

Domestic Abuse: A Referral Pathway for Kent and Medway

What is domestic abuse?

Domestic abuse is any single incident, course of conduct or pattern of abusive behaviour between individuals aged 16 or over who are personally connected to each other as a result of being, or having been, intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality. Children who see, hear or experience the effects of the abuse and are related to either of the parties are also considered victims of domestic abuse.

Behaviour is abusive if it consists of any of the following: physical or sexual abuse; violent or threatening behaviour; controlling or coercive behaviour; economic abuse; or psychological, emotional or other abuse. This includes incidences where the abusive party directs their behaviour at another person (e.g. a child). Economic abuse means any behaviour that has a substantial adverse effect on someone's ability to acquire, use or maintain money or other property, or obtain goods or services.

What is a risk assessment (DASH)?

The DASH is a risk assessment tool used in Kent and Medway to identify the level of threat, danger and abuse that is being posed to someone. The questions may seem personal, but they help to identify how we can increase safety and support us to identify the most appropriate support services.

[Find guidance and the risk assessment here.](#)

Jargon Buster

DASH	Domestic Abuse, Stalking & Harassment and Honour Based Violence – a risk assessment checklist.
Clare's Law	This scheme enables the police to release information about any previous history of violence or abuse a person might have.
IDVA	Independent Domestic Violence Advisor – a person who works with those affected by abuse to increase their safety and wellbeing.
MARAC	Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference – a process for agencies to share information and action plan to reduce risks.
MATAC	Multi-Agency Task and Coordination – a meeting where high harm perpetrators are discussed and proactive plans are put in place to reduce the risk they pose.
Safelives	The organisation that developed and oversees DASH and MARACs.
KIDAS	Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse Service – are the group of organisations commissioned to provide support within safe accommodation and community-based support services for adults (16+) affected by domestic abuse in Kent.
MDAS	Medway Domestic Abuse Service – the service that delivers community services in Medway.
ISVA	Independent Sexual Violence Advisor – a person who works with those affected by abuse to increase their safety and wellbeing.
SARC	Sexual Assault Referral Centre – offers confidential medical and practical support to people who have recently been raped or sexually assaulted.

What is MARAC?

MARAC is a process where agencies share relevant information about high-risk cases and make collaborative plans to help the people in that situation and reduce the risk. It identifies the actions needed to keep people safe and the most appropriate services for all those involved: the person experiencing abuse, any children connected to the people involved and the person using abusive behaviour.

If you identify someone who may be at high risk you should undertake a DASH assessment if possible. If there is visible high risk (they score 13 or over on the DASH) or using your professional judgement you believe they are at high risk of harm, you should make a MARAC referral using the link below.

[MARAC Referral Form.](#)

What is Clare's Law?

Clare's Law, also known as DVDS (Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme), is a police-run scheme that lets you, or any member of the public, formally request or receive usually confidential information about a romantic partner's criminal history. This might be a current partner who you are worried might have been abusive in the past. It can also be an ex-partner you are no longer involved with but believe may be a threat to your safety.

[You can find out more and make a request here.](#)

People using abusive behaviour

Interventions Alliance deliver a variety of one-to-one and group work interventions that work to help people who use abusive or stalking behaviour in their relationships to address the root cause and to make positive changes. These services are free and impartial and can help by giving practical and emotional support. They work in partnership with Kent Police, Lookahead and Victim Support.

[Find out more here](#)

or email MASIP@kent.police.uk

Community Domestic Abuse Programme is a rolling programme of sessions. Based on the Duluth Programme, it is designed to help men who feel their behaviour towards their partner has been, or is still, abusive.

[Find out more here](#)

What help is available?

Domestic Abuse Drop Ins - One Stop Shops

Domestic Abuse One Stop Shops offer free and confidential advice, information and support from a range of agencies to help victims of domestic abuse. These include physical and virtual drop ins. You may even remain anonymous if it is just advice you are seeking. [Find your nearest drop in here.](#)

Support for people affected by domestic abuse in Kent

Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse Service (KIDAS) offers person-centred support to victims (16+) in Kent. This service includes:

- Support within safe refuge accommodation
- Specialist Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVA) support
- Community Outreach Services
- Therapeutic and group programmes (e.g. Freedom or Phoenix Programme)
- Emergency welfare assistance for clients in crisis (food, energy, travel)

This service can also support access to Sanctuary provision (adaptations to make the home safer) and support for children and young people residing in safe accommodation.

Support can be accessed by contacting Victim Support for assessment and referral to your local service via the phone number below, using [SignLive](#) or the [Live Chat](#) facility.

Call 0808 168 9111

24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Support for people affected by domestic abuse in Medway

Medway Domestic Abuse Service (MDAS) offers specialist domestic abuse support, with a range of services to increase safety:

- Advice and information
- One-to-one specialist support to keep victims safe, to help them recover and move on, including to young people at risk
- A joined-up package of support, bringing in and working together with partner agencies in housing, health, police and services for children and others to best suit victims' needs
- Specialist group support programmes
- School programmes to help young people identify and understand abusive behaviour
- Specialist support to families affected by domestic abuse, working with the non-abusive parent and child

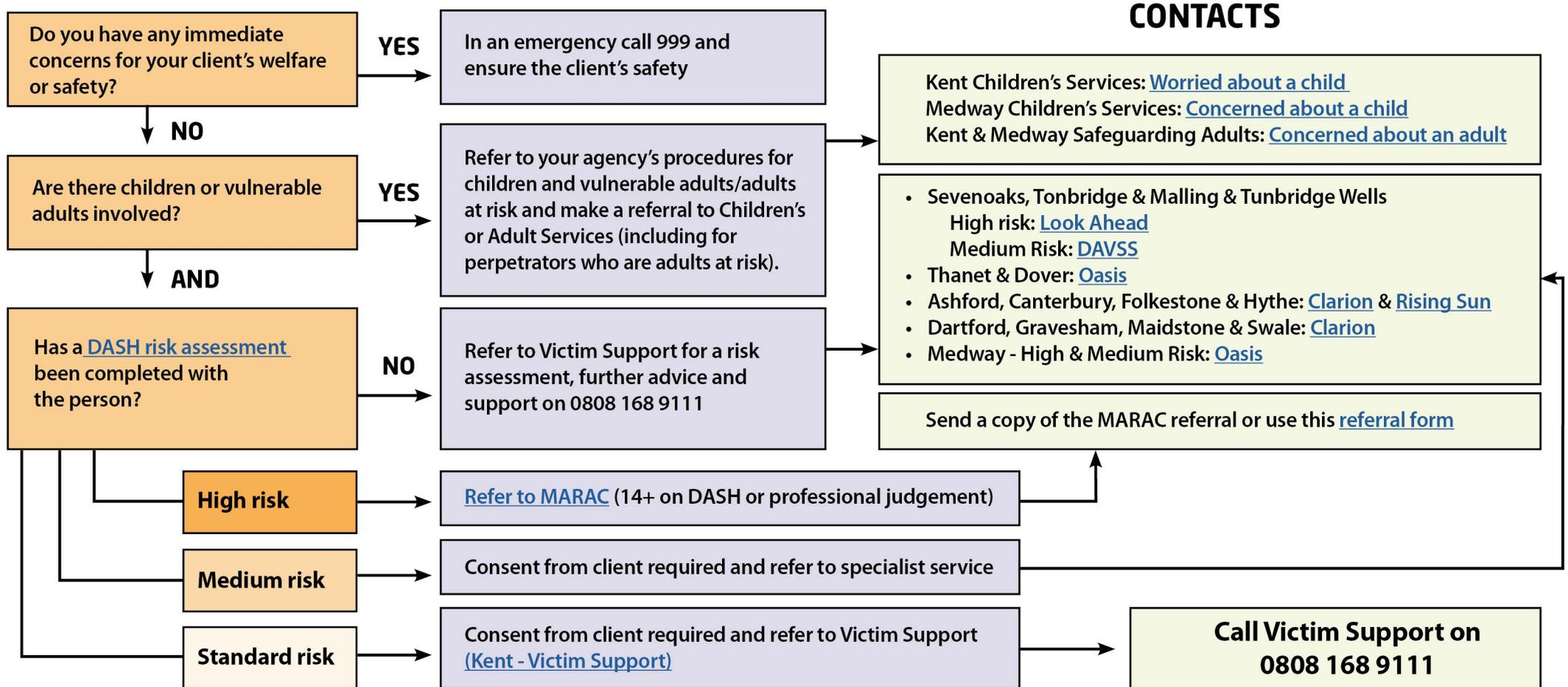
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Kent & Medway Domestic and Sexual Abuse Partnership: Know, See, Speak Out

Domestic abuse disclosure - what should I do?



Report domestic abuse & use Clare's Law:

Kent Police ([Advice about domestic abuse](#))

Safety planning

Women's Aid Safety Plan

In all cases, take the following actions with your client:

- Talk to your client about safety planning.
- Consider what your agency should do to help them and keep them safe, and which other agencies should be contacted.
- Ask if they want further support or information to take away.

Perpetrators of abuse

[Respect](#) has a confidential helpline, email and webchat service.

Call 0808 802 4040

Key contacts and services

Kent Police: 999 in an emergency and 101 for all other calls/enquiries

Clare's Law: [Request Information under Clare's Law](#)

Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse Service: 0808 168 9111

Medway Domestic Abuse Service: 0800 917 9948

Kent Children's Services: [Worried about a child](#)

Medway Children's Services: [Concerned about a child](#)

Kent & Medway Safeguarding Adults: [Concerned about an adult](#)

MARAC: [MARAC Referral Form](#)

Sexual Assault Referral Centre: 01622 726461 (weekdays, 9am - 5pm)

Out of Hours: 0800 133 7432

National helplines and other services

[Respect](#): a confidential helpline, email and webchat service for domestic abuse perpetrators and those supporting them

[Galop](#): helpline for LGBT+ people experiencing abuse or violence

[Karma Nirvana](#): Run the national Honour Based Abuse Helpline

[SignHealth](#): SignHealth provides advice and support for Deaf adults and young people experiencing domestic abuse.

[Protection Against Stalking](#): committed to raising awareness of stalking and supporting victims and their families.

[Kent Cyberstalking Clinic](#): access help with a live cyberstalking, cyber-enabled stalking or domestic abuse related stalking issue.



Kent Fire & Rescue Service



Kent Police

