



North

Yorkshire County Council

Domestic Abuse Youth Support Services Guidelines

2014



Children and Young People's Service

Foreword

The impact of domestic abuse on a child or young person is immeasurable; hearing any account of domestic violence from a child or young person can be heartbreaking. Partner agencies across North Yorkshire and the City of York are committed to improving the safety and outcomes for all adults and children who are victims or survivors of domestic abuse. We recognise our shared responsibility to reduce the impact of domestic abuse through the delivery of co-ordinated services which are sufficiently flexible to meet individual needs and encourage empowerment and self-determination.

The Domestic Abuse Reference Pack for services working with young people recognises the invaluable role that all services working with children and young people have in ensuring that children and young people are supported and heard, whether they are living with or have fled from domestic abuse. This document clearly informs practitioners working with children and young people aged up to 19 years (25 with Special Educational Needs or Disability) of their role in the prevention of domestic abuse and provide practical information on accessing local support, training and assistance from statutory and voluntary services.

Children and young people can experience domestic abuse in many forms, from family members or their own partners. Whilst it affects people of all ages, young people aged 16-24 are at the highest risk of experiencing domestic abuse in their own

relationships. Young women aged 16-19 are at particular risk of experiencing sexual violence, including being pressured into having sex. It is essential that those who work with young people understand that they can experience violence in their relationships. Young people must be well-educated at an early age, both to enable them to recognise the early signs of domestic abuse, and to ensure unacceptable attitudes and behaviours are challenged before they become embedded. This is an important aspect of work with young people who harm others, many of whom may not identify their own behaviour as abusive.

Partner agencies across North Yorkshire and the City of York have worked together to produce this guidance following the release of the Domestic Abuse School's Reference Pack and the Domestic Abuse Children's Centre Reference Pack. These reference packs have been produced in addition to and in association with the North Yorkshire & York Domestic Abuse Strategy 2009-2014 which provides a framework around which both statutory and voluntary agencies will continue to work together to reduce the incidence and impact of domestic abuse on North Yorkshire's children and families



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1. Domestic Abuse Definition

In accordance with the Home Office definition of Domestic Violence and Abuse¹ the North Yorkshire Domestic Abuse Initiative defines domestic abuse as:

From 31st March 2013, the Government changed the definition of domestic violence to include 16 -17 year olds and the wording reflect coercive control. A further change is the title of the definition to 'domestic violence and abuse'. The new definition also includes relationships between young people aged under 18 and it should be noted that relationship abuse could also occur in young people's own relationships with their peers or with other family members.

Extending the definition will increase awareness that young people in this age group experience domestic violence and abuse. It will encourage more of them to come forward and access the support they need. The new definition is:

Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. This can encompass but is not limited to the following types of abuse: Psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional.

Controlling behaviour includes a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour.

Coercive behaviour includes an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim. This includes issues of concern to black and minority ethnic (BME) communities such as so-called honour based violence, forced or early marriage and female genital mutilation.

All forms of domestic abuse involve perpetrators seeking to exert power and control over their partners or family members. Domestic abuse often incorporates a range or variety of abusive behaviours and can be carried out by both men and women.

The North Yorkshire Domestic Abuse Initiative recognises that domestic abuse:

- Is predominantly *but not exclusively* the abuse of women by their male partner or ex-partner
- Causes significant harm to children in the household
- Also occurs between other family members
- Requires specific procedures and practices if it is to be tackled effectively

Whilst women are predominantly the victims of domestic abuse, it is important to note that domestic abuse can also be perpetrated against men (although there is less data available on the prevalence of this, aggregated BCS data suggests that approximately 40% of assaults are committed against male victims). Abuse can occur in any personal or family relationship including straight, gay and transgender relationships, with a number of published studies suggesting that domestic abuse occurs at a similar rate in both mixed and same sex relationships.

¹Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behavior, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. Home Office (2013) *domestic violence and abuse: new definition* London: Home Office

Instances of domestic abuse are more common than many people realise, particularly as abusers and victims are often skilled at hiding the abuse that takes place behind closed doors. Instances of domestic abuse are more common than many people realise, particularly as abusers and victims are often skilled at hiding the abuse that takes place behind closed doors. In 2011/12, there were 7,286 instances of domestic abuse reported in North Yorkshire and York. National research shows that domestic abuse can affect one in four women at some point in their lives,

and affects one in ten women annually. On average, a violent partner or ex-partner kills two women a week nationally. In 2012-13, 29% of all incidents were classed as a 'repeat incident' where a previous incident has been reported by the same victim within the last 12 months. Currently the average for 2013-14 is 23%, which is positive as it represents a slight decline in repeat incidents.

2. What Children and Young People Have Told Us and the Impact this Has

The following quotes are taken from the 'Domestic Abuse: the Effects on Children' DVD produced by North Yorkshire Probation, North Yorkshire Children & Young People's Services and the NSPCC and come from children and young people within North Yorkshire who have been affected by domestic abuse:

“ Sometimes I couldn't concentrate at school because I was just thinking about it ”

“ Very upset. I couldn't sleep thinking about him attacking her again really bad ”

“ I didn't want to talk to anyone 'bout it ”

“ It was quite frightening because I didn't know what my Dad was going to do, when I realised what he was doing to my Mum I felt really afraid ”

Domestic abuse can have a devastating impact on children and young people, affecting their health, wellbeing and development, as well as their educational achievement. In 2011/12, across North Yorkshire and York 1,216 (17%) of incidents reported to the police had children present or in the household.

The North Yorkshire Local Safeguarding Children Board Practice Guidance: Safeguarding Children Abused through Domestic Abuse identifies the risks to children living with domestic abuse as follows:

- Direct physical or sexual abuse of the child. Research suggests that this may occur in up to 60% of cases; also that the severity of the violence against the victimised parent is predictive of the severity of abuse to the children

- The child being abused as part of the abuse against the victim
- Being used as pawns or spies by the abusive partner in attempts to control the victim
- Being forced to participate in the abuse and degradation by the abusive partner

“ Everyone who sees my Gran when she is sober thinks she is a lovely person. They should see her when she is drunk and violent towards us ”

Quote from a Young Person affected by Domestic Abuse in North Yorkshire

Children and young people may also experience direct emotional abuse or physical injury from witnessing or hearing the abuse including:

- Hearing abusive verbal exchange between adults in the household (research shows in 80% of cases children are in the same or next room)
- Hearing or seeing the abusive partner verbally abuse, humiliate and threaten or carry out violence
- Hearing the victim's screams and pleas for help
- Observing bruises and injuries sustained by the victim
- Observing the abusive partner being removed and taken into police custody
- Witnessing the victim being taken to hospital by ambulance
- Attempting to intervene in a violent assault

“ Bed is supposed to be a safe place to be but not when you can still hear all the arguments going on downstairs. Even with my head under the pillow I can still hear the big bangs ”

Quote from a Young Person affected by Domestic Abuse in North Yorkshire

A consultation exercise in York and North Yorkshire in 2011 revealed that, according to the case files of children and young people exposed to domestic abuse:

- 86% had heard the violence
- 64% had seen violence such as the perpetrator physically hurting the victim
- 43% had been physically pushed or pulled by the perpetrator
- 29% had experienced direct emotional abuse

These types of exposure can have a range of negative consequences such as:

- Child being unable or unwilling to invite friends to the family home
- Difficulties making and maintaining friendships
- Difficulties at school (including behavioural difficulties and/or decline in academic achievement)
- Family break-up
- Frequent disruptions to social life and schooling from moving with their parent or carer fleeing violence

- Homelessness
- Inability of the victim to work resulting in family being drawn into a cycle of poverty
- Hospitalisation of the victim and/or their permanent disability or death

Whilst the impact of domestic abuse on children may be similar to the effects of any other abuse or trauma, the outcome for the child will depend on many different factors. Evidence suggests that children as individuals respond differently to witnessing domestic abuse. For example, they could exhibit one or more of the following:

- poor school performance
- low self-esteem
- increased levels of anxiety, depression, anger and fear
- aggressive and violent behaviours, including bullying or anti-social behaviour
- lack of conflict resolution skills
- lack of empathy for others and poor peer relationships
- risky behaviour (including teenage or early pregnancy / alcohol and substance misuse)
- self blame
- hopelessness
- shame and anxiety
- post traumatic stress disorder- symptoms such as hyper-vigilance, nightmares and intrusive thoughts - images of violence, insomnia, enuresis
- over protectiveness of the victim and/or siblings

Consultation with children and young people affected by domestic abuse in York and North Yorkshire found that they felt angry, worried and sad. This resulted for some young people in:

- displaying physically aggressive behaviour
- low self esteem
- feeling depressed
- difficulties making friends
- self-harm
- risky behaviours such as smoking or shoplifting
- imitation of some of the violent and aggressive behaviour of the perpetrator

Domestic abuse has many forms and its effects need to be considered on a case-by-case basis. It is important to remember that whilst some children or young people may appear resilient to the trauma of exposure to domestic abuse these children will also need to be provided with a service. Victims and children can experience physical and psychological ill health, isolation and a feeling that they cannot escape from the abusive relationship.

It is important to note that children experiencing domestic abuse do not necessarily go on to become abusers or victims themselves. However, it may be that exposure to parental domestic abuse, in combination with other factors, may increase the risk of children and young people experiencing abuse in their own relationships

For more information on the impact of domestic abuse on children, unborn children and parents/victims please see the North Yorkshire Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) Practice Guidance: Safeguarding Children Abused through Domestic Abuse available at <http://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/domestic-abuse.html>.

3. The Role of Services working with Young People

“My Dad is in the army and if I am really honest, I can't wait for him to go back to Afghanistan so that we can have some weeks of peace again”

Quote from a Young Person affected by Domestic Abuse in North Yorkshire

All services for children, families and young people need to take a proactive, collaborative approach to identifying and responding appropriately to domestic abuse. Children, families and young people experiencing domestic abuse are likely to need well-targeted support from a range of different agencies. For example, victims and children may need safe places to stay. In addition, children and young people may need adults to ensure their needs are identified and subsequently met whilst their welfare is promoted and safeguarded. Everyone working with families should be alert to the relationship between domestic abuse and the abuse/neglect of children² and be equipped to offer support to children and young people affected by domestic abuse as a result of their own relationships or as a family member.

All professionals also have a crucial role to play, alongside parents and carers, in helping children and young people to develop respectful relationships of their own and manage their emotions. Whilst it affects people of all ages, young people aged 16-24 are at the highest risk of directly experiencing domestic abuse. Young women aged 16-19 are at particular risk of experiencing sexual violence, including being pressured into having sex. The 'Together we can End Violence Against Women & Girls' government strategy document - released in 2009 - states that in particular services can; challenge the myths that perpetrate domestic abuse, support children and young people to seek help and safety and model and promote healthy non-violent relationships.

The services working with young people can work proactively with young people aged 11 - 19 (25 if a young person has Special Educational Needs or a Disability) to raise their awareness and promote positive messages around healthy relationships and the impact of violence and abuse.

The topic may be included within other Personal and Social Development work or could be addressed as a specific topic and be highlighted through an awareness raising or themed event. In addition, Youth Workers will educate young people about Personal Safety issues including Cyberbullying, Internet Safety and Sexual Health.

Targeted Support Services working with young people work on a 1:1 basis with young people who feel vulnerable and isolated helping them to discuss their worries and fears in a safe and accessible place, and if applicable signposting these young people to other support services in their area.

Allocated workers also follow up young people who go “missing from home” to ensure they are safe and offer support and alternative strategies to deal with their issues which may be to do with relationships in or out of the home.

As part of the Early Intervention/prevention offer; the service works with a range of agencies including schools; to identify young people displaying anger and aggressive behaviour towards their peers or staff, and works with these young people in targeted group work settings to develop effective strategies to deal with their issues; encouraging young people to explore the consequences of their behaviour and to build positive relationships.

²National Service Framework for children, young people and maternity services, 2004

Targeted Support Services working with Young People

Targeted Support services provides co-ordinated early intervention for vulnerable young people aged 11-19 (or up to age 25 for young people with learning difficulties and disabilities) in order to prevent an escalation of issues. Often this will involve working with young people at Level 2 on the Vulnerability Checklist who have not met the threshold for statutory intervention or specialist services yet still require intervention that cannot be provided by a single service.

The referral and assessment process sits within the Common Assessment Framework (see page 15). Anyone can make a referral to the service, including a young person, parent or carer, or a practitioner. All referrals should be made via the local Services working with young people.

In order for a referral to be made to TYS, consent must be obtained from the young person. The person making the referral will be responsible for obtaining the consent. Parental or carer consent may also be required for those at the younger end of the age range or those who may be unable to give fully informed consent.

4. Promoting Healthy Relationships

Teenager's experience at least as much relationship abuse as adults. Several independent studies have shown that 40% of teenagers are in abusive dating relationships, with young women who have older partners and young women from disadvantaged backgrounds at even higher risk. Domestic abuse is still a 'hidden' issue in our society; and it is even more so for teenagers. This is exacerbated by the fact that adolescents can be more accepting of, and dismissive about, this form of behaviour than adults, often justifying their partner's abusive behaviour. A survey by the NSPCC in 2009 also identified that the majority of young people either disclose information about physical partner violence to their friends or no one at all. 750,000 children witness domestic violence each year, one in four teenage girls has been hit by a boyfriend (with one in nine reporting severe physical violence) and 18% of boys reported some form of physical partner violence³, whilst 50% of boys reported some form of emotional abuse⁴. A study by the NSPCC and the University of Bristol found that emotional abuse is the most common form of abuse in teenage relationships, particularly 'being made fun of' and 'constantly being checked up on by a partner'⁵. Over 30% of young women sampled had experienced sexual assault or abuse from a partner.

Young people can have a lack of awareness as to what can be considered a healthy relationship due to a lack of experience and potential susceptibility to gender-role stereotypes. In addition, because of their peer group norms it can be difficult to judge their or their partner's behaviour objectively.

Guidance for young people who are concerned about the safety or wellbeing of a friend can access a leaflet to help them understand the issues their friend may be facing and how best to deal with it. The leaflet is available from the following link: www.avaproject.org.uk/media/54339/mates%20ava%20final.pdf

All professionals when working with young people have a responsibility to discuss and challenge views on;

- Assumptions, beliefs and attitudes about gender and power
- Beliefs and attitudes about men and women
- Stereotypical portrayals of gender in the media (particularly with the 'hypersexualisation' of the media)
- Stereotypes around domestic abuse such as the belief that the victim is 'asking for it'
- How to manage feelings and accept responsibility for one's own feelings and behaviour
- How to resolve conflict effectively
- Knowing the difference between abusive and non-abusive relationships
- Recognising that abuse is never acceptable and is a crime

The NSPCC and the University of Bristol found that over 75% of young women experiencing physical relationship abuse report negative effects, most commonly feeling scared and unhappy. Some of the signs below could indicate that a young person is experiencing relationship abuse. This list is not exhaustive and young people will respond differently. These signs could also be due to other causes, but it is useful to be aware of common responses:

- Physical signs of injury / illness
- Truancy, failing grades
- Withdrawal, passivity, being compliant

³NSPCC and University of Bristol (2009) Partner Exploitation and Violence in Teenage Intimate Relationships.

⁴NSPCC and University of Bristol (2009)

⁵Home office (2009) Teenage Relationship Abuse: A Teacher's Guide to Violence and Abuse in Teenage Relationships

- Changes in mood and personality
- Isolation from family and friends
- Frequent texts and calls from boyfriend / girlfriend
- Inappropriate sexual behaviour / language / attitudes
- Depression and suicidal thoughts
- Unintended pregnancy or Sexually Transmitted Infection
- Use of drugs / alcohol (where there was no prior use)
- Self-harm
- Eating disorders or problems sleeping
- Symptoms of post-traumatic stress
- Bullying / being bullied

It is important to note that abuse is experienced at similar rates in both heterosexual and same-sex relationships. For some young people entering into same-sex relationships, there may be additional barriers to seeking help, as the young person may not be ready to 'come out' to family and friends and may be unaware of how to access specialist support. Similarly, young men may face additional barriers and fear stigmatisation when reporting abuse in their relationships – particularly with female perpetrators – as a result of dominant ideas of masculinity as linked to toughness and lack of vulnerability.

National Guidance and resources are available to support the promotion of healthy relationships when working with young people. The Expect Respect Toolkit for addressing Teenage Relationship Abuse provides guidance and resources for professionals to confidently discuss this issue. Locally North Yorkshire County Council have supported the development of a Healthy Relationship webpage on the Independent Domestic Abuse Services (IDAS) website at www.idas.org.uk/healthyrelationships.

This contains guidance on What's Healthy?, What's not Healthy?, A Healthy Relationship Checklist and advice on How to End a Relationship.

5. How to Respond to Disclosures

Professionals have a duty to enable children and young people to overcome the difficulties they face due to being a victim of domestic abuse within their family or own relationships. Some children will view settings as a safe retreat from problems at home or in their own relationships, whilst others will avoid attendance in order to stay at home and protect their parent and siblings.

Dealing with Disclosures

For guidance on dealing with disclosures from children and young people, refer to the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Board Practice Guidance: Safeguarding Children Abused through Domestic Abuse. Staff should also be aware that adult victims might disclose abuse in a number of settings (see the practice guidance for further information). Information on signposting victims to other agencies can be found in sections 8 and 9.

Safeguarding Children and Young People and Domestic Abuse

If you, or someone you know is suffering from Domestic Abuse, confidential information is available from the following helpline:

For Women: National Domestic Violence 24 Hour Helpline - 0808 2000 247

For Men: Men's Advice Line - 0808 801 0327 (available Mon - Fri 10am-1pm and 2pm-5pm)

Worried about a child or a vulnerable adult?

If you are worried about any child and think they may be a victim of neglect or abuse, please contact Children's Social Care or - in an emergency - call the Emergency Services on 999.

North Yorkshire Children's Social Care: 0845 034 9410

Email: social.care@northyorks.gov.uk

Emergency Duty Team (for evenings, weekends and bank holidays): 0845 034 9417

Calls are charged at a local rate

If are worried about any vulnerable adult and think they may be a victim of neglect or abuse, please contact Adult Social Care or - in an emergency - call the Emergency Services on 999.

North Yorkshire Adult's Social Care: 0845 034 9410

Email: social.care@northyorks.gov.uk

Emergency Duty Team (for evenings, weekends and bank holidays): 0845 034 9417

Calls are charged at a local rate

Domestic abuse is a child protection issue as Section 120 of the Adoption and Children Act (2002 amended 2005) extended the legal definition of significant harm to include harm suffered by seeing or hearing the ill treatment of others.

Professionals who receive a disclosure from a child, young person or adult will need to carry out further assessment to ascertain the level of risk and appropriate response. Please refer to the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Board Practice

Guidance: Safeguarding Children Abused through Domestic Abuse for further guidance. This guidance confirms the level for a Children's Social Care referral as one serious or several lesser incidents of domestic violence where there is a child in the household.

The North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Board Practice Guidance: Safeguarding Children Abused through Domestic Abuse provides guidance for practitioners working with children and young people up to the age of 19. For guidance on safeguarding vulnerable adults, please refer to the Multi Agency Policy & Procedures for Safeguarding Adults in North Yorkshire (see section 10).

Professionals are advised that for those children and young people whose situation does not require intervention from Children's Social Care, but for whom domestic abuse is a persistent feature of their lives, services will still be required.

The Common Assessment Framework (CAF)

Early-intervention is key to tackling domestic abuse and preventing an escalation and increase in risk. It is not always easy to know what to do when you are concerned about a child or young person. You may not be sure what the problem is but have concerns about how the child or young person is progressing.

Where the risk is assessed as being level 2 or 3 according to our Vulnerability Checklist or level 1 or 2 according to the Risk Identification Matrix, a Common Assessment can help you work with the child or young person and their family to identify and address the needs where there are not safeguarding concerns. It provides a structure for recording information that you gather by having a conversation with the family, and for identifying what actions need to be taken to address the identified needs. It will also

help you secure the involvement and assistance of other services and agencies, who are committed to the Common Assessment process.

The Common Assessment is a consent based process; if you do have any domestic abuse concerns or are aware that the family have a history of abuse consent for the Common Assessment Process need only be sought from the non-abusing parent and their children. Further guidance on information sharing is available later in this section.

The CAF follows the principles of the Framework for Assessing Children in Need and their Families (DOH, 2000). The framework considers the following three elements of children and young people's lives:

- The child's development needs
- Parenting capacity
- Family and environmental factors

Services working with young people have been a vital partner in the successful roll-out of the Common Assessment Process across North Yorkshire and with the use of this tool agencies have been able to identify concerns and agree actions to support a family before their problems escalate, typically when young people do not reach the threshold for statutory or specialist services but are identified at Level 2 on the Vulnerability Checklist and require the co-ordinated intervention of more than one service. The Common Assessment is also frequently used as vehicle for providing interim support after a family have left a higher level of support or intervention i.e. prior to them becoming self sufficient.

Where the findings from a Common Assessment give rise to concerns about a child's safety and welfare, then a referral needs to be made to Children's Social Care immediately. Safeguarding guidance stresses

that practitioners should be particularly concerned regarding children whose parents or carers are experiencing difficulties in meeting their needs as a result of domestic violence, substance misuse, mental illness and/or learning disability⁶.

For further guidance on Common Assessment and integrated working, please see the North Yorkshire Vulnerability Checklist and section 5 of the Child Protection Procedure on the North Yorkshire Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) website. This guidance is designed to help identify how needs might be met across services. For further guidance or to discuss when the use of a Common Assessment might be appropriate please contact your local Integrated Service Manager (see section 9).

Safety Planning

A Safety Plan is a semi-structured way to think about steps that can be taken to reduce risk before, during and after any violent or abusive incidents. Safety planning for victims of domestic abuse is key to all interventions to safeguard children. The requirement for a safety plan would be an indicator for Social Care Intervention. Children's Social Care should advise on or lead the safety planning but practitioners trained on safety planning can include the designated safeguarding lead, Parent Support Advisors and Domestic Abuse Champions (if appointed).

Multi Agency Risk Conferencing (MARAC)

Professionals may seek or be asked to contribute to a MARAC assessment.

Multi Agency Working is key to tackling the complex issues associated with domestic abuse and in particular those cases which are perceived as 'high risk'. The Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) Protocol for North Yorkshire and York describes a common understanding of 'High Risk' among participants: 'where the alleged perpetrator can cause harm, may do so and the impact would be serious for the victim and/or wider family members'.

MARAC meetings combine up to date risk assessment information with assessment of the victim's needs and link this to the most appropriate services for all those directly involved in domestic abuse, including children and young people, wider family members and the perpetrator. The MARAC will give you a fuller picture of what is going on at home or in their own relationship for the child or young person and a voice for your concerns.

The purpose of MARAC is to:

- Identify high risk victims of domestic abuse, and offer support and guidance to reduce the threat of further harm and repeat incidents of domestic abuse
- Facilitate, monitor and evaluate effective information sharing between multi agency partners, to enable appropriate interventions to be taken to safeguard high risk victims and their families
- Provide a multi agency safety plan
- Identify whether the perpetrator poses a risk to other individuals or to the wider community
- Attempt to identify any child contact or

child protection concerns within the family environment (although a MARAC referral is not a Child Protection Referral)

The victim and perpetrator do not attend; an agreed agency representative will bring the information on behalf of the victim.

The criteria for referral to MARAC is:

- Visible High Risk: the number of 'ticks' on the CAADA DASH Risk Assessment checklist. If you have ticked 14 or more 'yes' boxes the case would normally meet the MARAC referral criteria
- Professional judgement: this judgement would be based on the professional's experience and/or the victim's perception of their risk even if they do not meet the other criteria
- Potential Escalation: the number of police callouts in 12 months (3 or more police callouts in a 12 month period)

Child Protection procedures and MARAC arrangements remain independent of each other whilst allowing for timely and coordinated assessment of risk and decision-making. This means that a MARAC is **not** a referral to Children's Social Care.

If you identify a case that you consider high risk you should first discuss it with your manager. Consent is not required for a MARAC referral, although it is considered best practice to gain consent where it is safe to do so.

Practitioners experienced in domestic abuse risk assessments can help with the completion of the MARAC risk assessment and referral forms. Otherwise, please contact your Local Domestic Abuse Coordinator.

For information on MARAC training for practitioners working with children and young people, please see section 7.

6. Young People's own Relationships

Young People Identified as Being Abusive to Others

Young people of both genders may be identified as being abusive by directing physical, sexual or emotional abuse towards their parents, siblings and/or partner. Young people can be abusive for a number of complex reasons and may have considerable needs themselves. The needs of the young person identified as being abusive to others should be considered separately from those of the person being abused.

A referral should be made to Children's Social Care in any instance where a young person:

- Is likely to seriously physically abuse another child or an adult
- Is likely to seriously emotionally abuse another child or an adult
- Or has already significantly harmed another child or an adult

Please refer to The North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Board Website. Section 9.24 of the Child Protection Procedures at:

www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/section-9b-procedures.html#harming

This provides guidance on working with children and young people who abuse.

Abuse Directed at Parents/Carers

A report in January 2014 by BBC newsbeat raised the growing issue of parents being abused by their children. A group called *Family Lives* stated that a third of recent calls to its helpline had been regarding children being physically aggressive.

A Home Office minister recognised it as "a serious and often hidden issue".

The advice from the charity Young Minds is to firstly try and understand why the young person might be feeling so angry and acknowledge the issue whilst putting strong boundaries in place of what behaviour is and isn't acceptable. If the situation continues or gets worse a local GP could be a good starting point for referral. This could be done as an exercise with the young person if they recognise the issue or alone at first by the victim. The GP should be able to make an appropriate referral based on what has been happening in the specific situation.

If abuse is severe or violent then the police should be contacted:

Police: 101, dial 999 in an emergency

Young Minds Parent Helpline: 0808 802 5544

Family Lives Helpline: 0808 800 2222

Helping Young People Define Between Bullying and Domestic Abuse

The definition of bullying that North Yorkshire usually refers to in its work with schools/settings is the one developed by the Anti-bullying Alliance, which includes the following principles:

- bullying behaviour deliberately causes hurt (either physically and/or emotionally)
- bullying behaviour is repetitive (though one off incidents such as the posting of an image, or the sending of a text that is then forwarded to a group, can quickly become repetitive and spiral into bullying behaviour)
- bullying behaviour involves an imbalance of power (the person on the receiving end feels like they can't defend themselves)

Bullying is not:

- teasing and banter between friends without intention to cause hurt
- falling out between friends after a quarrel or disagreement
- behaviour that all parties have consented to and enjoy (though watch as coercion can be very subtle)

When this is cross-referenced with the definition of domestic abuse, it is easy to begin to draw parallels between areas such as psychological and emotional attack and behaviour that deliberately causes hurt. For a young person it could be very difficult to define between the two. To aid them it is useful if they recognise bullying as an act by a peer/ peer group and domestic abuse as an act by someone they hold an emotional bond with, such as a parent/ guardian or someone they are in a physical or emotional relationship with.

Young People in same Sex Relationships

A report published by the NSPCC regarding *relationship abuse between young people: information for schools* provides valuable information that services working with young should be aware of. Abuse in lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) relationships have been identified as being just as common as in heterosexual relationships. A project in Scotland revealed that 52% of respondents had been victims of some form of abusive behaviour from a partner or ex-partner, but only 37% of these victims recognised that the abuse had occurred.

The information pack *Another Closet* contains the following list of *unique* aspects of *same sex domestic violence*:

- 'Outing' as a method of control – the perpetrator may use the threat of 'outing' the victim to their friends/family or cultural community if they have not already done so
- Domestic abuse is not always very well understood in the community- Domestic Abuse may not be as well understood by the LGBT community as most advice and information relates to heterosexual couples. This could lead to the perception that LGBT couples can't be a victim of domestic abuse
- Confidentiality and Isolation issues - This is particularly likely in rural communities and in young people's first same sex relationship. The victim may not feel like there is someone or somewhere safe for them to go. The perpetrator could prevent the victim from seeing community media and turn individuals in the community against them, which is particularly likely if the young person was previously not a familiar member of the community

Online services available to young people

www.youngstonewall.org.uk/

www.respectnotfear.co.uk/youngpeople/162-young-people-lgbt.html

<https://www.lgbtyouth.org.uk/domestic-abuse>

http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/14_plus/

<http://www.mermaidsuk.org.uk/>

The information pack can be accessed via the following link: www.anothercloset.com.au/storage/AVP%20-%20Another%20Closet%20Web.pdf

Issues Specific to Rural Areas

Whilst many of the issues faced by LGBT groups in rural areas may also be faced by heterosexual victims of, domestic abuse it is likely given the facts stated in the previous section that they would be less aware of available services. As a result below is a list of concerns young LGBT victims might face:

- Support and legal services might be hard to access as specialist services may not be present and where they are it may be hard to do so discretely
- Victims may be physically isolated from friends and family who are part of the LGBT community

The NSPCC warns that young people who are in LGBT relationships may be at greater risk as they may feel they have to keep their relationships a secret. These young people may be unaware of specialist support available to them from various charity and community groups.

Helping Young People ‘Come Out’

Stonewall defines the process of ‘coming out’ as telling others about your sexuality or sexual orientation. They state that this should not be seen as a one-time event as it is something that people identifying as LGBT may have to do several times throughout life due to changes in environment and circumstances.

Stonewall advise that managing the emotions a young person may be going through can be hard to deal with alone, so even if a young person is still exploring their sexuality, telling someone offers them the opportunity to seek support. No pressure should be enforced on a young person to come out and they should only do so when they feel it is right for them in their individual circumstances.

If the young person is concerned about how people might react to them ‘coming out’, they can look to the helplines and support groups available from the above websites. Having this discussion with one or two people at a time is advised over coming out to large groups at once, as this will put any negativity into perspective. Stonewall talks of how on the whole many will be surprised at how positive the process can be.

There is lots of support also available for parents who might have concern and questions about what it could mean for their family, their child, etc.

Emotional Partner Violence

In October 2009, NSPCC put together a report titled: partner exploitation and violence in teenage intimate relationships. Section 4 of this report focuses on recipients of teenage partner violence and includes sections regarding physical, emotional and sexual violence. Emotional violence is perhaps the form of abuse that is hardest to target as there are no physical signs of the attack and it can more easily be misjudged as bullying. As the definition has been updated to include coercive control, professionals should to be aware of what this form of domestic abuse actually means for young people. An explanation and justification for this have been extracted from the NSPCC report:

Emotional forms of violence are possibly the most difficult to ascertain, due to the wide range of behaviours that may constitute victimisation. Stark (2007), based on his research with adults, argues that what he terms “coercive control” is the most prevalent form of domestic violence, as it underpins both physical and sexual forms of intimate violence, but is often the most hidden form of abuse. Stark argues that this is due to the individualised form this abuse takes, with perpetrators targeting specific behaviour at their victims, which becomes

meaningful only when placed within the wider context of an abusive history... Overall, 12 per cent of girls and 4 per cent of boys said that their partners had used mobile phones or the internet to humiliate and threaten them.

The NSPCC highlights some of the challenges young people face and although the numbers of young people facing abuse via mobile phones and internet were relatively low at the time of this survey, it is likely these numbers have increased as social networking use has exploded in recent years. For example, the number of young people experiencing cyberbullying has significantly increased, yet it is important to distinguish when and where this is domestic abuse rather than bullying.

The annual cyberbullying survey from 2013 lists in its key statistics that:

- 7 in 10 young people are victims of cyber bullying
- 37% young people experience cyberbullying on a highly frequent basis
- 20% of young people are experiencing extreme cyberbullying on a daily basis

Cyberbullying was found to have catastrophic effects upon the self-esteem and social lives of up to 70% of young people.

Information Sharing and Domestic Abuse

The following are examples of acts and common laws that govern information sharing:

- a) Data Protection Act
- b) Common Law Duty of Confidence
- c) Human Rights Act
- d) Crime and Disorder Act
- e) Children's Act

It is important to consider how expectations around privacy and information sharing will be managed when a client first enters a service. For example, it may be appropriate to inform clients that the information they share with professionals will not be disclosed to others unless they or others are found to be at potential or actual risk of harm.

Staff who come into contact with children and young people may become aware of possible cases of domestic abuse. In such cases you will need to decide whether to pass information on; and if so, whether to get the consent of the client.

You must always consider the safety and welfare of a child, young person or adult when making decisions on whether to share information about them. Where there is a concern that the child or young person may be suffering or is at risk of suffering significant harm, their safety and welfare must be the overriding consideration. For NYCC staff please see Local Safeguarding Procedures for additional information and guidance on how to pass information on to appropriate colleagues for a decision to be made around further action. External staff will need to act in accordance with their own organisation's policy.

It is critical that where you have reasonable cause to believe that a child or young person may be suffering or be at risk of suffering significant harm, you

should always consider referring your concerns to Children's Social Care or the police, in line with Local Safeguarding Procedures. You will need to take into consideration:

- How sure you are that harm is taking place
- How serious the problem is and who else is at risk (for example other family members)
- Whether it will be necessary to involve other agencies
- Other people involved and the information or data about them that may also need to be disclosed

Where safe, appropriate and reasonable you should seek consent from the child and/or parent to share information. **However, where you have a concern about a person, you should not regard refusal of consent as necessarily precluding the sharing of confidential information.** This may be particularly relevant to cases relating to domestic abuse and Child Protection.

Information Sharing: Guidance for Practitioners and Managers is available at <http://publications.education.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/00807-2008BKT-EN-March09.pdf>

to support good practice in information sharing by offering clarity on when and how information can be shared legally and professionally, in order to achieve improved outcomes. This guidance advises on what constitutes consent; whose consent should be sought; and when consent should not be sought. A child or young person who has the capacity to understand and make their own decisions, may give (or refuse) consent to sharing. Children aged 12 or over may generally be expected to have sufficient understanding. Younger children may also have sufficient understanding. It is presumed in law for young people aged 16 and older.

Even where you do not have consent to share confidential information, you may lawfully share it if this can be justified in the public interest. Seeking consent should be the first option. However, where consent cannot be obtained or is refused, or where seeking it is inappropriate or unsafe, the question of whether there is a sufficient public interest must be judged by the practitioner on the facts of each case. It is not possible to give guidance to cover every circumstance in which the sharing of confidential information without consent will be justified. You must make a judgement on the facts of the individual case. Where there is a clear risk of significant harm to a child or serious harm to an adult, the public interest test will almost certainly be satisfied. As such, in domestic abuse cases where there is an issue of safety, neither the consent of the child, young person nor the parent (not even the non-abusing parent) is required in order to disclose information. Where it is safe, appropriate and reasonable to do so individuals and/or their parent(s) should be informed that information will be or has been shared. However, there may be occasions when informing children or family members might increase the risk to a child or young person.

Timeliness is also a key consideration in emergency situations. It may not be appropriate to seek consent for information sharing if delays could incur as a result. You should take action to protect an individual considered to be in immediate danger such as threat to personal safety, risk of physical abuse or risk of death; this may mean that you have to act without first gaining consent.

You should always consider how much information needs to be shared to achieve the objective and the most appropriate way in which to do so given the urgency of the situation. For example, only information that is relevant and necessary should be shared, not simply all the information you hold on a child, young person or family. Security of information

sharing must still be considered but should be proportionate to the sensitivity of the information and the circumstances.

Decisions to disclose information without consent must be necessary and proportionate, taking into account:

- The prevention or detection of crime, including safeguarding someone's life and/or child protection; and/or
- The interest of the public; and/or
- The right to life free from inhumane and degrading treatment and torture; and/or
- Allowing confidential counselling, advice and support to take place

Professionals should never assume that somebody else will take care of domestic abuse issues. This may be the child's, young person's, victim's or abusing partner's first or only disclosure or contact with services in circumstances which allow for safeguarding action.

Professionals have a duty to be mindful that attempts to identify domestic abuse and their response to recognition or disclosure of domestic abuse do not trigger an escalation of violence. In particular, professionals should keep in mind that the issue of domestic abuse should only ever be raised with a child or parent when they are safely on their own and in a private place; and separation does not ensure safety. It often at least temporarily increases the risk to the children, young person or parent.

7. Honour Based Violence

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office define the terms “honour crime” or “honour based violence” or “izzat” as covering a variety of crimes of violence - mainly but not exclusively against women - including assault, imprisonment and murder, where the person is being punished by their family or their community. They are being punished for actually, or allegedly, undermining what the family or community believes to be the correct code of behaviour. In transgressing this correct code of behaviour, the person shows that they have not been properly raised to conform by their family and this is to the “shame” or “dishonour” of the family.

Honour based violence (HBV) is a complex issue since it is deeply embedded in interpersonal relations, family, community and culture and it is often committed by members of the wider family unit and with some degree of approval and/or collusion from the family and/or community. The concept of honour is closely linked to control; when a man’s control of his family is threatened, punishment is given to the girl or women seen to be responsible for this dishonour. This perpetuates the subordination and gender inequality of women. HBV must be understood as a form of domestic violence and child abuse. HBV is a safeguarding issue and social services have a duty to make enquiries into allegations of abuse or neglect against a child under section 47 of the Children Act 1989.

- Women are predominantly (but not exclusively) the victims of HBV
- There are at least 12 honour killings per year (Cowan, 2004)
- 15% of cases are from male victims
- The majority of victims of forced marriage are females aged 13 to 30

- Approximately 1,000 British Asian Girls are forced into marriage each year
- The Forced Marriage Unit receives around 5000 enquiries per year

Forced Marriage

A forced marriage is not an arranged marriage. It cannot be justified on religious grounds; every major faith condemns it and freely given consent is a prerequisite of Christian, Jewish, Hindu, Muslim and Sikh marriages. Forced marriage can amount to sexual and emotional abuse, including abduction abroad that places children at significant risk of further abuse. Professionals should respond in a similar way to cases of honour violence as with domestic abuse and forced marriage (i.e. in facilitating disclosure, developing individual safety plans, ensuring the child’s safety by according them confidentiality in relation to the rest of the family, completing individual risk assessments etc). Please see the North Yorkshire Local Safeguarding Children Board Practice Guidance: Safeguarding Children Abused through Domestic Abuse at <http://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/domestic-abuse.html> for further guidance.

Research by UNICEF shows that the more education a girl receives, the less likely she is to be married as a child. Improving access to education and eliminating gender gaps in education are therefore important strategies for ending the practice of child marriage. Often the primary opportunity to prevent a forced marriage will be through education professionals recognising the warning signs in the classroom.

Legal options are also available such as The Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007 that provides provision for Family Courts to make a ‘Forced Marriage Protection Order’ to prevent a forced marriage or offer protective measures when a forced marriage has already taken place. The following can apply for an order:

- A victim
- Anyone can apply for an order on behalf of a victim, as long as they obtain the court's permission to make an application
- A relevant third party, who can make an application on behalf of a victim but does not need to seek leave of court such as local authorities via legal department in close liaison with the relevant frontline practitioners

Multi-agency practice and statutory guidance is available for professionals at <http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/when-things-go-wrong/forced-marriage/> including booklets intended for frontline workers. Information and support is also available from Karma Nirvana, a national charity supporting victims and survivors of honour-based abuse (see section 9).

If you feel concerned about a potential forced marriage, you should contact the Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) or Karma Nirvana (see section 9). The FMU Deals with forced marriage casework, developing Government policy and co-ordinating outreach projects. They can offer confidential information and assistance to potential victims, victims already in a forced marriage and concerned professionals.

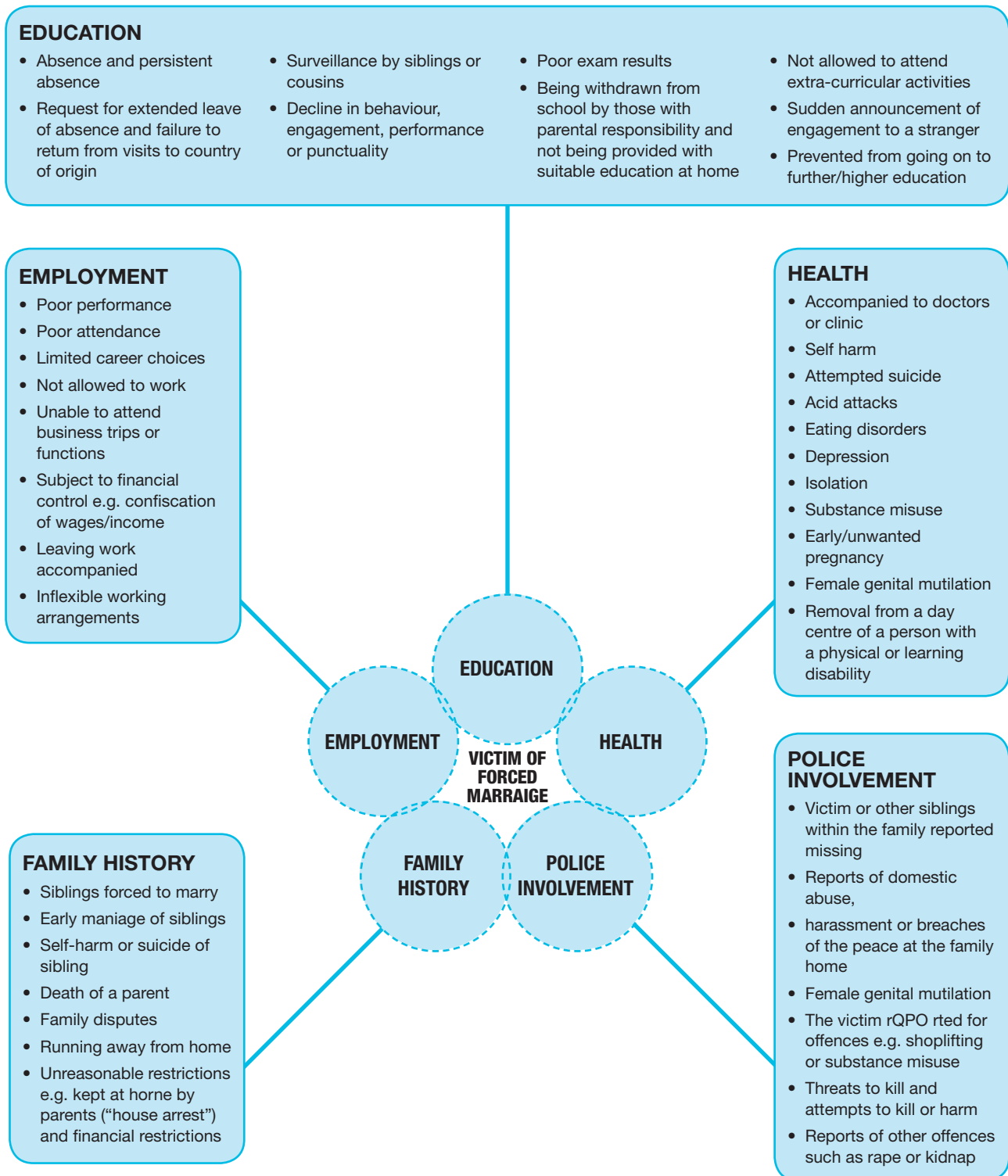
North Yorkshire's Community Cohesion Team (see section 9) can also offer advice and support to services on preventing and understanding this form of abuse. They can offer insight into minority communities and cultures to support both practitioners and services to improve their understanding of victims and perpetrators of abuse.

There is also a National online training package (www.fmelearning.co.uk) available from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to support professionals dealing with forced marriage in the course of their work.

Further home office guidance for dealing with forced marriage can be found at https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/35532/fmu-right-to-choose.pdf

Identifying HBV in young people

The following list consists of some of the possible signs of HBV that are often identified in young people who could be at risk of forced marriage. The list has been created using information from gov.uk, The Right to Choose: Multi-agency statutory guidance for dealing with forced marriage:



It should be noted that these warning signs are not exclusive to HBV and could be early indicators of other forms of abuse.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office defines the term as:

FGM is any procedure that is designed to alter or injure a girls (or woman's) genital organs for non-medical reasons.

It is sometimes known as 'female circumcision' or 'female genital cutting'. **FORWARD** a campaign and support charity that aims to safeguard the sexual and reproductive health and rights of African girls and women. It is mostly carried out on young girls.

FGM procedures can cause:

- severe bleeding
- infections
- problems with giving birth later in life
- including the death of the baby

Female genital mutilation (FGM) is illegal in the UK - it's also illegal to take a British national or permanent resident abroad for FGM or to help someone trying to do this.

In October 2007, FORWARD published 'A Statistical Study to Estimate the Prevalence of Female Genital Mutilation in England and Wales'. This study was commissioned by the Department of Health in collaboration with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and the Department of Midwifery, City University:

- In 2001 it is estimated there were 124 maternities to women with FGM in Yorkshire and the Humber
- It is estimated that in 2004 the number of cases reached 288

Further information is available from www.forwarduk.org.uk/ including different levels of FGM and terms commonly used by traditional and local communities.

If you know someone at risk

Contact the police if you believe a girl or young woman is at risk of FGM and are still living in the UK.

Police: 101, dial 999 in an emergency

If they have already been taken abroad then contact the Foreign and Commonwealth Office:

Telephone: 020 7008 1500

From overseas: +44 (0)20 7008 1500

The Safeguarding Children board at your local council

**North Yorkshire Children's Social Care:
0845 034 9410**

8. Staff Training

It is widely recognised that everyone working with children and young people should have a basic understanding of the definition and the effects of domestic abuse as well as their responsibilities to safeguard children and young people. Across the county face-to-face and online training is available for staff to ensure they are informed to the appropriate level on the signs and effects of domestic abuse. All staff are required to have the minimum level of training on Child Protection.

Online Training Available:

<http://www.idas.org.uk/training/index.asp>

This training package is aimed at all individuals in organisations and voluntary groups who work with adults and children or young people, to give a basic awareness of issues surrounding domestic abuse. Depending on your role, this may be the only level of training you need, although some people will need further training

<http://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/course-signup.html>

This training package is aimed at individuals in organisations and voluntary groups who work with children and young people, families or adults who may be parents and/or carers, to give a basic awareness of child protection issues. Depending on your role, this may be the only level of training you need, although some people will need further training

Details of other training courses can be found on the safeguarding children website at www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk

All staff and volunteers whose work may bring them into regular contact with children and young people, adults and families need additional training.

For information on the following courses, please contact your Local Domestic Abuse Coordinator:

- Domestic Abuse Basic Awareness Courses
- Domestic Abuse Intermediate Courses
- MARAC Workshops
- Safety Planning Training
- Domestic Abuse Champion Scheme

Your Domestic Abuse Coordinator can provide further information on other courses and the services available following disclosure.

9. Other Support Available

The following section outlines sources of support and further information endorsed by North Yorkshire County Council:

North Yorkshire Youth Justice Service

The key objectives of the Youth Justice Service are to reduce youth crime, protect the public from serious harm, and safeguard the welfare of young people.

For more information go to www.ny-yjs.org.uk.

Advocacy

The National Youth Advocacy Service can provide young people with an independent advocate who will help and support them in representing their views to others. The service is free and more information is available on the service's website www.nyas.net. The service can be contacted on **FREEPHONE 0800 616101** or via email at help@nyas.net.

This is Abuse

The 'This is Abuse' website gives young people the chance to discuss the issues with their peers and get access to third party support and advice.

www.thisisabuse.direct.gov.uk

Child Sexual Exploitation

Please refer to the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Board Practice Guidance: Child Sexual Exploitation, available at:

<http://www.webcertain-labs.com/images/NYSCB-Child-Sexual-Exploitation.pdf>

The Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) also provide advice and resources on exploitation and online safety: <http://www.ceop.gov.uk/>

Sexual Assault and Abuse

For support and guidance on children and young people who sexually abuse please see section 9.49 of the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Board Child Protection Procedures:

<http://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/section-9d-procedures.html#abuse>

Sexual Health

Sexual health leads in each area:

Contact Name	Area	Contact Details
Hazel Whiteoak	Craven, Harrogate, Hambleton, Richmondshire	01756 701744 hazel.whiteoak@hdfn.nhs.uk
Marie-Louise Fountain	Scarborough, Whitby, Ryedale	01723 380634 m.fountain@nhs.net
Young People's Sexual Health Outreach Service	Selby	01904 726293

www.yorsexualhealth.org.uk

Advice and guidance is available for young people at: www.brook.org.uk

Substance Misuse

The North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Board website provides guidance on working with children and young people whose parents or carers misuse substances:

<http://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/parental-substance-misuse.html>

Substance misuse may be a factor in unhealthy relationships; for example, the NSPCC found that young women who experienced abuse identified their partner's substance misuse as a contributory factor. Substance misuse may also be used as a coping mechanism for victims or by perpetrators as a mechanism of control over the victim.

The following website offers advice for young people:

<http://www.talktofrank.com/>

Young People who Harm

Please refer to The North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Board Website. Section 9.24 of the Child Protection Procedures at <http://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/section-9b-procedures.html#harming> for guidance on working with children and young people who harm.

Young Parents / Pregnant Young Women

It has been widely demonstrated through research that the risk and severity of domestic abuse may escalate during pregnancy. Referrals should be made to the local Children's Centre (details available at <http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=6531>). If a young parent or pregnant young woman needs additional support, a referral can be made to Targeted Youth Support.

Young People concerned about a friend

<http://www.avaproject.org.uk/media/54339/mates%20ava%20final.pdf>

Young people in Same sex relationships

www.youngstonewall.org.uk/

www.respectnotfear.co.uk/youngpeople/162-young-people-lgbt.html

<https://www.lgbtyouth.org.uk/domestic-abuse>

http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/14_plus/

<http://www.mermaidsuk.org.uk/>

The Forced Marriage Unit

The Forced Marriage Unit is a joint initiative with the Home Office.

Telephone: **020 7008 0151**

Email: fmufco.gov.uk

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/when-things-go-wrong/forced-marriage/>

<http://www.fmelearning.co.uk>

Further home office guidance for dealing with forced marriage can be found at https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/35532/fmu-right-to-choose.pdf

10. Local Services and Support

Due to its complex nature, many agencies have a role to play in promoting the safety of children affected by domestic abuse. Children, young people and their families experiencing domestic abuse need well-targeted support from a range of different agencies. Intervention should consist of a planned package of support incorporating risk assessment, domestic abuse support delivered by trained staff, advocacy and safety planning in conjunction with child protection.

Signposting to Specialist Domestic Abuse Services for Victims

Name	Area Covered	Contact Details
Independent Domestic Abuse Services (IDAS) - Outreach	York, Harrogate, Hambleton and Richmondshire, Craven, Selby	01904 646036 (York) 01423 858335 (Harrogate) 01609 749123 (Hambleton and Richmondshire) 01756 794400 (Craven) info@idas.org.uk www.idas.org.uk Across North Yorkshire: 03000 110 110 National 24 Hour Helpline: 0808 2000 247 (24 hours)
Foundation Domestic Abuse Services (DAS)	Scarborough and Ryedale	01723 365609
Hambleton & Richmondshire Refuge (Broadacres)	Hambleton & Richmondshire	01609 767900 http://www.broadacres.org.uk/Care---Support-Services/Women-s-Refuge/
Harrogate Refuge (IDAS)	Harrogate	01423 530078
York Refuge (IDAS)	York	01904 646630
Victim Support	Countywide	0845 071 0871 9am - 9pm Mondays to Fridays 9am - 7pm weekends 9am - 5pm bank holidays www.victimsupport.org.uk
Handypersons Scheme (offering assistance to improve safety and security in vulnerable households)	Available in all Districts	York: contact the Home Improvement Agency on 01904 754 505 Scarborough & Ryedale: contact the Home Improvement Agency on 01723 232527 Selby: contact the Stay Put Team on 01757 213777 Craven: contact the Strategic Housing Team on 01756 706417 Hambleton & Richmondshire: contact the Home Improvement Agency on 0845 2008646 or 01609 767983 Harrogate & District: contact the Home Improvement Agency on 01423 503838

Signposting to Children and Young People Services

Name	Service	Area Covered	Contact Details
Independent Domestic Abuse Services (IDAS)	Children's Advocate	York	01904 646630
	Young Persons Advocate	Hambleton & Richmondshire	
Domestic Abuse Services (DAS)		Scarborough and Ryedale	01723 365609
Craven IDAS		Craven	01756 794400

Domestic Abuse Coordinators

For information about your domestic abuse coordinator contact your LDAC.

If you require information regarding your local domestic abuse forum or how to contact your LDAC or alternatively you can see the North Yorkshire Police website <http://www.northyorkshire.police.uk/domesticabuse>

The NYCC DA Officer will also be able to advise on the above or alternatively at: social.inclusion@northyork.gov.uk

Refuges

Refuges are for victims and their children who are fleeing from domestic abuse. They offer a safe place to stay whilst providing residents and their children with a high level of support, helping them to decide what the next step is and re-build their self-confidence. Children in refuges are often allocated an Educational Social Worker to help them through the transition of being in a refuge and changing schools. If it is not safe to stay in a refuge in York or North Yorkshire then it may be appropriate to accommodate victims and children in a refuge in another area. When someone leaves a refuge they either return home or are re-housed. If you would like a virtual tour of a refuge then this is available on the IDAS website (www.idas.org.uk).

The great majority of refuge places are for women at present, but with growing awareness of the extent of male victimisation, there are now more refuge facilities available for men and their children. Information and referrals can be routed through:

Mankind Helpline - **01823 334244**
(or www.mankind.org.uk)

Men's Advice Line - **0808 801 0327**

Increasingly, it is the perpetrator who is removed from the family home rather than victims and their children. The North Yorkshire Making Safe scheme offers perpetrators temporary accommodation and a package of support to address their abusive behaviour, whilst also avoiding the upheaval and disruption for victims and children of having to leave their home and local support networks. For more information on the Making Safe scheme, contact your local Domestic Abuse Coordinator.

Integrated Service Managers

Quality and Improvement Service

For advice and support around anti-bullying policy and practice:

Wendy Jemison

General Adviser for Inclusion and Achievement

wendy.jemison@northyorks.gov.uk

01609 532475

Family Intervention Team (FIT)

FIT is available across North Yorkshire to support children, young people and families where there is an identified risk of children or young people coming into care; domestic abuse may be an identified risk factor. The team works with the whole family to address issues identified jointly between the worker and family members. The team works flexibly on a seven day a week basis, to support families and deliver interventions to achieve positive outcomes. The service can only be accessed through referral from a social worker.

Access and Impact Teams

There are six Access and Impact social work teams across North Yorkshire, based in Harrogate (also covering Craven), Knaresborough, Northallerton (also covering Richmondshire), Selby and two teams in Scarborough. They work either with families who have self-referred or where other people have expressed concern. Staff from these teams undertake the initial assessments and work alongside family support staff to offer practical support to families where needed.

Parenting Programmes

Children and young people affected by domestic abuse are often reliant on the one parent or family member as the only source of good parenting, as the abusive partner will often have a significantly diminished ability to parent well. This is particularly so because domestic abuse very often co-exists with high levels of punishment, the misuse of power and a failure to demonstrate appropriate self-control by the abusive partner. Several evidence-based parenting programmes are available throughout the County. Please contact your local Children's Centre for more details. For further information on local Integrated Services such as Children Centres and Extended Schools please see the North Yorkshire Family Information website (www.northyorks.gov.uk/cis), designed as a source of information for both families

and practitioners working with children and young people. Alternatively contact the Families Information Service advisers on **0845 6011630**.

Police contacts

When reporting, always contact Non-Emergency Line (**0845 60 60 247**) or in an emergency **999**.

Protecting Vulnerable Persons Unit (PVP Unit)

For information contact:

- York: **01904 669358**
- Selby: **01904 669634**
- Scarborough and Ryedale: **01723 509329**
- Harrogate and Craven: **01423 539033**
- Hambleton and Richmondshire: **01609 789472**

Joint Foreign & Commonwealth Office and Home Office Unit

(for suspected cases of forced marriage):

- Telephone: **020 7008 0151** / Out of hours: **020 7008 1500**.
- Email: fmu@fco.gov.uk
- Website: www.fco.gov.uk/forcedmarriage

Karma Nirvana Honour Network

- Helpline: **0800 5 999 247**
- Email: info@karmanirvana.org.uk
- Webpage: <http://www.karmanirvana.org.uk/>

Community Cohesion Team

- Please contact the community cohesion team at: social.inclusion@northyorks.gov.uk

11. Useful Documents

Useful Documents and Resources

- North Yorkshire Local Safeguarding Children Board Practice Guidance: Safeguarding Children Abused through Domestic Abuse <http://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/domestic-abuse.html>
- Multi-Agency Policy & Procedures for Safeguarding Adults in North Yorkshire <http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=1228&p=0>
- North Yorkshire & York MARAC Procedure <http://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/section-12-procedures.html#marac>
- Vulnerability Checklist <http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=7858>
- CAADA Risk Identification Checklist <http://www.caada.org.uk/dvservices/resources-for-domestic-abuse-practitioners.html>
- Information on the Common Assessment Framework in North Yorkshire <http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=7860>
- Together We Can End Violence Against Women and Girls: A Strategy <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100419081706/http://homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/vawg-strategy-2009/index.html>
- Expect Respect Education Toolkit <http://www.thehideout.org.uk/over10/adults/resources/educationaltoolkit/default.aspa>
- Framework for Assessing Children in Need and their Families (DOH, 2000) http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4008144
- The General Framework for Information Sharing in North Yorkshire and York (2009) www.northyorks.gov.uk/infosharing
- Information Sharing: Guidance for practitioners and managers <http://publications.education.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/00807-2008BKT-EN-March09.pdf>
- Dealing with Cases of Forced Marriage. Guidance for Education Professionals http://www.forcedmarriage.net/media/images/FMU-FM-Guidance-EducationProfessionals_70.pdf
- Guidance for young people concerned about a friend <http://www.avaproject.org.uk/media/54339/mates%20ava%20final.pdf>
- Young People in same sex relationships <http://www.anothercloset.com.au/storage/AVP%20-%20Another%20Closet%20Web.pdf>

Useful websites

- North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Board www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk
- Against Violence and Abuse (AVA) www.avaproject.org.uk
- Families Information Service www.northyorks.gov.uk/cis
- Independent Domestic Abuse Services (holds information about York and North Yorkshire) www.idas.org.uk
- This is Abuse: <http://thisisabuse.direct.gov.uk/>
- Respect phonenumber (support services and programmes for men and women who inflict violence in relationships. Advice line for men who are victims of domestic violence) <http://www.respectphonenumber.org.uk/>
- The Hideout: www.thehideout.org.uk
- IDAS Healthy Relationship Website <http://www.idas.org.uk/healthyrelationships/>
- Refuge <http://refuge.org.uk/>
- Online training package for professionals on forced marriage www.fmelearning.co.uk
- Home Office guidance for dealing with forced marriage can be found at https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/35532/fmu-right-to-choose.pdf
- Men's Advice Line www.mensadvice.org.uk
- Mankind www.mankind.org.uk/
- Broken Rainbow (for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender victims) www.broken-rainbow.org.uk
- Women's Aid (National) www.womensaid.org.uk
- For a copy of York & North Yorkshire's Domestic Abuse Strategy 2009 to 2013 www.nysp.org.uk
- National Youth Advocacy Service www.nyas.net
- Stonewall - www.youngstonewall.org.uk/
- Respect not fear - www.respectnotfear.co.uk/youngpeople/162-young-people-lgbt.html
- LGBT youth - <https://www.lgbtyouth.org.uk/domestic-abuse>
- Think u know - http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/14_plus/
- Mermaids UK - <http://www.mermaidsuk.org.uk/>

If you, or someone you know is suffering from Domestic Abuse, confidential information is available from the following helpline:

National 24 Domestic Violence Hour Helpline: **0808 2000 247**

Worried about a child?

If you are worried about any child and have reasonable cause to believe that the child is at risk of significant harm, neglect or abuse please contact Children's Social Care or the Police. Calls are charged at a local rate.

North Yorkshire Children's Social Care: **0845 034 9410**

Email: cru.customer.services@northyorks.gov.uk

Emergency Duty Team (for evenings, weekends and bank holidays): **0845 034 9417**

Police: **0845 60 60 247**

Contact us

North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall, Northallerton, North Yorkshire, DL7 8AD

Our Customer Service Centre is open Monday to Friday 8.00am - 5.30pm (closed weekends and bank holidays).

Tel: **0845 8727374** email: customer.services@northyorks.gov.uk

Or visit our website at: www.northyorks.gov.uk

If you would like this information in another language or format such as Braille, large print or audio, please ask us.

Tel: 01609 532917 Email: communications@northyorks.gov.uk

