

Domestic Abuse Training Pathway Competencies



“It’s not easy to leave, we are all different”

Some facts

Each year more than 100,000 people in the UK are at imminent risk of being murdered or seriously injured as a result of domestic abuse.

Anyone can be a victim, but women are much more likely to be abused than men, evidence shows that women disproportionately experience domestic abuse and repeat victimisation.

Each year the situation of over 50,000 high risk victims and 70,000 children are discussed at MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences) meetings across England and Wales, 90% of victims being female 10 % being male.

Children and domestic abuse

140,000 children live in households where there is high-risk domestic abuse.

66% of high and medium victims have children

A quarter of children in high-risk domestic abuse households are under 3 years old

62% of children living in domestic abuse households are directly harmed by the perpetrator of the abuse, in addition to the harm caused by witnessing the abuse of others

(Source Caada (2014) In plain sight: Effective help for children exposed to domestic abuse)

The new Domestic Abuse Act 2021 defines domestic abuse as a behaviour by a person towards another and:

- a) Both persons are each aged 16 or over and are personally connected, and
- b) The behaviour is abusive

Where perpetrators direct their conduct towards another person (e.g., the child of a victim), this is also considered to be abusive behaviour towards the victim.

Behaviour is considered abusive if it consists of any of the following:

- Physical or sexual abuse.
- Violent or threatening words or actions.
- Controlling or coercive activity.
- Economic abuse (see notes below).
- Psychological, emotional, or other abuse.

Economic abuse means any behaviour that has a substantial adverse effect on a victim's ability to acquire, use, or maintain money or other property, goods, or services.

Personally Connected

The new definition seeks to ensure that opportunities for identifying domestic abuse are not limited and includes where people:

- Are, or have been, married to each other.
- Are, or have been, civil partners of each other.
- Have agreed to marry one another (whether or not the agreement has been terminated).
- Have entered into a civil partnership agreement (whether or not the agreement has been terminated).
- Are, or have been, in an intimate personal relationship with each other.
- Is a child in relation to whom they each have a parental relationship?
- Are relatives.

Section 63 (1) states that a "relative" in relation to a person means:

- a) the father, mother, stepfather, stepmother, son, daughter, stepson, stepdaughter, grandmother, grandfather, grandson or granddaughter of that person's spouse, former spouse, civil partner, or former civil partner, or
- b) The brother, sister, uncle, aunt, niece, nephew or first cousin (whether of the full blood or of the half-blood or by marriage or civil partnership) of that person or of that person's spouse, former spouse, civil partner, or former civil partner.

Controlling or Coercive Behaviour

Section 76 of the Serious Crime Act 2015 provides the offence of controlling or coercive behaviour where the perpetrator and victim are personally connected. In this legislation, 'personally connected' means intimate partners, or former intimate partners, or family members who live together. The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 introduced an amendment to the legislation which removes the co-habitation requirement. This ensures that post-separation domestic abuse and familial domestic abuse is accounted for when the victim and perpetrator do not live together.

Acts of controlling or coercive behaviour may include: isolating a person from their family or friends; monitoring a person's time; using spyware to monitor a person; taking control over aspects of a person's everyday life (such as where they can go, who they can see, what they can wear, and when they can sleep); repeatedly putting

a person down (such as telling them they are worthless); threats to harm a child; and many other types of behaviour.

Children as victims in their own right

Under section 3(2) of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, a child is a victim of domestic abuse for the purposes of the Act where they see, hear, or experience the effects of domestic abuse and are related to either a perpetrator or victim of abuse, or either individual has parental responsibility for the child

It's traumatic and people should understand that, it's exhausting, it wears you down"

"Our children need lots of extra help, they get traumatised too"

1 in 7 children and young people under 18 will have lived with domestic violence/abuse at some point in their lives (*source Women's Aid*)

Those who experience domestic violence and abuse are some of the most vulnerable people in our society. As part of our training offer OSCP aims to ensure all staff are skilled and able to engage with clients effectively at each stage of their journey. No matter which service victims/survivors access the response to them should be consistently good.

Together with ex services users/survivors of domestic abuse, partner agencies and stakeholders we have developed a suite of training that identifies three levels mapped to the possible journey of a victim. It is proportionate to Oldham's threshold for intervention document and compliments training recommendations in NICE guidance 2016.

Why have training competencies?

Safeguarding competences are a set of abilities that enable staff to effectively safeguard, protect and promote the welfare of children and young people. They are a combination of skills, knowledge, attitudes and values that are required for safe and effective practice (Safeguarding Children and Young People; role and competencies for health care staff 2014).

This training framework outlines what we feel people need to know to effectively safeguard, protect and promote the welfare of children, young people and family members experiencing domestic violence/abuse. It aims to support staff in developing and cementing skills, knowledge, attitudes, values and behaviours when working with this issue. It links to the OSCP business plan, key themes outlined

within Oldham's Domestic Abuse Strategy and principles of learning and improvement outlined by the OSCP Safeguarding Review and Learning Hub

Even though there are different training opportunities outlined to people's roles and degree of contact with children, it is important to note that the framework is not prescriptive. It is the responsibility of the learner and their manager to identify what training is appropriate to their role and development. It remains the responsibility of single agencies to ensure their staff receive appropriate internal training and learning opportunities.

"Don't blame us for the abuse it's him you should focus on"

The OSCP will coordinate, sustain, and identify professionals who will lead on training activity. This framework will be reviewed, and quality assured via the Safeguarding Review and Learning Hub, any gaps in training provision should be identified/discussed in this forum.

A universal level domestic abuse course has been written and a train the trainer offered to all partners who would like to use the material in their single agency.

We also offer a suite of training on Trauma and Trauma informed practice that will complement this offer.

Possible journey of a victim by Landenberg

Binding – Enduring – Disengaging - Recovery

Awareness raising and early intervention

Examples of staff groups

All staff across partner agencies working with children and young people including volunteers, anybody who comes into contact with children and families, elected members.

Aim / Outcome:

To foster universal response and common understanding of what constitutes domestic abuse and identify domestic violence/abuse as soon as possible. Training will ensure we have a sensitised workforce who are alert and aware of domestic violence and abuse. A workforce that understands the associated risks with the ability to provide relevant information regarding support services and act on /or report safeguarding concerns.

• The role of the IDVA - briefing session	
• Safety planning with victim/survivors of DA/CC	
• Letting children be children - the effects of online pornography and hypersexual media on children and young people	
• Domestic violence foundation	
• So called Honour based violence	
• Coercive control and adults	
• Complex safeguarding	(See separate training framework)
• Misogyny 7-minute briefing	
• Sexual harassment	
• Talk Listen Change, Perpetrator offer, and victim services offer - briefing	

Engagement and support

Examples of staff groups

Social workers, front line staff, team managers, designated people

This group will have considerable professional responsibility for safeguarding children and contribute appropriately to local and national policies and work within a multi-agency context

Aim / Outcome:

Skilled and confident practitioners, who advise others, understand the signs, symptoms, dynamics of domestic violence/abuse and the human response to trauma. Competent practitioners who understand risk and the identifying features and research needed for an in-depth assessment

A workforce that responds appropriately to disclosures who can take emergency action, safety plan, understand risk, provide general interventions, and refer on.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Perpetrator typologies training	<i>Coming soon</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• MARAC & RIC - Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Domestic violence and the impact on children	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contextual safeguarding briefing session	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No recourse to public funds victims of domestic abuse	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The role of the SARC briefing session	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coercive Control and the impacts on children	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Carole Check- older people and domestic abuse	

Assessment, Risk and Recovery

Examples of Staff Groups

Senior Managers, front line staff, specialist practitioners, board members, decision makers.

This group will have considerable professional and organisational responsibility for safeguarding children and /or responsibility for the management and delivery of staff supervision / safeguarding Children services

Aim / Outcome:

Staff who engage and communicate with clients in an informed manner and deliver specific evidence/research-based interventions to victims, children, and perpetrators.

Capable and knowledgeable managers who provide quality supervision and guidance to effective practitioners responding to the diverse needs of clients.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Domestic Abuse Act 2021	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Homicide Timeline	<i>For more information contact Catherine Lawler</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Management oversight briefing session	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Child Practice Review / Audit briefing session	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vicarious trauma training	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• TSCC Trauma Symptoms checklist for children project	<i>For more information on this project, please contact Catherine Lawler</i>