



Risk Identification Assessments and Need Assessments for Care Planning

**The Domestic Violence Intervention
Project
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For Perpetrators

When to refer

Where the children are already on the Child Protection Register or where registration is under consideration, you can ask for an assessment of the perpetrator's risk to be undertaken by DVIP. Social workers will consider referral for cases where the ending of the domestic violence would result in an increase in safety and possible deregistration of the children.

DVIP currently offer 2 types of Risk Identification (Risk ID) Reports:

- **Standard Risk ID**
- **Summary Risk ID**

How to determine the most appropriate Risk ID format for your case

Standard Risk ID

This assessment will require between 4 and 6 hours interview time with the alleged perpetrator and between 2 and 6 hours with the other parent. We will also consider all relevant documentation as well as input from a range of persons, especially professionals involved closely with the children.

This assessment report addresses:

1. All areas relating to risk including: the history of domestic violence, other violence, alcohol and drug use, the exposure and impact on the children and their wishes, and levels of denial and attitudes towards the abuse. From this, static and dynamic risk indicators will be taken into account in order to outline the main hazards in the case.

2. The impact of the abuse on the victim, and the potential effects of this upon their ability to parent safely and appropriately. Where the victim has chosen not to engage with the assessment, the report will use research-based evidence and knowledge of domestic violence to outline the likely impact of the violence and abuse upon the victim.
3. The nature of the children's attachments will be considered along with the impact of the alleged domestic violence on them.
4. The perpetrator's motivation to change their harmful behaviour and their suitability for participation in a Perpetrator Programme.

Where all or most of the above factors will be useful to you as the referring Social Worker in supporting care planning decisions, you should request this format of report.

Summary Risk ID

In some cases, you may not need all of the above information and may primarily require an overview of the risks in relation to domestic violence and the perpetrator's motivation and suitability for the Perpetrator Programme.

The Summary Risk ID assessment will require between 4 – 6 hours interview time with the alleged perpetrator only, and will rely on other information provided by the Social Worker. The other parent (victim) will NOT be invited for interview in these cases.

This assessment report addresses:

1. The nature and extent of the violent and abusive behaviour and how it is likely to have impacted upon the partner and children; a summary of the risk factors,

- likelihood and severity of future harm with or without treatment intervention.
2. The perpetrator's motivation to take responsibility for the domestic violence and suitability to attend the Perpetrator Programme or 1-2-1 Perpetrator intervention.

We consider the Summary format is an appropriate option only when:

- There is a reasonable level of engagement and openness about the violence by the alleged perpetrator with Social Services.
- You have a comprehensive understanding of the history of domestic violence within the family and its impact upon each family member.
- You have ascertained from the other parent (victim) their experience of the violence so that the perpetrator's account is not given undue weight.

We will discuss with you at referral stage the report format that is likely to be the best to meet your care planning needs, in order to ensure the most efficient and effective use of both your and our resources.

Please note that once we have sent you the Summary Report, we will NOT be in a position to answer further queries regarding the case. If you require further information, we would ask that you "upgrade" to a Standard Risk ID and the additional information can then be gathered.

Both formats of Risk Identification Report are only suitable where cases are not in Care Proceedings. The report is not exhaustive since it is not required to be fully

Court-compliant. If either parent participates in treatment or support with DVIP, we will provide further reports to you regarding this, including any changes in risk or vulnerability. These can be requested for Case Conferences as they arise.

For Victims

When to refer

Where a mother whose children are **At Risk or In Need**, is considered to be vulnerable as a result of her experience of domestic violence, but the case is unlikely to reach Court level, she can be referred for an assessment of her needs in relation to parenting and vulnerability. Social workers will consider referral of cases where identification of, and appropriate response to, the woman's needs would result in an increase in safety and possible deregistration of the children.

Needs Assessment

The assessment will require between 4 and 6 hours interview time with the woman. We will also consider all relevant documentation as well as input from a range of persons, especially professionals involved closely with the children.

The assessment report addresses:

1. The strengths and resilience of the woman, both as an individual and as a mother, in relation to her experiences of domestic violence and its effects.
2. Past and present experiences of abuse in both childhood and adulthood.

3. The support needs of the woman in relation to:
 - Safety Planning
 - Parenting support
 - Mental health
 - Emotional health
 - Disability
 - Social networks of support
 - Substance misuse
 - Education / employment
 - Any other relevant needs
4. Recommendations as to how the support needs might be met. This includes an assessment of suitability of the woman for DVIP's Women's Support Programme as a means of addressing all or some of the identified needs.

The Needs Assessment is NOT intended to highlight deficits in a mother's parenting which might then be used within the Family Court. Any case where Court proceedings are likely or already in progress should be referred for a Vulnerability Assessment.