

**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: See Blue Box.</b>		
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: See Blue Box.</b>		
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: See Blue Box</b>		
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.**