

**REVISED DASH: RELEASE STATEMENT**

Dear Partners,

The DASH (Domestic Abuse, Stalking, Harassment and Honour-Based Violence) risk assessment tool was developed in 2009 by ACPO (Association of Chief Police Officers) and Laura Richards (international Criminologist and founder of Paladin, National Stalking Advocacy), in conjunction with leading Domestic Abuse Charity SafeLives, to create a common tool for both police and non-police agencies to use when identifying and assessing risk for victims of domestic abuse.

In 2014 a thematic inspection of the police response to domestic abuse by Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) recommended that the College of Policing reviewed the DASH risk model.

The outcome of the review was that police forces should use a different risk assessment tool to non-police agencies called the DARA. The DARA aims to address the issue of inconsistent and incomplete police officer completed DASHs only. It aims to do this by:

* Reducing the number of questions, so that only key questions for identifying risk and making an initial assessment are asked at the frontline.
* Changing the response options to scales where appropriate, in order to indicate the frequency of abusive behaviours and focus thinking on patterns of behaviour.
* Having a summary free text box where officers are asked to explain their assessment of risk (with prompts for key issues to consider)

Further information about the police DARA can be found here: [Domestic Abuse Risk Assessment (DARA): Rationale for development, structure and content (college.police.uk)](https://library.college.police.uk/docs/college-of-policing/Domestic-Abuse-Risk-Assessment-Rationale-2022.pdf)

Following the police model changing from DASH to DARA, Local Authority Domestic Abuse representatives attended a workshop with the National Police leads and National charity Safelives to clarify the position for other partner agencies. The main question we asked was. ‘Do non police partner agencies need to adapt to using the DARA model or stick with the original DASH model’.

Safelives confirmed that all non-police partner agencies should ensure the **DASH is still completed**, **not DARA.** Safelives provided some guidance and frequently asked questions to support this as in the links below.

<https://youtu.be/clqsw9SXRUU?t=1>

[DashandDARAQA.pdf (safelives.org.uk)](https://safelives.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/DashandDARAQA.pdf)

Due to this, the South Yorkshire Domestic Abuse Partnership conducted a countywide survey, which was sent to all South Yorkshire agencies to look at the differences between the DARA / DASH and we asked how we can make improvements to the South Yorkshire wide DASH in its current form.

In addition to the survey, additional feedback has been sought from all professionals within area MARAC steering groups, Domestic Abuse Governance groups and Domestic Abuse specialist services.

The outcome is that a revised DASH has been produced.

**From the 1st of December 2024 agencies should ensure they are using the:**

**South Yorkshire DASH Final Version November 2024**

**\*exemption\* partner agencies using an abbreviated DASH or HARK should continue to use those.**

**Next steps**

Please can you ensure:

* This DASH is uploaded to all systems and old templates are removed.
* All staff are aware of the latest version of DASH to use.
* Please feed back any issues with the form to [Kayley.charlton@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:Kayley.charlton@rotherham.gov.uk)
* Please ensure if further versions are received, this is again updated and shared with front line staff and continuously kept up to date.
* Any required updates to the form or amendments are to be directed to [Kayley.charlton@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:Kayley.charlton@rotherham.gov.uk) and will be discussed with all 4 local Authority Domestic Abuse representatives.

The DASH questions themselves have not changed. Therefore, any DASH training you have received is still relevant and training that is currently provided by your individual Local Authority area is still appropriate. DASH refresher training is always recommended, therefore if you feel like you need a refresher please contact your own Domestic Abuse Local Authority for information.

Rotherham - [Amanda.Raven@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:Amanda.Raven@rotherham.gov.uk)

Doncaster - [Domestic Abuse - Training - City of Doncaster Council](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.doncaster.gov.uk%2Fservices%2Fcrime-anti-social-behaviour-nuisance%2Fdomestic-abuse-training&data=05%7C02%7Ckayley.charlton%40rotherham.gov.uk%7Ce628b56c0052479ab93508dcf7465b65%7C46fbe6fd78ae47699c1dbcea97378af6%7C0%7C0%7C638657128779273211%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=pGim7ScSBQJxkHplzNxmF4x7akCJAsVz%2FlzV7bBnyo8%3D&reserved=0)

Sheffield - [IDAS Online Training Courses](https://courses.idas.org.uk/)

Barnsley - [https://courses.idas.org.uk/barnsley-metropolitan-borough-council-training/](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcourses.idas.org.uk%2Fbarnsley-metropolitan-borough-council-training%2F&data=05%7C02%7CKayley.Charlton%40rotherham.gov.uk%7Ca4da3f83e8fa4efd5a4608dcf817e8ab%7C46fbe6fd78ae47699c1dbcea97378af6%7C0%7C0%7C638658028809101769%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=8g9Hq%2B6CjwGoP0K%2Fxsn%2F754QUTAzlK%2FWTGa%2B1rMgFkk%3D&reserved=0)

We really appreciate and thank everyone who has contributed to the amendments of the form. As we continue to learn, we will evolve and adapt it where necessary and whist you use the form, as mentioned, we do encourage agency feedback.

Thank you.

**South Yorkshire Domestic Abuse Partnership**