



DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE

INFORMATION GUIDE FOR PROFESSIONALS

TALK
LISTEN
ACT

*Harrou***COUNCIL**
LONDON



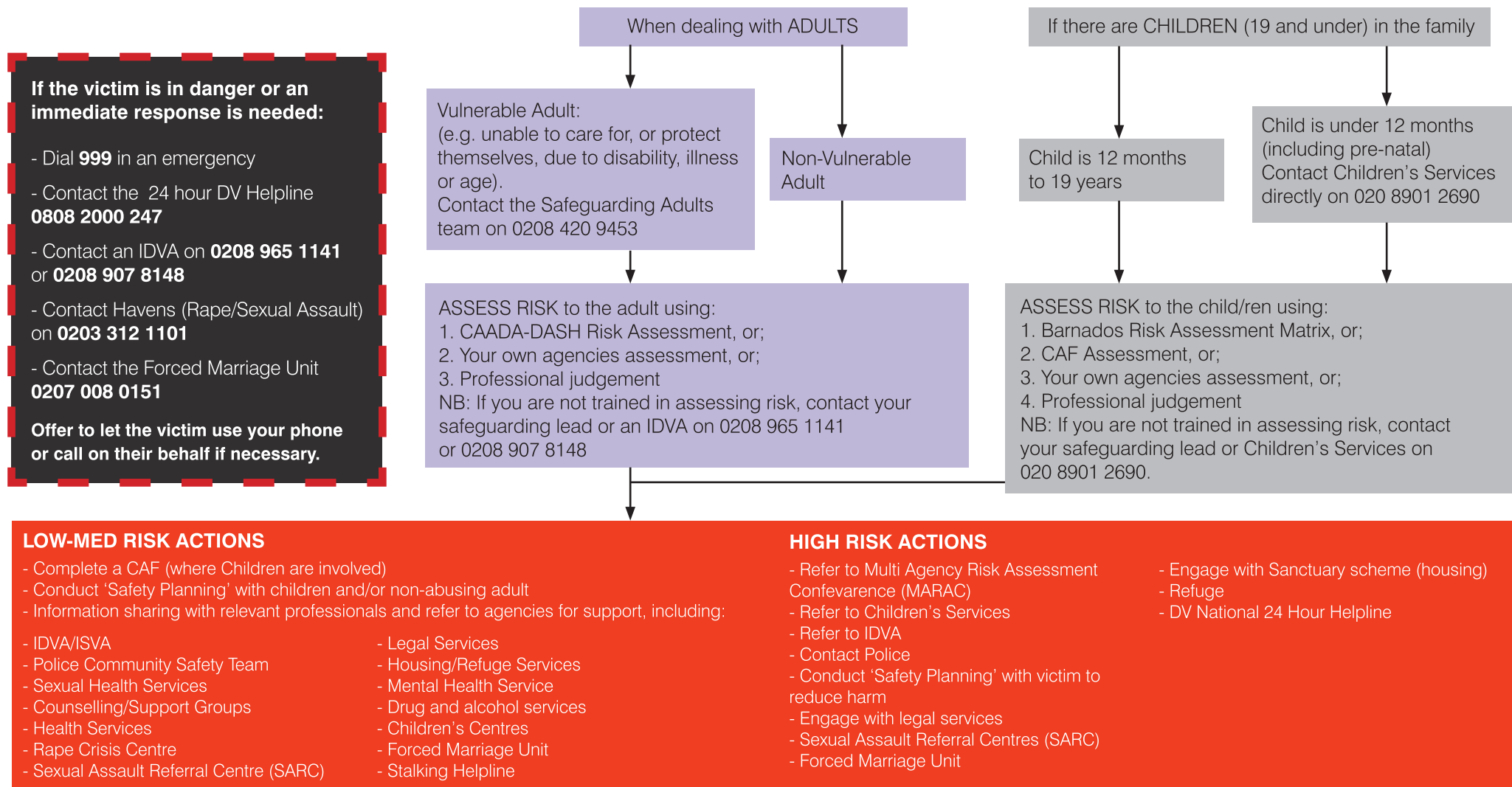
Responding to Domestic & Sexual Violence: A Guide for Professionals

(DSV includes: Forced Marriage, FGM, honour based violence, DV, sexual assault/rape, stalking/harassment, trafficking, exploitation & prostitution)

This guide has been produced to enable you to provide children and adults who are at risk of/or are experiencing domestic & sexual violence, with help and support.

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO

Ensure your outcome is **ALWAYS** to increase safety for the victim & their children.



Responding to Domestic & Sexual Violence: A Guide for Professionals

Here is a list of the potential signs that abuse is taking place, the appropriate risk assessment and your response.

	Domestic Violence	Sexual Violence	Forced Marriage & Honour Based Violence	Female Genital Mutilation	Prostitution & Sexual Exploitation	Trafficking & Sexual Exploitation	Stalking & Harassment
Recognise (Potential Indicators)	Adult: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Always missing appointments Withdrawn Distressed Partner always with them Evidence of injuries Substance Misuse Children in Family: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use violence to solve problems Self harm Low self esteem Truancy Poor school performance Withdrawn PTSD symptoms Running away Substance misuse Bed wetting Temper tantrums Anxious Disobedient 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> STI Unwanted pregnancy Physical injuries, bruises, bleeding from genital areas Abdominal or breast pain Self destructive behaviour Sleep disturbance or nightmares Acting out Saying they 'have a secret' Inappropriate sexual play Fear of certain people/situations Sexual aggression Unexplained money or gifts Withdrawal Eating issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appears anxious, depressed, withdrawn Taken to doctor for examination Self harm Attempted suicide Acid attack Early/unwanted pregnancy FGM Siblings forced into marriage Running away DV or SV Not allowed to work Persistent absence Poor school/work performance Prevented from further education Sudden engagement announcements Surveillance by family members Other siblings reported missing Threats to kill/Attempts to kill 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Level of family's integration into the UK Daughter or sister of a woman/girl who has been subjected to FGM Girls withdrawn from PSHE Girl makes reference to FGM A female elder from community overseas is visiting Girl talks about 'special procedure' or 'becoming a woman' Girl talks about a long holiday to country of origin (which is a high risk country) Already taken place: Difficulty walking, sitting, standing, long periods of time in bathroom, prolonged absence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unexplained absence from school Presence of older boyfriend Access to material things they can't afford Substance Misuse Missing for days at a time Sexualised behaviour Secretive Changes in behaviour STI/unwanted or early pregnancy Bruises DV and Family breakdown Poor physical & sexual health Sexual Violence/rape Homelessness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excessive fear Much older boyfriend Adult is not a legal guardian History of going missing No money but has a mobile False documents or entered the country illegally Not enrolled at school or with GP Reluctant to provide personal details Response seems coached Adult not a legal guardian but insists on staying with child Child never in when you visit Symptoms of abuse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hyper-intimacy e.g. persistent phone calls, letters or texts Surveillance or pursuit Intimidation, harassment Vandalising property Assault/violence Following Waiting outside home or workplace Perpetrator gathers images/photos of the victims without consent Threats to family, friends, pets, property Unwanted gifts
Risk Assess (RA)	1.CAADA-DASH 2.Barnado's DV-RIM	1.CAF Assessment 2.Professional judgement	1.CAF Assessment 2.Professional judgement	1.CAF Assessment 2.Professional judgement	1.CAF Assessment 2.Professional judgement	1.RA Matrix for Trafficked Children 2.CAF Assessment 3.Professional Judgement	1.CAF Assessment 2.Professional judgement
Refer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Police MARAC IDVA Children's Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Police ISVA Havens -SARC Rape Crisis Children's Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Police Children's Services Forced Marriage Unit MARAC Forced Marriage Guidelines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Police Children's Services Multi Agency FGM Guidelines MARAC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children's Safeguarding Police Poppy Project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children's Asylum Team Children's Services Trafficking Toolkit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Police Stalking Help line Victim Support

NB: Indicator lists are not exhaustive and do not always indicate a specific form of violence/abuse. However a multi agency response is always required.

Support for Victims

Harrow Victims Support (IDVA): **0208 965 1141**

Hestia Women's Aid (IDVA): **0208 9078148**

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

Rape Crisis Centre – West London: **0208 567 7347**

Harrow Housing and Assessment Team: **0208 424 1093**

Harrow Safeguarding Adults Service: **0208 420 9453**

Harrow Children's Service: **0208 901 2690**

Out of Hours for Safeguarding Children or Adults: **0208 424 0999**

Harrow Police Community Safety Unit: **0208 733 3462**

Police non-emergency crime reporting: **0300 123 1212**

Harrow Women's Centre: Advice, counselling & support: **0208 422 1100**

Harrow Drug and Alcohol Service (COMPASS): **0208 861 2787**

Harrow Violence Against Women & Girls Coordinator: **0208 736 6285**

Harrow MARAC Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conf: **0208 907 8148**

Harrow Citizens Advice Bureau: **0208 427 9477**

Havens: Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARC): **020 3312 1101**

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

Families without Fear: **0207 644 6255**

RESPECT (perpetrators): **0845 802 4040**

EACH: Drug/Alcohol Counselling: **0208 861 3884**

Family Planning (Caryl Thomas Clinic): **0208 863 7004**

WISH: Counselling and support for YP: **0208 416 7277**

DAWN Counselling and support for women: **0208 427 6796**

Forced Marriage Unit: **0207 008 0151**

National LGBT DV Helpline Broken Rainbow: **0300 999 5428**

Stalking Helpline: **0300 636 0300**

Harrow Local Safeguarding Children's Website:

www.harrowlscb.co.uk/domesticviolence.aspx

Harrow Council Website Domestic & Sexual Violence Pages:

www.harrow.gov.uk

Harrow Children's Centres:

www.harrow.gov.uk/childrenscentres

(Templates for risk assessments and referral forms are on both LSCB and Harrow Council Websites)



Harrow's Domestic and Sexual Violence: A guide for professionals

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Professional Guidance:

Use this referral guidance alongside the "Domestic and Sexual Violence Guidance for Professionals: November 2010". This document can be downloaded from:

www.harrow.gov.uk/downloads/file/2339/dv_and_sv_guidelines

All risk assessment templates and related documents are on www.harrowlscb.co.uk/Workers/Guidance_and_Procedures.aspx and www.harrow.gov.uk/info/100010/health_and_social_care/354/domestic_violence

Domestic Violence is a 'process' not an 'incident'. Work with the victim/s holistically.

If you are not trained in risk assessment or safety planning methods contact the designated Safeguarding Professional in your service or team. Always explain the limits of confidentiality with the victim or young person.

Reassure the victim or child that the violence is not their fault.

Record all information, referrals, assessments and interventions.

Always consider additional vulnerabilities of the victim/child including mental health, substance misuse, disabilities and Black, Minority, Ethnic, Refugee (BMER).

In some cases going through a risk assessment with a victim may help them to think through their situation and make decisions about their safety.

Before going through any assessment, ensure the victim: has time, is safe to talk, is alone, knows where the perpetrator and children are and understands why you are going through a risk assessment.

Risk assessments are structures to help you make an informed decision using your professional judgement. They are not definitive assessments of risk.

Always remember that risk is not static and can change over time. Risk assessments should be conducted regularly and used as a prompt for further questioning.

If the violence involves sexual assault it is important that you contact the local Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) and/or police to ensure evidence of the assault is not lost. This includes the victim not showering, going to the toilet, drinking or washing their clothes. When a sexual assault is reported to the police a specially trained officer attends the victim and coordinates the investigation. You can go direct to the SARC without going to the police.

