

Sheffield Adult Domestic Abuse Pathway:

This pathway should be familiar to all professionals in Sheffield who may receive a disclosure of domestic abuse from a victim/survivor aged 18 and over. It outlines key questions to consider and the steps to follow at each point.

Remember this might be the first time that the victim/survivor has disclosed abuse so make sure that you approach these conversations sensitively and, in a trauma-informed manner.

A visual overview of the pathway, suitable for printing, is on page 4.

Key question 1: Is the person aged 18 or over?

If no, go to the [Children's and Young Persons Pathway](#).

If yes, then go to question 2.

Key question 2: is the person in immediate danger?

If yes, call the police on 999 and then answer question 3.

If no, then go to question 3.

Key question 3: are you able to complete DASH risk assessment form?

To note: Please select no if you do not know what this is and/or have not had training on this. The DASH was updated in November 2024, please use the most recent version from the Sheffield City Council website.

If no, then please call the professional advice line for IDAS on 01142728231. They can support you to assess risk accurately and complete a DASH risk assessment if appropriate. If the risk is standard-medium consent is needed for an IDAS referral, high-risk cases do not need consent for a referral. Go to question 4.

If yes, complete the DASH risk assessment form then go to question 4.

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Key question 4: Is the case assessed as high risk?

To note, if there is a mention of non-fatal strangulation (i.e. choking, grabbed neck, suffocated) this is high-risk case, and the non-fatal strangulation pathway must ALSO be followed.

If yes, please discuss the case with the MARAC representative in your organisation, if applicable, then refer the case to MARAC. To do this email the DASH risk assessment to sheffield.marac@idas.cjsm.net and sheffield.idva@idas.cjsm.net. To send to the cjsm.net inboxes, you need to have an email from selected institutions, which unfortunately does not include @sheffield.gov.uk email addresses. If your email leads to a bounce back from the cjsm.net address, please password-protect the completed DASH form and send to sheffield.marac@idas.org.uk. Go to question 5.

If no, then please refer to IDAS with consent, and in the absence of consent provide them with the IDAS helpline- 0808 808 224. For more information on what IDAS can offer please see [here](#). Go to question 5.

Key question 5: Are there identified safeguarding concerns?

To note: Children are victims under the 2021 Domestic Abuse Act if they see, hear, or experience the effects of domestic abuse and is related (including by marriage) to the victim or the suspect.

Please consider whether the individual or anyone connected to the individual may have care and support needs that warrant a safeguarding referral. More information on what constitutes an adult safeguarding concern can be viewed on the [Sheffield Adult Safeguarding Partnership website](#). If you are worried about self-neglect please see the [Multi-Agency Self Neglect Policy](#).

If yes, please refer to the adult safeguarding team [here](#), and if children are involved contact the Children's safeguarding team by calling **0114 273 4855** (open 24 hours).

If no, then go to question 6.

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Key question 6: Have you identified other needs for the individual?

To note, this could include finances, housing, employment, caring responsibilities, mental health and substance misuse.

If sexual violence has been disclosed as part of the domestic abuse, please ALSO see the sexual violence pathway.

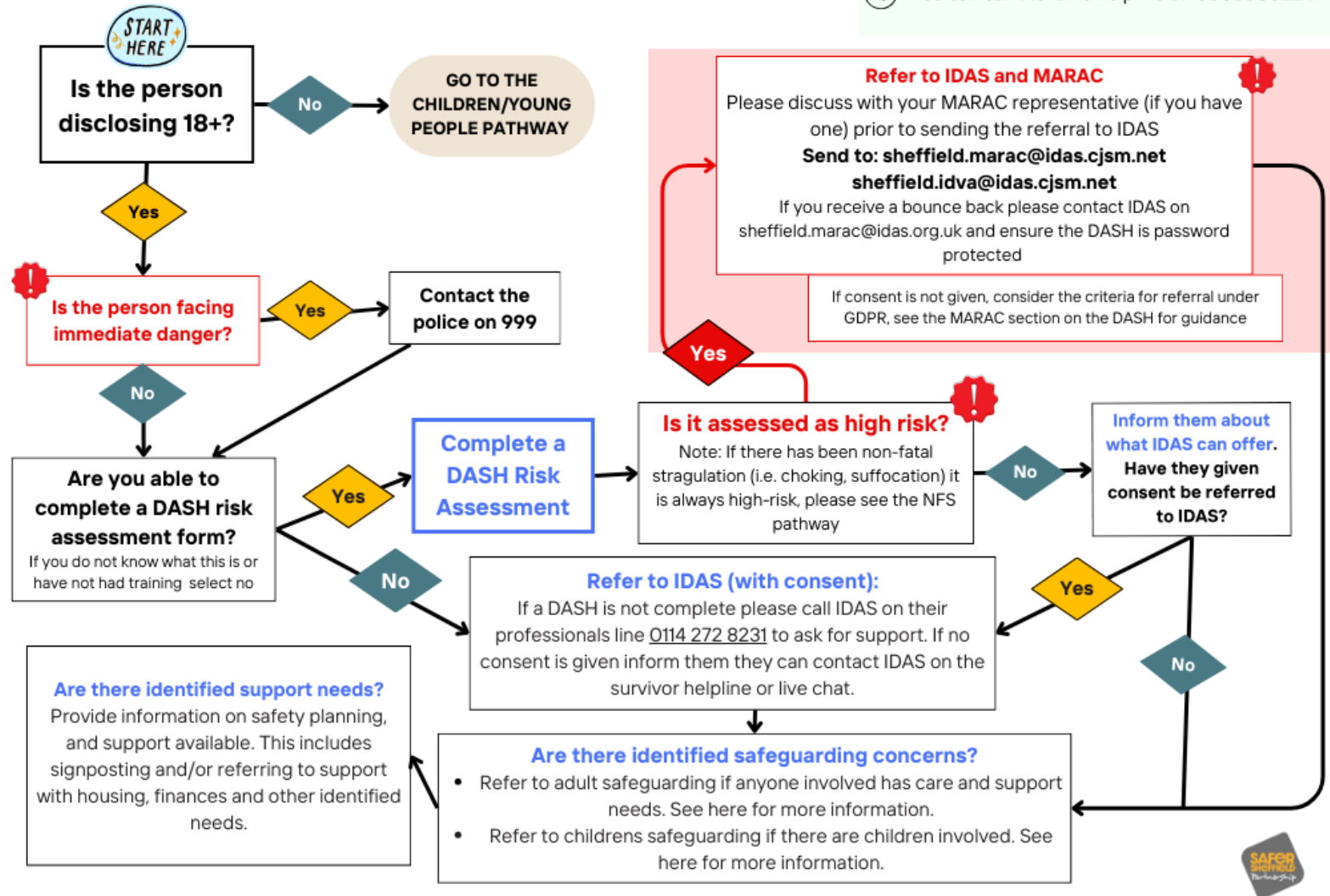
If yes, please discuss options for specific support with the individual and refer as appropriate (see page 6). Provide information of safety planning (see page 5).

If no, please provide information on safety planning (see page 5).

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Sheffield Domestic Abuse Pathway (2024)

RESPONDING TO DISCLOSURES ■ ■ ■



Sheffield Adult Domestic Abuse Pathway:

Supporting information:

Basic safety planning advice:

A safety plan is a set of actions that can help lower the risk of being hurt. It includes information specific to an individual's life, e.g. what they do daily, their protected characteristics and wider needs. It should be recognized that victim/survivors are inherently taking safety planning steps in their daily lives and includes plans for specific circumstances. You can find out more [here](#).

This could include:

- Creating a code word for use with trusted people to signal for help.
- Planning an escape route from every room in your home.
- Reviewing all app location and tracking permissions.
- Having sanctuary safety measures installed in a home (e.g. new locks, alarms).
- Recording all incidents and any evidence, even if it is not reported at the time.

IDAS support overview:

IDAS are the commissioned local provider of community domestic abuse support and SafeZones dispersed safe accommodation.

They can help with:

- One-to-one support and advocacy, including advice, safety planning, and group support
- Providing measures to secure a property (sanctuary measures)
- Support with navigating the criminal justice system (police, courts)
- Accessing safe accommodation and other housing options, including their SafeZones properties which are open to all genders
- Interpretation and translation is available

Sheffield Adult Domestic Abuse Pathway:

IDAS run the Sheffield Domestic Abuse Helpline: **08088082241** (free). Open Monday – Friday : 8am – 8pm, Saturday, Sunday & Bank Holidays 11am – 8pm. A webchat is also available daily between 1-4 pm. You can find out more on their website: [Domestic abuse support - IDAS](#)

Professional training and development:

You can view a range of professional resources including DASH forms and best practice guidance on Sheffield City Council's website here. IDAS are commissioned to provide training on domestic abuse, which is available for free to Sheffield professionals, you can view this on their website. Sheffield Adult Safeguarding Partnership and Sheffield Children's Safeguarding Partnership also provide relevant training, accessible via their website. You can find out what we have learnt from domestic abuse statutory reviews in Sheffield here.

Other local support services:

A more comprehensive list of support services can be found on Sheffield Directory, but below are some local support services that may be able to support individuals with unmet needs.

- [Sheffield Women's Aid/Housing Solutions](#): Provide safe accommodation and support for female survivors of domestic abuse in two refuges.
- [Ashiana Sheffield](#): A by-and-for service for black and minority ethnic women affected by abuse and exploitation.
- [Young Women's Housing Project \(YWHP\)](#): Provide safe accommodation and specialist therapeutic support services for young women, girls and their children.
- [Hackenthorpe Lodge Sexual Assault Referral Centre \(SARC\)](#): Provide a range of support to victim/survivors of sexual violence s forensic examination.
- [Likewise](#): Provide alcohol and drug support in Sheffield.
- [Sheffield Carer's Centre](#): Provide a range of support for unpaid carers and offer carers needs assessments.
- [Shelter](#): Provide housing advocacy and advice.
- [Citizens Advice Sheffield](#): Provide a range of advice and advocacy.
- [Haven](#): Provide support to children impacted by domestic abuse.
- [Family Hubs](#): Provide support to parents and families, including support groups and free activities.