

Triage guidance

Domestic abuse or parental conflict

Healthy Relationships

Respectful, equal, and co-operative

If:

- Parents can control their emotions when in conflict for the well-being of their children.
- Children's needs are being met without the need for support.

Then:

- No actions are needed.
- Family can access [Calderdale Family Services Directory](#).
- Start for Life Family Journey-Early Intervention Offer.

Mostly respectful and co-operative but having trouble

If:

- Lack of open and honest communication. Difficulties are minimised or not addressed by the parents.
- Children beginning to show signs of the impact of inter-parental conflict.

Then:

- Signpost to [Relationship Matters](#) and the [Early Help service](#).

Relationship in Distress

Arguments are more frequent and not resolved properly

If:

- One or both parents not being consistently emotionally available to their children.
- The conflict may involve criticism or failure to communicate. Parents may still be positive about the relationship and hope for it to improve.
- Children are more negatively adversely and may show signs of distress and their mental health/behaviour may be affected.

Then:

- Use the Relationships Matters toolkit to talk through issues and offer support to get the relationship back on track. Signpost to the Relationship Matters website [Relationship Matters website](#)

- If parents agree, consider a referral to the [Early Help Pathway](#).

Parents unable to break the cycle of negative behaviours without support

If:

- Parents are unable to break the cycle of these negative behaviours without support. They may struggle to see the situation improving. It is possible that behaviours may happen more often and escalate into abuse.
- Children are negatively affected and may show signs of distress and their mental health/behaviour may change.

Then:

- Consider a referral to Family Transitions via [Early Help service](#) if parents agree.
- A Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Harassment (**DASH**) risk assessment will help to make sense of whether this is becoming abusive.
- Consider referral to the Staying Safe service dvteam@womenscentre.org.uk

Domestic Abuse

There are signs of controlling and abusive behaviour

If:

- There may be a clear victim and abuser and the person experiencing the abuse has feelings of fear and powerlessness.
- The victim and abuser themselves may not be clear about what is happening in the relationship until further discussion and investigation by a professional takes place.
- Children very adversely affected and show signs of mental health and behavioural issues.

Then:

- When domestic abuse is taking place follow your service's Safeguarding procedures by agreeing with your manager on the next steps to take. These can include completing a DASH risk assessment and referral onto to Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (**MARAC**) if required.
- Encourage an Early Help Assessment to obtain support.
- Referral to Calderdale Staying Safe service.

There is a clear abuser and victim who is at significant risk of harm

If:

- There is coercive control, physical harm and risk of death.
- Children at significant risk of harm and experiencing trauma.

Then:

- **Phone 999 if there is an immediate risk.**
- When domestic abuse is taking place follow your service's Safeguarding procedures by agreeing with your manager on the next steps to take. These can include completing a DASH risk assessment and referral onto to MARAC if required.
- Encourage an Early Help Assessment via [Early Help service](#) to obtain support.
- Referral to the Calderdale Staying Safe service.
dvteam@womenscentre.org.uk