

The Domestic Abuse Board is a multi-agency partnership

Calderdale MARAC and Domestic Abuse Hub Referral Guidance

The shared objective of Calderdale Domestic Abuse Hub is for all partners to intervene early, engage with the victim soon after the incident, and to prevent escalation or repeats.

Any queries can be made via the Hub contact number – 01422-337176 or cd.safeguardingdomesticabusehub@westyorkshire.pnn.police.uk

Referral Criteria and DASH Risk Assessment

The purpose of the DASH risk checklist is to give a consistent and simple tool for practitioners who work with adult victims of domestic abuse in order to help them identify those who are at high or medium risk of harm and whose cases should be referred to a HUB meeting in order to manage their risk. The form is attached and a fuller version with guidance can also be accessed [here](#). Practitioners should complete the DASH form for all referrals. The criteria for a Hub referral is as follows:

HIGH RISK – all high risk referrals classified as MARAC cases

1. **DASH assessment 'visible high risk'**: the number of ticks on the checklist. If you have ticked 14 or more 'yes' boxes the case would normally be considered to be HIGH and therefore a referral in to the MARAC/Hub. Where there is not a visible high risk of 14 or more, you should apply numbers 2 and 3 below.
2. **Professional judgement**: if a professional has serious concerns about a victim's situation, they should refer the case to the Hub. There will be occasions where the particular context of a case gives rise to serious concerns even if the victim has been unable to disclose information that might highlight their risk more clearly. This could reflect extreme levels of fear, cultural barriers to disclosure, immigration issues or language barriers particularly in cases of 'honour'-based violence. This judgement would be based on the professional's experience and/or the victim's perception of their risk even if they do not meet criteria 1 and /or 3 below. This can be where the facts indicate a high risk of serious harm but the victim is minimising and not indicating risks on the DASH.
3. **Potential escalation**: the number of police callouts to the victim as a result of domestic violence in the past 12 months. This criterion can be used to identify cases where there is not a positive indication of a majority of the risk factors on the list, but where abuse appears to be escalating and where it is appropriate to assess the situation more fully by sharing information at MARAC

MEDIUM RISK

If they do not meet the criteria above for a high risk MARAC referral, a case is assessed as medium risk by applying the DASH definition:

'There are identifiable indicators of risk of **serious harm**. The perpetrator is likely to cause serious harm if change in circumstances, i.e. failure to take medication, relationship breakdown, substance misuse, if bailed after court appearance etc.'

Medium risk referrals can be referred into the hub, following a discussion with a line manager/safeguarding lead if it is deemed that a full multi-agency discussion is required.

Where a crime is disclosed in the referral the police are duty bound to record the offence and commence and investigation. The decision to approach the victim / perpetrator is made with consideration to the risk implications raised by the meeting member and referring professional.

Consent

Please note that consent should be sought where possible for referral into the Hub/MARAC but if consent is not given for high risk referrals information should be shared in the interests of public safety. Victim consent is more likely to result in a more positive outcome

You must refer to your own agency policy on whether consent from the victim must be obtained for a medium referral. You are protected by a legal framework to share information at this risk level (see the Information Sharing Agreement) however individual agencies may have their own internal guidance on the subject of consent for medium risk cases.

What if the case does not meet the Hub threshold?

You can contact Calderdale Staying Safe (Specialist Domestic Abuse Support Service) on (01422) 323339 for advice and support. Further information on local and national support services for those experiencing domestic abuse can be found [here](#).

The Domestic Abuse Hub Process

The Calderdale Domestic Abuse Hub Meeting is held on a daily basis between Monday-Friday. Hub staff are responsible for checking domestic abuse incidents reported to the police within the previous 24 hours and referred in to the Hub by non- police partners.

Once received, a member of the Domestic Abuse Hub will contact the referring person/partner and arrange a convenient date for the case to be discussed. There is an expectation that they will present the case referred as soon as possible, depending on risk level. On some occasions attendance will be negotiated with the Police and within the referring partners' organisation.

- 9am – All referrals are submitted to partners to gather information.
- 10am – All responses are submitted by partners and added to the referral forms.
- 10:30am – Daily Hub meeting takes place at Richmond Close Police Station when all relevant partners attend to discuss the referrals and actions where agreed.
- Once discussed, the minutes will be distributed on the same day of the meeting, showing what discussions were made and any subsequent actions.