

# Domestic abuse: A referral pathway for professionals on the Isle of Wight

## Definition of domestic abuse

Domestic abuse involves any single incident or pattern of conduct where someone's behaviour towards another is abusive, and where the people involved are aged 16 or over and are, or have been, personally connected to each other (regardless of gender or sexuality). The abuse can involve, but is not limited to psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional, threatening and controlling and coercive behaviour.

## Who are the domestic abuse services on the Isle of Wight?

Paragon works across the Island providing dedicated trauma informed support to adults and children from all communities who have or are subjected to domestic abuse. They provide practical and emotional support alongside refuge, safe accommodation, community outreach and IDVA support, counselling, and recovery group work, move on and resettlement services and training.

Hampton Trust work with people using harmful, unhealthy behaviours in their intimate relationships. Support is offered via a range of methods and interventions to address the root cause of behaviours to make positive changes.



Paragon are based on the Isle of Wight and can be contacted on **0800 234 6266** or email: **paragoniow@theyoustrust.org.uk**



## What is a (DASH) risk assessment?

Understanding risk is a crucial part of responding to domestic abuse. The purpose of the DASH risk checklist is to give a clear and consistent tool for practitioners who work with adult victims-survivors of domestic abuse. The DASH helps identify different risks and needs to ensure the most appropriate course of action.

## What is MARAC and HRDA?

MARAC meetings happen monthly and focus on a comprehensive assessment of victims' needs, ensuring the right actions and services are in place to keep them safe. HRDA meetings take place twice a week on the Isle of Wight as part of the MASH. These meetings focus on the highest-risk domestic abuse incidents, ensuring a faster, coordinated response that allows agencies to act swiftly and ensure urgent situations are handled without delay.

## What is MASH?

The Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) provides triage and multi-agency assessment of safeguarding concerns, with police and children's social care present.

## What is the Victim Care Hub?

The service provides free, independent and confidential support to people affected by crime in Hampshire and Isle of Wight. Available regardless of Police involvement and to non-direct victims such as family, friends, witnesses and community members too. It does not matter when the incident occurred, recent or historic, their aim is to help people manage after crime and feel safer. Their Leading Lights accredited domestic abuse team provide support, risk assessments, safety planning and reassurance in a non-judgemental way.

## Jargon buster

**DASH:** Domestic abuse, stalking, harassment and honour-based abuse. A risk assessment checklist

**IDVA:** Independent domestic violence advocate

**PPNR:** Public protection notification report

**ISVA:** Independent sexual violence advocate

**MARAC:** Multi-agency risk assessment conference

**MASH:** Multi-agency safeguarding hub

**IARF:** Inter agency referral form for professionals online

**HRDA:** High risk domestic abuse meetings

# The domestic violence disclosure scheme (DVDS)

## What is the domestic violence disclosure scheme?

The domestic violence disclosure scheme (DVDS), also known as 'Clare's Law' after the tragic case of Clare Wood, was launched across all 43 police forces in England and Wales in March 2014. This scheme enables the police to disclose an individual's history of violent or abusive behaviour, including emotional or economic abuse or controlling and coercive behaviour, to help protect their partner, ex-partner, and any relevant children from harm. The scheme aims to enable potential victims to make an informed choice on whether to continue the relationship and provides help and support to assist the potential victim.

The DVDS includes two procedures for disclosing information: the '**right to ask**', triggered by a member of the public, and the '**right to know**', initiated by the police to protect potential victims.

During the initial contact, it's crucial to agree on a safe way to communicate, with the location, method, and timing decided by the victim/survivor, or person making the request. This is essential for safeguarding them.

### Right to ask (RTA)

Under the '**right to ask**', any member of the public can request information about someone's past violent or abusive behaviour. Agencies responsible for safeguarding domestic abuse victims will check if relevant information exists and, if necessary, disclose it to protect the requester.

If the request is made on behalf of someone else, the information might be given to the person who needs protection or another suitable individual, such as a parent or support worker.

An application is deemed to have been made when the requester contacts the police in person, by phone, or through an online form and asks for specific details about the individual's past offences.

You can request information under Clare's Law here:

[www.hampshire.police.uk/rqo/request/ri/request-information/cl/triage/v2/request-information-under-clares-law](https://www.hampshire.police.uk/rqo/request/ri/request-information/cl/triage/v2/request-information-under-clares-law)

### Right to know (RTK)

Under the '**right to know**', if the police find information about someone's past violent or abusive behaviour that could harm another person, they will consider disclosing it to protect the potential victim, if it's lawful, necessary, and proportionate.

The '**right to know**' entry route is triggered when the police receive indirect information that could impact someone's safety. Indirect information typically comes from:

1. Investigations into criminal acts where the police believe someone may be at risk of harm.
2. Information on alleged violent and abusive behaviour received from:
  - partner agencies during routine safeguarding meetings;
  - intelligence sources;
  - police interactions with individuals during their routine duties.

If someone enquires about information through a partner agency rather than the police, the agency should follow its usual procedures.

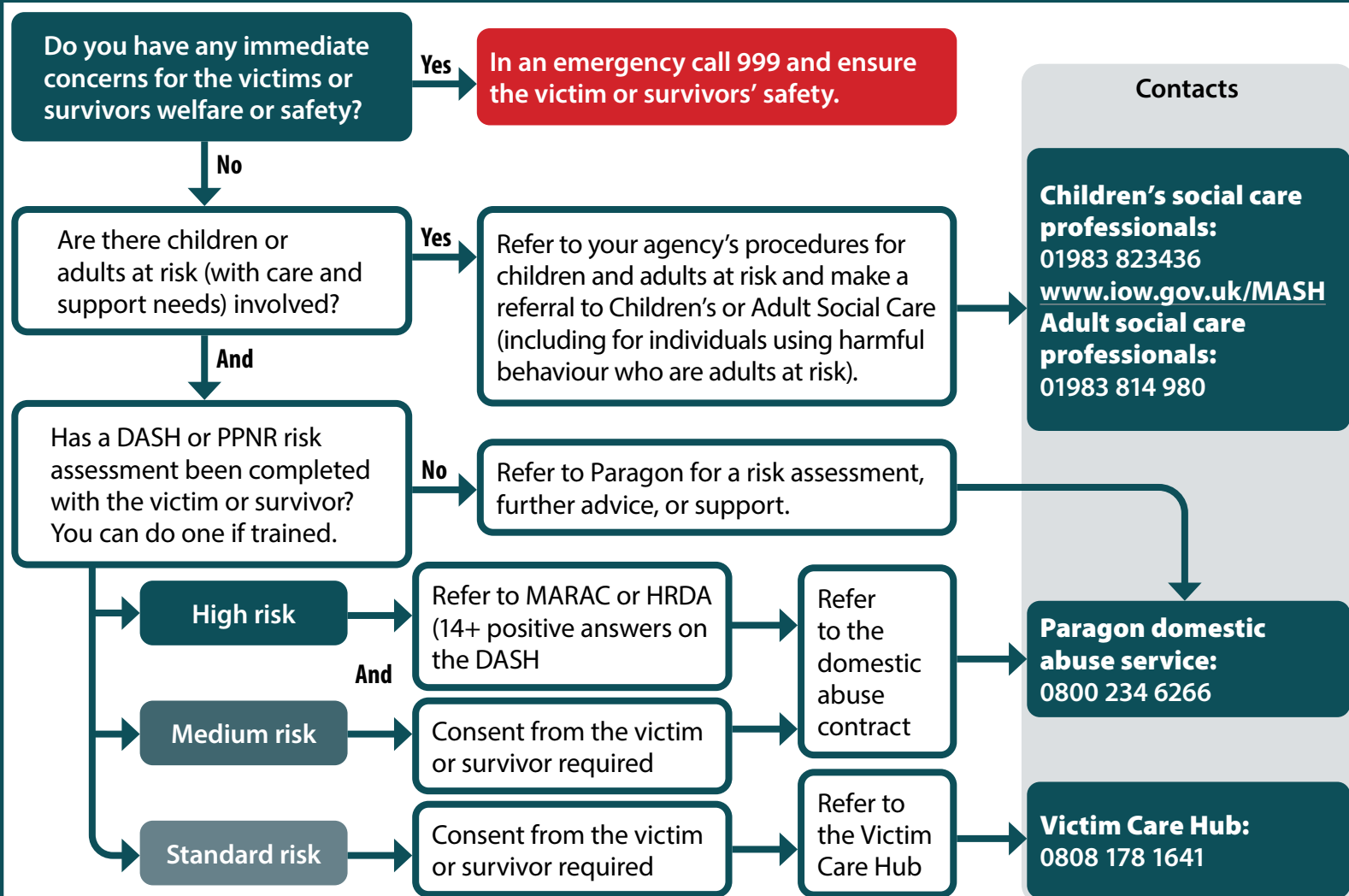
Disclosure of information isn't exclusive to the police; other agencies may also have the power to disclose and should follow their own safeguarding protocols.

However, if the enquiry is under the DVDS, the person should be referred to the police. The partner agency may help connect them with the police if appropriate.

## Key contacts and services

- **Hampshire Police**  
Call **999** in an emergency and **101** for other calls and enquiries.
- Visit [www.iow.gov.uk/keep-the-island-safe/domestic-abuse](http://www.iow.gov.uk/keep-the-island-safe/domestic-abuse) for information and details about local services and support.
- Isle of Wight Council, domestic abuse service Paragon: **0800 234 6266**
- Hampton Trust: **02380 009898**
- Victim Care Hub (for standard risk victims): **0808 178 1641**
- Hampshire Victim Care Hub  
[hampshireiowvictimcare.co.uk](http://hampshireiowvictimcare.co.uk)
- Isle of Wight Council Children's Social Care: **01983 823436**  
Worried about a child: [www.iowscp.org.uk/worried-about-a-child](http://www.iowscp.org.uk/worried-about-a-child)
- Isle of Wight Council Adult Social Care: **01983 823340**  
[safeguardingconcerns@iow.gov.uk](mailto:safeguardingconcerns@iow.gov.uk) or [www.iow.gov.uk/housing-and-adult-social-care/adult-social-care/adult-safeguarding/report-a-concern](http://www.iow.gov.uk/housing-and-adult-social-care/adult-social-care/adult-safeguarding/report-a-concern)
- Isle of Wight Council Housing: **01983 821040** Out of hours: **01983 821000**  
[dutytorefer@iow.gov.uk](mailto:dutytorefer@iow.gov.uk)
- MARAC (Police safeguarding Team): [safeguarding.team.iow@hampshire.police.uk](mailto:safeguarding.team.iow@hampshire.police.uk)
- MASH  
Professionals: **01983 823436**  
Professionals out of hours: **0300 555 1373** or professionals via the IARF  
[www.iow.gov.uk/MASH](http://www.iow.gov.uk/MASH)

## Domestic abuse victim disclosure - what should I do?



**Isle of Wight Council domestic abuse website:**  
[www.iow.gov.uk/domestic-abuse](http://www.iow.gov.uk/domestic-abuse)

**In all cases, undertake these actions with the victim or survivor:**

- Talk to them about safety planning.

- Consider what your agency should do to help them and keep them safe, and which other agencies should be contacted.
- Ask if they want further support or information.

### Service for individuals using harmful behaviour

For concerns about anyone using abusive behaviour in their relationships, make a referral or call Hampton Trust on **02380 009898**.