

**ST MARY'S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL BENTWORTH
HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

Hampshire Domestic Abuse Partnership
Domestic Abuse – a referral Pathway

Implementation: March 2026

Review in line with HCC Partnership



<i>Ownership:</i> Education Committee	<i>Linked to:</i> Safeguarding and Child Protection Policies
<i>Review Committee:</i> Education Committee, Head Teacher	
<i>Communicated to:</i> Staff, Parents and FGB	
<i>Evaluation:</i> (inc links to evidence)	

See attached – DOMESTIC ABUSE: A REFERRAL PATHWAY

St Mary's Bentworth CE Primary School are committed to responding to and supporting pupils, staff and parents who are experiencing domestic abuse. Domestic Abuse (DA) is a significant issue within the UK and within Hampshire.

The Crime Survey for England and Wales (March 2024) estimated that approximately one in four (25.8%) people aged 16 years and over (12.5 million) had experienced domestic abuse since the age of 16 years. An estimated 7.8% of people aged 16 years and over (9.1% of females and 6.5% of males) experienced domestic abuse in the last year. This equates to an estimated 3.8 million people aged 16 years and over (2.2 million females and 1.5 million males).

Anyone, regardless of gender identity or any other protected characteristic can be a victim of domestic abuse.

St Mary's Bentworth CE Primary School recognises that domestic abuse is a serious issue within our society and affects many people's lives. We are committed to addressing this by working in partnership with all in our community and with our partner agencies.

Domestic Abuse: A Referral Pathway for Hampshire



What is domestic abuse?

Domestic abuse is any single incident, course of conduct or pattern of abusive behaviour between individuals aged 16 or over who are 'personally connected' to each other as a result of being, or having been, intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality. Children who see, hear or experience the effects of the abuse and are related to either of the parties are also victims of domestic abuse.

Behaviour is 'abusive' if it consists of any of the following: physical or sexual abuse; violent or threatening behaviour; controlling or coercive behaviour; economic abuse; or psychological, emotional or other abuse. This includes incidents where the abusive party directs their behaviour at another person (e.g. a child).

Routine enquiry

Proactive routine questions about domestic abuse will increase the chances of victims speaking out and accessing help. Many victims may not yet identify their experience as domestic abuse so ask exploratory questions without jargon or assumptions. Ask in private.

Research tells us that victims are more likely to disclose abuse and seek help if asked a direct question.

Example questions

"Many people experience intimidation or violence at home and I know it can be hard to talk about..."

"Is there anyone in your life that ever hurts you or who you're scared of?"

"Do you feel worried about anyone being angry about things you do?"

"Has this ever been an issue for you?"

Using open questions to follow up can help people tell their story, e.g. "tell me more about that" or, "what sort of things does he/she do?"

Key messages:

- Ask
- Be professionally curious. For more information, [see this guide](#).

What is risk assessment?

Risk assessment is a crucial part of helping to deal with domestic abuse. Levels of threat, danger and violence need to be identified and established to ensure the most appropriate course of action, and also to ensure the victim's safety. In Hampshire we recommend the DASH risk assessment which helps to identify cases needing to be referred to MARAC or HRDA. However, professional judgement is as important when assessing risk.

Professional judgement

If you can't do a formal risk assessment, you are encouraged to use your professional judgement and still refer on as appropriate. You can still refer to MARAC and HRDA based on professional judgement.

Professional judgement will be informed by the practitioner's knowledge of domestic abuse and its manifestations and can be informed by the DASH checklist. However, in addition to using the DASH it is crucial that professionals use their full range of knowledge to make an assessment; this knowledge will usually be gained through experience, reflection and deliberation.

What are MARAC and HRDA?

In a single monthly meeting, a domestic abuse Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) combines up-to-date risk information with a comprehensive assessment of a victim's needs. It identifies the actions needed to keep them safe and the most appropriate services for all those involved: victim, children and perpetrator.

HRDA meetings are the daily version of MARAC that the highest risk cases are heard at, receiving a more immediate response.

Complete a MARAC referral form and email it, together with the DASH assessment if you have one, to hampshire.mash.admin@hampshire.pnn.police.uk

The MASH will decide if the case will be heard at MARAC or HRDA, you do not need to make this assessment or decision. You can also call 01329 316 113 to make referrals to MARAC/HRDA or to seek further advice.

For more information about MARAC/HRDA and how to refer, visit the Hampshire Domestic Abuse Partnership website.

What is the Hampshire Domestic Abuse Partnership?

The Hampshire Domestic Abuse Partnership (HDAP) is formed by a variety of statutory and voluntary sector agencies working together to tackle the issue of domestic abuse. There are lots of organisations offering services and support to all members of a family. This includes victims and survivors of domestic abuse, children and young people and perpetrators of abuse.

HDAP has a [website](#) full of local information and resources.



What services are there to support people?

Support for victims, survivors and children – Stop Domestic Abuse

The main types of help offered for victims and children are: crisis accommodation or refuge, outreach support in the community, IDVA support for high risk clients, dedicated support for children and families, move on and resettlement services, and personal support networks and group work.

To find out more, contact the Hampshire Domestic Abuse Advice Line (run by Stop Domestic Abuse) on 03300 165 112.

Support for those using abusive behaviours – Hampton Trust

For perpetrators, there are a variety of one-to-one and group work interventions that work to help perpetrators of abuse address the root cause of their behaviour to make positive changes. These services are free and impartial and can assist by giving practical help and emotional support as well as providing information on a wide range of matters, including housing matters, benefits, safety planning and the needs of children affected by domestic abuse.

To find out more, contact the Hampton Trust on 02380 009898.

Both of these services can also signpost you to other organisations, depending on the client's needs, if they require a different, additional or more appropriate service.

Some of the other main specialist domestic abuse providers across Hampshire are:

[Aurora New Dawn](#)

[The You Trust \(Paragon\)](#)

Advice Line: 03300 165 112
hants.gov.uk