

**DVRIM: Level of risk Moderate Scale 1.**  
**CAF: Level 2 Threshold of need child with additional needs.**

Child/ren & families with additional needs. CAF completed- Single Practitioner targeted support – Child/ren under 7yrs/ or with special needs increases risks. The younger the child/ren the higher the risk to their safety. Consider protective factors.

| Evidence of Domestic Violence  | Y | S |
|--|---|---|
| 1 - 3 minor incidents of physical violence which were short in duration. |   |   |
| Victim did not seek medical treatment.                                   |   |   |
| Intense verbal abuse.  |   |   |

| Risk factors/ Potential vulnerabilities  | Y | S |
|--|---|---|
| Child/ren were not drawn into incidents. |   |   |
| Control by abuser is not intense.        |   |   |

| Protective factors  | Y | S |
|---|---|---|
| Child/mother relationship is nurturing, protective and stable.                          |   |   |
| Significant other in child's life - positive and nurturing relationship.                |   |   |
| Presence of child/ren was a restraint for the abuser.                                   |   |   |
| Abuser accepts responsibility for abuse and violence.                                   |   |   |
| Abuser indicates genuine remorse and is willing to seek support for abusive behaviour.  |   |   |
| Victim has positive support from family/ friends & community.                           |   |   |
| Victim appears emotionally strong (not worn-down by the abuse).                         |   |   |
| Victim sought appropriate support and/or is willing to accept help from other agencies. |   |   |

**BME (Black, Minority, Ethnic) Issues: Across all scales**

- Ask yourself the following questions: If this parent...
- 1 Cannot speak, read or write English
  - 2 Fears that the 'State' is authoritarian
  - 3 Lacks strong social networks
  - 4 Lives in temporary housing
  - 5 Is living below the poverty line
  - 6 Has a child who is of a different appearance and culture to them
  - 7 Is living in a close-knit community in London
  - 8 Has a perspective on parenting practices underpinned by culture or faith which are not in line with UK law & cultural norms
  - 9 Recognises his/her faith or community leader as all powerful
  - 10 Puts a very high value on preserving family honour and, if this young person...
  - 11 Is compromised in relation to his/her community
  - 12 Has strong allegiance to a group or gang

If you need further information, please refer to the BME checklist, downloadable from the LSCB website.



[www.barnardos.org.uk](http://www.barnardos.org.uk)

**DVRIM: Level of risk Moderate to Serious Scale 2. CAF: Level 2 Threshold of need child with additional needs.**

Child/ren & families with additional needs. CAF completed –Lead professional-integrated support Child/ren under 7yrs/or with special needs - at higher risk of emotional/ physical harm – limited self-protection strategies -can raise threshold to Scale 3. Consider protective factors.

| Evidence of Domestic Violence   | Y | S |
|---|---|---|
| History of minor/moderate incidents of physical violence-short duration.  |   |   |
| Victim received minor injuries - medical attention not sought.  |   |   |
| Evidence of intimidation/bullying behaviour - pushing/ finger poking/ shoving/ to victim but not towards child/ren - Destruction of property. |   |   |
| Intense verbal abuse-consistent use of derogatory language.   |   |   |
| Risk of isolation - Abuser attempts to control victims' activities, movements & contact with others.  |   |   |

| Risk factors/Potential vulnerabilities  | Y | S |
|---|---|---|
| Child/ren were present in the home during an incident but did not directly witness.         |   |   |
| Potential likelihood of emotional abuse of children.  |   |   |
| <b>BME (Black, Minority, Ethnic) Issues:</b> See Blue Box.                                  |   |   |
| Disability issues within family - positive support networks.                                |   |   |
| Mental health issues - not prolonged or serious. Abuser or victim seeking appropriate help. |   |   |
| Age of abuser and/or Victim - both have supportive resources and are not isolated.          |   |   |

| Protective factors   | Y | S |
|--|---|---|
| Child/mother relationship is nurturing, protective & stable.                           |   |   |
| In spite of abuse, victim was not prevented from seeing to the needs of her child/ren. |   |   |
| Significant other in child's life - positive and nurturing relationship.               |   |   |
| Older child/ren use coping/ protective strategies.                                     |   |   |
| Victim attempted to use protective strategies with older child/ren.                    |   |   |
| Victim is prepared to take advice on safety issues.                                    |   |   |
| Victim has insight into the risks to her child/ren posed by the abuse.                 |   |   |
| Victim has positive support from family/friends and community.                         |   |   |
| Abuser willing to engage in services to address his abusive behaviour.                 |   |   |

**Barnardo's Domestic Violence Risk Identification Matrix**  
 Assessing the risks to children from male to female domestic violence.

**DVRIM: Level of risk Serious Scale 3.**  
**CAF: Level 3 Threshold of need child with complex needs.**

Child/ren in Need - Children's Services may consider Section 17 but Safeguarding intervention may be necessary if threshold of significant harm is reached. Professional case planning Child/ren aged under 7yrs/ or child/ren with special needs can raise threshold to scale 4

| Evidence of Domestic Violence   | Y | S |
|---|---|---|
| Incident(s) of serious and/or persistent physical violence in family. Increasing in severity/frequency and/or duration - History of previous assaults.  |   |   |
| Victim and/or children indicate that they are frightened of abuser - put in fear by looks, actions, gestures and destruction of property (emotional & psychological abuse). Recent separation - repeated separation/reconciliation/ongoing couple conflict. |   |   |
| Stalking/harassment of mother/children - Increased risk of isolation.   |   |   |
| Abuse through the use of texting/social networking sites.   |   |   |
| Abuser breaching bail conditions/civil protective orders / non-contact orders.  |   |   |
| Victim required medical treatment but not sought/or explanation for injuries implausible.   |   |   |
| Recurring or frequent requests for police intervention.   |   |   |
| Incident(s) of violence occur in presence of child/ren - consider duration of exposure.   |   |   |
| Threats of harm to mother/and or children.  |   |   |
| Excessive jealousy/possessiveness of abuser - domineering in relationship.  |   |   |
| Financial control maintained by abuser.   |   |   |
| Abuser has history of domestic violence in previous relationships.  |   |   |

| Risk factors/Potential vulnerabilities  | Y | S |
|---|---|---|
| Mental health issues - abuser and/or victim-raises concern.   |   |   |
| Substance abuse by abuser and/or victim-raises concern.   |   |   |
| Abuser's and/or victim's infidelity is a source of conflict/anger   |   |   |
| Strong likelihood of emotional abuse of child/ren - may display behavioural problems.   |   |   |
| Child/ren unable to activate safety strategies due to fear or intense control by abuser.  |   |   |
| Lack of safe significant other as a positive support to child.  |   |   |
| Child contact issues - domestic abuse occurring at contact.   |   |   |
| Older children /Adolescent - increased risk of intervening in abuse and emerging concerns re self harm.   |   |   |
| Abuser suspected of using physical abuse towards child/ren.   |   |   |
| Abuser shows lack of insight/empathy into how his behaviour affects children/victim.  |   |   |
| Abuser's minimisation of abuse-lack of remorse/guilt.   |   |   |
| Abuser is Boyfriend/Father figure. Family unit has step-siblings.   |   |   |
| Abuser's abuse of pets/animals/used to intimidate.  |   |   |
| Emerging concerns about emotional stability of abuser's relationship with child/ren/ limited parenting capacity & lack of protective abilities. |   |   |
| Emerging concerns about emotional stability of child/mother relationship (parenting capacity and protective concerns).                          |   |   |
| Emerging concerns of neglect of child/ren's emotional and physical needs-missed health appointments/poor living conditions.                     |   |   |
| Abuser's use of avoidance/resistance to engage in services increases risk level to children.  |   |   |
| Victim fears statutory services - avoidance & resistance to engage increases risk to children.  |   |   |
| Family/Relatives/neighbours reports concerns re victim/children.  |   |   |
| Victim has experienced domestic violence in previous relationships.   |   |   |
| <b>BME (Black, Minority, Ethnic) Issues:</b> See Blue Box.  |   |   |
| Adult learning difficulties-abuser and/or victim-raises concern.  |   |   |
| Disability issues within family - isolation.  |   |   |
| Age disparities of Abuser/Victim - under 25 with limited support with personal vulnerabilities.   |   |   |
| History of childhood abuse/disruptive childhood experiences - abuser and/or victim.   |   |   |
| Collusion issues present in extended families/friends - not supportive for victim/children.   |   |   |
| Recent life crises/stress factors - i.e unemployment, financial problems, illness, death.   |   |   |

| Protective factors  | Y | S |
|---|---|---|
| Older child/ren use protective strategies.  |   |   |
| Victim will seek positive support from significant other.   |   |   |
| Victim - attempts to use protective strategies but abuser's violence & control is intense.  |   |   |
| Victim will engage with supportive services and seek safety advice - be alert to abuser's control interfering with her level of commitment to engage.                                     |   |   |
| Limited protective factors are present - serious level of violence and psychological abuse of victim, emotional abuse of child/ren and Domestic Violence risk factors predict recidivism. |   |   |
| Use of kinship placements as a protective factor - be alert to domestic violence having occurred or occurring in extended families.   |   |   |

**DVRIM: Level of risk Severe Scale 4.**  
**CAF: Level 4 Threshold of need child with acute needs - at risk of being a 'looked after' child.**

Child in need of Protection – Children's Services consider if Section 47 enquiry and core assessment intervention are required. Child/ren may be at risk of being 'looked after'.

| Evidence of Domestic Violence  | Y | S |
|--|---|---|
| Repeated serious and/or severe physical violence - life threatening violence. Attention to the frequency, duration and severity of violent behaviour children exposed to.  |   |   |
| Use/assault with weapons.  |   |   |
| Abuser's violation of protective and/or child contact orders.  |   |   |
| Criminal history of abuser, gangland connections, generalised aggression, history of anti-social behaviour, aggression towards previous partners/family members, military service/ training.   |   |   |
| Intense stalking/harassment behaviour of abuser - Increased risk of isolation.   |   |   |
| Recurring or frequent requests for police intervention.  |   |   |
| Victim requires treatment for injuries sustained - Medical attention required but not sought or injuries explanation is implausible.   |   |   |
| Threats to kill or seriously injure victim and/or children.  |   |   |
| Victim is very frightened of abuser - believes intent of threats - Retaliatory violence a concern.   |   |   |
| Victim is intensively controlled/may present as submissive - worn down by abuse.   |   |   |
| Victim is pregnant/victim is abused in post natal period/recently separated with new baby raises risk level.   |   |   |
| Confirmed emotional/psychological/abuse of mother.   |   |   |
| Sexual assault/suspected sexual abuse of victim.   |   |   |
| Incidents of violence witnessed & occurred in presence of children - distressed/aftermath of incident. Child/ren have directly intervened in incidences.   |   |   |
| Child/ren summon help/discloses-immediate heightened risk to this child of being 'punished' / adverse reaction from abuser and /or mother-assess adult's reaction to child's disclosure.Child/ren may disclose another form of abuse to draw attention to the situation. |   |   |
| Child/ren have been physically assaulted/abused.   |   |   |
| Confirmed emotional abuse of child/ren.  |   |   |
| Suspected/confirmed sexual abuse of child/ren.   |   |   |
| Abuser is a perpetrator of child abuse but may not have been prosecuted. Known to MAPPA.   |   |   |
| Victim has been identified by DASH-MARAC process as high risk.   |   |   |

| Risk factors/Potential vulnerabilities   | Y | S |
|--|---|---|
| Mental health issues - abuser and/or victim - raises significant concern.  |   |   |
| Substance abuse by abuser and/or victim - raises significant concern.  |   |   |
| Abuser's and/or victim's infidelity is a source of conflict/anger -Victim's infidelity gives rise to risk of severe reactive violent response from abusive partner-extreme jealousy/ possessiveness. |   |   |
| Concerns of neglect of child/ren's emotional and physical needs/poor living conditions.  |   |   |
| Substantial risk of repeated serious domestic violence.  |   |   |
| Threats or attempts to abduct children.  |   |   |
| Children exhibit sexualised behaviour and/or sexually harmful behaviour.   |   |   |
| Adolescent - increased risk of intervening in abuse and self harm-emerging concerns re mental health issues.   |   |   |
| Child/ren in family has previous care history.   |   |   |
| Physical abuse of child/ren by abuser and/or victim.   |   |   |
| Victim uses physical abuse on children as an alternative to harsher physical abuse by abuser.  |   |   |
| Recent suicidal or homicidal ideation/intent by abuser.  |   |   |
| Victim suicidal/attempted suicide/self harming - especially BME victims.   |   |   |
| Victim minimising risks to children/remains in abusive relationship, protection orders not sought, or activated.   |   |   |
| Victim/child has poor general health.  |   |   |
| Abuser shows lack of empathy/insight into how his abusive behaviour is affecting child/ victim.  |   |   |
| Abuser's minimisation of abuse-lack of remorse/guilt.  |   |   |
| <b>BME (Black, Minority, Ethnic) Issues:</b> See Blue Box  |   |   |
| Age disparities - Abuser and/or victim under 25 with limited support with personal vulnerabilities.  |   |   |
| Collusion issues present in extended families/friends - not supportive for victim and children.  |   |   |
| History of childhood abuse/disruptive childhood experiences abuser and/or victim.  |   |   |
| Abuser uses threatening aggressive behaviour towards professionals.  |   |   |
| Agencies unable to work constructively with family 'Assessment Paralysis'.   |   |   |
| Abuser/victim use of avoidance/resistance to engage - misuse of complaints procedures.   |   |   |

**Protective factors: See Scale 3.**