

ADVANCE Charity

Sania Sehbai- Advance Charity

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Learnings

- Understanding and Identifying risk factors of domestic violence and abuse (DVA), needs and support
- Assessing immediate concerns and risk in your professional capacity.
- ASK: How to help safely enable disclosures –How to ask
- RESPOND: improving responses to DVA disclosures and validating the victim/survivors experiences-
- REFER: Local DVA services

Case Study - Rachel

- What risk factors can you identify?
- What support needs can you identify?
- What support and safety planning would you offer/consider?

Assessing risk in your professional capacity.

S P E C S S



This tool can acts as a reminder of immediate risk factors signalling very high risk other than the obvious physical violence/threats to kill.

How to help safely enable disclosures –What to ask

Ask (only if determined safe to do so)

- Are you having any problems with your husband/partner/anyone at home? Has someone hurt you?
- Are there things that happen at home that scare you? Are you afraid of anyone at home?
- Do you ever feel criticised and put down by those close to you?
- Does your partner/family member stop you from going out/contacting family & friends/ taking medication?
- Does anyone try to control you or what you do?
- Do you ever feel criticised and put down by those close to you?

Safety tip!: Don't ask the woman unless she is alone. If she has a child over 2 with her it is not safe to ask

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Safety tip:: Check if interpreter is required (use independent one), any disabilities or vulnerabilities that may hinder accessibility

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Safety tip: Do not assume the gender of the partner when enquiring. This could alienate those in same sex relationships.

Safety tip:: If English isn't her first language, ensure you use an appropriate interpreter. Also, any disabilities.

Safety tip:: Check who is at home, observe if anyone enters, background noises and persons tone of voice.



Assessing immediate risk

Is it safe to stay at home?

What are you afraid might happen?

What has the abuser threatened?

What about threats to the children?

Validating the victim/survivors experiences- what you can say

- I believe you
- It's not your fault
- Support is available
- Thank you for telling me
- Everyone has the right to be safe at home

Unhelpful responses to DVA disclosures

Probing for further details
Suggesting you can speak with the perpetrator.

Suggesting they consider leaving.
Referring for couple's counselling.

Suggesting you can talk to the family
and/or perpetrator

Questioning the disclosure
Suggesting anger management.

Acting as mediator.

Ignoring/dismissing a disclosure

Information on Local DVA services

Brent Advance duty line: 07398 454 898

Brent Advance duty email:

Brent.admin@advancecharity.org.uk

MARAC: Brent.Marac@advancecharity.org.uk