



Domestic Abuse - Information for Practitioners



Support

If you are working with a family where you suspect there may be domestic abuse, you can access specialist guidance and support. Please contact **Warrington Refuge Independent Domestic Abuse Service** on **01925 243359**. Urgent messages left on voicemail will be responded to out of hours.

Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVAs) and an Outreach Worker support men and women aged 16+ at risk of domestic abuse by providing:

Emotional and practical support to survivors;

Intensive support to increase short, medium and long term safety;

Information and guidance on court proceedings and legal options;

Access to other specialist support e.g. refuge accommodation.

The Outreach Worker provides support to individuals and groups of survivors identified as being at low to medium risk of domestic abuse.

However, if you have safeguarding concerns for a child/children living with domestic violence you must contact **Children and Young People's Targeted Services, Duty and Assessment Team** in the first instance on **01925 443400**.

Risk Assessment

IDVAs provide short/medium term support to survivors identified as being at high risk of harm through completion of the Domestic Abuse, Stalking, Harassment and Honour Based Violence (DASH) Risk Indicator Checklist. Frontline practitioners in Warrington are encouraged to undertake training in completing the DASH, which provides the pathway for high-risk survivors to be referred to the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) chaired by the Police. The IDVA is to the voice of the client at MARAC. The aim of the MARAC is to:

Share information to increase the safety, health and wellbeing of survivors, and their children;
Determine whether the perpetrator poses a significant risk to any particular individual or the general community;

Construct and implement a risk management plan that provides professional support to all those at high risk and to reduce repeat victimisation.

Good Practice

The safety of survivors and children is the primary concern.

Never ask about domestic abuse when anyone else is present.

If an interpreter is needed, never use a family member or friend.

Survivors should be listened to with respect and without judgment.

Reassure survivors that they are not to blame.

Empower survivors to make their own decision.

Don't provide in-depth support - other agencies might have more experience – appropriate levels of confidentiality should be respected.

Information sharing is beneficial if carried out appropriately and safely.

Don't put yourself or your colleagues at risk.

Useful Contacts

In an emergency – 999

Cheshire Police (24 hour) – 101

Warrington Refuge Independent Domestic Abuse Service - 01925 243359

Refuge - www.refuge.org.uk

National Domestic Violence Helpline - 24 hour free phone - 0808 200 0247

Warrington Women's Aid Refuge accommodation - 01925 417138

Women's Aid - www.womensaid.org.uk

Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre - 01925 221546

Victim Support (24 hours answer phone) - 0151 424 2785

National Centre for Domestic Violence (NCDV) injunctions - 0844 8044999

The Hideout - www.thehideout.org.uk - Support for children and young people

Mankind - 01823 334244 - www.mankind.org.uk - Support for male victims

Broken Rainbow - 0300 999 5428 - www.broken-rainbow.org.uk Support for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) individuals

Respect - 0808 802 4040 - www.respect.uk - Support for men and women facing up to abusive behaviour towards a partner

Karma Nirvana - 0800 5999 247 www.karmanirvana.org.uk Support for victims and survivors of forced marriage and honour based abuse