

Safeguarding Children and Young People affected by Domestic, Sexual and Relationship Abuse 2020

Policy Information Sheet	
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Related Document (s)	

"People have 2 faces. It's like Jekyll and Hyde...no one knows what goes on behind closed doors It shouldn't be going on its wrong; it's so sad people get put through that. I've got huge respect for anyone who has gone through it and has decided to take a stand against it."

Bradley student at Adelaide School at Cheshire East Change event November 2017

“Nothing is more important than children’s welfare. Children who need help and protection deserve high quality and effective support as soon as a need is identified.....Everyone who comes into contact with children and families has a role to play.”
“Working Together to Safeguard Children” DfE July 2018

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The Government defines domestic abuse as:

"Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. This can encompass but is not limited to the following types of abuse: Psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional

Controlling behaviour is: a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour

Coercive behaviour is: an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim.*

**This definition, which is not a legal definition, includes 'honour' based violence, female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage, and is clear that victims are not confined to one gender or ethnic group."*

It is estimated that 130,000 children live in homes where there is "significant and imminent risk of serious harm or death" in the UK. 62% of children living with domestic abuse are directly harmed by the perpetrator of the abuse, in addition to the harm caused by witnessing the abuse of others. (*Safe Lives 2015*). Research by Radford et al 2011 suggests that one in five children have been exposed to domestic abuse at home.

Domestic abuse can affect anybody; it occurs across all of society, regardless of age, gender, race, sexuality, wealth or geography Domestic abuse affects significant numbers of children and young people and their families causing immediate harm as well as damaging future life chances.

Cheshire East's Key Priorities for the Domestic Abuse Partnership 2017-20 are to:

Enable the Community Giving families, friends and colleagues the information and skills they need to support people when they are concerned about them, know where they can get specialist help if needed and feel supported to prevent harm

Develop the Workforce/Manage expectations: Giving staff in all key agencies better tools, advice and understanding to do effective safety and support work with the families they are already involved with; ensuring people understand when it is right to refer on or to work together. Empowering families to be resilient and independent.

Improving Systems: Making sure that when requests come in about keeping children or adults safe – whatever the issue – they get shared with the right people as early as possible so individuals and families needs are understood by the services that can help and so that families get that help as soon as possible

Evidencing effectiveness: Gather the right information and views from the right people (*and most importantly clients themselves*) to know what difference we are making together

Funding/Commissioning specialist support: Ensure we spend our shared resources in a way that best matches service user, community and professional need

1. Introduction

Cheshire East's Domestic and Sexual abuse Partnership is committed to promoting and supporting the needs of children and young people affected by domestic, sexual and relationship abuse by identifying their needs and responding accordingly; in order for these children and young people to meet their full potential.

As a partnership, Cheshire East is committed to ensuring our work with families is robust, comprehensive, preventative and proactive, so we achieve both safety and recovery. This policy and practice guidance sets out how the needs of these children and young people will be identified and assessed and the range of services open to them to assist them in feeling and being safe, secure and able to thrive.

In Cheshire East there is a whole family approach to domestic abuse. This document specifically addresses the needs of children and young people impacted by domestic abuse. A key part of our approach is that it is a multi- agency and community approach in which all partners know what is expected of them and play their part.

90% of parents who are currently experiencing domestic violence within their relationship believe their children don't know what's happening. But when researchers asked the children, 90% of them were, in fact, well aware

For its children and young people Cheshire East has the following principles:

- Safety is the priority for all interventions; this includes the safety of both the children and the adults in their lives, meaning that we need to adopt a 'whole family' approach
- Decisions and interventions are based on a shared understanding of risk and need and so the Adult Risk Indicator Checklist and Domestic Abuse Child Risk and Needs Assessment will be used as key tools
- Decisions will include a clear understanding of the needs and views of children and young people.
- Where a young person, who is a parent, is the subject of the Multi agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) their needs will be considered both as a child themselves and as a parent
- All professionals and services working with children and young people will understand their duties in supporting children living in situations where domestic/relationship abuse is taking place
- Working together across all sectors and boards we will tackle both the causes and effects; putting an emphasis on prevention, education and awareness-raising which will increase reports of domestic abuse incidents and will change harmful attitudes which contribute towards domestic abuse within our communities.

- ☐ Everyone in the community will be alert to the signs and will know what proactive steps to take.
- ☐ Perpetrators will be held to account and will be offered support to change
- ☐ Our children and young people will be empowered to seek advice and support; not only where domestic abuse is within the family and in their own relationships but also where they may recognise potentially “harmful behaviours” in their own actions. Young people consistently feedback that there is not enough information given to them at an early enough age. We will make information about support available to them so they know where to turn and will empower their friends and peers to speak out and seek support for them.
- ☐ Workers will be well trained and supported so that they recognise and respond appropriately to the complexity of relationships where the “Toxic trio” is a factor; (multiple parental problems: substance misuse, mental ill health and domestic abuse)
- ☐ We will ensure that children are safe and we will increase their resilience

Cheshire East has adopted Signs of Safety to support us to work together **with** families so we can achieve good and long-lasting outcomes. The principles of Signs of Safety will be fundamental to our approach to working with families around domestic, sexual and relationship abuse.

1. Working relationships are fundamental, with families and professionals. Signs of Safety is about establishing positive, constructive relationships through recognising strengths as well as issues, being very clear about what our goals are, how we will work together to achieve these and what we expect to see, and having a common language everyone understands

2. Stance of critical inquiry – accepting that professionals don’t have all the answers; always being prepared to admit you may have had it wrong, and having a learning culture at all levels.

3. Landing grand aspirations in everyday practice – having big aspirations for children and young people and making sure we have the tools to deliver this everyday, listening and adapting the approach based on what practitioners say, and ensuring our service and organisation are truly focused on what matters - achieving better outcomes for children, young people and families

For more information on the approach please see the [Signs of Safety](#) website and our [CESCP website](#).

2. Equality and Diversity

Domestic abuse occurs in all sectors of our community and every occurrence is different; assumptions should not be made and responses should be tailored to each situation.

Domestic abuse is under-reported in all communities, but people who have additional needs or who are part of minority communities may find accessing help more difficult.

Barriers to accessing help may include:

- ☐ Mistrust of public services
- ☐ Communication difficulties (due to a disability or the first language is not English)

- Increased isolation
- Fear of discrimination
- Having no recourse to public funding
- Complex needs
- Disadvantaged or rural communities
- Being part of a community whose values and practice in the area of relationships and marriage make it difficult for victims to find support being subject to direct abuse not only from a partner or ex-partner but from the extended family, so called '**honour based violence**'. This may involve the illegal practice of '**forced marriage**' where an adult or a teenager is forced into marriage against their will.

It is also important to note that males and people who are gay, lesbian, and bi-sexual or transgender are also under-represented in current reporting figures; they are a 'minority'. We aim to be proactive in including these key messages in our awareness raising and work with children and young people.

3. Prevention and Early Intervention

A key element in tackling domestic abuse is working with children and young people to provide information and education regarding positive relationships and keeping themselves safe. To achieve this Cheshire East Domestic and Sexual Abuse Partnership works in conjunction with its schools and colleges to develop a relevant, responsive and effective curriculum.

A virtual toolkit "Act on It –Act Now" [Act on it](#) has been developed for children, young people and adults as a place to access resources and information on pathways to support.

Cheshire East domestic abuse hub: Cheshire East Domestic Abuse Hub is a single 24/7 point of help, assessment and referral for anyone affected by domestic abuse – victim, perpetrator, young person, professional, concerned member of the community. Publicity about this provision is promoted and displayed in our public and community spaces.

Healthy Relationships Programmes are used in schools and colleges to deliver key messages to all students. Pastoral teams work to identify and support the needs of students vulnerable to such abuse.

Operation Encompass is a police initiative within Cheshire aimed at notifying schools of incidents of domestic abuse so that staff in the school/setting/college can give appropriate overt or direct practical and emotional support to those children and young people.

Children and young people's programmes: Cheshire East Domestic Abuse Service carry out 1:1 recovery work and deliver programmes for children and young people living in Cheshire East. Access to these programmes is through the domestic abuse hub; they discuss the child/young person's needs and identify the most effective way in which to support that child/young person.

Tools to help Children and Young People feel and be safe: Resources have been developed for use with young people at the first point of concern so that support can be offered straight away. These are on the CE website: [Domestic abuse tools and resources](#)

Identification and risk assessment: It is important that all staff in universal and targeted services who see parents as part of their work are alert to the signs and symptoms of abuse, can 'ask the question' and undertake risk assessment or escalate to a someone in their organisation who has been trained to do this. Health visitors and midwives carry out routine screening in line with national guidance and local policy while other agencies who work with risk routinely (Mental Health and Drug and Alcohol Services, Probation Services) include questions re domestic abuse risks in their regular risk assessment processes

Agencies are trained to use the Adult Risk Indicator Checklist and the parallel "Safe Lives" Young People's RIC, know how to refer high risk victims to MARAC and to promote routes to support for lower risk victims or those who choose not to disclose there and then.

Where domestic abuse is identified and it is known that there are children in the household practitioners will ask questions to identify the risk and impact of adult domestic abuse on those children. There is a tool available to support practitioners in this task: [Tool for assessing risk and impact of domestic abuse on children](#)

Working together with families: Conversations with children and their families will use the Signs of Safety approach to involve them in decision making and planning. This includes mapping out with the family:

- What's working well
- What we're worried about
- How worried we are about the situation on a scale of 0-10
- What needs to happen

We will also use 'danger statements' to summarise what the concerns are, and what we are worried might be the impact of this on the children and adults involved, and 'safety goals' which set out what we need to see to be confident that the people involved are safe and well. All assessments and plans will be created together with families and will be in clear family-friendly language.

Training: CEDSAP, in partnership with the CЕССР, runs multi-agency training programmes for practitioners to ensure there is awareness in all parts of the workforce and staff are equipped to fulfil their safeguarding responsibilities: [Training Programme](#)

- ☐ Level 1 Responding to Domestic Abuse
- ☐ Level 2 Domestic Abuse and Safeguarding Children
- ☐ Rape and Sexual Assault
- ☐ Tackling the Toxic Trio

For Education Settings single agency training is available from the Safeguarding Children in Education Settings (SCiES) team.

The importance of the wider family and community is recognised; they are supported to enable them to respond quickly; this is achieved through local campaigns, publicity and promotion of the hub.

4. Protection

Children living with domestic abuse need to be identified, protected and supported. Not all children need social worker involvement to be safe, if someone is worried that a child is at serious risk they should contact:

- Cheshire East Consultation Service - 0300 123 5012 (Option3)
- Out of Hours Service phone 0300 123 5022

Where there is a child aged 1 or under, in a family where domestic abuse is happening, ChECS should always be contacted.

“Where adults are concerned about children and young people they should keep asking the question “Are you ok?” so that when the child or young person feels they are ready to disclose they have confidence that there are people there to listen and act” CE *“Have You Heard” Conference 2014*

To further protect, children and young people Cheshire East promotes:

- ☐ Effective criminal and civil justice systems which afford protection
- ☐ Improved use of specialist courts
- ☐ Increased use and effectiveness of processes and resources to address perpetrator behaviour (this includes statutory and voluntary work via the Police, Community Rehabilitation Company and our local commission).

Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) Monthly meetings take place focussed on increasing the safety of high risk victims and their children. Up to date information is shared and a risk management plan updated. This includes information from Children’s Services about the level and progress of any current intervention or plan. The Safeguarding Children in Education Settings team represent all phases of education at these meetings and ensure that the Voice of the Child is heard at these meetings; as evidenced by the educational settings. There is a robust system of feedback from the team afterwards.

Young people may also be the reason for the MARAC (identified as victims or perpetrators). Appropriate services are always in attendance at the meeting so that required intervention /support can be actioned.

The MARAC Steering Group has developed an **e-MARAC**. E-MARAC meetings take place twice weekly with Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA), Police, Health, Adult Social Care and Children’s Social Care practitioners in attendance using information provided by other partners. This fast tracks the sharing of key information to enable practitioners to

deliver safety and support for high risk families and also ensure that this important data is accessible to those responsible for safeguarding in Adults and Children's services.

5. Provision

Access to support for children and young people affected by domestic/ relationship abuse and their families has been simplified through the introduction of Cheshire East domestic abuse hub which is a single 24/7 point of contact, information, consultation, referral and triage.

Support for children and young people is co-ordinated through the Hub. There is one referral form and an assessment is carried out of the child/young person's needs. From this an appropriate support plan is put in place. Quality standards are in place for all work and outcomes are regularly reported upon.



Hub staff, responding to a referral for any family member, will ask questions about the risks to and needs of all family members. In the case of children they discuss with the parents how those children are affected. The Hub is co-located with ChECS and Early Help Brokerage to ensure that any safeguarding needs are known and that addressing domestic abuse is part of any multi-agency intervention. Where children need additional support they are referred to the commissioned service, myCWA, for one to one or group work where a further in depth assessment of needs is undertaken in order that the best support is delivered.

Safety Planning: Advice and support around safety planning is available through the Domestic Abuse Hub.

Materials have been developed and circulated so that education settings can support their children with safety planning so that these can be in place at as early a stage as possible.

Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVAs): Professional support for high risk victims is available for families, based in the Domestic Abuse Family Safety Unit. They aim to respond within 48 hours and often on the same day that a referral is received. These staff also ensure that safeguarding concerns are identified and acted upon.

There are IDVAs working within both Macclesfield and Leighton hospitals; they provide direct support to patients and training for hospital staff.

MyCWA: This is the commissioned service for domestic abuse services. MyCWA offer a range of one to one and group interventions for all family members including those who are harmed and those who harm. Safeguarding children (and adults) is a priority for them at every stage of their work. They also support families to recover from their experience of abuse and rebuild family relationships where safe and appropriate

Cheshire Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC): Sexual abuse is when a child or young person is forced or coerced into taking part in any kind of sexual activity with an adult or another young person. It can happen to anyone of any age or gender.

Cheshire East contributes to a commissioned service to support both children and adults of all ages who have been subject to sexual violence. The commissioned support pathway offers forensic and medical care through St Mary's SARC, and emotional, psychological and practical support through the Rape & Sexual Abuse Support Centre (Cheshire & Merseyside).

Sexual abuse can affect young people in many ways, they report feeling confused, frightened and sad about what has happened to them. They have said that having the chance to talk about their feelings really helps.

A full assessment is completed following referral, to identify follow up health needs, ongoing risks & further care needs. Children and their parents/carers may access an Independent Sexual Violence Advisor, who will support them through the Criminal Justice System. The child may also be assessed alongside their parents for therapeutic support, which aims to aid recovery from the trauma that they have experienced.

For further information on the service: www.rapecentre.org.uk or www.cheshiresarc.org.uk

6. Partnership

Domestic abuse is complex and often requires co-ordinated interventions across a range of sectors to address risk and need for children and those who care for them.

Cheshire East Domestic and Sexual Abuse Partnership (CEDSAP) is responsible for strategy and specialist provision as well as promoting the safety and wellbeing of children through single and multi-agency systems. Agencies hold one another to account for the benefit of clients

At operational level CEDSAP promotes a co-ordinated approach through promotion of existing Adult and Child Safeguarding procedures, MARAC, Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA), Troubled Families, the Early Help Assessment (EHA) as well as the clear designation of a lead practitioner to ensure an informed and integrated response.

The partnership structure encourages innovation and promotes best practice. It aims to have interconnected, non-duplicating systems founded on shared aims and robust protocols/joint processes. See [Cheshire East Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership](#)

7. Participation

All services are expected to include service users in service design and delivery so that our provision is based on expert knowledge of what works.

Communities (neighbourhoods, families, peers, friends, institutions, supportive individuals) are empowered to take action on domestic and relationship abuse. This is achieved via the publicity for the hub and through local awareness raising campaigns.

The voice of young people has been captured through active participation by school Safeguarding groups, Voice for Children and children and young people who had been involved in intervention programmes. They have been part of developing materials for young people to raise awareness.

The CEDAS commissioned service has a “Young Voices” group which enables children and young people to have their voice heard and be involved in service development.

It is expected that Children and Young People are active participants in the formulation of their support plans.

8. Performance and performance measures

Auditing: cases are audited and the findings are used to inform practice development. This is achieved in several ways; specific cases have been audited looking at the impact on the child/young person of plans and assessments, young people have taken part in specific surveys and focus groups and there have been reflective reviews following incidents. Domestic abuse is included in the annual school section 157/175 audit

Training delivery: is quality assured and outcomes/impact is actively sought. Records are kept of attendees and agencies/sectors are monitored for attendance; where agencies are not attending they are contacted.

Programme delivery: is quality assured and evidence of outcomes/impact is actively sought from attendees both in the immediacy of the sessions and over time. Records are kept of attendees and these are scrutinised to highlight trends and to identify those young people who drop out/fail to attend so that this can be proactively followed up with a view to meeting the individual's needs and to ensure that the young person is not being prevented from attending.

Monitoring and evaluation of work in schools: input is planned with the schools and is jointly evaluated afterwards; in the immediacy of the training this is through written evaluations by attendees; to measure impact over time it is evaluated through focus groups.

Specialist service provision: there is a clear performance framework for both IDVA and commissioned CEDAS services. Reports are scrutinised on a multi-agency basis. Cheshire East IDVA service is a Leading Lights service (national quality kite mark).

Standards: A set of domestic abuse service standards has been agreed in collaboration with service users and agencies will regularly review their performance against these standards

Shared data/outcomes systems: Cheshire East aims to have clear systems for recording key relevant data so there is no overlap of delivery. This data is routinely scrutinised to identify trends and gaps; it is also used to inform planning and delivery.

Children and Young People's scorecard: Relevant data is captured in the scorecard.

9. Child/adolescent to parent violence and abuse

Adolescent to parent violence and abuse (APVA) is a hidden form of domestic violence and abuse that is often not spoken about.

[Government document: Adolescent to parent Violence/abuse](#)

Our aim in Cheshire East is to raise awareness around this issue, in order to provide better protection for victims and to ensure that a young person using abusive behaviour against a parent receives a safeguarding response.

Child/adolescent to parent violence/abuse is part of all domestic abuse training and is part of all safeguarding training for schools. New resources for use by all practitioners can be found on the [Domestic Abuse pages](#) of the Cheshire East website.

“You start hiding bruises and scratches and you plaster a smile on your face pretending that everything is fine and you’re in control but on the inside you are slipping down this long dark hole.... “ (Parent of a child who is violent to them)

Tandem: In Cheshire East a new programme has been developed to address child parent violence. It involves intensive parallel and joint child and parent work. Early results are significant, especially as these families had attempted change work previously which had not resolved their difficulties.

10. Peer on peer abuse including Teenage Relationship Abuse

Schools and colleges have been made aware that safeguarding issues can manifest themselves via peer on peer abuse. This is most likely to include, but not limited to: bullying (including cyber bullying), gender based violence/sexual assaults and sexting. Work is carried out on a regular basis to ensure that they are clear on the procedures with regards to peer on peer abuse and do not take it any less serious than adult abuse; they are encouraged to apply the same thresholds.

1 in 5 teenagers have been physically abused by their boyfriends or girlfriends.
Barter et al (2009)

Relationship abuse between young people refers to relationships where the young people have been or are in an intimate relationship. This includes long term boyfriend or girlfriend relationships or more casual relationships. Teenage relationship abuse consists of the same patterns of coercive and controlling behaviour as domestic abuse. These patterns might include some or all of the following: insults, coercion, social sabotage, sexual harassment, threats and/or acts of physical or sexual abuse, physical abuse, financial abuse, emotional abuse and psychological abuse

Some adults may minimise the impact of young person relationship violence by assuming that the relationships are short lived and not ‘real’ relationships. Young people who are experiencing their first relationships can find it difficult to identify that there is abuse present especially if their peer group normalises such behaviour. The impact of young person

relationship abuse can have serious consequences for emotional health and well-being and mental health.

In Cheshire East there is a Pathway to support (see Appendix C) to ensure that there is a consistent approach.

Education settings in Cheshire East are encouraged to carry out targeted sessions about the boundaries between consent and coercion to ensure they understand what it means to get and give consent. They are encouraged to carry out work around what makes for positive relationships from as early a stage as possible, building on this over the Key Stages.

Cheshire East's virtual toolkit [Act on it](#) has been developed for children, young people and adults as a place to access resources and information on pathways to support.

The Safelives website is also a useful source of information and resources:

<http://www.safelives.org.uk/knowledge-hub/spotlights/spotlight-3-young-people-and-domestic-abuse>

11. “Honour Based” Violence

So-called ‘honour-based’ violence (HBV) encompasses incidents or crimes which have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family and/or the community, including female genital mutilation (FGM), forced marriage, and practices such as breast ironing.

Abuse committed in the context of preserving “honour” often involves a wider network of family or community pressure and can include multiple perpetrators. It is important to be aware of this dynamic and additional risk factors when deciding what form of safeguarding action to take. All forms of HBV are abuse (regardless of the motivation) and should be handled and escalated as such. Professionals in all agencies, and individuals and groups in relevant communities, need to be alert to the possibility of a child being at risk of HBV, or already having suffered HBV. *Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019*

In Cheshire East cases involving Honour Based Violence are dealt with by child protection procedures.

Staff in education settings have received training about Honour Based Violence and receive regular reminders of the things to be aware of and proactive work they can undertake with their young people (as appropriate to their age and stage of development).

12. Adults in abusive relationships who are working with children

Domestic abuse perpetrated by employees working with children in commissioned, voluntary and statutory agencies will not be condoned under any circumstances and any individual charged or convicted of a domestic abuse related offence will be subject to the agencies' disciplinary procedures. If the employer becomes aware of an allegation involving domestic

abuse being made against an employee, Cheshire East require this to be fully investigated; they also require each agency to have a clear domestic abuse policy for its employees in order to safeguard our children.

Cheshire East acknowledges that it has a duty of care to the physical and mental health and well being of its employees in the workplace (Health and Safety at Work Act 1974). Reasonable additional measures will be taken by the employer to protect the safety of those experiencing domestic abuse whilst at work or when carrying out their duties.

Confidentiality is also of crucial importance. The employer will only involve other agencies or share information with the consent of the person concerned, unless there are exceptional circumstances, e.g. when disclosure is required by law or where the sharing of information is vital for the protection of children or adults at risk (including a victim who discloses abuse).

13. Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation

This policy will be accessible via www.cheshireeast.gov.uk and will be accessed by Cheshire East staff and the general public. The policy will be monitored and formally reviewed by Cheshire East Domestic and Sexual Abuse Partnership which will assist in the evaluation of the policy.

14. Reviewing the policy

This policy will be reviewed on a bi-annual basis by the Cheshire East Domestic and Sexual Abuse Partnership Board on behalf of the CЕСSP.

Appendix A

Definitions

“Child” means a person under the age of 18.

Controlling behaviour is: a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour

Coercive behaviour is: an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim.”

Acronyms *(for the purposes of this document)*:

APVA	Adolescent to Parent Violence and Abuse
ASB	Adult Safeguarding Board
CEDAS	Cheshire East Domestic Abuse Service
CEDSAP	Cheshire East Domestic & Sexual Abuse Partnership
CESCP	Cheshire East Safeguarding Children Partnership
ChECS	Cheshire East Consultation Service
CSP	Community Safety Partnership
EHA	Early Help Assessment
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
GP	General Practitioner
HBV	Honour Based Violence
IDVA	Independent Domestic Violence Adviser
LGBT	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans
MARAC	Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference
MAPPA	Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements
PSHE	Personal, Social and Health Education
RASASC	Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre
RIC	Risk Indicator Checklist
SCiES	Safeguarding Children in Education Settings
SARC	Sexual Assault Referral Centre

'Honour' based violence:

Violence committed to protect or defend the 'honour' of a family and/ or community. Women, especially young women, are the most common targets, often where they have acted outside community boundaries of perceived acceptable feminine/sexual behaviour. In extreme cases the woman may be killed

Domestic / intimate partner violence:

A pattern of coercive control, which includes combinations of physical, sexual, psychological and financial abuse by a current or former partner or person in the household. In extreme cases this includes murder.

Child to parent Violence:

Where a parent is abused by their child physically and/emotionally

Stalking:

Repeated (ie on at least two occasions) harassment causing fear, alarm or distress. It can include threatening phone calls, texts or letters; damaging property; spying on and following the victim.

Female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C):

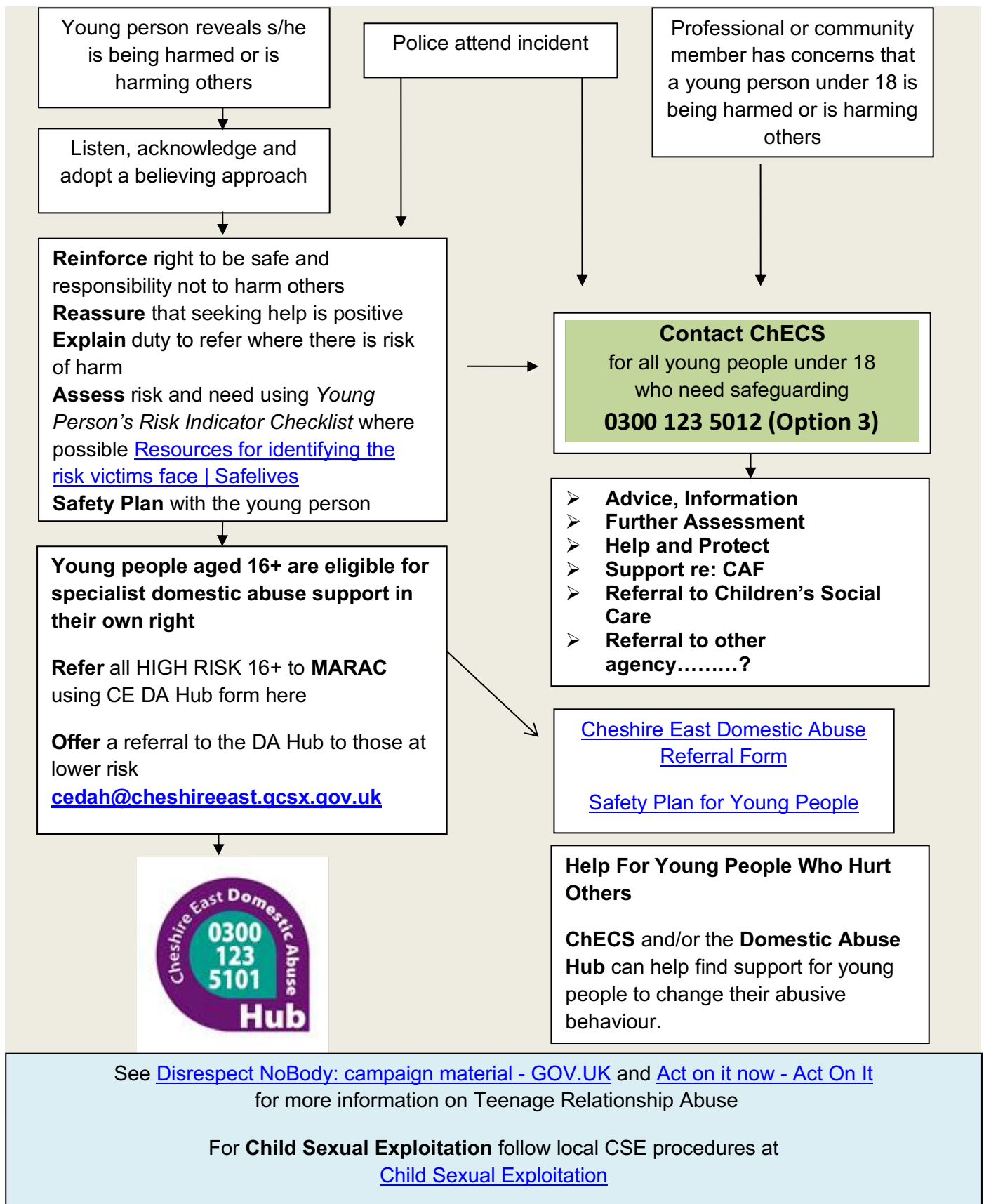
Involves the complete or partial removal or alteration of external genitalia for non-medical reasons. It is mostly carried out on young girls at some time between infancy and the age of 15

Forced marriage:

A marriage conducted without valid consent of one or both parties, where duress is a factor

Appendix C What to do about Teenage Relationship Abuse (TRA)

Anyone can be in a relationship that is abusive. It's never OK and there is help for those who are hurt and those who harm others. If you know a teenager who is in an abusive relationship please use this flowchart to get them the right support as early as possible



Appendix D Questions to consider to identify risks to, and impact of, domestic abuse on children

It is important that, where possible, information is sought from all those involved – parents, children, professionals, other family members (where safe and appropriate). This will help make sure that we get as accurate and full a picture as possible and bring out any different or conflicting perspectives.

These questions and the Level of Need table are drawn from government guidance on tackling domestic abuse, Barnardo's Matrix for assessing risk to children and local professional and client experience



1	What is the nature and risk level of domestic abuse taking place in the household? (results of Risk Indicator Checklist – RIC - including questions re mental ill health and substance misuse)	
2	Where is the Child or Young Person when abuse is taking place?	
3	Does the Child or Young Person try to intervene?	
4	Does the abuser also directly harm or hurt the child?	
5	Is the Child or Young Person involved in the abuse e.g. abuser uses them as part of their abusing?	
6	Is the child showing any signs of impact – changes in behaviour, confidence, health and wellbeing?	
7	Is the Child or Young Person taking responsibility for protecting siblings?	
8	Does the Child or Young Person feel afraid, guilty, isolated as a result of the abuse? Or think it's normal?	
9	Do any child arrangements (contact) compromise the safety of the child/parent?	
10	Does the Child or Young Person have a safety plan and can they implement it?	

11	Is the abuser the child's parent or significant carer and do they have a relationship with that person? Is that relationship safe and positive for them?	
12	Does any factor in the child or young person's profile make it harder for them to be safe? E.g. very young age, learning difficulty, disability...	
13	Is the abuser being held to account through the criminal or civil justice process – charges, conditions, orders.... And is it working?	
14	Does the abuser recognise the impact of their abuse on their child?	
15	Is the abuser willing to be supported to change?	
16	Is the victim able to recognise the impact on their child?	
17	Is the victim able to prioritise their child's needs?	
18	Is the victim planning to remain in the relationship? <i>(NB leaving may be safer long term but is the highest risk period)</i>	
19	Is the victim taking protective action to safeguard their child?	
20	Is either parent engaging with services to support change?	

You need to put answers to these questions together with information about the child's more general vulnerability and resilience and the parent's willingness and capacity to protect and meet needs.

Level of Need and escalation/de-escalation: *The correct level of intervention may be indicated by a combination of factors or one or two high risk concerns.*

	VICTIM EXPERIENCE	CHILD EXPERIENCE	ABUSER
CHILD IN NEED OF PROTECTION	<p>Scores 14+ on Adult Risk Indicator Checklist (RIC) and is or has recently been to MARAC</p> <p>Incidents repeatedly resulting in police and/or medical intervention</p> <p>Minimising seriousness or very fearful</p> <p>Unable or unwilling to protect/prioritise child</p> <p>Reluctance to engage with services</p> <p>Poor mental health</p> <p>Substance misuse issues</p> <p>History of abusive relationships</p>	<p>Aged 1 or under or 'in utero'</p> <p>Regularly/directly exposed to DA</p> <p>Directly abused/ neglected/isolated</p> <p>Conflicted about or unwilling to have 'contact' with abuser</p> <p>Resilience factors low</p> <p>Fearful, aggressive, self harming,</p> <p>Acting as carer/protector</p> <p>Feels responsible</p> <p>Sexualised or sexually harmful behaviour</p>	<p>Repeated and serious abuse Including sexual violence, strangulation/use of weapons</p> <p>Criminal justice history –sanctions ignored/broken</p> <p>Does not recognise responsibility nor effects</p> <p>No empathy/remorse</p> <p>Drug/alcohol/MH issues</p> <p>Known to MAPPA</p> <p>Extreme jealousy/controlling</p> <p>Suicidal/homicidal threats/intent</p> <p>History of serious DA</p>
CHILD IN NEED	<p>Scores 9 – 13 on RIC</p> <p>Abuse becoming/been pattern</p> <p>Some police or medical intervention</p> <p>Fearful or minimising or resisting services</p> <p>Victim capacity to protect self and children compromised – factors relating to self/abuser</p> <p>Has related substance misuse/mental health issues</p> <p>Isolated or worn down</p> <p>Previous relationships abusive</p> <p>Has family/friend support</p>	<p>More frequent exposure to abuse</p> <p>Query abuser also abusing child</p> <p>Fearful</p> <p>Signs of neglect/ impact on emotional wellbeing</p> <p>Resilience factors e.g. safe significant other</p> <p>Contact/parenting by abuser experienced as positive to some degree but safety not assured</p> <p>Some capacity to protect self if there is escalation</p>	<p>More frequent pattern of abuse including physical</p> <p>Criminal justice interventions</p> <p>Minimal recognition of responsibility for harm, effect on child</p> <p>Concerns re mental health and/or substance misuse</p> <p>Minimal use of protection strategies e.g. not drinking, removing self from situation</p> <p>Some compliance with court orders e.g. harassment</p> <p>Resistance to services</p>
EHA	<p>Scores 8 or below on Risk Indicator Checklist and no evidence of minimisation</p> <p>Relationship over or ending and abuser has accepted this</p> <p>Able to protect & care for children with support</p> <p>Fear level not impacting capacity to act</p> <p>Willing to engage with services/has support network</p>	<p>Not regularly/significantly exposed to abuse</p> <p>Shows some resilience and ability to process experience</p> <p>Impact on emotional wellbeing can be addressed with short term support</p> <p>Has positive relationship with 'abuser'</p> <p>Safe and appropriate 'contact' arrangements in place</p>	<p>Incidents/episodes not frequent or prolonged</p> <p>Some recognition of responsibility for harm</p> <p>Engaging with help</p> <p>Using de-escalation strategies</p> <p>Parenting is 'good enough'</p> <p>Compliance with contact arrangements & court orders</p> <p>Does not threaten/involve child</p>

Appendix E		
Agency	Number	Type of support
Cheshire East Consultation Service (ChECS)	0300 123 5012 (5022 out of hours)	for ALL young people under 18 who need safeguarding
Cheshire East Domestic Abuse Hub		Access to support for children and young people affected by domestic/ relationship abuse and for their parents/carers Consultation for professionals or concerned members of the community
Cheshire East Domestic Abuse Service (CEDAS)	Access to CEDAS services is via the Hub – 0300123 5101	One to one and group support for any family member – child, adult who is harmed or who is harming Clinics, drop-ins and participation groups
Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre	0330 363 0063 www.rapecentre.org.uk www.cheshiresarc.org.uk	Independent Sexual Violence Advisors and Counselling for children.
Adult Safeguarding	0300 123 5010 (5022 out of hours)	Responding to concerns for adults at risk
Barnardos	Domestic Violence Children and Domestic Violence Child Abuse	Providers for support and advice for children, young people and families
Addaction: Integrated Missing from Home and CSE team	 01270 617557	Support for YP re Child Sexual Exploitation(CSE) and Missing From Home

Agency	Number	Type of support
Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service	01606 868465 Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service Website	Home Safety Assessments
Galop	0300 999 5428 Helpline Galop – The LGBT+ anti-violence charity	Specialist helpline for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender survivors
Men's Advice Line	0808 801 0327	Specialist national helpline for male survivors
NSPCC	What is domestic abuse NSPCC Help for adults concerned about a child: 0808 800 5000 Help for children and young people: Childline on 0800 1111	Support and advice for children and families
Safe Lives	Home Safelives	Guidance and tools for high risk domestic abuse
St Mary's Centre: Sexual Assault Referral Centre	24 hour helpline: 0161 276 6515	Support for anyone who has been raped or sexually assaulted.
Women's Aid	Women's Aid 0808 2000 247 The Hide Out	Support and advice for children and families Information to help children and young people to understand domestic abuse, and how to take positive action

Appendix F

SCiES Newsletter:

Domestic abuse negatively affects children and young people. We know that they are often more aware of what is happening than parents think. How they respond depends on their age, personality and support network; but they recover best when they are helped to understand and to process what is happening/has happened to them.

Their experiences will shape their self-worth, identity, and ability to relate to others in childhood and adulthood; making it much more difficult to succeed at school and develop friendships.



What can agencies involved with children (including schools) do?

We can support children and young people who have experienced domestic abuse by:

- ☐ Having an ethos which puts children's wellbeing at the heart of all we do
- ☐ Ensuring that expectations are clearly stated and understood by all.
- ☐ Understanding that oppositional and manipulative behaviours are not attempts to 'provoke us', but may be attempts by these children to control their world when so much feels out of control for them
- ☐ Modelling respectful and caring behaviour, positive conflict resolution and respectful interactions. Helping children learn not only what not to do, but what to do instead.
- ☐ Using the language of choice, making clear the benefits and negative consequences of their choices. Ensuring that you follow through with any consequences or sanctions.
- ☐ Supporting children to put their feelings into words. Building a vocabulary of emotional words with them so that they can begin to express their feelings more appropriately/accurately. (*A child exposed to domestic abuse may have seen a lot of behaviours that express strong feelings, but may not have heard words to appropriately express/ describe these feelings*).
- ☐ Understanding that the child may experience conflicting and confusing emotions when thinking of or talking about their parents.
- ☐ Creating opportunities for children to feel successful.
- ☐ Letting the child/young person know that they matter; taking an active interest in them.
- ☐ Accepting that they may not be willing or able to talk about it right away (if ever)
- ☐ Providing effective, non-verbal, systems for children and young people to access support
- ☐ Providing reassurance that only people who need to know about the incident will know.
- ☐ Allowing the child, where necessary, to safely store work in school or indeed shred it after completion when providing interventions
- ☐ Having visible and accessible information regarding sources of support e.g. Childline etc.

Implications for practice

When supporting a child or young person:

- ☐ Avoid asking them leading questions
- ☐ Allow them to go at their own pace.
- ☐ Never promise confidentially
- ☐ Use active listening skills; listen quietly and attentively, being non-judgemental
- ☐ Occasionally summarise, restate
- ☐ Reassure them: "I'm am pleased that you are able to talk to me about this", "You are not to blame"
- ☐ Use the "TED" approach:

Tell me what you mean by that?

Explain that to me

Describe that to me

Child to parent abuse:



Parents can be abused by a child or teenager. A young person is capable of inflicting emotional, verbal and physical abuse, but it is often misunderstood or minimized because of their age. Age can be deceiving and is no indication of a person's ability to inflict harm; no one may know unless the parent speaks up

Disagreements, conflict and arguments are a normal part of family life at times; however sometimes the young person can be abusive or violent; exerting power or control over their parents. It can happen in families of any culture, religion or situation in life.

Violence or abuse can be a sign that the young person:

- hasn't learnt to control or manage their feelings, especially anger. They act out their feelings without using any self-control
- hasn't learnt to deal with the stresses of life, to solve problems or cooperate. They might think it's their right to have all their demands met above others (sense of 'entitlement')
- doesn't value or respect other people, or their property
- sees a parent, often the mother, as weak and powerless or think it's OK to treat women this way
- is affected by alcohol or drugs. Some drugs can trigger psychosis (being out of touch with the real world) and violence.
- may have problems with their mental health. They may be anxious and lash out because they start to think they can't trust those around them.
- may feel frustrated or have trouble dealing with their feelings. They may find it hard to say how they feel or struggle to control their impulses ; sometimes this can be linked to a disability

This can feel quite frightening for the young people as well as the parents. Agencies can support by raising awareness amongst staff; empowering them to raise it with parents where there are indicators; signposting those parents to support.

Young people themselves can be in abusive relationships what should people be aware of?



Young people in Cheshire East are sometimes identified as being in their own abusive relationships; either inflicting abuse on others or being abused within that relationship. Agencies may pick up on the signs therefore it is important that we are aware of the signs.

Some of the signs below could indicate that a young person is experiencing relationship abuse. This list is not exhaustive and young people respond differently. These signs could also be due to other causes, but it is useful to be aware of common responses:

- Truancy, late/early arrival to avoid the abuser (especially if attending the same school/club)
- Falling grades
- Being withdrawn, passive, compliant
- Changes in mood and personality
- Isolation from family and friends
- Frequent texts and calls from boyfriend / girlfriend
- Inappropriate sexual behaviour/ language / attitudes
- Depression
- Physical signs of injury / illness
- Pregnancy
- Use of drugs / alcohol (where there was no prior use)
- Self-harm
- Eating disorders or problems sleeping
- Symptoms of post-traumatic stress
- Not focussed / poor concentration

Safeguarding Children and Young People affected by Domestic and Relationship Abuse

To support effective communication and response a policy document has been written for all education settings, agencies and services in Cheshire East.

There are two versions, one is intended for young people themselves and the other is for those working with our children and young people.

To access these documents click: [Domestic Abuse](#)

Sources of support:

Cheshire East Domestic Abuse Hub:

CALL **0300 123 5101**
EMAIL cedah@cheshireeast.gov.uk
Text **0777 194 1464**



Resources:

[Act on it now - Act On It](#) Cheshire East's site for healthy relationships

[Disrespect NoBody](#) a website for young people looking at different types of relationship abuse

[Resources - Act On It](#) links to films, Educational Toolkits, websites and books

www.rapecentre.org.uk and www.cheshiresarc.org.uk Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre
0330 353 0063 Independent Sexual Violence Advisors and Counselling for children.

Training:

Cheshire East's SCiES team offer training for whole school staff around Domestic abuse and the impact on children. Do contact the team if you would like to book a session
sciesteameast@cheshireeast.gov.uk

If you have concerns that a child is at risk you should contact Cheshire East Consultation Service (ChECS) and/or Cheshire Police without delay:

- **ChECS:** **0300 123 5012**
- **Cheshire East Police:** **101 or in urgent cases dial 999**

