

## Overview

This standard is about contributing to the assessment of the risks to victims and survivors of domestic violence and abuse. It involves obtaining and recording relevant information, and assisting in planning for the assessment.

This standard is for practitioners who support those experiencing domestic abuse, which may include instances of sexual violence and abuse in a domestic violence context.

It is recognised that abuse can occur without physical violence, yet can be equally damaging to those affected. Throughout this standard, where the term 'abuse' is used it is taken to include instances also involving physical violence.

Domestic abuse is frequently perceived as a gendered crime perpetrated by men against women; however this standard is intended for practitioners who support those experiencing domestic violence within any intimate or family relationship, regardless of their social background, age, gender, religion, sexuality or ethnicity.

For the purposes of this standard, 'community' may refer to areas of practice, constituencies, geographical areas, service users or different groups of victims and survivors.

In some organisations, the terms 'victim' and 'survivor' may be used individually or interchangeably.

### There are two elements

- 1 Contribute to the planning of assessments
- 2 Contribute to reviewing the information obtained

**Performance  
criteria**

**Contribute to the planning of assessments**

- You must be able to:**
- P1 obtain relevant existing information regarding victims and survivors involved in the assessment, where available and safe to do so
  - P2 identify any further information required for assessment of victims and survivors including sources for information
  - P3 confirm information requirements and sources with relevant people where required, including your line manager as appropriate
  - P4 agree timescales and actions for gathering information needed with required relevant people and your line manager
  - P5 contact sources to obtain information as agreed with your line manager and in line with organisational requirements
  - P6 work with information sources to gather information required in line with organisational guidance, including:
    - P6.1 explain your role and that of your organisation
    - P6.2 describe what information is sought
    - P6.3 explain the reasons for seeking information
    - P6.4 explain who information may be shared with
    - P6.5 acknowledge the role and expertise of those from whom information is sought
    - P6.6 maintain a courteous and professional manner
  - P7 make appropriate arrangements for meetings with victims and survivors which enable them to discuss their circumstances
  - P8 provide victims and survivors with relevant information in advance of meetings including details of the time, location and meeting purpose
  - P9 refer any issues and difficulties to your line manager including:
    - P9.1 difficulties obtaining information
    - P9.2 difficulties arranging meetings
  - P10 maintain accurate and up to date records of actions taken and information received

**Contribute to reviewing the information obtained**

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- You must be able to:**
- P11 collate, record and organise information received in ways which facilitates its use
  - P12 take steps to verify and corroborate information received for relevance, accuracy and currency in line with organisational requirements
  - P13 address gaps in available information where you have identified gaps during review of information
  - P14 identify key factors which contribute to risk assessment of victims and survivors including:
    - P14.1 the likelihood, nature and imminence of the risk of harm
    - P14.2 risk of harm to victims, survivors and their children and dependants where relevant
    - P14.3 verification and corroboration for source information where possible
  - P15 assess the significance of identified key factors in line with risk assessment tools and processes
  - P16 discuss and present information about risk assessment to others and your line manager including:
    - P16.1 setting out the key factors identified
    - P16.2 reasons for your assessment
  - P17 ensure that your assessment is justified and flows logically from the information obtained and your associated findings
  - P18 complete justified risk assessments based on the information obtained in line with organisational risk assessment processes
  - P19 alert your line manager when you identify real and particular concerns regarding the risk of harm to victims and survivors including that of self harm or suicide
  - P20 maintain accurate and up to date records in line with organisational requirements

## Knowledge and understanding

### Legislative, regulatory and organisational requirements

#### You need to know and understand:

- K1 legal and organisational requirements for risk assessments of victims and survivors of domestic abuse and violence, and their impact for your area of operations
- K2 relevant legislation applicable to your area of work
- K3 relevant others you may need to work with including:
  - K3.1 agencies and partner organisations
  - K3.2 colleagues
  - K3.3 community representatives
  - K3.4 service users
  - K3.5 stakeholders
  - K3.6 victims and survivors
- K4 your organisation's role, objectives, remit and services for addressing domestic and sexual abuse, including the provision of support to victims
- K5 the limits of your authority and responsibility and actions to take if exceeded

### Key, general requirements for addressing domestic violence and abuse

#### You need to know and understand:

- K6 what constitutes domestic violence and abuse, and its prevalence in your local community
- K7 signs of abuse and the methods used by abusers to gain power and control
- K8 the impact of abuse upon all of those affected by it, including victims, survivors and children
- K9 types of information and support sought by those affected by domestic and sexual violence and abuse
- K10 sources of information and support available to those affected by domestic and sexual violence and abuse
- K11 the role of other agencies and organisations who provide support, services and interventions to address domestic and sexual violence and abuse in your area
- K12 the importance of being aware of your own values and beliefs
- K13 the impact your own values and beliefs may have when working with victims
- K14 how to challenge discriminatory or potentially damaging attitudes and

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behaviour and the importance of doing so

**Requirements particular to assisting in assessments**

You need to know  
and understand:

- K15 risk assessment tools, processes, procedures and methods including those used by your organisation
- K16 information required to assess the risks affecting victims and survivors appropriate to managing their risk of harm
- K17 sources of relevant information regarding individuals and how to access these
- K18 methods for verifying and corroborating the information received
- K19 methods and techniques for distinguishing between and identifying:
  - K19.1 directly observed evidence
  - K19.2 evidence from reliable sources
  - K19.3 hearsay
- K20 the importance of maintaining records of information sources used and how to do so
- K21 how to organise information in a way that will help you analyse it  
formats required when reporting information

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<b>Suite</b>	Preventing and addressing domestic violence and abuse
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