

Overview

This standard is about you identifying children and young people who are at risk of domestic violence and abuse. As part of this standard you will identify and agree interventions for potential victims such as further enquiries and risk assessments.

Interventions you identify and agree should be linked to local authority safeguarding procedures and the relevant multi-agency arrangements for public protection.

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.

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

There are two elements

- 1 Identify children and young people at risk
- 2 Agree interventions to protect children and young people from risk

Performance criteria

Identify children and young people at risk

- You must be able to:
- P1 observe children and young people to identify indicators of stress which can indicate abuse including;
 - P1.1 unexpected changes in behaviour
 - P1.2 use of inappropriate language
 - P1.3 improper behaviour
 - P2 identify any injuries which are sustained by children and young people including;
 - P2.1 injuries which have no or poor explanation
 - P2.2 injuries leading to suspicion about potential abuse and violence
 - P3 discuss indicators of stress and injuries with children and young people which suggest potential abuse
 - P4 explore with children and young people their perception and rationale for stress indicators and injuries which they are exhibiting
 - P5 provide children and young people with safe spaces and opportunities to describe their circumstance including use of support materials
 - P6 communicate with children and young people in a manner and at a pace which meets their needs, and;
 - P6.1 encourages questions
 - P6.2 confirms their understanding
 - P6.3 avoids interpretation of their meaning
 - P7 respond to children and young peoples' wishes for confidentiality in line with legal and organisational requirements
 - P8 identify any information regarding children and young people which needs to be shared with relevant others
 - P9 take steps to make sure you are accompanied and observed by appropriate colleagues in all discussions with children and young people
 - P10 make referrals to other professionals and services when support and interventions required is outside your role and responsibilities
 - P11 maintain accurate and up to date records of your discussions in line with organisational policies and procedures

Agree interventions to protect children and young people at risk

- You must be able to:**
- P12 assess information received using professional judgement to determine the levels of risk to children and young people including;
 - P12.1 the significance of indicators of stress
 - P12.2 indicators of abuse
 - P12.3 explanations provided
 - P12.4 circumstances of children and young people
 - P12.5 the potential risk of harm from abuse and violence
 - P13 determine factors which can cause children and young people's behaviour and injuries in line with available guidance
 - P14 identify where additional enquiries and assessments are required to understand children and young people's risk
 - P15 make arrangements for additional enquiries and assessments which inform understanding of children and young people's risk
 - P16 keep records about interventions which protect children and young people including:
 - P16.1 reasons for interventions
 - P16.2 justification for risk assessment outcomes
 - P17 work with other organisations to protect children and young people at risk in line with partnership arrangements
 - P18 maintain accurate and up to date records in line with organisational policies and procedures
 - P19 maintain confidentiality in line with legislative and organisational requirements

Knowledge and understanding

Legislative, regulatory and organisational requirements

You need to know and understand:

- K1 legal and organisational requirements for working with children and young people 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 children and young people
 - K3.3 colleagues
 - K3.4 community representatives
 - K3.5 service users
 - K3.6 stakeholders
 - K3.7 victims and survivors
- K4 the limits of your authority, responsibility and professional competence, and actions to take if exceeded
- K5 other professional support and services available for children and young people when your professional competence is exceeded including for:
 - K5.1 mental health services
 - K5.2 physical health services
 - K5.3 social work services
- K6 children and young people support services
- K7 sources of support available to you as a practitioner and how to access these including peer networks and clinical supervision

Key, general requirements for addressing domestic violence and abuse

You need to know and understand:

- K8 what is meant by safeguarding
- K9 different ways in which children and young people might be harmed
- K10 signs of abuse and methods used by abusers to gain power and control
- K11 the impact upon all of those affected by domestic violence and abuse, including victims, survivors and children
- K12 how children may be used by abusers as part of their abuse
- K13 how cultural, societal and gender related aspects impact upon domestic and

sexual abuse

- K14 the role of external support agencies in providing referrals and support for children and young people who are victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence and abuse
- K15 multi-agency arrangements for providing referrals and for children and young people who are victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence and abuse
- K16 local procedures for child protection and safeguarding
- K17 misconceptions and stereotypical viewpoints in the public domain about levels and causes of abuse

Requirements particular to identifying and agreeing interventions to protect children and young people

You need to know and understand:

- K18 indicators of domestic violence and abuse and how these can be expressed including through:
 - K18.1 play and artwork
 - K18.2 relationships with other children and adults
 - K18.3 the subtle nature of some indicators
- K19 actions available and required where disclosure of abuse is identified
- K20 types of information and areas of support sought by children and young people affected by domestic and sexual violence and abuse
- K21 sources of information available to children and young people affected by domestic and sexual violence and abuse
- K22 circumstances where it is necessary to go against children and young people expressed wishes
- K23 the importance of ensuring that children and young people understand why their expressed wishes are not being met and why
- K24 methods of verifying and corroborating information
- K25 methods and techniques for distinguishing between and identifying;
 - K25.1 directly observed evidence
 - K25.2 evidence from reliable sources
 - K25.3 hearsay
 - K25.4 prejudice

- K25.5 opinions that are backed by evidence
- K26 when and how to discuss concerns regarding abuse with parents and carers
- K27 factors that can affect parenting and increase the risk of abuse
- K28 how children and young people see and experience the world in different ways and the impact when communicating with them
- K29 the importance of sharing information with other relevant agencies in the context of children and young people's safety, health and wellbeing
- K30 how inference or interpretation can result in a difference between what is said and what is understood, and how to address this
- K31 principles governing when young people are considered sufficiently mature to give informed consent to share their information with other parties
- K32 the information needs of other entitled agencies, organisations and individuals and when they need information
- K33 the differences between information sharing at individual, organisational and professional levels

Requirements relating to communicating with victims and survivors

You need to know and understand:

- K34 the importance of and methods for building trust and empathy with children and young people
- K35 appropriate styles and forms of communication including body language
- K36 how different cultures use and interpret body language in different ways
- K37 the importance of non-verbal communication
- K38 barriers to communication and disclosure including;
 - K38.1 their causes
 - K38.2 ways to overcome them
- K39 the importance of ensuring understanding and of avoiding assumptions the importance of being aware of your own values and beliefs
- K40 the impact your own values and beliefs may have when working with victims
- K41 how to challenge discriminatory or potentially damaging attitudes and behaviour and the importance of doing so
- K42 limits of confidentiality applying to your job role

Developed by	Skills for Justice
Version number	2
Date approved	December 2013
Indicative review date	December 2018
Validity	Current
Status	Original
Originating organisation	Skills for Justice
Original URN	SFJ BI401
Relevant occupations	Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA); Crisis Worker; Refuge Worker
Suite	Preventing and addressing domestic violence and abuse
Key words	sexual; victim; survivor; assessment; multi-agency; partnership; arrangements; MAPPA; MASRAM; safeguarding; protection;