

Domestic Abuse Pathway for Young People

August 2018

This pathway relates to any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those who are or have been intimate partners regardless of gender or sexuality. This can encompass, but is not limited to, the following types of abuse: psychological, physical, sexual, financial, and emotional. This definition is amended from the cross government definition for the purpose the pathway.

Additional Vulnerability: Young people experience a complex transition from childhood to adulthood, impacting on behaviour & decision making. It may impact on the way they respond to the abuse, the way they engage with services, and they may be unequipped to deal with practical problems. As a result, young people who experience domestic abuse do so at a particularly vulnerable point in their lives. ([Safe Young Lives](#))

Who is it for?

All young people experiencing domestic abuse with a current or former intimate partner; 'victim' or 'perpetrator'. No lower age limit, upper age limit 18 or up to 25 for some care leavers.

What should I do?

If you know or suspect a young person is experiencing domestic abuse it is your responsibility to safeguard them at first opportunity by following this pathway (including reporting to police where necessary to safeguard). You must assume you are the first to know and act on this information straight away.

What does the young person say?

The young person may not want to talk with you, but it is your responsibility to help them feel able and safe to share. You could: work with somebody already trusted by the young person, communicate in ways that they feel safe with.

Are they safe now?

Follow [guidance](#) for [safety planning](#) with the young person. If immediate safeguarding concerns refer to MASH.

What's the risk?

Risk should be assessed by using the [Safe Lives Young Person's DASH](#) if you feel confident enough to do so, if not seek advice from your manager or ODAS. Throughout the course of the pathway it may be necessary to gather and incorporate further information from other parties. Any delay in completing a YP DASH should not delay referral to MASH.

Who needs to know?

All cases must be referred to [MASH](#) - 0345 050 7666. MASH will link with CSC / EH if an open case. MASH / CSC / EH will consider the suitability of referral to MARAC – informed by specialist knowledge around the young person and their particular vulnerabilities.

Domestic abuse disclosure relating to victim or perpetrator within age limits of pathway

Complete a YP DASH if possible and refer to MASH by making a MASH enquiry. 0345 050 7666.

Review by Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub

MASH reviews referral information. If case open to CSC or EH MASH will pass the referral onto the allocated worker for review.

MASH / CSC or EH Allocated Worker (in consultation with their manager) make decision regarding next steps

Threshold for strategy meeting met

Threshold for strategy meeting not met

Strategy Meeting

Ensure professional from specialist DA service is included in decision making. Consider referral to MARAC, especially if known to CSC due to parenting concerns.

Referral information passed from MASH to relevant team dependent upon identified level of risk

Identified team (CAFAT, EH, LCSS or specialist DA agency) gathers further information.

Section 47 Investigation

Engage young person & complete full DA risk assessment. Assess risk of abuse to YP & consider ongoing risk of harm due to DA.

Responsible team / agency consider consent for info sharing as informed by identified level of risk

Allocated worker / team continue to assess, undertake relevant work with YP as required and/or refer on.

Review Strategy Meeting / Complete Investigation

If threshold met progress to **CP Conference**

Threshold for CP conference not met

Consider multi-agency risk management processes

Progressing to [MARAMP](#) as appropriate

Referral to MARAC as appropriate

Relevant review & planning cycle

Risk reduced / managed

See [OCC's Domestic Abuse page](#) for support services

YP DASH

Any delay in completing a YP DASH should not delay referral to MASH.

Risk is dynamic and there may be a need to re-assess using the risk assessment tool at different points throughout the pathway process.

An increase or change in risk could require a strategy meeting be called.