

Young People in Abusive Relationships - Pathway

Research shows that young people in their own abusive relationships often experience a much higher severity of abuse than adult victims. When we consider that the Government definition of domestic abuse has been extended to include 16 and 17 year olds, it is clear that there is a tremendous unmet need surrounding this vulnerable group and their experiences in relation to domestic abuse and related issues.

In response to this Dudley have identified a specific pathway to ensure that young people in abusive relationships can access the support they require. This pathway should be followed in all cases where domestic abuse is disclosed by a young person

The young person's CAADA (now safe lives) DASH Risk Identification Checklist (RIC) is the national tool used to identify the level of risk in cases of domestic abuse, stalking and 'honour'-based violence.

We would encourage you to use the Young Person's Checklist to record your decisions and professional judgment and as a means of supporting information with any referral made.

The checklist can be accessed at:

<http://www.safelives.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/YP%20RIC%20guidance%20FINAL.pdf>

Risk level definitions (as identified by CAADA)

Standard – 'Current evidence does not indicate likelihood of causing serious harm'

Medium – 'There are identifiable indicators of risk of serious harm. The perpetrator has the potential to cause serious harm but is unlikely to do so unless there is a change in the circumstances. For example; failure to take medication, loss of accommodation, drug or alcohol abuse and release from custody.'

High – 'There are identifiable indicators of risk of serious harm. The potential event could happen at any time and the impact would be serious'.

Relationship abuse towards young people who are under the age of 18 is likely to be a safeguarding issue.

Where you are concerned about the immediate safety of a child your settings normal safeguarding procedures should be followed.

Young People in Abusive Relationships 11 – 18 referral pathway

