DASH MARAC and APP1

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What is Adult Safeguarding?

Harm can happen to anyone over 18 years old, who because of their age, disability, illness or life

circumstances may be exposed to a higher risk of harm.

Adult Safeguarding will support you or someone you know who has been hurt, is afraid or feels isolated because of something someone has done.

Types of abuse:

Psychological Abuse Being shouted at, ridiculed or bullied, as well as being made to feel frightened.

Sexual Abuse For example when someone touches you in a way you don't like or under stand.

Financial Abuse Theft, fraud, exploitation of someone else's money or belongings.

Neglect Failing to provide care or support that results in someone being harmed.

Physical Abuse Such as being hit, kicked, being locked in a room or inappropriately restrained

Institutional Abuse The mistreatment or neglect of an adult by systems or individuals in set tings where they live, visit or receive services. It includes poor standards of care, practice and behaviours.

What are some possible signs of abuse?

- Modern Slavery Includes human trafficking and forced labour.
- Domestic Violence and abuse Any type of controlling, bullying, threatening or violent behaviour be tween people in a relationship. Not just physical violence.
- Hate Crime A prejudice-motivated crime, usually violent.
- Appearing unusually scared, upset or withdrawn
- Unexplained pregnancy or sexually transmitted disease
- Unexplained injuries, repeated visits to GP or Accident & Emergency Department
- Not having enough money to buy food or pay bills when enough money should be available
- Being isolated from family and friends
- Not looking after yourself or not being cared for properly by others

What is a APP1- example questions

An **APP1 form** (also known as the **Adult Protection Referral form**) is a standardised document used by agencies and professionals to formally report suspected harm, abuse, or neglect of a vulnerable adult to local Health and Social Care Trusts or adult safeguarding teams

What is Domestic Violence and Abuse?

In Northern Ireland domestic violence and abuse is defined as 'threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, verbal, sexual, financial or emotional) inflicted on one person by another where they are or have been intimate partners or family members, irrespective of gender or sexual orientation'

It can happen to anyone

As well as physical violence, examples of abuse can involve:

- undermining your self-confidence,
- threats to others including children,
- controlling behaviour such as isolation from friends and family,
- restricting access to money, personal items, food, transportation or the telephone
- destruction of personal property
- stalking

Domestic violence and abuse is about a past or current partner, or a member of your family trying to have power and control over you.

Domestic abuse includes unlawful activities such as forced marriage, 'honour' based crimes and female genital mutilation. Extended family members may condone or even share in the pattern of violence

What is a DASH?
Domestic Abuse, Stalking, and Honour-based violence

- The questions in the DASH risk checklist are based on extensive research about domestic abuse.
- 24-question risk identification checklist (RIC) used by police, healthcare professionals, and social workers to assess the level of danger a victim is facing
- It determines whether a victim is at standard, medium, or high risk, and dictates the safeguarding steps required
- The DASH risk checklist aims to enable frontline professionals to decide which cases should be referred to MARAC and what other support might be required.

MARAC - Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference

Only those who have been identified as being at "high" risk of harm from domestic abuse are discussed at a MARAC.

- 14 or more positive (yes) answers to questions 1 – 24 on the DASH form
- Professional judgement of the agency worker on the client's situation
- Escalation – 3 or more Police callouts in 12 months or an increase in the severity of the abuse
- Up to 20 cases are heard at each MARAC meeting.
- Agencies discuss the risk of serious harm to people experiencing domestic abuse in their local area, and make safety plans to support those at high risk.
- Actions will be agreed and taken by those agencies present to reduce the risk of further violence and reduce the risk of it happening again. If a case comes to the attention of an agency and there are concerns that require an immediate response, an Emergency MARAC will be called.

Who attends the MARAC?

- Those representing their agency at MARAC will have the authority and decision-making powers to offer resources to create a safety plan for the victim and their children.
- Each case is discussed for up to 15 minutes.
- The key agencies attending MARAC are:

- The Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI)
- Health & Social Care Services (Adult and child safeguarding teams)
- Education
- NI Housing Executive (NIHE)
- Probation Board NI
- Women's Aid
- Victim Support NI
- Men's Advisory Project (MAP)

Designated agencies will attend, as required, to speak on behalf of those they are supporting. For example, this could include someone from community and voluntary agencies

What's next?

- Each agency representative at the meeting shares information about each case and contributes to a timely assessment of the victim's needs.
- Designed action plan to increase the level of safety of the victim, children, other vulnerable parties, if applicable, agency staff
- The referring agency will present the case at MARAC and they will also act as the voice of the victim.
- They will inform the victim of the outcome and safety plan
- Participants should take extraordinary care **not to** inadvertently inform the perpetrator of any element of the safety plan.

Responding to Initial Disclosures

If someone tells you about abuse, your role is to respond sensitively and pass the information on to social services or the PSNI. Disclosure may take place many years after a traumatic event or when someone has left a setting in which they were afraid. This delay should not, in itself, cast doubt on its truthfulness.

- **DO**
- Stay calm and try not to show shock or disbelief
- Listen carefully to what they are saying
- Be sympathetic ('I am sorry that this has happened to you')
- Be aware of the possibility that medical evidence might be needed.
- **TELL THE PERSON THAT:**
- They did the right thing to tell you
- You are treating the information seriously
- It was not their fault
- You are going to inform the appropriate person
- Report to social services and/or the police
- Write down what was said by the person disclosing as soon as possible

Continued ....

- **DO NOT**
- Press the person for more details. This will be done at a later date
- Stop someone who is freely recalling significant events; (e.g. don't say 'Hold on we'll come back to that later,') as they may not tell you again
- Ask leading questions that could be interpreted as putting words or suggestions to vulnerable adult or any vulnerable witnesses
- Promise to keep secrets. You cannot keep this kind of information confidential
- Make promises you cannot keep (such as, 'This will never happen to you again')
- Contact the alleged abuser
- Be judgmental (for example 'Why didn't you run away?')
- Pass on the information to anyone other than those with a legitimate 'need to know.'
- At the first opportunity make a note of the disclosure and date and sign your record.
- Note what was said, using the exact words and phrases spoken, wherever possible
- Describe the circumstances in which the disclosure came about
- Note the setting and anyone else who was there at the time
- Separate out factual information from your own opinion
- Use a pen or biro with black ink, so that the report can be photocopied
- Be aware that your report may be required later as part of a legal action or disciplinary

Anonymised case study

- 66 year old female who relocated from another part of UK due to DV
- DASH completed with a score of 15
- Alongside Professional judgement dictated due to significant concerns
- The victim is primarily afraid of her ex-partner (perpetrator), due to a history of serious physical violence, threats to kill, and coercive control. She believes he will cause her further harm if he discovers where she is.
- He is currently living with her adult son, who assisted her to relocate to NI
- Additionally, the victim has concerns that wider family members may inadvertently place her at risk by sharing her address with the perpetrator. – her sister is married to although now separated from preparators brother
- She maintains contact with her son "when it is safe." - he is aware of her general location (postcode), although not her full address. This would be concerning as it is known that he had contact with the perpetrator.
- The victim does not feel it is safe to share her address or personal information with certain family members, due to concerns that this information may be passed to the perpetrator, either intentionally or inadvertently.

Questions??