THAMES VALLEY MULTI-Agency DOMESTIC ABUSE Referral Pathway

Domestic abuse is “Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members 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 also includes honour based abuse (HBA), forced marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM)”

- If there is no disclosure but you suspect otherwise, periodically ‘ask the question’
- If an Honour Based Abuse (HBA) or Forced Marriage (FM) case, share information on a strictly needs to know basis and ensure agency records are kept restricted
- If there is any immediate danger call 999 immediately

**RECOGNISE**
- Identify risks to the victim by using the DISCLOSURE
- Reassure about confidentiality and explain the limits of this. Gain consent. Explain what actions you may have to take

**RESPOND**
- Is your victim pregnant and/or do they have children?

**REFER**
- Is your victim an adult with Care and support needs?
- Do you have concerns that a child or young person may be at risk of harm or neglect?
- Contact Safeguarding Adults First Response on 0800 137 915 safeguardingadults@buckscc.gov.uk

**RECORD**
- Is your victim pregnant and/or do they have children?
- Do you have concerns that a child or young person may be at risk of harm or neglect?
- Call the First Response Team 01296 383962 cypfirstresponse@buckscc.gov.uk
- Contact Safeguarding Adults First Response on 0800 137 915 safeguardingadults@buckscc.gov.uk

**In all circumstances (adults and children)**
- Only ask questions about domestic abuse when the individual is on their own and in private.
- Document any disclosure, or suspicion of domestic abuse, in professional records kept at your organisation (not in the victim’s hand held records) and record what you are told in their own words.
- Document decision making, actions taken to manage risk and rationale for sharing or not sharing of information (with or without consent).
- If you need to use interpreters, ensure they are professional. Never use family members, friends or children.
- Consider risks associated with communication/correspondence e.g. the perpetrator finding letters/leaflets/text messages/phone call logs etc.
- Call a professionals meeting if you have concerns that cannot be addressed through the MARAC.

**STANDARD RISK** - Current evidence does not indicate likelihood of causing serious harm.

**MEDIUM RISK** - There are identifiable indicators of risk of serious harm. The offender has the potential to cause serious harm but is unlikely to do so unless there is a change in circumstances, eg failure to take medication, loss of accommodation, relationship breakdown, drug or alcohol misuse.

**HIGH RISK** - There are identifiable indicators of risk of serious harm. The potential event could happen at any time and the impact would be serious.

**DISCLOSURE at non specialist service or agency**
- Refer to Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) for children 01296 382070 lado@buckscc.gov.uk or Local Authority Safeguarding Manager (LASM) for adults 0800 137 915 LASM@buckscc.gov.uk
- To discuss a case before making a referral call The MASH on 0800 137 915

**Identify risks to the victim by using the DASH Risk Identification Checklist**
- For Honour Based Abuse cases, also complete the HBA Screening Questions (H-DASH)
- For Stalking cases, also complete the S-DASH

**I have identified the victim as being at STANDARD / MEDIUM risk of serious harm**
- Consider immediate and long term risks and needs
- Risk can fluctuate so regularly review risk levels and decision making
- Discuss basic safety planning with the victim
- Ensure the victim knows where to go for help

**Standard Risk**: Signpost to Aylesbury Women’s Aid 01296 437777 Or High Wycombe Woman’s Aid 01494 461367 or TV Victims First 0300 1234 148 www.victims-first.org.uk

**Medium/High Risk**: Refer to IDVA Services, Aylesbury Women’s Aid 01296 437777 or Wycombe Women’s Aid 07483 159153

**I have identified the victim as being at HIGH risk of serious harm**
- Speak to your agency’s Designated MARAC Officer (DMO) and complete MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference) referral via Modus
- If your agency does not have a DMO, contact the MARAC on 01865 854271 MASHBucks@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk
- MARAC meeting takes place
- Action plan agreed. Agencies flag and tag files

**Signpost** to IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Advocate) informed via Modus referral