

Standard Operating Procedure 4 (SOP 4)

Domestic Abuse Response Team (DART)

Why we have a procedure?

The aim of the DART is to highlight information about domestic abuse incidents that involve children/ families across multiple agencies. The sharing of information aims to improve the assessment of children subject to domestic abuse, and request that targeted support is offered to those children living in households where domestic abuse is a feature. The DART process will expect that early interventions will aim to promote better outcomes for the child and family.

What overarching policy the procedure links to?

Safeguarding Children Policy

Which services of the trust does this apply to? **Where** is it in operation?

Group	Inpatients	Community	Locations
Mental Health Services	x	✓	all
Learning Disabilities Services	x	✓	all
Children and Young People Services	x	✓	all

Who does the procedure apply to?

This SOP applies to:

- Health Visitors (HV)
- Family Nurses (FN)
- Allied Health Practitioners including Paediatric Physiotherapists, Paediatric Occupational Therapists and Speech and Language Therapists
- Community Children's Nursing staff working for the Trust in Dudley
- This SOP also extends to School Nurses (SN) working for Shropshire Community Trust

When should the procedure be applied?

This procedure should be applied when the Health Practitioner receives a request for information from the Child's Health Record. Feedback from the DART meeting after the screening will be fed back to Health Practitioners via the DART Notification Form with recommendations for further action if necessary. The DART Notification form will be filed in the Child Health Record.

How to carry out this procedure

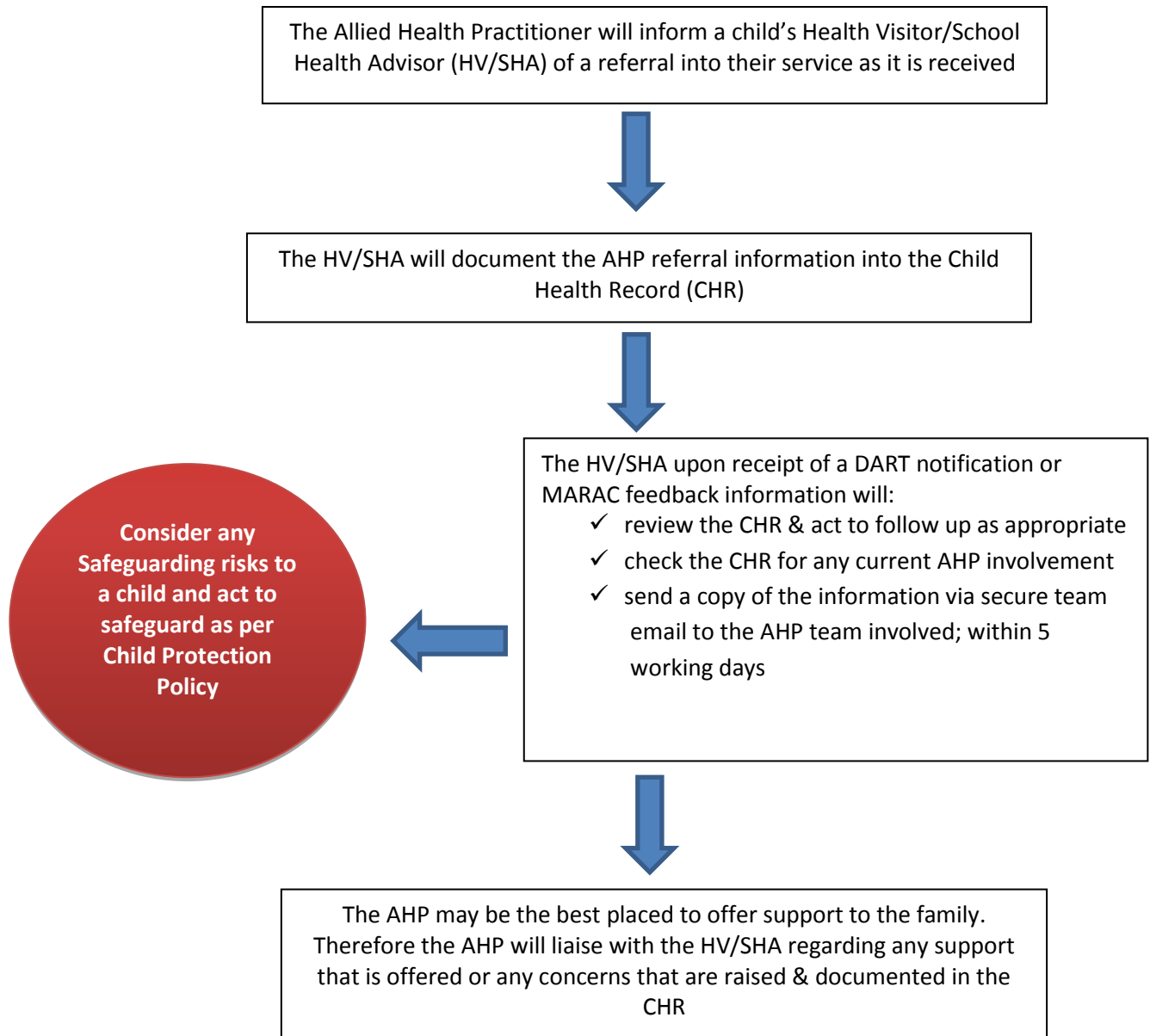
DART Meeting

- Multiple agencies are represented at daily DART meetings to screen risk to children; for e.g. Police, Health, Education, Children's Social Care (CSC), Independent Domestic Violence Advisor, Housing and Early Help
- When a call is made to police involving domestic abuse where children are known, the police compile an agenda of cases which is sent to the agencies who are present at the DART meeting for screening
- Each agency is expected to access their systems and search for any relevant information about the family/child that may suggest any safeguarding risk to the child
- The incident along with information shared by the multi agencies will be discussed and graded Level 1 to 4 based on the [Barnardos Multi Agency Domestic Violence Risk Identification Threshold Scales \(BST 2007\)](#). This assesses the risk for the child/ children/ unborn
- Each agency will have its own processes in place for ensuring that any recommendations are carried out

Following receipt of the DART Notification Form the HV/ FN/ SN will:

- Review the Child's Health Record for any relevant information or identified risks and inform the Safeguarding Team in preparation for the DART
- Receive feedback from the DART meeting and any outcomes that are agreed will be documented on the DART Notification Form and returned to the health practitioner to action/follow up
- Refer to the 'Criteria for Actioning Domestic Abuse Notifications'
- Ensure that the child's voice is documented in the Child Health Record
- Share with relevant information received from the DART meeting with other Trust practitioners e.g. AHP's that are involved with the family (see flowchart below)
- Allied Health Professionals/ Community Staff upon receipt of DART information from HV/ FN/ SN will review any records they hold and liaise, seek support and action to safeguard as required
- Practitioners should ensure that they consider the risk to themselves and seek advice/ support from their line manager, team leaders and the safeguarding children team as appropriate

Dudley DART Information Sharing Process between HV/SHA & Allied Health Practitioners (AHP's)



Please ensure that secure team emails are accessed daily & Safeguarding information is promptly dealt with as a priority

Safeguarding Children Team

The Safeguarding Children Team will:

- Request information and send DART notification forms to the HV/FN/SN teams as agreed locally
- Forward a copy of the notification to the midwifery service at Dudley group of Hospitals if the victim is known to be pregnant
- Where mental health is a current known feature, the safeguarding children team has discretion to liaise details of the domestic abuse incident to the Child and Adult Mental Health Practitioner (Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Trust)
- Forward all notifications to the victims GP if they reside in Dudley
- Forward Out of Area (OOA) information to the relevant local Safeguarding Children Team to disseminate to their local health practitioners as per their local processes/agreements

Follow up of DART Actions

The following principles underpin Health Practitioners follow up of DART actions:

- Ensure the safety of the person being asked (and any dependent children they have)
- Ensure privacy – the person is unlikely to engage with you if others are within earshot
- Show the person you are relaxed and ready to listen. If you appear rushed they will not feel safe to discuss, or support follow up action
- Be respectful and listen carefully to what you are being told, and be sure the victim has understood what you have said
- Seek to empower victims, not to make decisions for them
- Remain non-judgmental – never imply the victim is to blame for the abuse
- Consider the use of an interpreter – do not use anyone familiar to the victim
- Respect confidentiality
- If further domestic abuse/ violence is disclosed, validate what the person is saying
- Do not rush or pressure the victim into making any decisions regarding additional support/ signposting but explain the benefits to the family/ child
- Do not take any action that could place you or colleagues at risk of violence
- Keep accurate records as per record keeping policies/ processes
- Refer to Dudley CSC if risk persists
- Ensure care plan and risk assessments are reflective risks and include measures to maintain safety and well being of service user

Appendices

Appendix 1 - DART Notification Form

Appendix 2 - Criteria for Actioning Domestic Abuse Notifications

Appendix 1

Children's Safeguarding Team
 Cross Street Health Centre, Dudley, DY1 1RN
 Telephone: 01384 366210
 Email: sam-ctr.safeguarding-children@nhs.net

Black Country Partnership 
 NHS Foundation Trust

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

Domestic Abuse Response Team Notification (DART)

Date Incident Reported		Police Risk to Victim	
Date of Screening		Agenda Date	
Barnardos Risk Score		Crime Number	

Item No	Childs Name	DOB	NHS No	GP & HV Team	School & SN Team	Victims Name, NHS no. & GP	Offenders Name

PART B Brief feedback from DART screening: *(to include if child present/witnessed)*

Reason for disclosure of Health information at the DART:	
Health Practitioner at DART screening:	
Victims GP in Dudley	For information only. If children are registered – copy to their notes
Health Visitor (HV), Family Nurse (FNP) School Nurse (SN), Midwife (MW)	A copy of the DART notification will be sent to the relevant Health Practitioners involved the family where consent has been obtained.
Out of area Safeguarding Team	Please forward onto your relevant Health Practitioner & victim's GP
Abbreviations: Dudley CSC	Dudley Children's Social Care
SPA/MASH	Single Point of Access into MASH - Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub
EH Team	Early Help Team located in the MASH
IDVA/CHADD	Independent Domestic Violence Advisory services

Appendix 2

Criteria for Actioning Domestic Abuse Notifications

Scale 1

Following the review of the CHR:

- ✓ Where concerns are identified or further action required consider what support/referrals may be necessary e.g.: Early Help, IDVA, Support visits, CSC
- ✓ Share information with all relevant health practitioners within BCPFT e.g.: Allied Health Professionals
- ✓ Document in CHR where there is no further action

Scale 2

Follow same process as Scale 1

- ✓ If an action for health is identified on the DART Notification Form, health practitioner to complete as specified
- ✓ If specified health actions as screened by the DART team are not completed the health practitioner must justify their reasoning in the CHR
- ✓ If additional clarification is required contact the Named Nurse for DA

Scale 3

These cases are either allocated to Children's Social Care (CSC) or require an Early Help Social Work assessment

- ✓ Complete any actions stated for the health practitioner
- ✓ If no specific actions are stated, follow same process as Scale 1 & 2
- ✓ Use professional judgement in relation to contacting the Early Help Team to obtain a full update of the current situation

Scale 4

These cases are where the DART team have assessed the incident and referred to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) for consideration of a S47 investigation /Child Young Person Assessment (CYPA) due to the immediate risk for the child.

- ✓ Follow the same process for Scale 3

All Trust Health Practitioners must review their records and document the information received

Where do I go for further advice or information?

- Immediate Team Leader or Manager
- [Safeguarding Children Team](#)
- Dudley Children's Social Care Single Point of Access (SPA)
- [Dudley – Domestic Violence and Abuse, DSCB - DART Protocol](#)
- [Wolverhampton – Protecting Children in Specific Circumstances](#)
- [Sandwell - Domestic Violence and Abuse](#)
- [Walsall - Domestic Violence and Abuse](#)

Training

Staff may receive training in relation to this procedure, where it is identified in their appraisal as part of the specific development needs for their role and responsibilities. Please refer to the Trust's Mandatory & Risk Management Training Needs Analysis for further details on training requirements, target audiences and update frequencies

Monitoring / Review of this Procedure

In the event of planned change in the process(es) described within this document or an incident involving the described process(es) within the review cycle, this SOP will be reviewed and revised as necessary to maintain its accuracy and effectiveness.

Equality Impact Assessment

Please refer to overarching policy

Data Protection Act and Freedom of Information Act

Please refer to overarching policy

Standard Operating Procedure Details

Unique Identifier for this SOP is	BCPFT-SAFE-SOP-09-4
State if SOP is New or Revised	New
Policy Category	Safeguarding
Executive Director whose portfolio this SOP comes under	Executive Director of Nursing, AHPs and Governance
Policy Lead/Author Job titles only	Dudley Named Nurse
Committee/Group Responsible for Approval of this SOP	Children and Adult Safeguarding Steering Group
Month/year consultation process completed	September 2016
Month/year SOP was approved	October 2016
Next review due	October 2019
Disclosure Status	'B' can be disclosed to patients and the public

Review and Amendment History - to be completed by Corporate Governance

Version	Date	Description of Change
1.0	Oct 2016	New SOP developed to support overarching Safeguarding Children Policy