
Overview

This standard is about you assessing the risk of reoffending posed by perpetrators' of domestic violence and abuse.

As part of this standard you will be required to involve perpetrators, wherever possible, in risk assessments and in agreeing the consequent factors to be addressed.

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.

For the purposes of this standard, domestic abuse may include instances of sexual violence and abuse in a domestic violence context.

There are three elements

- 1 Gather information regarding perpetrators and their circumstances
- 2 Assess information and identify risk and protective factors
- 3 Agree outcomes and appropriate interventions

**Performance
criteria**
Gather information regarding perpetrators

- You must be able to:**
- P1 obtain relevant information about perpetrators involved in risk assessments, including:
 - P1.1 their circumstances
 - P1.2 their behaviour
 - P1.3 factual data where possible
 - P1.4 clinical data where possible
 - P2 describe your role and responsibilities to perpetrators in line with your organisation's requirements
 - P3 explain the information being sought to perpetrators, including:
 - P3.1 the reasons for seeking it
 - P3.2 with whom information may be shared
 - P4 obtain perpetrators' consent to seek information about them as required
 - P5 identify perpetrators' relevant circumstances, including:
 - P5.1 living arrangements and environment
 - P5.2 financial, family and personal situation
 - P5.3 education
 - P5.4 employment situation
 - P5.5 physical and mental health
 - P5.6 their relationship to relevant victims and survivors
 - P6 work with perpetrators to explore and determine:
 - P6.1 if they acknowledge that abuse has occurred
 - P6.2 whether they accept some responsibility for occurrence of abuse
 - P6.3 their perception of their situation and behaviour
 - P6.4 their perception of the impact of abuse on victims and survivors
 - P6.5 their reasoning for abuse perpetrated
 - P7 obtain verification and corroborate information when required and possible in line with your organisation's requirements
 - P8 communicate with perpetrators in ways which allow them to progress at their own pace, and:
 - P8.1 checks for understanding
 - P8.2 avoids judgment, discrimination and oppression

- P8.3 uses active listening techniques
- P9 maintain accurate and up to date records in line with your organisation's policies and procedures, including
 - P9.1 details of the perpetrators relevant circumstances

Assess information and identify risk and protective factors

- You must be able to:**
- P10 use appropriate assessment tools to assess factors for perpetrators, including:
 - P10.1 their living arrangements and environment
 - P10.2 financial, family and personal situation
 - P10.3 education
 - P10.4 employment situation
 - P10.5 physical and mental health
 - P10.6 their attitudes, beliefs and motivation
 - P11 assess available evidence to determine the risk of perpetrators continuing their abuse of others in line with organisational requirements
 - P12 identify risk factors affecting perpetrators in line with risk assessment guidance, including:
 - P12.1 evidence for risk factors
 - P12.2 the strength and nature of links between risk factors and the likelihood of reoffending
 - P13 identify outcomes of risks identified in line with risk assessment guidance including:
 - P13.1 whether-perpetrators pose risk of harm to others
 - P13.2 the level and nature of risk of harm to others
 - P14 determine risk factors likely to have influence on perpetrators' abuse of others, including:
 - P14.1 triggers of abuse
 - P14.2 influences which may reduce or prevent abuse of others
 - P14.3 issues which may prevent perpetrators from addressing their behaviour
 - P15 arrange additional assessments for perpetrators when required to further assess perpetrators risk of causing further harm and abuse
 - P16 make justified risk assessments based on evidence, information obtained and

associated findings

- P17 complete risk assessments in line with available guidance and including:
 - P17.1 identified risks
 - P17.2 protective factors identified
 - P17.3 likelihood of the abuse recurring
 - P17.4 the likely imminence of abuse recurring
- P18 maintain accurate and up to date records in line with organisational policies and procedures

Agree-outcomes and appropriate interventions

- You must be able to:**
- P19 involve victims and survivors in risk assessments of perpetrators in line with organisational requirements
 - P20 identify any interventions that may be pursued against perpetrators and which protect victims and survivors, including:
 - P20.1 criminal interventions
 - P20.2 civil remedies
 - P21 work with perpetrators to complete risk assessments and:
 - P21.1 explain your organisation's risk assessment processes
 - P21.2 give rationale for risk assessment outcomes
 - P21.3 explain the impact of risks
 - P21.4 explain protective influences identified
 - P21.5 explain potential triggers for their abusive behaviour
 - P21.6 explain actions that might address potential triggers
 - P22 work with perpetrators to identify and agree:
 - P22.1 areas of potential risk to be targeted
 - P22.2 influences to be strengthened
 - P22.3 appropriate actions to strengthen influences
 - P23 identify if perpetrators are suitable to attend a treatment programme in line with available criteria and guidance
 - P24 obtain necessary consent from perpetrators for treatment programmes in line with organisational requirements
 - P25 arrange for perpetrators to attend treatment programmes which reduce their risk of further harm and abuse

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- P26 make risk assessments based on evidence and findings including justification for associated recommendations
 - P27 monitor and review perpetrators' assessed risk, and:
 - P27.1 determine appropriate frequency of ongoing monitoring and review
 - P27.2 ensure processes are in place to monitor and review perpetrators risk
 - P28 alert relevant others promptly when you identify concerns about the risk of harm by-perpetrators, including:
 - P28.1 risk of harm to others
 - P28.2 risk of harm to themselves
 - where there is threat to the safety and wellbeing of children and dependants
 - P29 explain to perpetrators the contents of reports and to whom they are available, in line with organisational policies and procedures
 - P30 provide reports and information to relevant others as appropriate 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 perpetrators of domestic abuse and violence, and their impact for your area of operations
- K2 relevant legislation applicable to your area of work
- K3 your organisation's role, objectives, remit and services for addressing domestic violence and abuse
- K4 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:

- K5 what constitutes domestic violence and abuse, and its prevalence in your local community
- K6 signs of abuse and the methods used by abusers to gain power and control
- K7 the impact of abuse upon all those affected, including victims, survivors, children and dependants
- K8 how children and dependants may be used by abusers as part of their abuse
- K9 the 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 how cultural, social and gender related aspects impact upon domestic violence and abuse
- K12 the role of other agencies and organisations who provide support, services and interventions to address domestic and sexual violence and abuse in your area
- K13 multi-agency arrangements for providing support and interventions for victims and survivors in your area

Requirements particular to assessing the risk posed by perpetrators

You need to know and understand:

- K14 relevant risk assessment processes and how to undertake these
- K15 the limits of risk assessment processes and their dependence on information available

- K16 information required to making a risk assessment of perpetrators appropriate to addressing their risk of reoffending
- K17 the importance of identifying whether the perpetrator has other problems which contribute to their abusive behaviour
- K18 the importance of addressing perpetrators' other problems as part of the process of challenging their behaviour
- K19 sources of information regarding perpetrators you are working with and how to access these
- K20 methods of verifying and corroborating information received
- K21 how to distinguish between directly observed evidence, evidence from reliable sources and hearsay
- K22 key risk factors for serious offending, including:
 - K22.1 number of previous convictions
 - K22.2 the nature of the current abuse
 - K22.3 patterns of abusive behaviour
 - K22.4 drug and alcohol abuse
- K23 circumstances requiring additional assessments and how to arrange these
- K24 circumstances where perpetrators are considered to be of a very high risk
- K25 high risk circumstances which require referral to another agency and how to progress this

Requirements relating to communicating with perpetrators

You need to know
and understand:

- K26 appropriate styles and forms of communication including body language
- K27 how different cultures use and interpret body language in different ways
- K28 possible barriers to communication including:
 - K28.1 their causes
 - K28.2 ways to overcome them
- K29 the importance of being aware of your values and beliefs
- K30 the impact your values and beliefs may have when working with victims, survivors and perpetrators
- K31 how to challenge discriminatory or potentially damaging attitudes and behaviour and the importance of doing so
- K32 the limits of confidentiality applying when dealing with perpetrators

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- K33 people who are entitled to relevant information
 - K34 circumstances where it is necessary to inform others about perpetrators
including when:
 - K34.1 you have concerns for the safety of others due to perpetrators'
behaviour

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 EF101
Relevant occupations	Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA); Crisis Worker; Refuge Worker
Suite	Preventing and addressing domestic violence and abuse
Key words	sexual; individual; victim; survivor; risks; harm; assessment;;