

## 1. Context setting – the audit

The Local Domestic Abuse Partnership Board and Domestic Abuse Group carried out a multi-agency case file audit which focused on repeat referrals into Children's Social Care.

Two cases were audited and thirteen agencies were represented.

## 2. Context setting – family one

This was a family including 4 children who were open to Children Social Care due to risks of domestic abuse towards the Mother from the Father (previously) and a known male recently.

The is Mother an adult with complex needs and has experienced repeat incidents of domestic abuse.

## 3. Context setting – family two

This was a family including 3 children (1 unborn), who were open to Children Social Care due to risks domestic abuse towards the Mother from the Fathers and multiple known males.

The Mother is an adult with complex needs, she has been living in a refuge due to recent incidents of domestic abuse.

## 8. Did I or didn't I?

Make sure that risk information is shared with **all** involved agencies so that they are aware of any changes and can make sure people are safe and crimes are prevented and detected.



## 4. Domestic Abuse Act 2021

The Act places a duty on local authorities to provide safe accommodation to victims of domestic abuse and gives “priority need” to those who are homeless as a result of experiencing domestic abuse.

Ensure practitioners are aware of the above duty.

## 7. Be trauma informed

When working with individuals that have experienced harm they may exhibit some challenging behaviour. This maybe a trauma response.

Being trauma informed will help you to support them. Resources are available here that may help you [What is Trauma?](#)

## 6. DASH-RIC

The Domestic Abuse Stalking Harassment Risk Indicator Checklist should be completed in all domestic abuse situations not just when referring cases to for Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences.

Guidance can be found [Safelives DASH-RIC](#)

## 5. Domestic abuse pathway

As soon as practitioners have concerns that an individual is at risk of domestic abuse then they should implement the Domestic Abuse Pathway

[Domestic Abuse Pathway](#)

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## 9. Judgement and bias

Professional judgements and unconscious bias influence the services and responses individuals receive.

It maybe impacting how practitioners are working with and talking about individuals. Practitioners should use supervision to reflect on their practice and seek support.

## 10. Is it or isn't it?

Where someone declines support, but a risk to them remains, practitioners should consult with other agencies and review what risk management actions may still need to be taken; even if they are not going to remain involved with the service.

Refer to the [Adults working with risk document](#) and [Childrens threshold document](#).

## 11. Working with risk guidance

Ensure that all staff working with adults are aware of and working to the [Working with risk guidance](#).

## 16. Good practice example 2

This audit highlighted the good practice of:

Relationship-based practice which enabled the voice and lived experience of the Mother, Grandmother and Children to be heard and responded to.



## 12. Mental capacity and alcohol

When assessing mental capacity and there is evidence that the individual is a dependant drinker; consider: [Alcohol Change UK \(2021\): How to use legal powers to safeguarding highly vulnerable dependant drinkers in England and Wales](#)

## 15. Good practice example 1

This audit highlighted the good practice of:

Multi-agency information sharing; particularly in relation to the protection of children.

## 14. Supervision

Support practitioners to recognise and acknowledge any unconscious bias and how this may impacting their response to individuals they are working with.

Provide learning opportunities which explore trauma informed approaches to working with complex individuals.

## 13. Mental capacity and coercion

When assessing mental capacity and there is evidence that the individual is the subject of coercive or controlling behaviour; consider: [RiPFA Guidance \(2016\): Mental Capacity and Coercion](#)

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