

Professional Response to a disclosure or Concern about Domestic Abuse involving a family with children/young people

When a Professional becomes aware of domestic abuse through disclosure or other concerning information they should check:

- Details of child/ren or young person
- Nature of abuse including history
- Secure if medical treatment as required
- Current circumstances, including whereabouts of perpetrator/ mother/ child and household membership, including status of adult relationship
- Record Information and
- be aware if safety plan is in place

Is there an Immediate Risk to the safety of a child/ young person

Yes
Make an immediate referral to/
Contact the Police

No
Discuss situation with Agency Safeguarding Lead/line manager to consider
Is the threshold of a Child Protection referral to Children Social Work Services met?

Yes
Make a Referral to Children Social Work Services as LSCP Procedures for a CP Concern

No
Discuss with Line Manager and assess the circumstances and risk through the Domestic Violence "Risk Identification Matrix" (DVRIM)
If Professional is trained this can be alone – if not with line manager and/or trained colleague
Complete DVRIM and Respond as outcomes below

Exercise professional judgement and act in a way that does not compromise safety of woman/child

Scale One – Moderate Risk - Single Agency Intervention
Check with Children Social Work Services if family is known or open case. Identify agency support & provide intervention, or signpost as applicable and Ensure Safety Plan in place. Consider any factors of increased risk

Scale Two – Moderate to Serious Risk - Additional needs
As Scale One

But requiring Multi-agency support

Be mindful of increased risk if plan does not take place

Scale Three – Serious Risk

Complex needs with possible risk of significant harm

Make Referral to Children Social Work Services as child is considered a CiN

Ensure Safety Plan is in place

Scale Four – Severe Risk

Complex needs with limited protective factors

Make Referral to Children Social Work Services as child is considered at risk of significant harm

Ensure safety plan is in place

Record: Assessment and decisions to share