

Child Protection Committee



South Lanarkshire



Working Together to Keep Children Safe

Lanarkshire good practice guidance on domestic abuse and the protection of children

Date of completion: May 2014

Date approved by Child Protection Committee: April 2014

Date of implementation: May 2014

Date of review: May 2016

Contact: Child Protection Co-ordinator, Public Protection Office

Phone: 01698 452860

NORTH LANARKSHIRE
VIOLENCE
AGAINST WOMEN
working group

DOORWAY
POSITIVE ACTION
TO END ABUSE

Child Protection

Shared vision

All children and young people in Lanarkshire have the right to be cared for and protected from abuse and harm in a safe environment in which their rights are respected.

All agencies will work together in a collaborative way to promote the safety and wellbeing of children and young people in Lanarkshire.

The Chief Officers and Child Protection Committees of North and South Lanarkshire are the driving force for ensuring that agencies individually and collectively work to protect children and young people as effectively as possible.

Contents

- 1. Purpose of the guidance**
- 2. Background**
- 3. Legislative and policy framework**
- 4. Learning from significant case reviews**
- 5. Domestic abuse within the context of the protection of children**
- 6. Risk assessment**
 - 🕒 Assessment of risk and risk management
 - 🕒 The national risk assessment framework for children
 - 🕒 Risk and significant harm
 - 🕒 Domestic abuse risk assessment
 - 🕒 Child contact as a risk factor
- 7. The invisible men making them visible and accountable**
- 8. Safey planning**
 - 🕒 Principles of safety planning
 - 🕒 Support to children
- 9. Additional barriers**

Contents (continued)

Appendices

- Appendix 1:** Risk identification checklist
- Appendix 2:** Guidance on completing the severity of abuse grid
- Appendix 3:** Recommended severity of abuse grid for IDVA services
- Appendix 4:** Individualised safety and support plan: options and advice
- Appendix 5:** Identifying vulnerabilities and the need for risk assessment
- Appendix 6:** Child's plan
- Appendix 7:** Good practice principles
- Appendix 8:** Legislation
- Appendix 9:** What happens when domestic abuse is reported to the police?
- Appendix 10:** Civil remedies
- Appendix 11:** Useful contact numbers

I. Purpose of the guidance

This guidance is for managers and practitioners in both adult and children's services, working in all statutory and third sector agencies, services and organisations in Lanarkshire. It replaces the Lanarkshire Good Practice Guidance on domestic abuse and the protection of children of 2010.

It will support your understanding of the impact of domestic abuse on children and non-abusing parents/carers when carrying out assessment to determine risk. It will illustrate how risk should be managed to keep the child and the non-abusing parent/carer safe. Further, it will also explain the importance of maintaining a focus on the abuser and monitoring any risk from on-going abuse.

The guidance is underpinned by the principles and values of *Getting it Right for Every Child* (GIRFEC) including:

- Putting the child at the centre – listening to their views, involving them in decision making;
- Working in partnership with families;
- Promoting the wellbeing of individual children;
- Taking a “whole child” approach;
- Building on strengths and promoting resilience;
- Providing help that is proportionate and appropriate;
- Supporting informed choice – helping children and families understand what help is possible and what their choices may be;
- Co-ordinating help; and
- Keeping the child safe.

Getting it right for every child calls for us all to work together to identify at the earliest possible stage where support is needed and to provide that support at the earliest opportunity.

Practitioners using this practice guidance will first and foremost work to the GIRFEC Practice Model. Central to the GIRFEC Practice Model are five questions that practitioners should routinely ask if concerned in any way about the growth and development of a child. These are:

1. **What is getting in the way of the child's wellbeing?**
2. **Do I have all the information I need to help this child?**
3. **What can I do now to help this child?**
4. **What can my agency do to help this child?**
5. **What additional help, if any, may be needed from others?**

To help you with these questions this good practice guide will give you details of specialist domestic abuse services along with practice tools. The risk assessment tool (CAADA DASH) discussed later will give information on the level of risk associated with the domestic abuse situation the child finds themselves in. Using this along with the safety planning template will enable you to plan along with the non-abusing parent/ carer and child for both their future safety, as safety should be central to any intervention in domestic abuse cases.

2. Background

This refresh of the multi-agency guidance has been a collaborative piece of work with North and South Lanarkshire Child Protection Committees, North Lanarkshire Violence Against Women Working Group and Doorway, the strategic driver for gender-based violence in South Lanarkshire. It aims to give staff across agencies guidance on the complex issues of domestic abuse and the protection of children.

Framework

This guidance provides a framework which recognises:

- The gendered nature of domestic abuse which locates domestic abuse within the context of broader inequalities between men and women in Scotland.
- Responsibility for prevention and opportunities for action lies at individual, community and service level.
- The right of children and young people affected by domestic abuse to identify their needs, have their needs addressed and participate in developing services which aim to address their needs.
- The need for agencies to work across service boundaries; to place a child's safety and wellbeing at the heart of their response to domestic abuse and, in parallel, to ensure any action they take empowers and protects adult victims of domestic abuse and holds abusers accountable for their abusive behaviour.
- The need for agencies and planners to take into account the experiences of specific groups of women, children and young people affected by domestic abuse who may face additional discrimination to ensure any action is relevant and appropriate to them.

Definition

These partnerships identify domestic abuse as gender-based abuse and have adopted the Scottish Government's definition of domestic abuse.

Domestic abuse (as gender-based abuse) can be perpetrated by partners or ex-partners and can include physical abuse (assault and physical attack involving a range of behaviour), sexual abuse (acts which degrade and humiliate women and are perpetrated against their will, including rape) and mental and emotional abuse (such as threats, verbal abuse, racial abuse, withholding money and other types of controlling behaviour such as isolation from family and friends).

Domestic abuse is most commonly perpetrated by men against women. The existence of violence against men is not denied, nor is the existence of violence in same sex relationships, nor other forms of abuse, but domestic abuse requires a response which takes account of the broader gender inequalities which women face.

In accepting this definition, it must be recognised that children are witness to and subjected to much of this abuse and there is a significant correlation between domestic abuse and the impact on the emotional and physical wellbeing of children, including physical injury, physical neglect and sexual abuse of children.

The protection of the non-abusing parent/carer is fundamental to the protection of children and young people. *Safer Lives: Changes Lives a shared approach to tackling violence against women in Scotland (2009)* highlighted the importance of a sustained and strategic approach to challenging society's attitude, behaviours, and the values that perpetuate gender inequality and male violence against women and children.

The National Domestic Abuse Delivery Plan for Children and Young People (2008) seeks to identify and support action which will contribute to strengthening this approach, focusing on interventions targeted at involving children themselves.

The National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2014, states that the impact of domestic abuse on a child should be understood as a consequence of the perpetrator choosing to use violence rather than of the non-abusing parent's/carer's failure to protect.

Context

Research has shown that:

- 🕒 In 75% to 90% of incidents of domestic abuse, children are in the same or the next room.¹
- 🕒 Children who live with domestic abuse are at increased risk of behavioural problems and emotional trauma, and mental health difficulties in adult life.²
- 🕒 The link between child physical abuse and domestic abuse is significant, with estimates ranging between 30% to 66% depending upon the study.³
- 🕒 1 in 5 women will experience domestic abuse at some point in their lives irrespective of age, religion, ethnic background, wealth or education.⁴
- 🕒 16-25% of all violent incidents recorded by the police are as a result of domestic abuse with one incident reported every minute.⁵

Prevalence

Figures published by Scottish Women's Aid state that 100,000⁶ children in Scotland experience domestic abuse.

It is widely acknowledged that the majority of domestic abuse is not reported to the police and that women are likely to have been abused on average 35 times⁷ before involving the police. In Lanarkshire between April 2012 and March 2013 there were 6,457 incidents of domestic abuse recorded by the Police. There were also 9,903 referrals to SW and Housing where domestic abuse was recorded as the primary or secondary cause. Statistics will normally give a sense of trends rather than absolute figures particularly where the issue is one which is often hidden or stigmatised. Responding in a sensitive way showing an understanding of the issues will encourage victims to disclose the abuse.

¹ (Hughes, 1992; Abrahams, 1994).

² World Health Organization, 'World Report on Violence and Health', ed. by Krug, Etienne G., et al., Geneva, 2002.

³ (Hester et al, 2000)

⁴ www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Equality/violence-women/Key-Facts

⁵ www.lga.gov.uk/lga/aio/34728

⁶ What You Need to Know www.Scottishwomensaid.org.uk

⁷ www.eurowrc.org/01.eurowrc/04.eurowrc_en/GB_UNITED%20KINGDOM/Collecting%20managing%20domestic%20violence%20data.pdf

3. Legislative and policy framework

The principles and values of GIRFEC underpin this guidance and there is a range of legislation and policy for children and adult services. The following are some of the key legislation, policy and guidance which inform practice in working with families affected by domestic abuse.

Children's Hearing (Scotland) Act 2011

The Act includes domestic abuse as a ground for referral, Section 67 (f). A child can be referred to the Children's Hearing if the child has, or is likely to have, a close connection with a person who has carried out domestic abuse. A child is to be taken to have a close connection with the person if:

1. The child is a member of the same household as the person or
2. The child is not a member of the same household as the person but the child has significant contact with the person.

National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2014

The key messages contained in the National guidance in relation to domestic abuse are:

1. The impact of domestic abuse on a child should be understood as a consequence of the perpetrator choosing to use violence rather than of the non-abusing parent's/carer's failure to protect.
2. When undertaking assessment or planning for any child affected by domestic abuse, it is crucial that practitioners recognise that domestic abuse involves both an adult and a child victim.
3. Every effort should be made to work with the non-abusing parent/carer to ensure adequate and appropriate support and protection is in place to enable them to make choices that are safe for both them and the child.
4. At the same time, staff should be maintaining a focus on the perpetrator and monitoring any risk resulting from ongoing abuse.
5. Agencies should always work to ensure that they are addressing the protection of both the child and the non-abusing parent/carer.
6. Protection should be ongoing, and should not cease if and when the abuser and the non-abusing parent/carer separate. Indeed, separation may trigger an escalation of abusive behaviour, increasing the risk to both the child and their non-abusing parent/carer.
7. Any decisions made in regard to contact by both social work services and/or the civil courts should be based on an assessment of risk to both the non-abusing parent/carer and the child.

The national guidance incorporates some of the key policy and guidance for the protection of children and young people including:

- Protection children and young people: Framework for Standards, Scottish Executive, 2004; and
- The Children's Charter, Scottish Executive, 2004.

National Domestic Abuse Delivery Plan for Children and Young People 2008

The delivery plan is based on the principles of GIRFEC and has four key themes:

- Protection
- Provision
- Prevention through education
- Participation

This practice guidance aims to promote the protection of children and young people experiencing domestic abuse. The priorities for action under the key theme of protection are:

1. Improve the National Health Service (NHS Scotland) identification of and response to the needs of women and children affected by domestic abuse.
2. Develop a universal, systematic approach to information gathering and decision making that will place children's needs and wishes at the heart of agencies' response to domestic abuse.
3. Develop interventions targeted at perpetrators of domestic abuse which are integrated with appropriate support services for women and children.
4. Further develop specialist approaches to the handling of domestic abuse cases within the criminal justice system.
5. Ensure children and young people affected by domestic abuse do not experience additional physical, emotional or psychological harm as a consequence of contact arrangements (both court and privately arranged) with the abusive parent.

See Appendix 8 for further information on legislation.

4. Learning from significant case reviews

The findings of significant case reviews have influenced policy and practice. In a number of reviews domestic abuse has been identified as a risk factor in the families subject to the review. One of the main findings on the parents from the Audit and Analysis of Significant Case Reviews conducted in Scotland 2012 identified that domestic abuse featured in over half of the cases.⁸ Across the UK cases which have resulted in the death of a child include Brandon Muir, Kimberley Carlile, and in more recent reviews, Keanu Williams, Daniel Peltka and Hamzah Khan. In those cases where children have been killed, the significance of violence to the mothers, as an indicator of potential risk to the child, has often not been understood or acknowledged by child care professionals.

The significant case review into the death of Brandon Muir highlighted that the case conference focussed on the child's well being against the context of the mother's wider parenting skills and home environment. There was a lack of focus on the threat of violence from the mother's partner who was known to the police, social work and Scottish Children's Reporter Administration for the alleged domestic abuse of a previous partner.

Professor Cathy Humphreys also highlights this point in her paper, *Domestic violence and child protection: exploring the role of perpetrator risk assessments*.⁹

“...without a perpetrator there is no domestic violence. Hence, attention to the risks they pose should at least be a significant issue that informs the assessment and more importantly the intervention that should follow where there are children affected by domestic violence.

⁸ Audit and Analysis of Significant Case Reviews in Scotland October 2012

⁹ Cathy Humphreys 2006, *Child and Family Social Work* 2007, Blackwell Publishing

5. Domestic abuse within the context of the protection of children

Children living with domestic abuse are at increased risk of significant harm both as a result of witnessing the abuse and being abused themselves. Children can be affected by abuse even when they are not witnessing it or being directly subjected to abuse themselves. Domestic abuse can profoundly disrupt a child's environment, undermining their stability and damaging their physical, mental and emotional health.

The impact of domestic abuse on a child will vary, depending on factors including the frequency, severity and length of exposure to the abuse and the ability of others in the household (particularly the non-abusive parent/carer) to provide parenting support under such adverse conditions. If the non-abusive parent/carer is not safe, it is unlikely the children will be.

Children frequently come to the attention of practitioners when the severity and length of exposure to abuse has compromised the non-abusing parent's/carer's current capacity to nurture and care for them. The best way to keep both children and non-abusive parent/carers safe is to focus on early identification, assessment and intervention. Managers and practitioners need to be aware of the signs of domestic abuse and routinely make appropriate enquiries.

Although research has consistently found that adults and children are often victimised in the same family, the different processes for addressing the abuse of women and children can result in separate decisions, not informed by each other.

Understanding the impact of domestic abuse on children

For children and young people living with domestic abuse, witnessing violence and other abusive behaviours to a non-abusing parent/carer can have a detrimental impact on a child's emotional and physical development and overall wellbeing. A child or young person's wellbeing is a core component of GIRFEC. The following takes the wellbeing indicators and provides examples of how living with domestic abuse can impact on each of these. Each indicator of wellbeing does not stand alone, they are intrinsically linked, so there will be overlap and cumulative effects.

For further information please refer to the Lanarkshire GIRFEC Practice Guide.



Safe:

the child is protected from abuse, neglect or harm at home, school and in the community

- Physical safety is at risk due to living with physical violence. Children and Young People (CYP) can sometimes step in to protect their mother. Even when violence is not directed at them CYP could be physically hurt when the abuser is assaulting the mother.
- Children's understanding of their personal safety can be compromised due to lack of example and a negative view of their self-worth. Seeing or hearing a parent/ carer being abused does not make CYP feel safe.
- Living with physical violence can result in a child and the non-abusing parent/carer not attending activities outside the home, for example keeping watch over the non abusing parent/carer.
- Being isolated from external activities can impact on the child/young person's safety by reducing their visibility to others and therefore their opportunity to disclose.

Healthy:

the child has the highest attainable standards of physical health and mental health, access to suitable health care and support to make healthy and safe choices

- Living with domestic abuse is likely to make children feel anxious, fearful and stressed about what might happen next; this can induce various physical ailments including asthma, headaches, eczema, over eating, under eating etc.
- Living with inconsistent parenting can be very confusing. When you cannot predict the response to any of your actions, playing or even talking, this can impact on mental health and wellbeing.
- When children are not able or allowed to take part in activities this can impact on their physical and emotional health and wellbeing.

Achieving:

the child is being supported and guided in their learning and in the development of their skills, confidence and self-esteem at home, school and in their community

- Domestic abuse does not create a relaxed environment conducive to learning, for example the freedom to make mistakes and learn from them.
- Domestic abuse can result in a child not attending school regularly or changing school as a result of having to move house.
- Living with domestic abuse will impact on a child/young person's confidence and self-esteem for example being frightened to express any opinions for fear of it resulting in further abuse either to the non-abusing parent/carer, you or siblings.

Nurtured:

the child has a nurturing place to live in a family setting with additional help if required

- Living with domestic abuse does not create a nurturing and loving environment in which a child/young person can thrive.
- Relationships between the non-abusing parent/child/siblings can be damaged as a result of the abuse, for example the abuser forcing the child to call the non-abusing parent/carer names or physically assaulting them.
- Children can feel isolated from family and friends which can impact on their self-worth and understanding of their place in the world.
- Children's needs being regarded as secondary to those of the abuser.

Active:

the child has opportunities to take part in activities such as play, recreation and sport - all contributing to healthy growth and development at home and in the community

- Children can be too scared to leave the family home for extended periods, worried about what might be happening to the non-abusing parent/carer.
- Moving house/schools regularly can prevent children from accessing groups, activities and hobbies.
- Lack of confidence, self-esteem, encouragement and behavioural difficulties can prevent attendance at school or taking part in activities.

Respected:

the child is involved appropriately in decisions that affect their well-being - having their voice and opinion heard

- Children do not have the choice whether to live with domestic abuse and so are unable to live their lives free from violence.
- The children's safety and well-being are not respected.
- The abuser is unlikely to respect the needs and/or views of their child or create an environment whereby the child feels important or respected.

Responsible:

the child is encouraged to have an active and responsible role within the family, school and the community

- For reasons already highlighted domestic abuse can result in poor attendance at school for a range of reasons for example children can be too frightened to attend school or are prevented from attending school.
- Domestic abuse can impact on a child/young person's ability to participate and contribute to life at home, school and the community.
- An abuser fails to provide positive role modelling when they abuse the non-abusing parent/carer. This can negatively affect children's development.
- Children can display behaviour difficulties as a result of witnessing abuse because developmentally they struggle to make sense of their role and position which may result in them being regularly removed, or ultimately excluded from school or local groups.

Included:

the child receives assistance to overcome social, educational, physical and economic inequalities and is accepted as part of the community

- Domestic abuse can dominate life at home and inhibit the growth of social and educational development.
- For reasons already highlighted domestic abuse can impact on a child/young person being able to participate in activities out with the home which could impact on their acceptance within the community, for example the abuser may prevent involvement in social occasions due to these being seen as a dangerous time where the abuse might be disclosed.
- Family and friends may avoid contact if they don't understand the dynamics of domestic abuse.

We are all individuals and children's responses vary enormously. It is important to find out what each child has experienced in order to gain some understanding of the possible impact of these experiences. Children will have been told, or from experience, know not to talk about the abuse as this can result in the abuse escalating.

Children react in different ways and the relationship between the abuse and the effect it has on the child can be complex and multi-faceted. Research tells us that if the non-abusing parent/carer isn't safe then it is unlikely that the children will be.

The non-abusing parent/carer may appear to professionals as inadequate and be using alcohol and/or drugs as a coping mechanism. It is important to ask about the strategies used to protect the child, as they may now require strengthening with additional support. See Safety planning section 7.

Children's coping strategies

Children develop complex strategies of survival in order to deal with the stress and adversity they are experiencing. They are not passive victims of domestic abuse but develop their own coping mechanisms. The survival strategies adopted by children living with domestic abuse are diverse. Factors which contribute to a child's resilience include the strength and stability of support through their networks of family and friends, from sources in their wider community and from their non-abusive parent/carer.

Some children's coping strategies will change over time and can include opposite behaviours at different times, for example, from being clingy and withdrawn to acting out. Some children feel so concerned for their mother's safety that they want to protect her all the time and may refuse to go to school or feign illness so that they can stay at home with their mother. Some children have poor social skills and some have highly developed social skills.

Some children take on responsibilities in the home, such as child care for younger siblings and household chores in the hope that this will help to keep the peace. Other children, especially older children, may adopt strategies aimed at self-protection including presenting an external front of courage in order to hide the fear and anxiety that lies beneath the surface.

As they lack a proper understanding of what is happening, children are likely to believe that they are somehow responsible for the abuse. They are aware that violence can stem from arguments over child care, children's behaviour or discipline or from resentment about the amount of time the non-abusive parent/carer devotes to their children. This sense that they have in some way caused the abuse can lead children to attempt to modify their behaviour, by being quiet or perfect in the hope that this will prevent an episode of abuse. Even babies are reported to sense that changing their behaviour can have an effect on what happens in their environment.

Many children living with domestic abuse learn from an early age that it must be kept secret. The pressure of secrecy makes disclosure difficult for children, who may go to great lengths to hide the reality of what is happening. Some children may be being sexually or physically abused by the same abuser and the presence of domestic abuse contributes to silencing them about their own or their sibling's abuse.

6. Risk assessment

6.1 Assessment of risk and risk management

Work with children and their families needs to be both supportive in character and investigative in approach. We have to acknowledge that intrusion in people's lives is sometimes necessary to support improvement and change their life circumstances, not least in instances of domestic abuse, when there are risks to both the child and the non-abusing parent/carer.

Risk is a complex notion that can create anxiety; however it is a core consideration of any intervention that is carried out with children and families. When carrying out assessment or planning for any child affected by domestic abuse, it is crucial to recognise that domestic abuse involves both an adult and child victim. As already highlighted, the impact of domestic abuse on a child should be understood as a consequence of the perpetrator choosing to use violence rather than the non-abusing parent/carer's failure to protect.

Carrying out risk assessment for children and their families is a complex and demanding process. It includes not only the use of an appropriate risk assessment framework and tool, but also the knowledge base and skills to inform professional analysis and evidence-based decision making. For work with families affected by domestic abuse this includes:

- Understanding of single and multi-agency roles and responsibilities towards children and adults experiencing domestic abuse;
- Knowledge of child development and the impact of domestic abuse on children;
- Being aware of the latest thinking on how domestic abuse affects children and how it can interact with other risk indicators, for example substance misuse, parental mental health, sexual abuse, neglect;
- The availability of different tools for identifying risk and the appropriate action to take;
- The effectiveness of existing approaches and new approaches to support children, non-abusing parents/carers and those for addressing behaviours with abusers.

6.2 The national risk assessment framework – for children

The national risk assessment framework was published in November 2012. It has been developed around three risk components that build upon the GIRFEC practice model – **Risk, Resilience and Resistance (3R's)**. These three risk factors require to be considered when undertaking any assessment of need/risk, including when assessing and analysing the impact of domestic abuse on children.

Risk

Risk indicators are those factors that are identified in the child's circumstances or environment that may constitute a risk, hazard or threat to the child. The My World Triangle and Wellbeing Indicators (see Section 4 of the Lanarkshire GIRFEC Practice Guide) support practitioners to explore needs and risks across the three domains of a child's life:

- 🌟 How I grow and develop
- 🌟 What I need from people who look after me
- 🌟 My wider world

Resilience

Resilience has been viewed as 'normal development under difficult conditions' (Fonagay et al 1994).

Focussing on the positives and the strengths in a child's life is likely to help improve outcomes by building the protective network around the child and the self-protective potentials within the child (Daniels B. and Wassel S. 2002).

At the same time it is important to be alert to factors of adversity or vulnerability, which may potentially impact on a child's wellbeing and the interaction of these factors with any identified resilience and protective factors.

Resistance

This relates to families who, for whatever reason, are or may be difficult to engage. This may present through the family's aggression, conditional compliance, refusal to co-operate, intentionally missed appointments and other forms of avoidance, or it may be masked by superficial engagement and co-operation. There may also be unintended barriers to engagement that arise as a direct consequence of an individual's circumstances, such as mental health, disability, substance use. The common feature in all cases is resistance to change and an inability/unwillingness to acknowledge and or address the risk(s) to the child.

Before concluding that a family is resistant, practitioners should:

- ☉ Respect the right of any parent/carer to challenge any professional's interpretation of events, assessment of their child's needs or assessment of the risk to the child;
- ☉ Confirm that the parents/carers understand the professional's concerns and what is expected of them relative to these;
- ☉ Assess what, if any, contribution the service approach and or interventions may make to this.

Risk assessment is therefore a complex task in which workers need to '... balance an empathic approach with a boundaried authoritative approach which avoids over-optimism and scrutinises apparent parental compliance' (Sen and Green Lister 2011).

The national risk assessment framework applies the concept of the 3Rs within the context of GIRFEC, assessment, analysis, planning, action and review. It identifies a number of tools which practitioners and managers may find helpful when assessing and managing risk for children in challenging circumstances including domestic abuse. There are other specialist tools for carrying out risk assessment that focus on specific family/environmental circumstances for example, parental alcohol and/or drug misuse.

Further information on the national risk assessment framework can be found at: www.scotland.gov.uk

6.3 Risk and significant harm

Early identification and proportionate intervention of any circumstances which impact on a child/young person's wellbeing and development is central to assessment, planning and review. When there is assessment of risk of significant harm, child protection measures need to be considered.

The National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland (2014) sets out a definition of risk and significant harm that underpins any assessment of risk for a child. The guidance as a whole should be used in conjunction with local single agency child protection procedures.

As defined in the guidance risk is the likelihood or probability of a particular outcome given the presence of factors in a child or young person's life. Risk is part of everyday life, some risks are deemed acceptable for example a toddler learning to walk is likely to be at risk from scrapes and stumbles. Risks can be reduced by parents/carers or through the early intervention of universal services. Only where risks cause, or are likely to cause, significant harm to a child would a response under child protection be required.

Significant harm is complex and subject to professional judgement and multi-agency assessment. Significant harm can result from a specific incident or a series of incidents or an accumulation of concerns over a period of time. It is essential that the impact or potential impact on the child takes priority and not simply the alleged abusive behaviour.

Harm is defined in the guidance as the *ill treatment or the impairment of the health or development of the child, including for example, impairment suffered as a result of seeing or hearing the ill treatment of another, as could be the context of domestic abuse*. In this context development can mean physical, intellectual, emotional, social or behavioural development and health can mean physical or mental health.

Whether the harm suffered, or likely to be suffered, by a child is significant is determined by comparing the child's health and development within what might be reasonably expected of a similar child. Within the context of child protection, abuse or neglect need not have taken place, it is sufficient for a risk assessment to have identified the likelihood or risk of significant harm from abuse or neglect.

6.4 Domestic abuse risk assessment

In cases of domestic abuse it is very important that a specific domestic abuse risk assessment tool is used along with The National Risk Assessment Framework for children. The nationally recognised tool for domestic abuse has been developed by Co-ordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse (CAADA) and the tool is referred to as Domestic Abuse, Stalking, Harassment and “Honour” Based Violence (DASH) – **CAADA DASH**.

This tool is **not** a specific child protection tool, but is complementary, identifying the level of risk associated with the domestic abuse situation in which the child is living.

The questions on the checklist should be **asked of the adult victim** and will identify the risk posed by the person carrying out the abuse.

This tool is in two parts:

- 🟡 part one is a risk identification checklist
- 🟡 part two is the severity of abuse grid

Both parts require to be used and full practice guidance for CAADA DASH can be found at the link below. The risk identification checklist and severity of abuse grid are contained in Appendix 1,2 and 3.

http://www.caada.org.uk/dvservices/RIC_and_severity_of_abuse_grid_and_IDVA_practice_guidance.pdf

6.5 Child contact as a risk factor

Parenting involves both mothers and fathers and parenting by a violent and abusive father also needs to be taken into account. As noted in 'Picking up the pieces: domestic violence (2012),'¹⁰ a number of studies have shown contact as a route to continue the abuse by manipulation of children – making negative comments about their mother, telling them to repeat abusive messages, probing for details of her activities and relationships. Few violent fathers understand violence against women as emotionally abusive to their children (Harne 2003;2011)¹¹ and fathers who are violent to their partners are on average less engaged with their children and often provide inconsistent physical care (Harne 2003).

Child protection practice in relation to men who physically abuse requires that assessment of parenting should always include an assessment of the father figure in the family. It is important to support the woman and child whilst ensuring the abuser is visible and accountable. By doing this we will get better protection for the woman and the children. The connection should be made in staff's minds that there may be male violence to the mother when physical or sexual abuse to a child is discovered.

¹⁰ Picking up the pieces: domestic violence and child contact. Rights of women and CWASU 2012

¹¹ Harne, L (2003, 2011) Violent fathering and the risks to Children: The need for Change Bristol: The Policy Press

7. The invisible men - making them visible and accountable

It is important when working with those affected by domestic abuse that we address the often 'invisible' population of abusers, which can result in victims-usually, but not always exclusively-women, feeling they are being 'held responsible' for the behaviour of violent men.

Social Work Justice staff have a specific role and an existing skills base in respect of direct work with this group of service users, particularly in respect of interviewing those who exhibit ranging degrees of denial. This expertise should be drawn on in situations where staff from other disciplines may lack experience and/or confidence in directly addressing protection issues with abusers. This can be either in the form of a consultation and advice process to other professionals or by joint working where there is an existing order (for example Community Payback Order) managed by the Social Work Justice Team.

In order to negotiate support, advice and intervention from Social Work Justice staff in respect of domestic abuse it may be helpful to be aware of the following:-

Where the perpetrator of domestic abuse is subject to a community disposal- such as Community Payback Order or licence – the Social Work Justice staff supervising the order will, as part of the ongoing supervision arrangements, address this behaviour both in structured offence-focussed work and in the context of the Community Payback Order/licence review. Where appropriate, this should be done in conjunction with the children and families worker(s), where there is a need to inform an assessment of risk or in respect of the management of a safety/child protection plan.

This would be appropriate **whether or not** the justice order relates directly to a domestic abuse conviction. Supervising Social Work Justice staff have a responsibility, in respect of public safety and child protection (where they become aware of behaviour which presents a risk to the public), to address this in the context of their direct work with offenders.

Where there is no court order in place, professionals should consult with Social Work Justice staff to support the process of engagement with abusers in the context of a domestic abuse inquiry.

This support could include:-

- Support and mentoring in respect of the interviewing of reluctant/denying service users
- Advice and guidance in relation to ongoing work with abusers in a child protection context
- Support and mentoring in the compilation of a risk assessment in the context of child protection or child care reporting

8. Safety planning

8.1 Principles of safety planning

Within the context of safety planning the focus is usually on the woman. When considering the safety of child(ren) in domestic abuse situations it is essential to consider the mother's safety too, as the safety of the mother is critical to the safety of the children.

Women should be asked about their perception of the risk posed by the abuser – this will be linked to the Risk Identification Checklist and Severity of Abuse Grid – see Appendices 1, 2 and 3 and CAADA – co-ordinated action against domestic abuse – Resources for domestic abuse practitioners. The woman should be encouraged and given support to develop her own safety plan which should include the development of a safety plan for the Child(ren). See Appendix 4 for sample templates for recording these.

When supporting women and children to develop a safety plan it is important to use an empowering model of working, active listening skills and a non-judgemental attitude. The responsibility for the abuse lies with the abuser not the woman and not the child(ren) although often they will feel somehow responsible and are likely to have been told this by the abuser.

The messages you want to convey is that you know that the abusive behaviour is not her fault and that you are here to help. A good introduction to discussing safety plans might be,

“I’m concerned about your partner’s (or ex-partner’s) behaviour and how this is impacting on you and your children’s safety. Can we work together to make a plan for your future safety?”

Here are some useful questions and points to include in the discussion about safety plans:

- 🕒 What does she need to be safe?
(This applies to both her and the children)
- 🕒 What has she/they done or considered in the past to keep safe?
- 🕒 Who would she/they like to make contact with now?
What you can do to help that to happen?
- 🕒 What are the available options?

- What does she want to do to protect herself and any child(ren)?
- How will we go about the process of drawing up a safety plan? You may find it useful to use the Child's Plan – see appendix 6.
- How will this be monitored – and how often? Ensure that plans are made for further contact and information is provided on local and national sources of support.

You will find the 'What I think tool' in the Lanarkshire GIRFEC Practice Guide useful in involving the child in this process.

The safety planning process should also consider how the abuser will react to any actions taken as part of the plan e.g. changing phone number or locks. This could help predict any higher risk situations or times and may help establish patterns of abuse.

The safety of the woman and her child(ren) is the priority- possessions might be missed but they can be replaced. However, the police can provide an escort to return to the home to collect any essential belongings left behind.

A protective factor for some women can be calling the police however, it should be acknowledged that this can be difficult for women and ongoing support should be available. See Appendix 9 for 'What happens when domestic abuse is reported to the Police'.

Anyone concerned that a child may be at risk of abuse should follow their organisation's policy on Child Protection. This is likely to include immediately making contact with children and families' social work and/or the police, by phone. Following the phone call, the **Notification of Child Protection Concern** form should be completed and sent as soon as possible to children and family social work and/or the police.

8.2 Support to children

It is important that practitioners who work with children who have experienced domestic abuse enhance the child's individual resilience and coping strategies.

While the impact of domestic abuse on a child or young person's physical, psychological and emotional health can be both profound and enduring, long-term damage is not inevitable. The right kind of support, provided at the right time, can reduce the impact of domestic abuse on children's present and future wellbeing.

McGee's (2000) study identified *"fear, powerlessness, depression or sadness, impaired social relations, impacts on the child's identity, impacts on extended family relationships and their relationship with their mother, effects on education achievement and anger, very often displayed as aggressive behaviour. The child's relationship with the father or father figure is also clearly affected by the abuse to the mother."*

Even very young children are aware of violence occurring around them and can be adversely affected, although they cannot necessarily make sense of it at the time.

The impact is mediated by many different resilience variables including self-esteem, the timing of incidents, the child's ability to attach meaning to and make sense of events, and the child's relationships with others (Rutter 1988).

It has to be recognised that there is no uniform response to living with domestic violence or other forms of abuse (Hester et al 2006).

Mullender et al (2002) from their research on children's perspectives on domestic abuse, found that two aspects, both involving children's active participation, were especially crucial to children's ability to cope:

- 🕒 *Being listened to and taken seriously as participants in the domestic abuse situation.*
- 🕒 *Being able to be actively involved in finding solutions and helping to make decisions.*

A supportive caring relationship with a non-abusive parent/carer – being able to talk to a non-abusive parent/carer about the abuse or living with domestic abuse can be helpful. Mothers may find it difficult to talk to children about the abuse, believing this to be protective and/or because they are unsure how to do this (McGee 2000). Children themselves describe trying not to let on how much they know because they were not supposed to talk about it and that their mothers had enough to deal with. It is important to help develop open communication between mothers and their children.

The best protective factor for children and young people is to support the non-abusing parent/carer and view them as a team.

Children trying to cope with the fear and uncertainty of domestic abuse describe their needs in simple terms, they want:

- 🍷 Their mother to be safe.
- 🍷 The abuse to stop.
- 🍷 To be safe.
- 🍷 Someone to listen to them.
- 🍷 Someone they can trust to help them.
- 🍷 To make decisions when they are ready.
- 🍷 Someone to help them overcome the disruptions to their lives.

In supporting children you should note the following:

- 🍷 Empower the woman to protect herself as best she can.
- 🍷 Enable her to protect her children.
- 🍷 Listen to what children have to say and what they want. Also take account of what they **don't** say.
- 🍷 Allow children to take things at their own pace, respect their feelings.
- 🍷 Challenge in a positive way (they are not to blame for the abuser's behaviour).
- 🍷 Assess the child's immediate safety needs.
- 🍷 Develop a personal safety plan with the child, which reflects their age and understanding.
- 🍷 Provide support and services which take account of children's cultural/ethnic needs.
- 🍷 Provide resources to minimise disruption to the child's life.
- 🍷 Provide services to help them recover from the experience of abuse e.g. confidential services.
- 🍷 Involve children in shaping and supporting services.

9. Additional barriers

Anyone may find it difficult to leave an abusive partner for a range of reasons but in some circumstances there can be additional barriers. These may include:

- 🟡 The black and minority ethnic community
- 🟡 Those who have been coerced to marry
- 🟡 Those subject to ‘Honour’ crimes
- 🟡 Those without full immigration status
- 🟡 Those with a disability
- 🟡 Those from the LGBT community
- 🟡 Those with substance misuse issues
- 🟡 Those with mental health issues

Further information can be obtained from the **Guidance for domestic abuse and alcohol and drug services in Lanarkshire** on the Lanarkshire Alcohol and Drugs Partnership website www.lanarkshireadp.org (Professionals section).

“Domestic abuse can be considered a form of everyday terrorism. It creates long lasting fear and trauma, which reinforce the abuser’s control over the abused person. It affects vastly greater numbers than global terrorism, and it has impacts on many aspects of society as well as on the individual”¹²

With mental health and substance misuse, it should be emphasised that work with the woman and children should centre around the reality that domestic abuse affects everyone who lives in that household, and use of substances and mental health problems are very common coping mechanisms for those experiencing domestic abuse. The responsibility for the abuse must lie with the abuser – to do otherwise is to collude with his abuse, and place women and children at greater risk of harm.

¹² Everyday Terrorism: How fear works in domestic abuse Pain R (2012)

Young men and women

The focus of this document is children and young people. The message of the unacceptability of domestic abuse must be reinforced with young men and women who are the parents of the future.

Domestic abuse among young women may also remain hidden because of inexperience in relationships and a 'romantic' view of love, particularly in relation to the abusive behaviour of the partner. A young woman may find difficulty in naming the abuse and feel shame because of the societal message that a woman is valued if she has a man/family and possible fear of never being loved again.

A young man may also keep the abuse hidden because of the societal messages about masculinity i.e. of being strong, in control, not showing emotions and being seen as somehow less of a man.

There is not a vast amount of research dedicated to domestic abuse and young people (16 and under) as the primary victim (sometimes called 'teenage relationship abuse' although over recent years there have been a small number of attitudinal surveys undertaken that have begun to explore young people's views about domestic abuse. In 2005 the NSPCC in conjunction with Sugar Magazine conducted an online survey collecting results from 2000 teenage girls and in September 2008 Bliss Magazine in partnership with Women's Aid designed a similar online survey. The results published from these pieces of research revealed some shocking results, including:

- 4% of teenage girls were subjected to regular attacks by their partner.
- 16% had been hit at least once.
- 31% thought that it was 'acceptable' for a boy to act in an aggressive way if his girlfriend has cheated on him.
- 6% of girls between 13-19, with an average age of 15, had been forced to have sex with their boyfriend and 1 in 3 forgave him and stayed with him.

(Source: Sugar magazine and NSPCC online survey 2005; Teen Abuse survey of Great Britain.)

- One in four 16 year old girls know of someone else who has been hurt or hit by someone
- One in six 15 year old girls and more than one in four 16 year old girls who took part in the survey (27%) have been hit or hurt in some way by someone they were dating.

(Source: Bliss Magazine and Woman's Aid online survey 2008)¹³

This has led to the development of specific materials for young people, such as can be found on this website <http://thisisabuse.direct.gov.uk/>

¹³ Wiltshire young people survey Exploring attitudes and views of domestic abuse in relationships (2009)

Appendix I

Risk identification checklist

Reproduced with permission by CAADA, as an example. Please use their website on <http://www.caada.org.uk/> to ensure the most up to date version of the documentation.

CAADA-DASH Risk Identification Checklist for use by IDVAs and other non-police agencies¹⁴ for MARAC case identification when domestic abuse, 'honour'-based violence and/or stalking are disclosed.

<p>Please explain that the purpose of asking these questions is for the safety and protection of the individual concerned.</p> <p>Tick the box if the factor is present. Please use the comment box at the end of the form to expand on any answer.</p> <p>It is assumed that your main source of information is the victim. If this is not the case please indicate in the right hand column.</p>	<p>Yes (tick)</p>	<p>No (tick)</p>	<p>Don't know (tick)</p>	<p>State the source of info if not the victim e.g. police officer</p>
<p>1. Has the current incident resulted in injury? (please state what and whether this is the first injury)</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<p>2. Are you very frightened? Comment:</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<p>3. What are you afraid of? It is further injury or violence? (Please give an indication of what you think (name of abuser(s)....) might do to whom, including children) Comment:</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<p>4. Do you feel isolated from family/friends i.e. does (name or abuser(s)....) try to stop you from seeing friends/family/doctor or others? Comment:</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<p>5. Are you feeling depressed or having suicidal thoughts?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<p>6. Have you separated or tried to separate from (name of abuser(s)....) within the past year?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

¹⁴ Note: This checklist is consistent with the ACPO endorsed risk assessment model DASH 2009 for the police service

Tick the box if the factor is present. Please use the comment box at the end of the form to expand on any answer.	Yes (tick)	No (tick)	Don't know (tick)	State the source of info if not the victim e.g. police officer
7. Is there conflict over child contact?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
9. Are you pregnant or have you recently had a baby (within the last 18 months)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10. Is the abuse happening more often?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11. Is the abuse getting worse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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 and specify behaviour).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
13. Has (...) ever used weapons or objects to hurt you?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
14. Has (...) ever threatened to kill you or someone else and you believed them (if yes, tick who.) You <input type="checkbox"/> Children <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
15. Has (...) ever attempted to strangle/choke/suffocate/drown you?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
17. Is there any other person who has threatened you or who you are afraid of? (If yes, please specify whom any why. Consider extended family if HBV.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Tick the box if the factor is present. Please use the comment box at the end of the form to expand on any answer.	Yes (tick)	No (tick)	Don't know (tick)	State the source of info if not the victim e.g. police officer
18. Do you know if (...) has hurt anyone else? (Please specify whom including the children, siblings or elderly relatives. Consider HBV) Children <input type="checkbox"/> Another family member <input type="checkbox"/> Someone from a previous relationship <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
19. Has (...) every mistreated an animal or the family pet?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
20. Are there any financial issues? For example, are you dependent on (...) for money / have they recently lost their job/ other financial issues?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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 <input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol <input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
22. Has (...) every threatened or attempted suicide?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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 or the perpetrator if relevant.) Bail conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Non Molestation/Occupation Order <input type="checkbox"/> Child contact arrangements <input type="checkbox"/> Force Marriage Protection Order <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
24. Do you know if (...) has every been in trouble with the police or has a criminal history? (If yes, please specify.) DV <input type="checkbox"/> Sexual Violence <input type="checkbox"/> Other Violence <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Total 'yes' responses				

Appendix 2

Guidance on completing the severity of abuse grid

Note: This guidance is designed to help you complete the SAG above. Please note that each case is unique and you will have to use your professional judgement in relation to the information that you are given by your client. **The context in which these and similar behaviours occur is all important in identifying a level of severity.** For example, the misuse of substances including alcohol may increase the level of risk faced by an individual. Similarly, the cultural context in which abuse takes place should inform your judgement as to the level of risk posed.

Physical abuse			
No	Standard	Moderate	High
Never, or not currently.	Slapping, pushing; no injuries.	Slapping, pushing; lasting pain or mild, light bruising or shallow cuts.	Noticeable bruising, lacerations, pain, severe contusions, burns, broken bones, threats and attempts to kill partner, children, relatives or pets. Strangulation, holding under water or threat to use or use of weapons, loss of consciousness, head injury, internal injury, permanent injury, miscarriage.
Sexual abuse			
No	Standard	Moderate	High
Never, or not currently.	Use of sexual insults.	Uses pressure to obtain sex, unwanted touching, non violent acts that make victim feel uncomfortable about sex, their gender identity or sexual orientation.	Uses threats or force to obtain sex, rape, serious sexual assaults. Deliberately inflicts pain during sex, combines sex and violence including weapons, sexually abuses children and forces partner to watch, enforced prostitution, intentional transmission of STIs/HIV/AIDS.

Harassment or stalking

No	Standard	Moderate	High
Never or not currently.	Occasional phone calls, texts and emails.	Frequent phone calls, texts, emails.	Constant/obsessive phone calls, texts or emails, uninvited visits to home, workplace etc or loitering. Destroys or vandalises property, pursues victim after separation, stalking, threats of suicide/homicide to victim and other family members, threats of sexual violence, involvement of others in the stalking behaviour.

Jealous or controlling behaviour/emotional abuse

No	Standard	Moderate	High
Never or not currently.	Made to account for victim's time, some isolation from family/friends or support network, put down in public.	Increased control over victim's time, significant isolation from family and friends, intercepting mail or phone calls, controls access to money, irrational accusations of infidelity, constant criticism of role as partner/wife/mother.	Controls most or all of victim's daily activities, prevention from taking medication, accessing care needs (especially relevant for survivors with disabilities); extreme dominance, e.g. believes absolutely entitled to partner, partner's services, obedience, loyalty no matter what. Extreme jealousy, e.g. 'If I can't have you, no-one can', with belief that abuser will act on this. Locks person up or severely restricts their movements, threats to take the children. Suicide/homicide/familiacide threats, involvement of wider family members, crimes in the name of 'honour'. Threats to expose sexual activity to family members, religious or local community via photos, online (e.g. Facebook) or in public places.

Appendix 3

CAADA recommended severity of abuse grid for IDVA services¹⁵

This grid has been developed to be used with the CAADA Recommended Risk Identification Checklist. It is designed to give you a framework within which to identify specific features of the abuse suffered by your client and help guide you both to addressing their safety in an informed and coherent way. It will also typically provide information that will be relevant for those cases going to MARAC.

To complete this take the answers from the relevant questions on the checklist and then explore in more detail the severity of each category of abuse currently suffered and the escalation if it exists. For guidance on identifying levels of severity, please see below.

If you answer ‘yes’ to any of the questions ‘is the abuse occurring’ you must circle one answer for each of the boxes in the other three columns to identify the level of severity, the escalation in severity and in frequency.

Type of abuse	Is abuse occurring?	Severity of abuse	Escalation in severity (past 3 months)	Escalation in frequency (past 3 months)
Physical	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	High <input type="checkbox"/>	Worse <input type="checkbox"/>	Worse <input type="checkbox"/>
	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Moderate <input type="checkbox"/>	Unchanged <input type="checkbox"/>	Unchanged <input type="checkbox"/>
	Don't <input type="checkbox"/>	Standard <input type="checkbox"/>	Reduced <input type="checkbox"/>	Reduced <input type="checkbox"/>
	Not answered <input type="checkbox"/>			
Sexual	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	High <input type="checkbox"/>	Worse <input type="checkbox"/>	Worse <input type="checkbox"/>
	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Moderate <input type="checkbox"/>	Unchanged <input type="checkbox"/>	Unchanged <input type="checkbox"/>
	Don't <input type="checkbox"/>	Standard <input type="checkbox"/>	Reduced <input type="checkbox"/>	Reduced <input type="checkbox"/>
	Not answered <input type="checkbox"/>			

¹⁵ Grid and guidance reproduced with kind permission of the Hestia Fund

Type of abuse	Is abuse occurring?	Severity of abuse	Escalation in severity (past 3 months)	Escalation in frequency (past 3 months)
Stalking and harassment	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	High <input type="checkbox"/>	Worse <input type="checkbox"/>	Worse <input type="checkbox"/>
	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Moderate <input type="checkbox"/>	Unchanged <input type="checkbox"/>	Unchanged <input type="checkbox"/>
	Don't <input type="checkbox"/>	Standard <input type="checkbox"/>	Reduced <input type="checkbox"/>	Reduced <input type="checkbox"/>
	Not answered <input type="checkbox"/>			
Jealous and controlling behaviour / emotional abuse	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	High <input type="checkbox"/>	Worse <input type="checkbox"/>	Worse <input type="checkbox"/>
	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Moderate <input type="checkbox"/>	Unchanged <input type="checkbox"/>	Unchanged <input type="checkbox"/>
	Don't <input type="checkbox"/>	Standard <input type="checkbox"/>	Reduced <input type="checkbox"/>	Reduced <input type="checkbox"/>
	Not answered <input type="checkbox"/>			

Practitioner's notes

Appendix 4

Individualised safety and support plan: options and advice

Notes to practitioner: Use this template to document the options and advice relevant to your client's situation. Keep a copy on the client file and, if it is safe, give a copy to your client to take away with them.

Client name/ ref no:

Page... of...

Is it safe to take this home with you?

Where will you keep it?

If I need to leave I will try and take with me...

In an emergency, I will try to take...

General safety planning

Advice on: routines/ safety at home, work, social settings/ escape route/ code words.

Legal

Advice on: Criminal and Civil options/ police reporting/ court support/ breaches of court orders e.g. interdicts/ any child contact/ residence/ protection issues/ immigration/ social work justice involvement for client or (ex) partner or family member.

Separating and post separation

Code words/ escape route/ plan for leaving/ support post separation.

Children

(Ex) partner, family member access to children and school/ Parental rights and responsibility status/ support for children/ child's lead person.

Financial

Advice on: access to finances, benefits/ housing areas/ drugs and alcohol or immigration issues affecting finances.

Health and wellbeing

Advice on: immediate medical needs, access to sexual and general health services, mental health services and whether client has disabilities compounding situation.

Housing and security

Advice on: emergency and longer term housing option/ security measures/ fire assessment.

Additional support factors

Drugs and alcohol/mental health/disability.

Who can I contact in an emergency?

999 for an immediate police or ambulance response:

Domestic Abuse Investigation Unit:

Emergency Housing service:

Solicitor:

Nearest Accident and Emergency department is located:

Other

This service can be contacted on...

We are open...

Appendix 5

Identifying vulnerabilities and the need for risk assessment

This an extract from the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland (2014)

For children using the My World Triangle to identify risk factors is the first step in assessing risk. The next is to look at how those factors impact on the individual child. The Resilience Matrix developed by Daniel and Wassell provides a framework for weighing up particular risks against protective factors for the individual child. It helps practitioners make sense of the world around them, the matrix may also help highlight areas of risk that need more comprehensive or specialist assessment and analysis, domestic abuse could fit this category. The matrix can be used to examine factors in relation to:

- ☉ Vulnerability and unmet need;
- ☉ Adversity;
- ☉ Strengths or protective factors;
- ☉ Resilience.

This step marks the start of the process of ‘unpacking the individual child’s circumstances and exploring their potential impact. The child’s circumstances can be plotted on each of the two continuums, allowing the practitioner to see where the impact of these circumstances places them within the matrix and, therefore, how at risk they are:

- ☉ Resilience within a protective environment (low risk);
- ☉ Resilience within adverse circumstances (medium risk);
- ☉ Vulnerable within a protective environment (medium risk); and
- ☉ Vulnerable within adverse circumstances (high risk).

Where it emerges that a vulnerable child is living in a situation with a high level of adversity, a detailed risk assessment should be carried out. A number of specialist tools can be used. These may focus specific family/environmental circumstances (such as parental alcohol and/or drug misuse) and/or address particular groups of children (such as children with disability or communication difficulties).

Assessing risk

Risk assessment is not static, nor can it be separated from risk management.

Risk factors can reduce over time, or conversely, increase. Equally, changes in a child or family's circumstances can strengthen or limit protective factors. The process of identifying and managing risk must therefore also be dynamic, taking account of both current circumstances and previous experiences, and must consider the immediate impact as well as longer-term outcomes for children.

Risk assessments are needed in numerous different situations, but there are two scenarios that are worth reviewing:

- ☉ Where significant harm may arise from a single event; and
- ☉ Where significant harm may result from an accumulation of events or circumstances.

Risk assessment of a single event

In some child protection circumstances, urgent action is needed to protect the child from any further harm and the immediate safety of the child is the priority consideration. Where such concerns arise and can be immediately verifiable – for example, sexual assault or injury – risk assessment must be carried out straight away in order to guarantee the child's safety.

However, once these steps have been taken, practitioners will need to determine the longer-term safety of the child. Risk identification and management at this stage will focus on the likelihood of future significant harm to the child, the family's capacity for change and the interventions needed to reduce risk of that significant harm.

In other circumstances, a specific, individual concern may be raised about a child and professional judgement will be needed to determine the likelihood and scope of any significant harm. Further investigation may be required to determine the nature and circumstances of events, and a balance will need to be struck between understanding what **has** happened and what **may** happen.

Risk assessment of accumulative concerns

Children are often identified as being at risk of significant harm not as a result of a one-off incident but rather because of increasing, ongoing concerns about their circumstances. These concerns may appear relatively minor in themselves but, together, trigger a need to act.

There may also be a need for ongoing assessment of a child who is already subject to child protection actions. Practitioners will need to assess whether there have been any improvements in a child's circumstances – for example, an increase in parenting capacity – and whether there are still important unmet needs.

Managing risk through child protection plans

Having identified risks to a child and their actual or potential impact, the next step will be to consider strategies and interventions for reducing those risks. This will form part of the Child Protection Plan and may build on work already undertaken in the context of a Child's Plan. Again, consideration should be given to immediate and short-term risks as well as longer-term risks to the child. In addition, Child Protection Plans should reflect a child's wider emotional, social and developmental needs, as well as their child protection needs.

Child Protection Plans should set out in detail the perceived risks and needs, what is required to reduce these risks and meet those needs, and who is expected to take any actions forward including parents and carers (as well as the child themselves). Children and their families need to understand clearly what is being done to support them and why.

Any interventions should be proportionate and clearly linked to a desired outcome for the child. Progress can only be meaningfully measured if the action or activity has a positive impact on the child. The Well-being Indicators can help to measure this progress. The Child Protection Plan should include a detailed explanation of specific needs, risks, interventions and desired outcomes under each indicator.

Child Protection Plans should also clearly identify:

- The key people involved and their responsibilities;
- Timescales;
- Support and resources required and, in particular, access to specialist resources;
- The process of monitoring and review; and
- Any contingency plans.

What is the desired outcome for this child? (the positive changes in well-being should go here)	What are we going to do? (these are the actions need to achieve the desired outcomes)	How will we know? (the evidence that will indicate improvements or deterioration in well-being)	By when? (the latest acceptable date to achieve positive change)	Who is helping me? (which professional will be responsible)
Safe				
Healthy				
Achieving				
Nurtured				
Active				
Respected				
Responsible				
Included				

Appendix 7

Good practice principles

Points to consider when working with women who disclose domestic abuse:

- 🕒 **Belief** – many women are not believed when they start to speak about their experiences. One way you can show respect for her is to tell her that you believe what she is telling you.
- 🕒 **Approachability** – If you suspect domestic abuse, give the woman time. Be supportive; reassure her that the abuse is not her fault. Never judge or blame her for the abuse. Her situation may be compounded by language or cultural barriers, racism or negative reactions to her sexuality, disability or age.
- 🕒 **Explore the options** – Listen to what she wants; don't presume that you know what she should do. She may not be ready or want to leave the relationship yet. There are things that she can do and she may need time to consider the choices that are open to her.
- 🕒 **Empowerment** – Take your cues from her. Exploring options enables her to take back control of her life. Assist her and support her decisions.
- 🕒 **Information** – Many women experience isolation as a result of abuse. Provide her with information about what other agencies have to offer that will assist her either now or in the future. Have contact details for local services e.g. Women's Aid, Housing, Rape Crisis. Women may not know that domestic abuse is a criminal offence, a lawyer may be able to take court action on her behalf. You can support her by making contact with other organisations and finding out what they have to offer should she need it.
- 🕒 **Honesty** – Be honest about what you can do. Do not make promises or raise expectations that you cannot deliver.
- 🕒 **Confidentiality** – Offer a private space and be sure to ask if it is safe to contact her at home. Be honest about your position with regard to confidentiality, e.g. statutory duties, if you have to take and keep notes.
- 🕒 **Safety issues** – Support her to look at what she and her children could do to feel safer.
- 🕒 **Self-awareness** – You may feel shocked at hearing a disclosure of abuse. Take responsibility for your own feelings, do not add to her distress. The choices she makes may challenge what you consider to be in her best interests. Support her autonomy.

Appendix 8

Legislation

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

North and South Lanarkshire Child Protection Committees support the principles set out under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child ratified by the UK Government in 1991. The Convention is not a law but a code that recognises that children and young people in Scotland have rights.

There are 54 articles in the Convention covering rights such as the right to express and have their views taken into account on all matters that affect them; the right to play, rest and leisure and the right to be free from all forms of violence. The provisions of the European Convention on Human Rights are legally binding to all public bodies.

The Children (Scotland) Act 1995

The Children (Scotland) Act 1995 is centred on the needs of children/young people and their families and defines both parental responsibilities and rights in relation to children/young people. It sets out the duties and powers available to local authorities to support children/young people and their families and to intervene when the child/young person's welfare requires it. These duties and powers include provisions to protect children/young people from abuse and neglect through a range of measures including the provision of accommodation, services for the child/young person and wider family. The Act enables authorities to provide a range of different types of support for children and families. The essential principles behind the Act are:

- ☉ Each child/young person has the right to be treated as an individual.
- ☉ Each child/young person who can form his or her own views on matters affecting him or her, has the right to express those views if he or she wishes.
- ☉ Parents should normally be responsible for the upbringing of children and young people and should share that responsibility.
- ☉ Each child/young person has the right to protection from all forms of abuse, neglect or exploitation.
- ☉ So far as is consistent with safeguarding and promoting the child/young person's welfare, the local authority should promote the upbringing of children and young people by their families.
- ☉ Any intervention by a local authority should be properly justified, and should be supported by services from all relevant agencies working in collaboration.

In support of these principles three main themes run through the Act:

- ☉ The welfare of the child or young person is the paramount consideration when his or her needs are considered by Courts, Children's Hearings and local authorities.
- ☉ No Courts should make an Order relating to a child or young person and no Children's Hearing should make a supervision requirement unless the Court or Hearing considers that to do so would be better for the child or young person than making no Order or supervision requirement at all.
- ☉ The child or young person's views, taking appropriate account of age and understanding should be taken into account where major decisions are to be made about her or her future.

Child Protection Orders (Sections 57-60)

A child protection order may be made by a sheriff, on the application of any person to authorise (but not to require) the removal of a child to a place of safety or to prevent a child being removed from the place where he or she is being accommodated. The provisions relating to child protection orders set out clear grounds, clearly defined responsibilities for the person holding the Order and strict time limits within which the Order must be implemented. The duration and effect of the order are limited to what is necessary to protect the child. The parents of a child who is subject to an order and certain other persons specified in the Act may challenge the order or any direction made under it.

Exclusion Order (Sections 76-80)

Under previous procedures the only means of separating an adult abuser from a child who lived in the same house, apart from removing the child, was by voluntary withdrawal by the adult, by an Order made by the court under the Matrimonial Homes (Family Protection) (Scotland) Act 1981 following an application by an entitled or non-entitled spouse or cohabiting partner, or by bail conditions imposed by the court on an accused person.

None of these measures is, however, designed for or suitable to intervention by a public authority to protect a child from harm and their effectiveness in protecting a child is likely to be limited to certain circumstances. The Act empowers sheriffs on the application by a local authority to make an exclusion order excluding a named individual from the family home.

Exclusion Order

An exclusion order is a statutory measure available to protect children from significant harm or threat of harm by excluding an alleged abuser from the family home. An exclusion order has the effect of suspending the named person's right of occupancy to the family home in question. It also prevents the person - whether an occupier or not - from entering the home, except with the express permission of the local authority which applied for the Order.

Main features of the Exclusion Order

Only a Local Authority is able to apply to a Sheriff for an Exclusion Order in respect of a named person, the Sheriff will not make an Exclusion Order unless satisfied that the conditions for making the order are met.

Conditions:

1. The child has suffered, is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm as a result of any conduct of the named person, such conduct being actual, threatened or reasonably apprehended.
2. The Order is necessary for the protection of the child.
3. This would better safeguard the welfare of the child than removing the child from the family home.

Before making a final Exclusion Order the Sheriff may grant an interim Exclusion Order with the power to grant warrants and interdict as appropriate.

Before an Exclusion Order is finally determined the person to be excluded (the named person) must be afforded the opportunity to be heard by or represented before the Sheriff.

In applying for an Exclusion Order consideration must also be given to applying for any warrants, interdicts or orders to back up the Exclusion Order. The Sheriff may grant:-

- A warrant for the summary ejection of the named person.
- An interdict prohibiting the named person from entering the home without permission of the Local Authority.
- An interdict prohibiting the named person from entering or remaining in a specified area in the vicinity of the home.
- Make an Order regulating contact between the child and the named person.
- An Exclusion Order lasts for 6 months and will not be renewable.

Appendix 9

What happens when domestic abuse is reported to the police?

Domestic abuse in itself is not a crime in Scots Law. However the behaviours that abusers use to control and cause fear in their partners or ex-partners may constitute a crime such as breach of the peace, crimes of violence including murder and crimes of a sexual nature. Other crimes may include breach of the Telecommunications Act, vandalism, abduction, wilful fire raising and crimes of dishonesty. This list is not exhaustive and these crimes amongst others may be disclosed to you in the course of your work.

Reporting domestic abuse to the police may provide a protective factor to some women. Police Scotland treat domestic abuse very seriously.

When Police Officers attend a domestic abuse incident they will gather all the details of the incident, establish if a crime has been committed and investigate this thoroughly. Where there is sufficient evidence all attempts will be made to locate, detain and arrest the individual. In terms of Scottish Crime Recording Standards Police Scotland will record and investigate all allegations regardless of the wishes of the victim. Where the accused is not traced and is at large, they will be actively pursued until detained for interview or arrested where there is sufficient evidence.

The initial priority for police officers attending a domestic abuse incident is the safety and wellbeing of the victim and family.

To substantiate charges in Scots Law allegations require to be corroborated (although this is under review at time of publication). Corroboration is two or more separate sources of evidence. These could be statements from witnesses, who saw or heard something, admissions by the accused or supporting evidence such as injury to the woman or forensic evidence consistent with the details of the event.

Where there is no corroboration police have no power to arrest and charge an individual. However, they can detain a suspect to carry out further investigation and seek evidence about any allegations made.

What happens next

The police compile a report and send this to the Procurator Fiscal (PF). The PF is the official from the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service who decides whether a case goes to court. The PF is independent from the police and the court and does not have to explain their decision. If the PF decides to prosecute the accused will need to go to court.

Sheriff summary proceedings

The accused will appear from custody the next working day in front of a Sheriff and will be given the opportunity to plead guilty or not guilty. If the accused pleads guilty they may be sentenced that day or sentence may be deferred for background reports. If they plead not guilty a date will be set for their trial and he may be released on bail or remanded in custody.

Sheriff solemn

In the most serious of cases, the Crown may decide to proceed by solemn procedure which always involves trial by jury. Usually solemn proceedings are raised in the Sheriff court by means of petition. When the accused appears from custody a trial diet will not be set at this time, unlike summary procedure. The accused may be remanded in custody or released on bail.

The maximum custodial sentence in solemn proceedings that can be imposed is five years. If the Sheriff is of the view that this sentence is inadequate the case can be remitted to the High Court for sentence (where the common law powers are unlimited), following upon conviction. A handy summary can be found at <http://www.r1claw.co.uk/advice/solemn-procedure/>

Bail

Bail is an order of the court granted in terms of the criminal procedures (Scotland) Act 1995 and is defined as “the release of the accused on conditions”. If the accused is released on Standard Bail the conditions are:

- Appears at the appointed time at every diet relating to the offence.
- Does not commit an offence whilst on bail.
- Does not interfere with witnesses or otherwise obstruct the course of justice whether in relation to self or any other person.
- Makes himself available for the purpose of enabling enquiries or a report to be made to assist the court in dealing with him.

The Sheriff may impose Special Bail conditions in cases of domestic abuse. These can be:

- Do not approach, contact or communicate with the victim.
- Do not enter victim’s address, street, area or any other area deemed by the order.

Bail conditions will last until there is the disposal of the case at court.

Appendix 10

Civil remedies

Civil law varies to criminal law in the level of evidence required. In criminal law the level of evidence required is “beyond all reasonable doubt”. Civil law only requires the evidence to be “the balance of probability”. Due to this victims may be able to secure protection through a civil remedy where there is not enough evidence to pursue a criminal conviction. It is useful for the victim to have as much evidence as possible about what has happened. For this reason it is important to record accurately any information the victim has told you about the abuse, as this could be used as evidence in a civil case. Other evidence that the victim could use may come from:

- ☉ Friends, family or neighbours who can confirm what the victim says.
- ☉ Health records.
- ☉ Police records or any calls the woman has made to them.
- ☉ Items such as abusive letters or texts which their abusive partner/ ex-partner has sent.

Interdicts

An interdict is a court order that can ban an individual from certain behaviour. An interdict can stop a domestic abuse perpetrator coming near a victim’s home a victim’s work place or a child’s school. It can also be used to stop phone calls or items being sold from the home.

There are different laws though which an individual can apply for an interdict. These include the Matrimonial Homes, Family Protection (Scotland) Act 1981, Protection from Abuse Act (2001) and Family Law Act. A solicitor will advise the victim which is best in their individual circumstances. In an emergency an individual can apply to the court for an interim interdict. This is a temporary order and a solicitor should be able to get this within 24 to 48 hours. There will then be a court hearing within about 7 days to decide what should happen next.

Applying for an interdict

A solicitor applies to the court for an interdict on the victim’s behalf. The solicitor will gather information from the victim and anyone else who is willing to say what happened. The solicitor will then prepare an application and present it to the court.

The domestic abuse perpetrator will be informed that the victim has applied for an interdict. If the court grants the interdict, sheriff officers will go to the domestic abuse perpetrator and give him the papers (serve the interdict). The interdict is only effective if the domestic abuse perpetrator gets the papers.

The solicitor should tell the police that the interdict has been granted and when it starts.

Making the interdict more effective

Under the Protection from Abuse Act (2001), a victim can apply for a power of arrest to be attached to an interdict. The police do not need witnesses or other evidence to arrest the person subject to this interdict. But, be aware that being arrested is not the same as being charged.

The police will need evidence if the domestic abuse perpetrator is to be charged with a criminal offence in addition to the breach of the interdict.

If the domestic abuse perpetrator breaks the interdict

If the domestic abuse perpetrator breaks the interdict the victim should report this immediately. If the interdict does not have a power of arrest attached the victim should contact her solicitor and tell them what has happened. If the interdict does have a power of arrest attached the victim should contact the police. She should also contact her solicitor. The police can arrest the domestic abuse perpetrator without a warrant.

Non-harassment orders

Section 8-11 of The Protection from Harassment Act 1997 allow a court to award damages or grant an interdict or a non-harassment order (NHO) in cases where harassment has taken place.

A non-harassment order is a court order which states that an individual cannot commit certain action (for example following a victim, repeatedly texting or other actions which frighten or distress the victim).

The Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010, contains provisions which makes it more straightforward to obtain NHOs against offenders so that victims are protected from further harassment and repeat offending.

Applying for a non-harassment order

If a domestic abuse perpetrator has already been convicted of an offence against a victim, the sheriff may impose a non-harassment order along with the sentence. The victim can also apply to the court for a non-harassment order. The solicitor makes the application on their behalf. The victim must show that the domestic abuse perpetrator has behaved in a way that put the victim in a state of alarm or distress. If the victim already has an interdict, it is still possible to get a non-harassment order to forbid the domestic abuse perpetrator from doing something that is not in the interdict.

If the domestic abuse perpetrator breaks the non-harassment order

If the domestic abuse perpetrator breaks a non-harassment order it is a criminal offence. The victim should contact the police immediately. The police can arrest the domestic abuse perpetrator without a warrant. They will send a report to the Procurator Fiscal and the domestic abuse perpetrator will need to go to court. The domestic abuse perpetrator may face a fine or custodial sentence.

A victim's right to stay in their home

Victims who experience domestic abuse have rights to stay in their home and make the domestic abuse perpetrator leave. This may be less disruptive to the victim and any children than having to leave their home. Some rights are not automatic, so depending on the victim's circumstances they may need to go to court to enforce them.

Taking legal action

A victim may have to go to court to have their partner removed and to make them stay away. The law is complex and advice should always be sought. A victim's right to stay in their own home and take action against the domestic abuse perpetrator depends on whether the victim or their partner have occupancy rights.

- If the victim is married or in a civil partnership they have automatic occupancy rights whether the house is in the domestic abuse perpetrator's name, the victim's name or joint names.
- If the victim is not married or in a civil partnership they have automatic occupancy rights if the victim is the sole or joint owner or tenant of their home.
- If the victim is not a sole or joint owner or tenant, then they do not have automatic occupancy rights. But the victim does have the right to apply to the court to have occupancy rights granted to them.
- If a victim is not married or in a civil partnership, and they are the sole owner or tenant of the home, their partner has no legal right to stay there.

Excluding a violent partner

If the victim has occupancy rights they can apply to the court for an exclusion order (under the Matrimonial Homes (Family Protection) (Scotland) Act 1981).

This is a court order, which suspends their partner's rights to live in the home, and forces the domestic abuse perpetrator to leave. The court can be asked to attach a power of arrest to the exclusion order. This means that if the domestic abuse perpetrator breaks the exclusion order the police can arrest them without a warrant. The domestic abuse perpetrator will then face court action and a fine or imprisonment.

In an emergency a victim can apply to the court for an interim exclusion order. This gives protection until the full order is granted.

Finding a solicitor

This section will provide some guiding steps to assist victims in finding a suitable solicitor.

- 🕒 It is important for victims to find a solicitor who is experienced in dealing with domestic abuse. This is usually a family law solicitor. Victims can get a list of family law solicitors from the Law Society at <http://www.lawscot.org.uk/> or phone 0131 226 7411.
- 🕒 Choose a solicitor who provides a legal aid service. Legal Aid is financial aid from the state towards legal costs. Victims can ask Women's Aid, EVA Services or their local Citizens Advice Bureau for details of legal aid solicitors.

Questions for victims to ask when approaching a solicitor

It is important when victims are seeking assistance from a solicitor that they receive a good and prompt service. Victims should not need to wait for more than five days for an appointment, sooner if it's urgent. It is a good idea for victims to phone and ask the following questions:

- 🕒 Are you a family law solicitor?
- 🕒 Do you have experience of domestic abuse work?
- 🕒 Are you experienced in applying for interdicts in cases of domestic abuse?
- 🕒 Do you do legal aid work?
- 🕒 How long will it take to get legal aid for me?
- 🕒 When are you able to see me?
- 🕒 Only if a victim is happy with the answers they receive should they make an appointment.

Get advice

The law is complex and it may be necessary to seek advice from your agency's Legal Services.

Appendix 11

Useful contact numbers

Emergency	999
North	
Social Work Emergency Services – freephone	0800 121 4114
Women’s Aid (Motherwell)	01698 321 000
Women’s Aid (Monklands)	01236 432 061
Women’s Aid (Cumbernauld)	01236 730 992
Hemat Gryffe Women’s Aid <i>(for Asian, Black or Minority Ethnic Women)</i>	0141 353 08 59
EVA Services	01236 707 767
Domestic Abuse Helpline (24hrs)	0800 027 12 34
Lanarkshire Rape Crisis Centre	01698 527 003
Police Scotland Domestic Abuse Unit	101 <i>(ask for local police office)</i>
South	
Women’s Aid South Lanarkshire – Hamilton Office	01698 891 498
– East Kilbride Office	01355 249 897
Hemat Gryffe Women’s Aid <i>(For Asian, Black or Minority Ethnic Women)</i>	0141 353 08 59
National Domestic Abuse Helpline (24hrs)	0800 027 12 34
Lanarkshire Rape Crisis	01698 527 003
Police Scotland Domestic Abuse Unit	101 <i>(ask for local police office)</i>
Social Work Emergency Standby <i>(Evening and weekends)</i>	0303 123 10 08
Housing Homeless Out of Hours Service <i>(Evening and weekends)</i>	0303 123 10 12
Victim Support	01698 30 11 11
Resources for children and young people	
Childline – about anything	0800 11 11
Breathing Space – feeling down or depressed	0800 838 587
Child Law centre for legal advice	0800 328 89 70
Broken Rainbow – abuse in same sex relationships	08452 604 460
Know the Score – information on drugs	0800 587 58 79
If you have run away or need a temp safe place to stay	0800 782 66 86

North and South Lanarkshire Councils have arranged for the **Ethnic Minority Law Centre** to provide legal advice and representation in conjunction with **Citizen's Advice Bureau** www.emlc.org.uk

Helpful contacts

Trafficking Awareness Raising Alliance (TARA)

1st Floor, Eastgate, 727 London Road, Glasgow G40 3AQ

Save the Children

www.savethechildren.org

Amnesty International

www.amnesty.org

The LGBT Domestic Abuse Project is Government funded and in its initial phase has created a website as a resource for all service providers and to reach as many people experiencing domestic abuse as possible. The project also plans to pilot training in 3 areas of Scotland. The website also addresses the effect domestic abuse can have on children and young people within an LGBT family www.lgbtdomesticabuse.org.uk

National Asylum Support Service (NASS)

Offers housing and financial support if an application has been made on human rights grounds

Phone: 0845 602 17 39

Refuge Council One Stop Shop can access NASS Support

Phone: 0141 248 97 99

Immigration Advisory Service

Offers legal advice and representation for immigrants and asylum seekers

www.iasuk.org

International organisation for Migration

www.ionlondon.org

Both authorities

An information pack '**Violence Against Deaf Women**' that covers all aspects of violence against women is available from Wise Women Project, 120 Sydney Street Glasgow G31 1JF

Phone: 0141 55075 57

Minicom: 0141 550 75 58

office mobile: 07969 835 966

info@wisewomen.org.uk

Some useful websites

www.likeitis.org

www.teenagehealthfreak

www.there4me.com

www.uhavetheright.net

www.broken-rainbow.org.uk

www.wasl.org.uk

www.voiceagainstviolence.org.uk

If you need this information in another language or format, please contact us to discuss how we can best meet your needs.

Phone: 01698 455787

Email: maureen.bridges@southlanarkshire.gcsx.gov.uk

www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk