and how to refer, visit the Hampshire Domestic Abuse Partnership website.

What is the Hampshire Domestic Abuse Partnership?

The Hampshire Domestic Abuse Partnership (HDAP) is formed by a variety of statutory and voluntary sector agencies working together to tackle the issue of domestic abuse. There are lots of organisations offering services and support to all members of a family. This includes victims and survivors of domestic abuse, children and young people and perpetrators of abuse.

HDAP has a [website](#) full of local information and resources.



What services are there to support people?

Support for victims, survivors and children – Stop Domestic Abuse

The main types of help offered for victims and children are: crisis accommodation or refuge, outreach support in the community, IDVA support for high risk clients, dedicated support for children and families, move on and resettlement services, and personal support networks and group work.

To find out more, contact the Hampshire Domestic Abuse Advice Line (run by Stop Domestic Abuse) on 03300 165 112.

Support for those using abusive behaviours – Hampton Trust

For perpetrators, there are a variety of one-to-one and group work interventions that work to help perpetrators of abuse address the root cause of their behaviour to make positive changes. These services are free and impartial and can assist by giving practical help and emotional support as well as providing information on a wide range of matters, including housing matters, benefits, safety planning and the needs of children affected by domestic abuse.

To find out more, contact the Hampton Trust on 02380 009898.

Both of these services can also signpost you to other organisations, depending on the client's needs, if they require a different, additional or more appropriate service.

Some of the other main specialist domestic abuse providers across Hampshire are:

[Aurora New Dawn](#)

[The You Trust \(Paragon\)](#)

Safety Plan

Once you have made an assessment of risk, whether using the DASH tool or using professional judgement, you need to take steps to increase safety and help the victim access specialist support.

Ask what the victim wants and what the barriers are to safety in their view.

Offer support then and there to call for specialist help - if the victim is safe right now and with you, this is a good opportunity to get specialist help. Do not wait to refer after they have gone. By then, the opportunity for them to get specialist support may be missed.

Talk through some of the options for minimising the risk of harm to the victim and their children.

A [detailed safety plan](#) can be found on the Women's Aid website. This includes:

- Plan in advance how you might respond
- Teach your children how to call 999
- Rehearse your escape plan
- Pack an emergency bag
- Keep money with you
- Consider your neighbours – how could they help?
- Know where the nearest phone is
- Consider safety options around tech

Jargon buster

DASH – Domestic Abuse, Stalking & Harassment and Honour Based Violence – a risk assessment checklist.

HRDA – High Risk Domestic Abuse Meetings

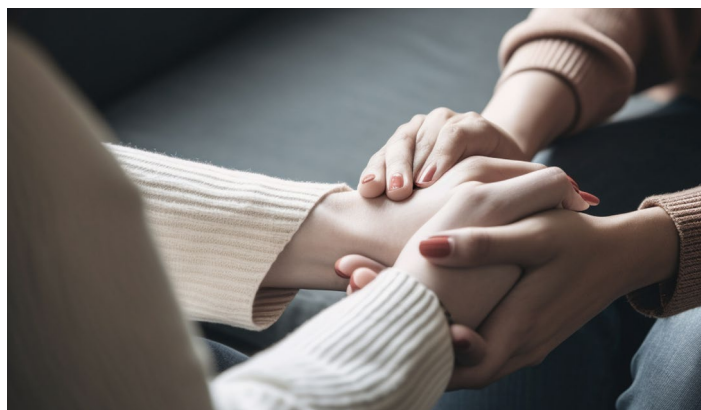
IDVA – Independent Domestic Violence Advisor

MARAC – Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference

MASH – Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub

Key contacts and services

- **Hampshire Police:** 999 in an emergency and 101 for all other calls/enquiries
- **Hampshire Domestic Abuse Advice Line:** 0330 0165 112
- **Stop Domestic Abuse:** 0330 0533 630
- **Victim Care Service** (for standard risk victims): 0808 178 1641
- **Hampton Trust Advice Line:** 02380 009898
- **Aurora New Dawn:** 02394 216 816
- **Paragon (You Trust):** 0800 916 9878
- **Hampshire Children's Services (safeguarding):** 0300 555 1384
- **Hampshire Adult Social Care (safeguarding):** 0300 555 1386
- **MARAC/HRDA (Police Safeguarding Team):** 01329 316 113 | hampshire.mash.Admin@hampshire.pnn.police.uk
- **Hampshire Domestic Abuse Partnership:** www.hants.gov.uk/domesticabuse
HDAP@hants.gov.uk



Domestic abuse disclosure - what should I do?

