

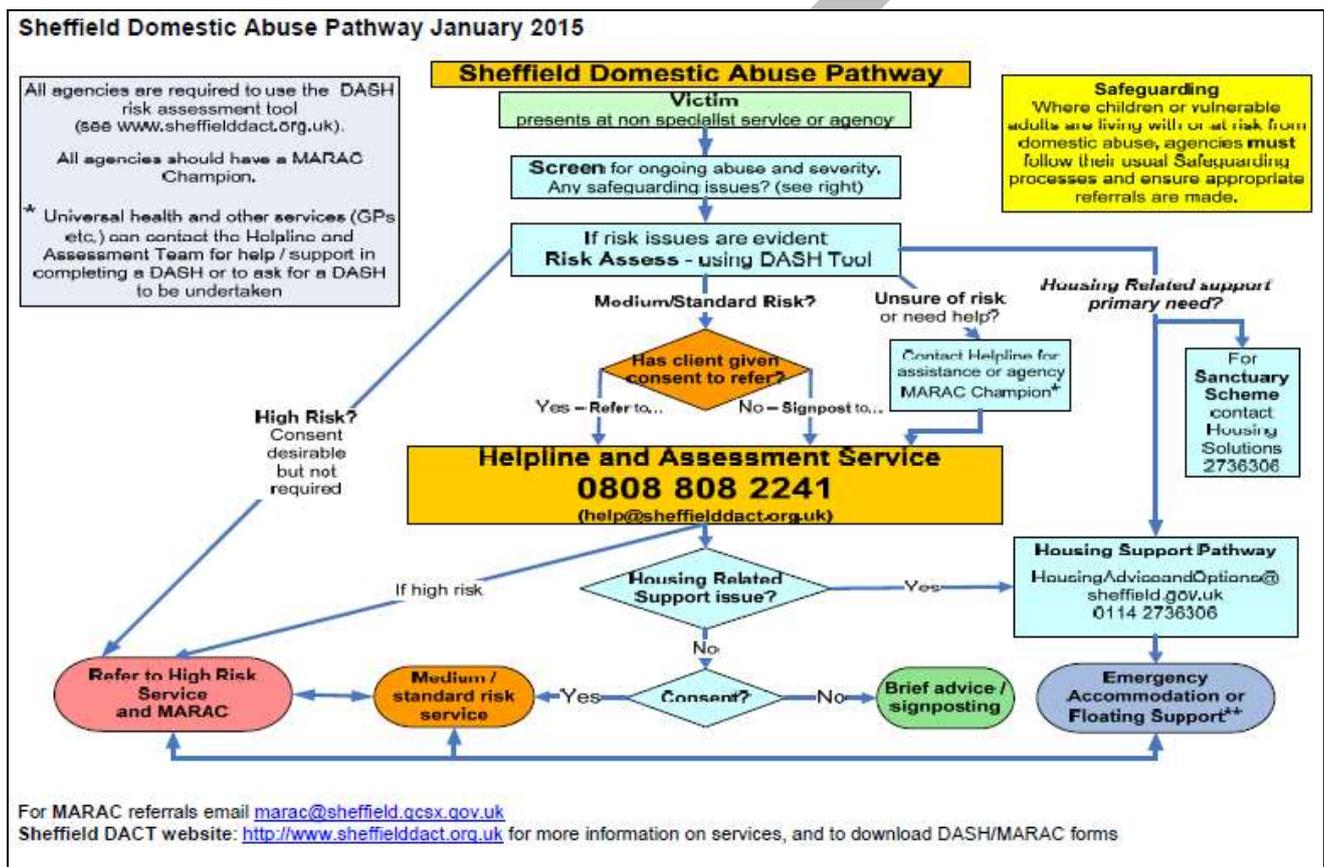


# Section 12 Domestic Abuse Support Services in Sheffield

This section focuses on domestic abuse services. For full details on sexual abuse service provision read Part 3 of the needs assessment.

## The Sheffield Domestic Abuse Pathway

The latest pathway was redesigned in January 2015 and is shown below. The aim of the pathway is for professionals to use it to identify and then assess the victim's risk level before either referring or signposting the victims to the most appropriate point to best meet their needs.



Understanding the risk level of the victim is the key driver in the pathway to directing a person to the most appropriate domestic abuse support service.

The pathway is updated regularly, and it is included in the training programmes delivered by Action to professionals each year.

The pathway is limited to the services that are council commissioned and does not include the wider voluntary sector service offer. This is to be changed, as the children's and young peoples and the sexual abuse pathways both include services that are not directly commissioned by the council.

**Action – Review the pathway annually to ensure it reflects the current position, including the additional voluntary sector specialist support services.**



A summary of the pathway is found on the latest DACT publicity <http://sheffielddact.org.uk/domestic-abuse/priorities-and-campaigns/local-advertising/>. This aims to simplify the process on the previous page for workers referring into support.



## The ACPO DASH (Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Honour Based Violence)

The ACPO DASH assessment tool is the agreed citywide risk assessment tool used by all professionals to ascertain the level of risk the victim is at. The pathway guides the worker to using the ACPO DASH if there are signs of or a disclosure of abuse. A copy of the DASH is found at <http://sheffielddact.org.uk/domestic-abuse/resources/marac-information-and-forms/>

For workers who require assistance in completing the DASH or are uncertain of the action to take, the helpline is available during working hours and there is a specialist commissioned role - the DASH risk assessor who is available to answer specifics. Workers can be taken through the process and/ or advised on what to do next.

For workers in any specific organisation referring for the first time, those who need more confidence in referring or for organisations with a turnover of staff the DASH risk assessor role is also there to provide briefing sessions which explain the pathways and DASH process.

In addition to the DASH assessor role, SCC also commission specific citywide training days and half days to increase disclosures, awareness of the pathways and the support offer in Sheffield for victims of domestic abuse. The two courses focus on 'DA, Signs, Indicators and Referral Pathways' and the 'DASH/MARAC/Safety planning and referral pathways'.

During 2015/16 a total of 530 workers across 32 different organisations including Children services, health services, education services, voluntary organisations, housing services and criminal justice



were trained on the DASH and the local pathways into support<sup>1</sup>.

Training on the ACPO DASH will continue throughout the duration (ends in March 2018 but has option of being extended for up to two years) of the High risk contract with Action, which includes the training requirements too and the DASH risk assessor role will also continue to be available in the Medium and Standard Risk contract until September 2018 (again with the option of being extended for two years).

It is acknowledged there is some overlap between the two offers, and as both contracts are provided by the same provider work is underway to ensure organisations are clear about the distinct offer from each.

**Action – A review of the effectiveness of the DASH risk assessor role and the training programmes on assessment and the pathways should be undertaken prior to the next commissioning round to ensure there is no overlap or duplication of the role or training offer. The offer needs to be streamlined and effective at getting the message across.**

### **Current service provision in Sheffield**

There are a range of services available in Sheffield for victims of domestic abuse. Service provision includes: IDVA, one to one support, structured group programmes, group support, refuge provision, floating support, a helpline for domestic abuse, training for professionals and a number of voluntary sector services that are not commissioned by the local authority, but by other grants e.g. National Lottery.

These services together provide support to victims experiencing abuse in all three risk areas; Standard, Medium and High risk, although the level of risk often determines the type of support available. The table below shows a summary of the service provision, the name of the provider, the commissioner, and who the service is available to.

---

<sup>1</sup> The 530 is the total who attended the either session on 'DA , Signs, Indicators and Referral Pathways' and 'DASH/MARAC/Safety planning and referral pathways'



## A full list of service provision in Sheffield

Service Provision in Sheffield						
Service	Provider/s	Commissioner	Risk	Available to males?	Available to 16 to 17 year olds?	Available to BME service users?
Independent Domestic Violence Service (IDVA)	Action	SCC - DACT	High	Yes	Yes	Yes
MARAC	Partnership		High	Yes	Yes	Yes
Structured group work programme for victims	Action	SCC - DACT	All	Yes	Yes	Yes
One to one support for medium and standard victims	Action	SCC - DACT	Medium	Yes	No	Yes
Citywide DA helpline for victims, professionals and the public	Action	SCC - DACT	Medium	Yes	Yes	Yes
Refuges	SARAS	SCC - HIS	All	No	Yes	Yes
Supported Accommodation	Various temporary accommodation providers in Sheffield	SCC - HIS	All	Yes	Yes	Yes
Floating Support	Shelter	SCC - HIS	All	Yes	No	Yes
Sanctuary Scheme	SCC	SCC - HIS	All	Yes	Yes	Yes
Specialist Domestic Abuse Violence Court (SDVC)			All	Yes	Yes	Yes
Victim support for those involved in the Criminal Justice System	Action & Victim Support	SCC - DACT	All	Yes	Yes	Yes
Court mandated perpetrator programme	Probation providers	Home Office		Yes	Yes	Yes
Citywide SA helpline	SRASAC (county wide consortium)			Yes	Yes	Yes
Sexual Assault Referral Service (SARC)	Mountain Healthcare	OPCC		Yes	Yes	Yes
Independent Sexual Violence Service (ISVA)	SRASAC (county wide consortium)	OPCC		Yes	Yes	Yes
Therapeutic SA service	SRASAC	Part funded by SCC - DACT		Yes	Yes	Yes
Therapeutic DA services for adult victims - full details in Section 8 - Therapeutic support	IAPT, Community mental health Services and Specialist psychology services provide support to those with a mental health illness.	CCG and SCC		Yes	Yes	Yes
	Sheffield Women's Counselling and Therapy Service provide psychotherapy to victims of DA and SA	CCG		No	Yes	Yes
	VIDA Sheffield, Young Women's Housing project, Ashiana, Roshni	See table below		No	Yes	Yes
	Others who are part of the Mental Health Provider Network	See Section 18		Yes	Yes	Yes
Therapeutic DA services for children and young people - Full details, see part 3 Children and Young People	Support from a number of third sector organisations, Sheffield Futures and Children's Social Care MAST workers			Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Additional service provision in Sheffield</b>	<b>Other providers of support - these services tend to be age, vulnerability, gender and ethnicity specific. Some have funding for part of their services from the Local Authority but the majority of these services are funded through other funding streams and grants</b>					
Together Womens Project	Keyworking support to vulnerable women, often victims of domestic and sexual abuse					
SWOPP	Work with sex workers, which includes victims of domestic and sexual abuse					
EVA Therapy Service and Women's group	Therapeutic support to female victims of domestic abuse and peer group support					
Young Women's Housing Project	Housing solution and support for young women who are homeless (up to 25 years) and who often a victim of domestic and or sexual abuse					
Haven House	Young people support for children living in a refuge and CandyP - one to one support for young people affected by DA					
HomeStart	Parenting support and often in contact with victims of domestic and sexual abuse.					
Ashiana	Nationwide trafficking hub and provider of DA support to BME victims of DA and SA					
Roshni	BME community based project, in contact with victims of DA and SA					
Sheffield Futures	one to one and group support for young people affected by domestic abuse					
ChilyPep	Works with children and young people (up to 25 years) to deal with fun and creative ways of involving them in the decisions that affect their lives.					



The needs assessment questionnaire responses (see Appendix 9 for a blank copy) provide further details of the support offer and support provided to victims. The details below are based on the questionnaires completed and returned.

Service interventions include (in their own words):-

- **Action:** commissioned by SCC to provide the High Risk IDVA support – see Section 15 for full details on high risk provision. Providing risk assessment, representation at MARAC, safety planning, safeguarding referrals, one to one work, information sharing to mitigate risk, onward referrals, support to access civil remedies and multiagency working for all genders.
- **Action:** commissioned by SCC to provide the medium & standard risk support – see Section 16 for full details. Providing the helpline, average of 16 weeks of one to one support work with a focus on safety with all genders, Power to Change structured support groups, semi structured support group for peers, male group sessions and training for workers supporting male victims.
- **SARAS**, the provider of the Sheffield refuges provided accommodation support, see Section 17 for more details on refuge provision and commissioning in Sheffield.
- **VIDA Sheffield:** provide the Eva Women’s support group (craft activities, peer support, information practical support) and EVA therapy service, up to 20 cognitive behavioural psychotherapy sessions integrative counselling or Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR). Support was provided to 76 victims in 2015/16 and there were 168 referrals. Both were of a higher volume than in the previous financial year.
- **Ashiana:** who are a BAMER service providing a variety of support including holistic emotional and practical support, counselling / crisis counselling, support in police investigations and court proceedings, support victims to access housing support, social services, legal services, health services, welfare advice, access to English as a second language (ESOL) courses, asylum and immigration support, hold groups/courses on personal development, provide awareness raising and early interventions with victims and develop employment skills. Support was provided to 349 victims in 2015/16, and the service had 358 referrals, both were of a higher volume than in the previous financial year.
- **Roshni:** who are a BAMER service (not domestic abuse specific) providing advocacy, emotional support, counselling, signposting for legal and immigration issues, social activities / groups and personal development. Support was provided to 36 abuse victims in 2015/16, and the number of referrals was 22.
- **Action:** Domestic Abuse Floating support service which supported 104 new households in 2015/16.<sup>2</sup> See Section 18 for more details on Floating Support in Sheffield.
- **Shelter:** supported 51 victims with support around accommodation and provided safety planning, DASH risk assessment, referral to support services, assistance to service users to report incidents to the police and attendance at MARAC where required.
- **YWHP:** provided accommodation, wrap around service and therapeutic support to 48 victims of sexual and domestic abuse aged 16-25.

In 2016 a number of the services (Vida Sheffield, Ashiana, Haven House, YWHP and Chilypep), known as the Recovery & Empowerment Partnership collaborated to ensure ongoing investment into their domestic and sexual abuse support services in Sheffield. The Big Lottery Fund; Women & Girls Initiative will provide four years of funding totally £750,000. The money will be used to help *‘provide additional and ongoing therapeutic services to women and girls from different backgrounds to build resilience to future harm’*<sup>3</sup>.

The service information reveals a network of support, with the wider support services referring and/or sign posting into the commissioned support services and vice versa.

<sup>2</sup> This service has now been incorporated into the homelessness floating support service which includes a specific service strand in relation to people affected by domestic abuse provided by Shelter.

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.vidasheffield.org.uk/>



The table and details from the questionnaire goes some way to addressing the need to map full service provision as per the recently produced VAWG Toolkit (December 2016)<sup>4</sup> and recommendation 1 in the PH50 NICE Guidance<sup>5</sup>. It raises awareness of the current provision and highlights gaps in service provision<sup>6</sup> (e.g. for perpetrators); however there is a need to ensure the mapping information is reviewed following the needs assessment as per the commissioning best practice guide.

More details on services can be found on the 'get help' section of the DACT website <http://sheffielddact.org.uk/domestic-abuse/get-help/>. Services are asked to keep their details on the website up to date and any changes can be emailed to [dact@sheffield.gov.uk](mailto:dact@sheffield.gov.uk).

**Action – Complete a thorough mapping exercise of domestic and sexual abuse service provision in Sheffield following the guidance in the VAWG commissioning toolkit and ensure all service provision details are current on the website.**

## Volume of victims accessing domestic abuse support in Sheffield

Providing a figure for the total number accessing specialist domestic abuse support in Sheffield in 2015/16 is complicated, because not all services use the same dataset, not all services are domestic abuse specific and victims may be accessing a number of support services (commissioned services all use the minimum dataset for victims but this is not used by all wider support services – although it can or has been made available to them).

- In 2015/16 the high and medium risk service received upward of 5,833 referrals/ individual contacts and then together engaged with **3,865 service users** (referred to MARAC, engaged in the services, safety advice offered, information given and police triage referrals that take up offer of support).
- The questionnaire responses from the wider support services identified **a total of 795<sup>7</sup> victims of domestic abuse** on their caseloads. These individuals may also have been accessing the high and medium and standard risk service, therefore it cannot be added to the 3,865, and this is not the total number accessing wider support because not all services in receipt of the questionnaire responded.
- A questionnaire completed by General Practitioners at a PLI event in May 2016 asked what number of patients had been identified as being a victim of domestic abuse in the last two weeks. Over 97 of the 117 GPs who responded said they had seen at least one domestic abuse victim in the last two weeks (range was between 1 and 10 patients). If each of the 97 GPs sees at least one patient every two weeks, then around 2,500 patients may present to the 97 GPs per annum<sup>8</sup>.

**Using the data available it is therefore estimated that over 4,000 victims of domestic abuse (around 20% of the estimated 21,000 prevalence explored in Section 3) were receiving some form of domestic abuse support in Sheffield during 2015/16 across a wide number of support organisations, with at least 75% of these victims accessing support in the commissioned high and medium/standard risk services.**

- **Full high risk service data and (including outcomes data) is found in Section 15.**

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/576238/VAWG\\_Commissioning\\_Toolkit.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/576238/VAWG_Commissioning_Toolkit.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ph50/chapter/1-Recommendations>

<sup>6</sup> See Section 15 for full details of therapeutic support and the recommendations to meet need.

<sup>7</sup> SARAS, VIDA, YWHP, Roundabout, Shelter, Ashiana and Roshni – Total on the caseload during 2015/16 who were a victim of domestic abuse. Data is taken from the domestic and sexual abuse questionnaire for the needs assessment.

<sup>8</sup> Note – The estimate is based on a proportion of GPs in Sheffield (around a quarter) and assumes that over a period of one year the GP would see on average one new domestic abuse victim per annum which will not be the case and we know some GPs saw more than one victim in the previous two weeks.



- **Full medium and standard risk service data (including outcomes data) is found in Section 16.**

### **Total Capacity and the Effectiveness of all domestic abuse support in Sheffield**

The total capacity of wider support provision is relatively unknown in Sheffield. The data in this section provides insight into their activity and the volume of referrals. In addition the effectiveness of the service delivery is unknown citywide, as service user outcomes were not enquired about in the questionnaire. So while we know this for the high and medium and standard risk and refuge services, outcomes and effectiveness are unknown for the wider support services.

Wider services are funded by combinations of local grants and national funding streams which are independent of local commissioning therefore there is a need to better understand the support capacity and type that is provided across the city by all domestic and sexual abuse support services. In response to this need, it is intended to seek agreement to introduce a new recording tool will be introduced to complete this exercise during 2016/17. It will be reviewed and signed off by the Provider Consultation Group (PCG), which is the group these services are involved in. The tool will go some way increasing local knowledge, if implemented by all providers, on total citywide engagement and outcomes in both commissioned and wider support services.

**Action – Introduce a bespoke high level minimum dataset for all specialist services (including therapeutic) supporting victims of domestic and sexual abuse to ensure all activity in Sheffield with victims is recorded routinely, using the same method to better understand the wider capacity, support offer and numbers supported by all specialist services in Sheffield.**

### **Network of Communication**

The wider support services are all part of the Provider Consultation Group, chaired by the Domestic and Sexual Abuse Commissioner. This is a forum to consult, inform and work together. Opportunities to invest in the current commissioned support and the wider support services are likely to continue as the VAWG strategy is acted upon and funding opportunities are opened. Providers of services supporting victims but who are not commissioned by SCC have been and will continue to be invited to be involved in specific consultations with commissioned providers around funding opportunities or new developments in the city as appropriate.