



# Responding to Domestic Abuse Customer Policy

May 2026

1	Introduction	2
2	Responding to Domestic Abuse	3
3	Professional Curiosity	6
4	Safeguarding Children Referral Process	7
5	Safeguarding Adults Referral Process	8
6	Information Sharing	8
6	Perpetrators of Domestic Abuse	9
7	Monitoring & Review	10
15	Equality & Diversity	10
16	Appendix A – Safeguarding team and MARAC Representatives	11
17	Appendix B – Definitions of Abuse	12
18	Appendix C – Domestic Abuse Support Services	18
19	Appendix D – Information Sharing Guidance	23
20	Appendix E – Kent and Medway MARAC Referral Pathway	24

## 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Sevenoaks District Council is committed to providing practical and emotional support for any customers who are experiencing domestic abuse. Our aim is to ensure that all customers know that help is available if domestic abuse is an issue for them and that risk management and support will be provided with a coordinated community response.
- 1.2 The Council recognises that domestic abuse/abuse is an issue that can affect anyone and we all have a responsibility to help to create an environment that is safe and caring.
- 1.3 Domestic abuse cuts across race gender, sexuality, age, class and geography. Whilst the most common perpetrators are men and the majority of those who experience domestic abuse are women it also occurs, against men in heterosexual relationships, can be child to parent violence, same sex relationships against lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender people or from a family member or multiple perpetrators in the case of Honour Based Abuse.
- 1.4 The organisation has developed this policy as part of its commitment to support our customers and instil best practice to reduce repeated abuse, provide advice and support and refer to our internal customers specialist support and external partnership agencies.
- 1.5 Domestic abuse is often hidden in nature, and our customers may not always recognise that are being abused. This policy is created for customers and staff to recognise behaviours that are abusive and harmful, in addition to being informed of the necessary process that will be taken to safeguarding our customers and reduce further risk of harm.
- 1.6 The purpose of this policy is to:
  - support customer experiencing domestic abuse
  - Provide trauma informed, person centred support, advise and signposting
  - Safeguard customers both adults and children
  - Ensure customers, council employees and workers are equipped with the knowledge of key internal and external support options.
- 1.7 This policy applies to all customers of the council.

## 2.0 Responding to Domestic Abuse

2.1 The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 Part 1 defines domestic abuse as behaviour between two personally connected people aged 16 and over and if it consists of:

- Physical or sexual abuse
- Violent or threatening behaviour
- Controlling or coercive behaviour
- Economic abuse
- Psychological, emotional or other abuse

It is not the role of staff, councilors, volunteers, key contractors or consultants to decide whether abuse has occurred, but they do have a duty to the adult and to any children involved to report safeguarding concerns to Kent County Council, Adult and/or Children's Social Services.

2.2 Domestic Abuse Act 2021 (Part 4): Statutory duty in safe accommodation places a statutory duty on local authorities in England to provide support to victims of domestic abuse and their children who are living in safe accommodation.

The Housing Options Team work with customers who are experiencing domestic abuse and/or who need to leave their current accommodation as it is no longer safe.

Housing Options will assess each individual case and offer advice and support which could consist of -

- Emergency Temporary Accommodation
- Refuge
- Sanctuary Scheme in the home
- Advice to apply for Non-Molestation Orders/Occupation Orders
- Referrals to other services based on identified need e.g. specialist domestic abuse services, police, adult and children's safeguarding team (Kent County Council)

Support and advice must be provided to reduce risk and improve the safety of adults and children who are victims/survivors of domestic abuse.

The Sevenoaks District Council website provides information and support regarding domestic abuse and housing options which can be found at [Housing | Sevenoaks District Council](#)

2.3 For all disclosures of domestic abuse, a DASH (Domestic Abuse, Stalking, Harassment and Honour Based Violence) Risk Assessment tool must be completed to identify the level of risk and steps needed. To prevent repeat traumatisation, ask the victim/survivor if they have completed a recent DASH risk assessment with any other organization

- If yes, ask for their permission to request a copy from the organization who holds the latest DASH RA.
- If they have not, proceed to complete the DASH

When completing the DASH Risk assessment always:

- Establish a safe contact method, telephone/email/text which should include codewords or phrases to confirm who you are and/or the victim/survivor to alert if the contact is unsafe at that time (perpetrator may be present)
- Listen carefully. Consider whether they need an interpreter.
- Believe them and be non-judgmental
- Ask them what they want to do. Do not tell them what to do or pressure them into leaving or staying. Whatever they choose, respect their decision.
- Reassure them that you will continue to support them no matter what they do
- Reassure them that help, and support is available to help them to be safe
- Take steps to protect the victim, accept their perception of the danger they face
- Encourage them to think about their safety
- Always discuss the welfare of any children. Child protection takes precedence over confidentiality.
- Remember that they may be frightened of having their children taken into care. Reassure them that supporting non-abusing parents protects children and is expected by the legislation. Also remember that children's views are also important, that they may need breathing space from a violent or abusive parent, but also may want contact again in time.
- Find out what they need e.g. help with housing and/or benefits
- Ensure that you give accurate advice and information. Provide details of relevant agencies that can offer support.
- Recognise the complexity of the process.

- Explain the process you must follow and any action you must take.
- Ask permission to share information. Only share this with colleagues where it is appropriate and necessary (e.g. the MARAC process)
- Keep accurate records of the risk assessment, safety planning and discussion. These may be used later as evidence.
- Use the client's exact words wherever possible. Be precise e.g., "my husband hit me with a cricket bat" rather than "client has been abused" Never tell someone what to do or what not to do but support their decision. Advise them how to keep safe if they are still living with domestic abuse and, when they are ready to move, enable them to leave safely. If the client has a record on the housing system, "humme" ensure there is a domestic abuse victim/survivor on the case tag

2.4 If the victim is at high risk of significant harm or death, you must make a referral to the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC), telling the person that you are doing this and that they will be contacted by an Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA).

There are four criteria which meets the high-risk MARAC referral threshold:

- They have answered 'yes' to 14 or more of the questions on the DASH and/or
- There is an escalation of the abuse either in frequency or severity, and/or
- Your professional judgement based on standalone high-risk indicators such as separation, pregnancy, cultural issues, sexual assault, previous DA history, weapons, drugs, animal abuse etc.
- Non-Fatal Strangulation is a standalone high-risk factor, therefore a referral to MARAC is mandatory.

2.5 MARAC referral Process (Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Referral Pathway Appendix E)

The Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) process ensure a timely risk assessment of the circumstances affecting a victim/survivor of domestic abuse, ensures that those individuals believed to be at high risk of serious harm or death are linked directly with appropriate services, providing a coordinated multi agency response to high-risk domestic abuse cases in a single meeting. You must tell the victim/survivor that you are making a referral to MARAC and that an Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) will contact he/she. The role of the IDVA is to discuss risk and safety, provide information about options

available and be the voice of the victim at the MARAC. **You must inform a Designated Safeguarding Officer before submitting a referral who will then inform our MARAC representative (Appendix A). The perpetrator must NOT be told of the MARAC referral. If the victim has already been heard at MARAC and there has been a further incident within 12 months, a repeat referral should be made via the MARAC representative.** Risk is dynamic and can change very quickly. If you feel that the victim is not a high risk of significant harm or death you should still, ensure that they are referred or given information about local specialist domestic abuse services. Consider whether you need to share information with any other agency to safeguard the victim/survivor/family or prevent a crime.

- 2.6 All safeguarding referrals should be reported on Case Review with a follow up/outcomes form completed. It is the responsibility of the person raising the referral to other services to follow up to ascertain the outcome of the referral and update on Case Review.

All MARAC cases notified by the MARAC Co-Ordinator as listed to be heard at the Sevenoaks MARAC are recorded on the safeguarding Case Review system and updated post MARAC by one of the council MARAC officers

- 2.7 Standard risk is when the victim/survivor is not at high risk of significant harm or death. However, it is important to be aware the risk can escalate very quickly, especially when a victim/survivor is planning to leave the relationship. In these cases ensure the victim/survivor is referred to or given information about specialist domestic abuse services. The service for Sevenoaks is DAVSS (Domestic Abuse Volunteer Support Service) who will accept self-referrals online/by telephone and professional referrals online. Professional referrals can only be made with the consent of the victim/survivor. (See appendix A for contact details)
- 2.8 Consider whether the information should be shared with any other agency to safeguard the victim/survivor and/or their family and/or prevent a crime. (Appendix D)

### **3.0 Professional Curiosity**

- 3.1 Many Domestic Homicide Reviews and Serious Case Reviews refer to a lack of professional curiosity or respectful uncertainty. You need to be able to demonstrate a non-discriminatory approach and explore the issues,

formulating judgements that translate into effective actions in your dealings with children, adults and families. It is vital that we understand the complexity of domestic abuse and are curious about what is happening in the life of the child, adult and perpetrator. Professional curiosity is the capacity and communication skill to explore and understand what is happening within a family rather than making assumptions or accepting things at face value. You should always try to see all parties separately, however when this is not possible, and particularly when you are not able to see the victim alone, you should also be alert to the following behaviours:

- The victim/survivor waits for her/his partner to speak first.
- The victim/survivor glances at her/his partner each time (s)he speaks. Ensure to observe the partner's reaction.
- The victim/survivor soothes any conflict.
- The partner frequently speaks for the victim/survivor.
- The partner sends clear signals to the victim, by eye/body movement, facial expression or verbally to intimidate them
- The partner has a range of complaints about the victim, which (s)he does not defend.

If any of these signals are present, you should find a way of seeing the potential victim alone.

#### **0.4 Safeguarding Children Referral Process**

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 Part 1 Section 3 recognises children who are witness to domestic abuse should be treated as victims, in their own right. Witnessing abuse means seeing, hearing, or experiencing the effect of the abuse and a child is related to a person/s causing harm i.e. a parent, relative or who has parental responsibility.

Kent County Council holds the duty of care to safeguard children within the Sevenoaks District.

If you believe a child or young person under the age of 18 years might be suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm because of domestic abuse, you should contact the Children's Services at Kent County Council on 03000411111 or out of hours on 03000419191.

If you have any safeguarding concerns, please report, and refer to the relevant agencies. Employees will also report concerns through our safeguarding system Case Review. If it is safe to do so and does not place the victim/survivor at additional risk,

the victim/survivor will be informed of referrals to other organizations.

## **0.5 Safeguarding Adults Referral Process**

According to the Care Act 2014, a local authority must make enquiries, or instruct others to do so, if they reasonably suspect an adult who has care needs is experiencing or is at risk of abuse or neglect. If a victim/survivor of domestic abuse has care and support needs, they may be less able to protect themselves from abuse.

Kent County Council holds the duty of care to safeguard adults. If you have a concern that a person is the victim/survivor of domestic abuse, you should establish the facts of the situation by completing the DASH risk assessment. This will assist you in determining the views and wishes of the victim and identify what support may be needed to safeguard the victim and any children or young people within the family. All adults and children's vulnerability must be assessed individually, and referrals made if complex needs cannot be met without intervention from Adult Services. If, having completed the risk assessment, you have concerns that extend beyond Domestic Abuse and you are worried that the victim, or a member of the household has additional care and support needs you should call Adult Services at Kent County Council on 03000416161 or out of hours on 03000419191.

- Necessary, proportionate, relevant, accurate, timely and secure: Ensure that the information you share is necessary for the purpose for sharing it, is shared only with those people who need to have it, is accurate and up to date, is shared in a timely fashion, and is shared securely.
- Keep a record of your decision and the reasons for it – whether it is to share information or not. If you decide to share, then record what you have shared, with whom and for what purpose.

## **0.6 Information Sharing**

Knowing when and how to share information is not always easy, but it is important to get it right. Families need to feel reassured that their confidentiality is respected. In most cases you will only share information about them with their consent, but there may be circumstances when you need to override this. There are Seven Golden Rules for Information Sharing

- Remember that the Data Protection Act is not a barrier to sharing information but provides a framework to ensure that personal information about living people is shared lawfully.

- Be open and honest with the person (and/or their family where appropriate) from the outset about why, what, how and with whom information will, or could be shared, and seek their agreement, unless it is unsafe or inappropriate to do so.
  - Seek advice if you are in any doubt, without disclosing the identity of the person where possible.
  - Share with consent where appropriate and, where possible, respect the wishes of those who do not consent to share confidential information. You may still share information without consent if, in your judgment, that lack of consent can be overridden in the public interest. You will need to base your judgment on the facts of the case.
  - Consider safety and well-being: Base your information sharing decisions on considerations of the safety and well-being of the person and others who may be affected by their actions.
  - Necessary, proportionate, relevant, accurate, timely and secure: Ensure that the information you share is necessary for the purpose for which you are sharing it, is shared only with those people who need to have it, is accurate and up to date, is shared in a timely fashion, and is shared securely.
  - Keep a record of your decision and the reasons for it – whether it is to share information or not. If you decide to share, then record what you have shared, with whom and for what purpose.
  - Referral pathways can also be made to perpetrators of domestic abuse

## **7.0 Perpetrators of Domestic Abuse**

- 7.1 Domestic abuse perpetrated by customers will not be condoned under any circumstances by the Council, nor will it be treated as a purely private matter.
- 7.2 The council has a duty to safeguard its customers and empower them to make informed decisions in relation to the victim/survivors wishes and needs.
- 7.3 The council recognises that some people may recognise their abusive and harmful behaviours and may need support to make referrals to behaviour change programmes. In these circumstances, support with referrals to services will be encouraged.
- 7.4 Behaviour Change and support services for perpetrators:
- Community Domestic Abuse Programme (CDAP) – Support for perpetrators of domestic abuse - Call 07956 228 891/07718 120 870
  - Respect – Call 0808 802 4040

7.5 When a perpetrator is employed in a position of trust working with adults or children at risk of harm and abuse (e.g. teachers, doctors, nurses), the matter should be referred to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO).

## **8.0 Monitoring and review**

This policy will be reviewed every 3 years or earlier if there are significant changes required in the light of best practice and any changes to legislation and Government guidance.

## **9.0 Equality and Diversity**

9.1 The Council is committed to equality and fairness for all customers and will not discriminate because of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

9.2 The Council is committed to promoting equality and recognising the diversity of our communities and will work to ensure all parts of our community are treated fairly

## Appendix A

### Contact Details within the council

Team	Contact
Customer Solutions Team	Staff Internal only - Ext 7001 Customers 01732 227000
Community Safety Team	Email <a href="mailto:community.safety@sevenoaks.gov.uk">community.safety@sevenoaks.gov.uk</a>

Safeguarding Team	Contact No.
Sarah Robson, Corporate Director of Communities, People and Places	7335
Jim Carrington-West, Corporate Director of Customer, Digital and Resources	7286
Kelly Webb, Head of Health & Communities.	7474
Julie Hall, Domestic Abuse and Safeguarding Officer	7477
Miranda Forrest, PA to the Corporate Director Communities, People and Places	7430
Jenny Weston, Accommodation Team Leader	7431
Jessica Foley, Senior Licensing Officer	7480
Sharon Wright, CCTV and Emergency Civil Protection Manager	7291
Stephen Tring, Housing Advice Officer	7184
Glen Moore, Counter Fraud and Visiting Team Manager	7471
Hannah Hawkins, Hero Service Officer	7081
Dorota Pajsert, HR Manager	7092
Amy Francis, Court & Senior Recovery Officer	7192
Louise Francis, Planning Enforcement and Support Manager	7260
Sharon Bamborough, Head of Licensing Partnership	7325
Amy White, Customer Advisor	7209
Sharon Burchell, Customer Solutions Team Leader	7211

MARAC Representatives	Contact No.
Rebecca (Smith) Sheppard, Housing Advice Team Leader	7120
Jenny Weston, Housing Solutions Team Leader	7431
Julie Hall, Domestic Abuse and Safeguarding Officer	7477

## Appendix B – Definition of abuse types

Type of Abuse	Definition	Example
<p><b>Physical Abuse</b></p>	<p>This is the most visible form of abuse and can often be used by perpetrators to intimidate and cause immediate fear. Physical violence does not always leave a mark on someone's body.</p>	<p>Punching, hitting, slapping, pulling hair, biting, pushing, shoving, burning/scalding, poisoning, restraining, pinning someone down, strangling, using excessive physical force/pressure, objects being thrown.</p>
<p><b>Coercive Control</b></p>	<p>This type of behaviour is a silent but lethal weapon used to ebb away at a person's ability to exist, creating a climate of chronic fear. Coercive control expert Evan Stark says: "the victim becomes captive in an unreal world created by the abuser, entrapped in a world of confusion, contradiction and fear."</p>	<p>Intimidation, isolation from friends/family, withdrawal of affection and/or support, humiliation, threats, periods of silence or sulking, extreme regulation of behaviour, limited or no right to privacy, depriving basic needs, controlling finances, degrading or dehumanising partner/family member.</p> <p>Sexual abuse/control</p> <p>Sexual violence can happen to anyone regardless of their sex, gender, identity, age, sexual orientation, religion, class or background.</p> <p>Any sexual act/contact that includes force (including emotional blackmail, threatening to get sex from elsewhere, forcing partner to watch pornography, forcing partner in to sex with others,</p>

Type of Abuse	Definition	Example
<b>Emotional/psychological/mental abuse</b>	This type of abuse is specifically used to reduce confidence and self-esteem creating over reliance on the perpetrator. It is often subtle and can go unseen for prolonged periods of time.	pestering for sex and sexual degradation. Name calling, put downs, degrading, humiliating, gaslighting, playing on fears/phobias, making false allegations, destructive criticism, verbal abuse, disrespecting (not listening or responding when partner/family member is talking), denying the abuse took place, portraying a gentle calm image to the public and the opposite to the partner/family member.
<b>Stalking</b>	Stalking behaviour can be very threatening, in isolation they may seem like small acts however, the reality is usually more sinister. Stalking is a criminal offence defined by PAS as a pattern of unwanted, fixated and obsessive behaviour which is intrusive and causes fear of violence or serious alarm and distress.	Sending unwanted flowers/gifts, turning up at unannounced at place of work, home address etc, sending in/direct messages, tracking, monitoring, repeatedly following and/or spying on partner/family member, persistently attempting unwanted contact by whatever means available.
<b>Digital abuse</b>	This type of abuse is alarmingly on the increase, the rise of social media platforms as well as advances in technology means perpetrators have found ingenious ways of exercising control and power.	Monitoring/moderating social media profiles, checking emails/texts/snapchats/direct messages, sharing or threatening to share intimate photos/messages without consent, using spyware or GPS technology without consent or knowledge, placing false or malicious

Type of Abuse	Definition	Example
		information about partner/family member on social media outlet, limiting partner/family members control and/or access to social media content.
<b>Economic abuse</b>	This type of abuse is another common aspect of coercive control. Unsurprisingly money can be a powerful tool used to control the partner/family member from either acquiring, using or maintaining their own money and resources. Economic abuse can often occur long after the relationship has ended.	Banning partner/family member from going to work, insisting on joint bank accounts, giving the partner/family member a set 'allowance', spending/taking money without consent, damaging possession or property, take out loans without consent, build up debts, withdraw or restrict financial assistance, not allowing the purchase of necessities, refusing or limiting access to partner/family members bank account.
<b>Honour Based violence</b>	Honour based violence can and does occur against men as well as women, it is most prevalent in communities where the concept of honour is seen as an important factor tying the family/community together. Bringing shame and dishonour can have severe consequences, honour-based crimes can often have multiple	Loss of virginity, sex outside marriage, pregnancy, running away, not adhering to rules, Westernisation, refusing an arranged marriage, homosexuality, 'inappropriate relationships', ideological differences, reporting/fleeing domestic abuse, causing gossip, girls/women 'allowing' themselves to get raped.

Type of Abuse	Definition	Example
	<p>perpetrators. The punishment for compromising a family or communities honour can lead to verbal abuse, physical abuse, family disownment, forcing individual into a non-consensual relationship/marriage, sending individual abroad, keeping individual locked in the house/secret location and in some tragic cases death.</p>	
<p><b>Forced Marriage</b></p>	<p>The UK Home Office provides the following definition of forced marriage: "A forced marriage is where one or both people do not (or in cases of people with learning disabilities, cannot) consent to the marriage and pressure or abuse is used. It is an appalling and indefensible practice and is recognised in the UK as a form of violence against women and men, domestic/child abuse and a serious abuse of human rights. The pressure put on people to marry against their will can be physical (including</p>	<p>It is important to note there is a vital distinction between an Arranged Marriage and Forced Marriage.</p> <p>Arranged Marriage – This is where both parties give their full consent to the marriage and there is no element of fear, guilt or force (however small it may be).</p> <p>Forced Marriage is a violation of human rights; it is widely recognised as a form of domestic abuse. Forced Marriage also includes marriages of children under the age of consent as well as marriages between Gay and Lesbian people who do not wish to marry the opposite sex.</p> <p>Examples of abuse that can lead up to a Forced Marriage</p>

Type of Abuse	Definition	Example
	<p>threats, actual physical violence and sexual violence) or emotional and psychological (for example, when someone is made to feel like they're bringing shame on their family). Financial abuse (taking your wages or not giving you any money) can also be a factor.”</p>	<p>Emotional abuse, threats of physical abuse, isolation, removal of phones, access to social media/emails withdrawn, passports taken away, emotional blackmail, rape, assault, abduction.</p>
<p><b>Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)</b></p>	<p>Female Genital Mutilation is often referred to as female circumcision or Female Cutting. The World Health Organisation define Female Genital Mutilation as “all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons”.</p> <p>Female Genital Mutilation is commonly carried in the name of family honour, often it's a tradition carried out by generations of families to ensure virginity is preserved as well as increasing</p>	<p>Those at risk of FGM:</p> <p>If a family member has experienced FGM  The husband's family has experienced FGM  Family or husband's family come from an FGM-practising country  Family or friends are talking about a 'special procedure', 'special occasion' or 'becoming a woman'  Family is planning a long holiday or a female elder is coming to visit  Not only is FGM is a gross violation of Human Rights of girls and women, but it has profound and enduring health implications.</p>

Type of Abuse	Definition	Example
	<p>sexual pleasure for the man.</p> <p>FGM is a crime in the UK, it is also a crime to take a British national or permanent resident abroad for FGM or to assist someone trying to do this.</p>	

## Appendix C: Domestic Abuse Support Services

The Council will signpost to external sources of help and support to customers including information on:

Organisation	What They Do	Contact Details
<b>Black Association of Women Step Out (BAWSO)</b>	BAWSO are a specialist agency which can provide culturally sensitive and appropriate information and services to black and other minority ethnic groups.	Web: <a href="http://www.bawso.org.uk">www.bawso.org.uk</a>
<b>Broken Rainbow</b>	Broken Rainbow provides support for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people experiencing domestic abuse	Web: <a href="http://www.broken-rainbow.org.uk">www.broken-rainbow.org.uk</a>
<b>Domestic Abuse Volunteer Support Services (DAVSS)</b>	DAVSS is a community-based charity supporting any victims (aged 16 and above) of domestic abuse, who are living in West Kent. They provide vital support to clients who are experiencing domestic abuse	Tel: 01892 870538 Web: <a href="#">DAVSS</a>
<b>Employers Initiative</b>	The Employers' Initiative on Domestic Abuse (EIDA) supports over 2,000 large and small businesses, collectively comprising over 25% of the UK workforce, to take effective action on domestic abuse.	Tel: 07712 653996 Web: <a href="#">Employers Initiative</a>
<b>Kent Community Domestic Abuse Programme (CDAP)</b>	<p>Community Domestic Abuse Programme is a rolling programme of sessions. Based on the Duluth Programme, it is designed to help men who feel their behaviour towards their partner has been, or is still, abusive.</p> <p>CDAP challenges that behaviour and shows you how it affects your partner or ex-partner and any children that may be involved. We know it can be tough facing up to difficult problems. This programme will support you to make the changes you need to develop respectful, non-abusive relationships so that you are safe around your partner and any children.</p>	07956 228891 <a href="#">Kent CDAP</a>

Organisation	What They Do	Contact Details
<b>Kent &amp; Medway Domestic Abuse Partnership</b>	The Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Partnership (KMDAP) aims to reduce domestic abuse and get those affected the right support, quickly.	Tel: 0808 168 9276 Web: <a href="#">Kent &amp; Medway Domestic Abuse Partnership</a>
<b>Kent Police</b>	Domestic Abuse is a crime and should be reported. Domestic abuse affects people from all walks of life and in many different ways. Find out what classes as domestic abuse, how to report it and how, under Clare's Law, you can find out if a partner has a history of domestic violence or abuse.	Tel: 999 Online reporting: <a href="#">Report Domestic Abuse</a>
<b>Look Ahead</b>	Domestic abuse services support people to stay safe, manage personal boundaries and relationships, advocate for themselves, and access additional support as they move forward  Manage Refuges and offer Male Support Services and IDVA Service	Tel: 0333 0104 600 Web: <a href="#">Look Ahead</a>
<b>Mankind Initiative</b>	Confidential helpline is available for male victims of domestic abuse and domestic violence across the UK as well as their friends, family, neighbours, work colleagues and employers.  We provide an information and signposting service to men suffering from domestic abuse from their current or former wife, partner (including same-sex partner) or husband. This can range from physical violence or object throwing to abuse such as constant bullying or insults.	Tel: 0808 800 1170 Web: <a href="#">ManKind Initiative</a>
<b>Men's Advice Line</b>	The Men's Advice Line offers practical advice, information and support to male victims of domestic abuse as well as concerned friends and families.	Web: <a href="http://www.mensadviceline.org.uk">www.mensadviceline.org.uk</a>

Organisation	What They Do	Contact Details
<b>National Domestic Violence Helpline</b>	Can help you find a refuge space, or other specialist services. Talk in Confidence on all DA related concerns	Tel: 0808 200 0247 Web: <a href="#">National DA Helpline</a>
<b>National LGBT+ Domestic Abuse Helpline</b>	Galop provides advocacy and casework support for LGBT+ people who have experience abuse and violence. Advocates and caseworkers work with clients, based on what each individual person needs. Our advocacy service specialises in supporting LGBT+ victims and survivors of domestic abuse, hate crime, sexual violence, and other forms of abuse including honour-based violence, forced marriage, and so-called conversion therapies. We are a service run by LGBT+ people, for LGBT+ people	Tel: 0800 999 5428 Web: <a href="#">GALOP</a>
<b>Protection Against Stalking (PAS)</b>	Protection Against Stalking is a national charity working within communities to raise public awareness about stalking and support victims of stalking through providing specialist support services. We form part of a national consortium of specialist stalking charities who share best practice and work cooperatively where it is appropriate	Email: <a href="mailto:support@protectionagainststalking.org">support@protectionagainststalking.org</a>  Web: <a href="#">PAS</a>
<b>Respect</b>	Respect is the UK charity stopping perpetrators of domestic abuse. They advance best practice on work with domestic abuse perpetrators, male victims and young people who use violence and abuse	Tel: 0808 802 4040 <a href="#">Respect</a>
<b>SDC DA Champions</b>	Champions are fully trained members of staff who colleagues can approach to discuss Domestic Abuse in confidence. Please note, Champions are not there to solve problems, but signpost and offer advice of what to do next.	Tel: 01732 227001 Web: <a href="#">DA Champions</a>
<b>SDC Mental Health Champions</b>	Champions are there to support colleagues who are experiencing poor mental health or emotional distress. They are not trained to be therapists or psychiatrists, but they can offer initial support through non-judgmental listening and guidance.	Web: <a href="#">Mental health support</a>

Organisation	What They Do	Contact Details
<b>SDC Employee Assistance Programme</b>	Counsellors are available 24/7. They can provide advice and guidance, signpost to further help as well as offer access to 6 counselling sessions free of charge.	Web: <a href="#">Employee Assistance Programme</a> Tel: 0800269616
<b>SDC Safeguarding Leads</b>	<p>Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults at risk is primary concern and a statutory duty of this Council. We all have duty to protect children and adults from abuse, neglect, or exploitation.</p> <p>We have a corporate Safeguarding Group that meets every two months. The staff who attend the group are the Designated Safeguarding Officers for the Council and if you need to contact them, please call 01732 227001 or email <a href="mailto:safeguarding@sevenoaks.gov.uk">safeguarding@sevenoaks.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Our staff have regular training on all strands of safeguarding from Children and Vulnerable Adults to Prevent (counter terrorism), Modern Slavery and Mental Health.</p>	Tel: 01732 227001 Web: <a href="#">SDC Safeguarding</a>
<b>Victim Support</b>	<p>Victim Support don't just help people who've recently experienced domestic abuse – we're here to support you, weeks, months or years afterwards.</p> <p>We believe all survivors of domestic abuse should be able to get the support they need to feel safe and move on from the impact of abuse.</p> <p>We have different services in different parts of the country. All of our services are confidential, free and available to anyone who's experienced domestic violence. We can help, regardless of whether you've told the police or anyone else about the abuse.</p> <p>They will also provide an Independent Domestic Violence Adviser</p>	Tel: 0808 168 9111 Web: <a href="#">Victim Support</a>

Organisation	What They Do	Contact Details
<b>Women's Aid</b>	Together, we can keep women and children safe. As a federation we provide life-saving services across England, and we work tirelessly to change attitudes and the law so that in the future, domestic abuse doesn't exist.	Email: <a href="mailto:info@womensaid.org.uk">info@womensaid.org.uk</a> Web: <a href="#">Womens Aid</a> and <a href="#">Womensaidsupportdirectory</a>

## Appendix D Information Sharing Guidance

Decisions on sharing a person's information must be justifiable and proportionate, based on the potential or actual harm to adults or children at risk and the rationale for decision making should always be recorded, including your legal authority to share.

<b>Requirement to share information</b>	<b>Authority to do so</b>
Prevention and detection of crime	A.115 Crime and Disorder Act 1998
To protect vital interests of the data subject, serious harm or matter of life and death	Schedule 8 Data Protection Act 2018
For the purposes of the prevention, investigation, detection of prosecution of criminal offences or the execution of criminal penalties, including the safeguarding against and the prevention of threats to public security	Part 3 and Schedule 8 Data Protection Act 2008
Child Protection. Disclosure to Children's Social Care or Police	Children Act 1989 and 2004
Overriding Public Interest	Common Law
Court Order	The organisation would receive a court order, or if the police asked for information, you could ask them to obtain a court order for you to share this
Right to Life – Right to be free from torture or inhuman or degrading treatment	Human Rights Act, Articles 2 and 3
Person lacks capacity to make a decision with regards to consent	Mental Capacity Act 2005

## Appendix E

Useful links:

[A Referral Pathway for Kent and Medway and DASH risk assessment](#)

[MARAC Referral Form](#)