FearFree

Annual Report: 2019-2020



FearFree







Contents

Introduction	2
Impact	2
Referral Sources	5
Current Work	5
Empowerment Star™ – Needs Assessment Tool	6
Wider Impact	6
Case Studies	7
Lessons from FearFree	10
Challenges of COVID-19	10
Financial Report	13
The Future of FearFree	15
Appendix 1: Empowerment Star™	17
Appendix 2: Empowerment Star™ on Sacro Case Management System showing two readings	18
Appendix 3: Abbreviated DASH Risk Identification Checklist.	19
Appendix 4: SafeLives Relationship Dynamics Assessment (modified):	23
Appendix 5: Empowerment Star™ Heat Map	26

Introduction

Since 2015, Sacro's FearFree service (formerly Fearless) has been providing support to hard to-reach victims of domestic abuse, particularly men, LGBT+, non-binary and individuals from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) backgrounds. Initiated with funding from the National Lottery Community Fund (formerly The Big Lottery Fund), Fearfree offered support to people in 19 local authority areas in Scotland in partnership with The Men's Advice Line, LGBT Youth Scotland and Shakti Women's Aid. The service gained Leading Lights accreditation in 2018.

Following the termination of funding from the National Lottery Community Fund, FearFree was able to offer a limited service between July – November 2019. It was discerned that there was considerably more demand for male and LGBT+ support as opposed to support for BME women, who were able to access women's services nationally; as such, FearFree became the only male and LGBT+ domestic abuse victim support service in Scotland. The service was available in Edinburgh and the Lothians, Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire and Glasgow and Greater Glasgow funded by the KPE4 Trust. It has continued to operate in those areas since 1st December 2019 with funding from the Justice Department within the Scottish Government. This funding will enable the service to run until 20 June 2020.

Between 1 April 2019 and 31 March 2020 Fear Free received 77 referrals and continues to be recognised as the only person centred, face-to-face support service in Scotland available for male and LGBT+ victims of domestic abuse. This is particularly important given the steep rise in reported domestic abuse incidents since the start of the Coronavirus crisis and ensuing government 'lock down'.

Impact

Through funding received from the Scottish Government, Sacro appointed 3 part-time workers for the Edinburgh (30 hours per week), Glasgow (22.5 hours per week), and Aberdeen/Aberdeenshire (22.5 hours per week) FearFree service, starting on the 1st of December 2019. During that time, the workers received training on:

- The Empowerment Star™ needs assessment and outcome tool;
- The Safe Lives Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Honour-Based Violence (DASH) Risk Identification Checklist (RIC) (for the DASH RIC documentation, please see **Appendix** 3);
- The Relationship Dynamics Questionnaire (For the Relationship Dynamics Assessment, please see **Appendix 4**); and
- Sacro mandatory training and learning modules such as adult and child protection and lone working and full induction into the organisation.

Numerous partner organisations have been contacted to raise awareness of the service including:

- LGBT Health and Well-being;
- Edinburgh Rape Crisis Centre;
- Victim Support Scotland;
- Scottish Trans Alliance;
- o Edinburgh Napier University;
- Queen Margaret University;
- The University of Edinburgh;
- Herriot Watt University; and
- o The Chalmers Sexual Health Centre.

This resulted in a total of 77 referrals (of which 63 were assessed as suitable) between 1 April 2019 and 31 March 2020.

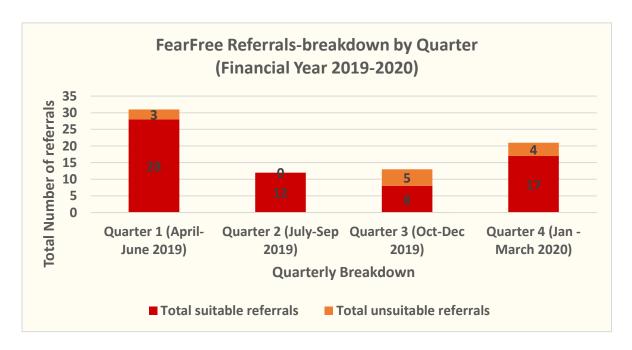


Table 1: Referral trends for Financial Year 2019-2020 broken down by quarter.

As is evident in Table one, FearFree referral numbers dropped dramatically between Quarter one and Quarter two due to the termination of National Lottery Community Funding and the redundancy of four FearFree staff members. Following the continuation of the service with three workers from July 2019 onwards, referral numbers began to rise again from the second quarter onwards. This trend has continued from April 2020 onwards,

with numbers continuing to rise following the COVID-19 lockdown period (6 referrals between 1/4/20 and 5/5/20).

Following referral, each individual is assessed for their suitability for the service. This includes a risk assessment using SafeLives Dash RIC in conjunction with Sacro's own risk assessment and management tool. It includes an initial reading of the Empowerment Star™ giving a clear picture of the clients' needs and assets. Furthermore, use of the SafeLives Relationship Dynamics Assessment specifically explores the nature and 'direction' of abuse within the relationship. Most referrals that were deemed unsuitable was because assessment indicated the individuals who presented as victims of the abuse were in all likelihood perpetrators.

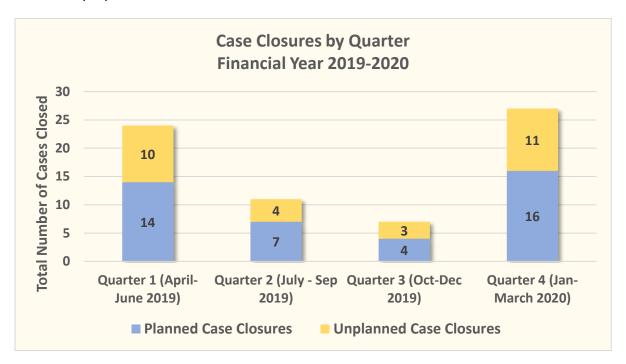


Table 2: Breakdown of planned versus unplanned case closures per quarter, financial year 2019-2020.

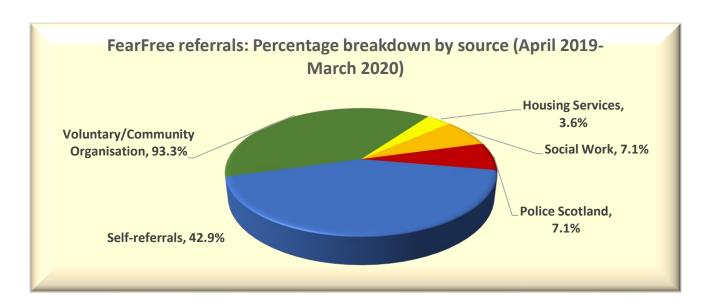
Table two demonstrates the number of cases closed both with a planned and unplanned closure for each quarter of financial year 2019-2020. Reasons for planned closures included:

- Service no longer required service users had 'moved on' and felt greater sense of independence and self-confidence;
- Service was no longer appropriate for the service users, who were signposted to
 other agencies who then offered the required support, for example legal advice,
 employment support, mental health and well-being; and
- Referred to specialist counselling service for help with historic abuse.

Reasons for Unplanned Closures included:

- Service users fully disengaging with the service following numerous attempts by staff members to establish and maintain contact;
- The service user(s) were assessed as being perpetrators of abuse and therefore signposted to other services; and
- Service users changing contact information without informing the service, rendering them uncontactable.

Referral Sources:



Current Work

There are currently 24 active service users across Scotland who are receiving regular safety advice and emotional and practical support from our FearFree workers.

Support provided has included:

- Accessing Mental Health services;
- Approaching Police Scotland to help service users to report abuse current as well
 as historic. In particular, online abuse has increased dramatically following the
 lockdown imposed in March of 2020;
- Advocacy work assisting a service user to translate court documents and respond appropriately;
- Liaising with local authorities and organising repairs to accommodation;
- Signposting to family lawyers;
- Preparation of applications to housing, benefits and external counselling;
- Safety planning;
- Referrals to Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs)

Empowerment Star™ – Needs Assessment Tool

Through the outcomes monitoring and evaluation process workers can report on the impact of FearFree's intervention for each individual in greater detail as the service continues to be delivered. The tool for measuring change and monitoring and assessing outcomes is the Outcomes Star™. This is used to measure the level of need in a range of key areas in an individual's life. A series of readings (minimum two) are taken as the individual is supported to make changes in their lives. The individuals working with the Sacro workers will prioritise some areas of support (domains) dependent on the individuals needs and aspirations.

An analysis of outcomes for all service users is shown in the table below. A Heat Map with detailed information on areas of improvement can be found in **Appendix 5.**

Overall mean read- ing scores	6.64	8.05	21.23%	93% of all service users will see an outcome
Individual domain improvements	Distribu- tion	Frequency	Percent- age of cases	improvement
0	6	86	100%	55% of all service users
1 or more	5	80	93%	will see 5 or more
2 or more	6	75	87%	outcome improvement
3 or more	12	69	80%	
4 or more	10	57	66%	
5 or more	17	47	55%	12% of all service
6 or more	10	30	35%	users will see 8 or
7 or more	10	20	23%	more outcome
8 or more	9	10	12%	improvements
9	1	1	1%	improvements
		86	100%	1

The analysis shows that 93% of service users will see at least one improvement in outcomes and 66% will see four or more improvements over the course of their support as assessed between their first and second readings. Many service users also continue to improve their outcomes as they receive further support over an extended period of time. An example of a blank Outcomes Star has been included at **Appendix 1** for information.

Appendix 2 shows a Star with two readings. The Star values are entered onto Sacro's Case Management System by the worker and the chart is produced automatically in digital format.

The Wider Impact of FearFree

Through the type of personalised, intensive and targeted support provided by Fearless, two of the hardest to reach groups can access essential support for domestic abuse: men and

LGBT+ victims, including non-binary people. The work carried out by FearFree contributes significantly to Scotland's Equally Safe Strategy.

Although "Equally Safe" specifically addresses Violence Against Women and Girls, FearFree contributes to a number of the overall objectives of the strategy (full details of the strategy can be found at: https://bit.ly/2LbLsfl):

- Positive gender roles are promoted;
- People enjoy healthy, positive relationships and children develop an understanding of safe, healthy, and positive relationships from an early age;
- Women and men have equal access to power and resources;
- Service providers competently identify violence against women and girls, and respond

effectively to women, children and young people affected.

To support these objectives, FearFree defines domestic abuse as physical, sexual, emotional and

psychological abuse by an intimate partner towards another. Following the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018, FrearFree workers are vigilant for signs of controlling and coercive behaviour as they are now classified as being abusive under the Act (for more information on the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act please see: https://bit.ly/2LbLsfl)

Case Studies¹

Alan

Alan first came to FearFree in late 2018 via a referral from his Criminal Justice Social Worker (CJSW) who had noticed possible indicators of Domestic Abuse.

Alan was anxious and hypervigilant during his meetings with his social worker. His partner had tried to block his access to services by damaging his phone and preventing him from obtaining a replacement. Further concerns were raised by his General Practitioner (GP) who had recorded that his girlfriend had displayed controlling behaviours during appointments.

Alan completed a DASH RIC and Relationship Dynamics Assessment during his initial meeting and was assessed as a genuine victim of domestic abuse. A referral was made to MARAC due to a high DASH RIC score of 14, indicating an increased risk of domestic homicide. Factors contributing to this score included physical violence, sexual assault, emotional abuse, coercive control and isolation. An initial needs assessment identified four high priority areas of support: housing, safety, finances and health/wellbeing.

¹ All names and identifying details have been changed to protect service users' anonymity

Alan's worker contacted housing services who arranged safe accommodation for him to transfer into, while the MARAC referral confirmed him as a high-risk victim of domestic abuse. Although Alan moved to new accommodation he stayed in the relationship because he felt that he was a protective factor for the welfare of his partner's children. FearFree helped Alan to develop a safety plan to help protect him whilst still supporting his wish to remain in the relationship. The service further referred him to mental health services and emergency financial support.

Moving to new accommodation was a cornerstone in Alan's recovery. The remoteness and tight knit community of the small village he lived in, gave him a sense of security and allowed him to start building a new social support network. Through close liaison with his, FearFree worker, Police Scotland and Social Work, he was able to put a new safety plan in place which contributed to a greater sense of security. Whilst this offered some protection from significant physical harm, Alan's partner continued to exercise control through other means – financial, emotional, theft and identity fraud.

After engaging with the service for nearly a year, Alan found enough agency and confidence to end his abusive relationship. Emotionally this was a significant challenge and something that he says he still feels guilty about. Whilst he was not the father of his partner's children, he struggled to leave them behind. He also struggled whilst thinking about "All the lies I believed and the abuse I minimised".

During this time Alan's ex-partner made a false allegation of theft to the Police which resulted in him being arrested and charged. During this time, he was fully supported through the process and the allegations were later dismissed by the Court. Although it was a very stressful time for him it gave him the opportunity to defend himself against his abuser which he later described as "scary but symbolic". He identified the whole experience as one that propelled him further along the road of recovery.

Alan still suffers the ongoing effects of the trauma caused by domestic abuse but he is no longer in immediate danger and he now has the foundations in place from which to grow – a peaceful home, relative financial stability, a small support network and crucially – support from services, FearFree and the Scottish Association for Mental Health (SAMH), giving him further support and encouragement enabling him to completely self-manage.

Alan recently told his FearFree worker, my support has been brilliant. If it wasn't for FearFree I definitely wouldn't have got through the worst period of my life. They saved my life and now I've got a life worth living.

Andy

Andy referred himself to the FearFree service in October 2019. During the initial meeting with his worker he explained that his wife had total control over the household finances

including his monthly wages and that she would give him pocket money each month. Andy said he was not sure if this was domestic abuse but did not know what else to do and had nowhere else to turn. His worker spent time exploring this behaviour with him resulting in Andy recognising his wife's actions to be controlling and unacceptable.

Although grateful for the support he had received, Andy intimated did not wish to proceed with the referral. He was informed that should he require future support this would always be available.

In January 2020 Andy called the team member again and explained that his situation had deteriorated. He had found letters from debt collectors, credit card statements and he discovered that his wife had amassed debts of over £20,000. When he confronted her, she threatened to leave with his two children adding that he would never see them again. Andy described feeling helpless and agreed to complete a FearFree assessment with a view to receiving support.

During the assessment Andy said he wanted to save his marriage but could not go on with the situation as it was. Andy and the worker spoke about positive relationships and helped Andy to gain a greater awareness of what a healthy and equal relationship looked like.

The worker helped Andy to plan some key activities:

- How to discuss issues with his wife safely;
- How to safety plan in case her behaviour became threatening; and
- Signposting Andy to debt management companies.

Two days later Andy reported that he and his wife had spoken about the debts and she admitted there was an issue. They contacted a debt management company and arranged a payment plan.

Andy thanked the FearFree worker for his practical and emotional support, explaining that he felt this had been an important aspect in not only saving his marriage but in helping him to face the problem in a positive and realistic frame of mind. Andy felt that he did not require further support at present but that he would contact FearFree again if he felt the situation was once again slipping into a pattern of controlling behaviour.

William

William is a vulnerable 60 year-old man who lives alone. He co-owns the flat where he lives with his sister. He has an alcohol support worker to help him reduce his alcohol intake, but he continues to drink every day. His lifestyle is chaotic and even under the restrictions of the current COVID-19 crisis he struggles to commit to regular telephone appointments. His alcohol intake leads to him completely disengaging with any support workers.

William's chaotic lifestyle results in him being particularly vulnerable to his abusive expartner who constantly contacts him by phone. William has described feeling a great deal of stress because of this and admits that he struggles to ignore the phone. Prior to the lockdown. Previously, his ex-partner would regularly visit him and take advantage of his accommodation and what little finances he has. He describes 'giving in' and providing her with food and alcohol and that this would lead to them binge drinking together. The alcohol also significantly increases the risk of her abusive behaviour towards him.

This is a complex, ongoing case and the FearFree worker has been limited as to what practical support can be offered. William is currently unable to work due to an injury and mental health deterioration. He has been unable to access benefits and he is currently without drinking water in his flat. William also does not have a working cooker. FearFree have supported him to contact charities that will assist him with repairs and obtain a small grant that will cover the cost of a cooker. This has not been an easy task due to his regular disengagement, but the worker has persisted and William has expressed his gratitude on several occasions.

FearFree will continue to support William as the only service that has fully committed to him and efforts continue to undertake further safety work with regards to his abusive expartner. William is also benefiting from work that helps him to build his self-esteem and confidence.

Lessons from FearFree

Over the past 12 months the FearFree service has experienced an increase in transgender and non-binary service users. FearFree workers are aware of the importance of ensuring they respect a person's choice of pronoun and that they signpost them to appropriate agencies for additional support where needed.

Additionally, sometimes individuals who present as victims of domestic abuse, can actually be assessed as perpetrators. FearFree workers have become highly skilled, not only in recognising when this is the case but also in how the risk that these individuals pose to their partners can be safely managed and how their partners can safely be supported to exit these abusive relationships. Because the service has comprehensive risk management processes and protocols in place, FearFree workers are able to access local risk management arrangements (such as MARACs) when there are concerns regarding child and adult safety.

The Challenges of COVID-19

In March of 2020, Scotland was required to comply with a government lockdown to help slow the progress of COVID-19, resulting in a significant rise in reported domestic abuse

incidents. Consequently, this has led to a change in the ways that FearFree offers support to respond to the changing needs of its service user group.

All support and safety work is now conducted over the phone. This has led to a higher level of stress for both FearFree workers and their service users, as they are required to consider and try to establish whether:

- Service users are in a safe space where they can talk;
- The perpetrator can overhear the conversation;
- The risk has increased for service users who are not responding;
- Service Protocols for instances where there are genuine concerns for service users' safety.

When using telephone support, safety planning is paramount. FearFree workers approach this in a structured and planned manner with pre-agreed plans in place that will help them respond appropriately. They are keenly aware of the potential for service generated risks and regularly liaise with the Service Team Leader and Service Manager to discuss each of their cases.

To ensure best practice, FearFree is represented in weekly meetings with the Scottish Government giving updates on developments. The service has also participated in research commissioned by the Scottish Government and carried out by Justice Analytical Services. This research will be long-term, and participation is required on a 4-weekly basis to follow up on developments and to monitor issues arising, both for the service and for the people using it.

FearFree workers have noted changes in the type of abuse being reported to them by their service users. Of particular concern is the rise in online abuse. Whilst abuse of any kind is always devastating, the increase in online abuse given the current crisis is especially damaging. The conditions imposed by lockdown has meant that FearFree service users are entirely dependent upon the online community for social support and practical day-to-day activities such as ordering food deliveries. Online abuse has meant that this important space is no longer safe and the impact on victims' mental health and wellbeing is substantial.

In many cases, lockdown has having a noticeable negative impact on service users' mental health. FearFree workers remain vigilant to the warning signs of a serious deterioration in mood and potential suicidal ideation. This has resulted in a greater number of onward referrals to services that offer counselling and telephone befriending.

The lack of face-to-face support has meant that assistance in completing documentation to access benefits or help to complete court documents has meant this has to be carried out over the phone. Where the service user's first language is not English, this has been

challenging and time consuming. However, the patience and commitment of the worker has allowed this approach this successfully.

The FearFree team have increased the number of team meetings in order to continually develop safe and effective ways of mitigating these and other risks. These meetings also offer workers an opportunity to ask for peer support and advice for how best to work with specific individuals, while maintaining a sense of well-being and high morale.

Similarly, completing the Empowerment Star™ needs assessment has been challenging, not least because the format is essentially visual and completing it verbally over the phone does not allow the service user the opportunity to recognise where they are or the distance they have travelled. Again, these difficulties are compounded by language difficulties but workers have responded in creative and positive ways enabling support to be delivered effectively and appropriately.

Sacro uses a robust system of risk assessment for all our service users which identifies risks in a range of areas. To adapt to COVID-19 circumstances, each FearFree case has undergone an updated risk assessment that identifies potential pandemic-related risks. Examples include:

- Risk of infection (Risk to service user/risk to staff)
- Risk of lack of support available due to staff absence (risk to service user)
- A lack of understanding of health and safety precautions (service user behavioural risk/risk to staff)
- Lack of household hygiene (environmental risks, risk to service user)
- Increased risk of domestic abuse/violence due to social isolation (risk to service user)
- Deterioration in mental health due to isolation/illness (risk to service user/environmental risk)
- Risk of homelessness due to domestic abuse and lack of housing availability (risk to service user/environmental risk)

There has also been a noticeable increase in online abuse. Due to the lockdown, the majority of FearFree service users conduct much of their day to day lives using technology, and this has become weaponised against them by their ex-partners.

Sacro are aware of the impact this situation has on all our workers but especially those workers who are supporting people at increased risk of serious harm. Sacro recognises the toll this can take and have provided access to free counselling for any worker who feels they are struggling with their own mental health as a result of the current pandemic.

Financial Report

Below is a table detailing the breakdown of actual spending between December 2019 and forecast spending between April – June 2020:

Income & expense

Funding Sources:	July 2019	Aug. 2019	Sept. 2019	Oct. 2019	Nov. 2019	Dec. 2019	Jan. 2020	Feb. 2020	March 2020	April 2020	May 2020	June 2020	
KPE4 Trust: £20,000	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Forecast	Forecast	Forecast	Total
Scottish	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Government:													
£30,500													
Salaries	2,083	2,083	2,083	2,083	2,083	5,651	5,651	5,651	5,651	5,651	5,651	5,645	49,970
Operational Support						229	229	229	229	229	229	229	1,603
Costs	-	-	-	-	-								
Travel, Training &						202	202	202	202	202	202	202	1,414
Recruitment	-	-	-	-	-								
IT Running Costs						143	143	143	143	143	143	143	1,001
	-	-	-	-	-								
Telephone Costs						107	107	107	107	107	107	107	749
(incl. Lone Working)	-	-	-	-	-								
Rent & Rates						63	63	63	63	63	63	63	441
	-	-	-	-	-								
Admin Supplies						25	25	25	25	25	25	25	175
	-	-	-	-	-								
Other Property						21	21	21	21	21	21	21	147
Costs	-	-	-	-	-								
						6,441	6,441	6,441	6,441	6,441	6,441	6,435	55,500

The Future of FearFree

Sacro are exploring the potential for a telephone Helpline. The FearFree team recognise that individuals reach out for a help when it is needed and that this does not always conform to a designated working pattern. The impact of the COVID-19 crisis has highlighted the gap across all services for out of hours support and none more so than within the field of domestic abuse.

Due to the restrictions and challenges imposed by COVID- 19, plans for the continuation of funding for FearFree through the Delivering Equally Safe funding stream have had to be postponed. However, to respond to the rising need for support by male and LGBT+ victims of domestic abuse, Sacro are applying for interim funding to ensure that support continues to be available to this vulnerable group affected by domestic abuse.

National and international reports demonstrate that there is a direct link between domestic abuse, the lockdown and victims' help-seeking behaviour. Since lockdown was introduced, some services in Scotland are reporting a decrease in referrals, whilst others are experiencing an increase in phone calls and requests for support. Referrals to FearFree have seen an increase from an average of 1.43 referrals per week (January to April 2020) to an average of 2.25 referrals per week in the month of May.

As planning for the recovery from COVID-19 progresses and lockdown measures begin to be lifted in a phased manner, it is anticipated that request for support and the number of referrals will increase during the coming months. Current thinking suggests that due to lockdown, the perpetrators of domestic abuse have complete control over their partners and families and that once restrictions are eased, victims will have the opportunity seek support. This may in turn lead to further abuse being carried out and an escalation in the number of referrals.

Service User Quotes

"Thanks Christian, if you had not been so patient and supportive I would not be here now" - Edinburgh client

"I'm thankful that Sacro has given me space and let me do thing at my own rhythm without giving up on me" – Edinburgh client

"It is good to talk with you.
You help me get things
straight in my head so that
I can get on with what I
need to do" - Edinburgh
client

"Thank you for your hard work in helping me Leigh. Much appreciated. Also please thank Christian. You both helped get a place to live and get my benefits sorted." -Glasgow client

"Honestly, thanks so much for your help with this Leigh. Had it not been for you I wouldn't have made the step of speaking to my wife getting the help we needed with our debt problems. The stress was unbelievable" – Glasgow client

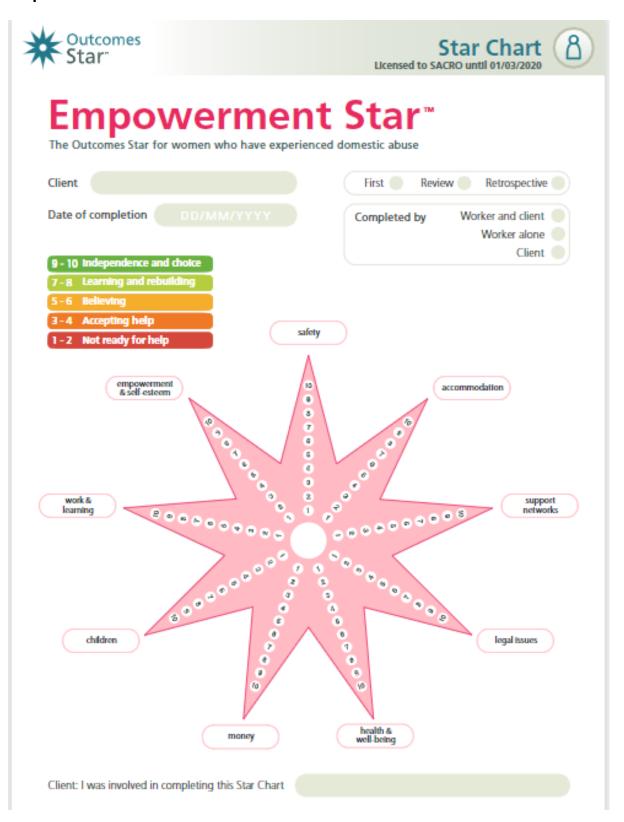
"My life was terrible I probably would have considered suicide bu for my worker" – Aberdeenshire client

"I dread to think where I would be just now without it! " – Aberdeen client

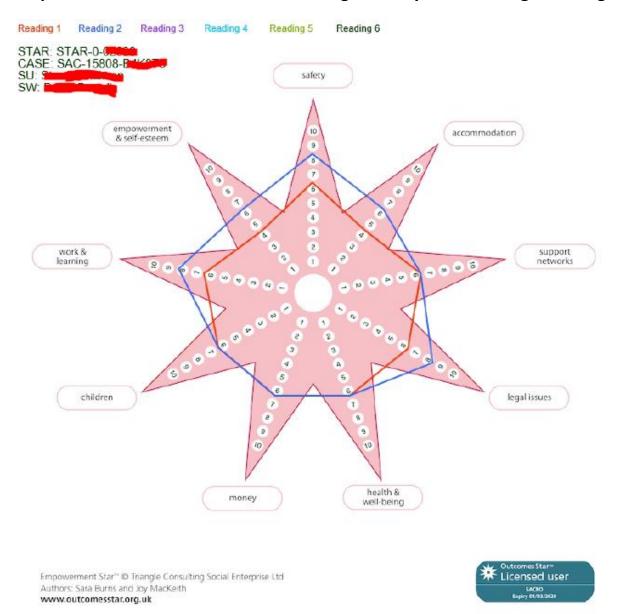
me. I would have been very lost without
FearFree. I couldn't even think straight" –

Aberdeenshire client

Empowerment Star™



Empowerment Star™ on Sacro Case Management System showing 2 readings



Abbreviated DASH Risk Identification Checklist.



Ending domestic abuse

SafeLives Dash risk checklist

Aim of the form

- To help front line practitioners identify high risk cases of domestic abuse, stalking and 'honour'based violence.
- To decide which cases should be referred to Marac and what other support might be required. A
 completed form becomes an active record that can be referred to in future for case management.
- To offer a common tool to agencies that are part of the Marac¹ process and provide a shared understanding of risk in relation to domestic abuse, stalking and 'honour'-based violence.
- To enable agencies to make defensible decisions based on the evidence from extensive research
 of cases, including domestic homicides and 'near misses', which underpins most recognised
 models of risk assessment.

How to use the form

Before completing the form for the first time we recommend that you read the full practice guidance and FAQs. These can be downloaded from: http://safelives.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/FAQs%20 about%20Dash%20FINAL.pdf. Risk is dynamic and can change very quickly. It is good practice to review the checklist after a new incident.

Recommended referral criteria to Marac

- 1. Professional judgement: if a professional has serious concerns about a victim's situation, they should refer the case to Marac. There will be occasions where the particular context of a case gives rise to serious concerns even if the victim has been unable to disclose the information that might highlight their risk more clearly. This could reflect extreme levels of fear, cultural barriers to disclosure, immigration issues or language barriers particularly in cases of 'honour'-based violence. This judgement would be based on the professional's experience and/or the victim's perception of their risk even if they do not meet criteria 2 and/or 3 below.
- 'Visible High Risk': the number of 'ticks' on this checklist. If you have ticked 14 or more 'yes' boxes the case would normally meet the Marac referral criteria.
- 3. Potential Escalation: the number of police callouts to the victim as a result of domestic violence in the past 12 months. This criterion can be used to identify cases where there is not a positive identification of a majority of the risk factors on the list, but where abuse appears to be escalating and where it is appropriate to assess the situation more fully by sharing information at Marac. It is common practice to start with 3 or more police callouts in a 12 month period but this will need to be reviewed depending on your local volume and your level of police reporting.

Please pay particular attention to a practitioner's professional judgement in all cases. The results from a checklist are not a definitive assessment of risk. They should provide you with a structure to inform your judgement and act as prompts to further questioning, analysis and risk management whether via a Marac or in another way. The responsibility for identifying your local referral threshold rests with your local Marac.

What this form is not

This form will provide valuable information about the risks that children are living with but it is not a full risk assessment for children. The presence of children increases the wider risks of domestic violence and step children are particularly at risk. If risk towards children is highlighted you should consider what referral you need to make to obtain a full assessment of the children's situation.

¹ For further information about Marac please refer to the 10 principles of an effective Marac: http://www.safelives.org.uk/marac/10 Principles Oct 2011 full.doc

Name of victim: Date:	Restricted when completed
-----------------------	---------------------------

SafeLives Dash risk checklist for use by Idvas and other non-police agencies² for identification of risks when domestic abuse, 'honour'- based violence and/or stalking are disclosed

Please explain that the purpose of asking these questions is for the safety and protection of the individual concerned.				
Tick the box if the factor is present. Please use the comment box at the end of the form to expand on any answer.			DON'T KNOW	State source of info if not the
It is assumed that your main source of information is the victim. If this is <u>not the case</u> , please indicate in the right hand column	YES	Q	NOC	victim (eg police officer)
Has the current incident resulted in injury?	_			(eg police officer)
Please state what and whether this is the first injury.				
2. Are you very frightened? Comment:				
What are you afraid of? Is it further injury or violence? Please give an indication of what you think [name of abuser(s)] might do and to whom, including children. Comment:				
Do you feel isolated from family/friends? le, does [name of abuser(s)] try to stop you from seeing friends/family/doctor or others? Comment:				
5. Are you feeling depressed or having suicidal thoughts?				
6. Have you separated or tried to separate from [name of abuser(s)] within the past year?				
7. Is there conflict over child contact?				
8. Does [name of abuser(s)] constantly text, call, contact, follow, stalk or harass you? Please expand to identify what and whether you believe that this is done deliberately to intimidate you? Consider the context and behaviour of what is being done.				
Are you pregnant or have you recently had a baby (within the last 18 months)?				
10. Is the abuse happening more often?				
11. Is the abuse getting worse?				
12. Does [name of abuser(s)] try to control everything you do and/or are they excessively jealous? For example: in terms of relationships; who you see; being 'policed' at home; telling you what to wear. Consider 'honour'-based violence (HBV) and specify behaviour.				
13.Has [name of abuser(s)] ever used weapons or objects to hurt you?				
14.Has [name of abuser(s)] ever threatened to kill you or someone else and you believed them? If yes, tick who: You Children Other (please specify)				
² Note: This checklist is consistent with the ACPO endorsed risk assessment model DASH 2009 fo	r the polic	ce service	3.	

6

safelives.org.uk info@safelives.org.uk 0117 403 3220

Name of victim:	Date:	Restricted when complete
-----------------	-------	--------------------------

Tick the box if the factor is present. Please use the comment box at the end of the form to expand on any answer.	YES	ON	DON'T KNOW	State source of info
15.Has [name of abuser(s)] ever attempted to strangle / choke / suffocate / drown you?				
16.Does [name of abuser(s)] do or say things of a sexual nature that make you feel bad or that physically hurt you or someone else? If someone else, specify who.				
17.Is there any other person who has threatened you or who you are afraid of? If yes, please specify whom and why. Consider extended family if HBV.				
18.Do you know if [name of abuser(s)] has hurt anyone else? Consider HBV. Please specify whom, including the children, siblings or elderly relatives: Children Another family member Someone from a previous relationship Other (please specify)				
19.Has [name of abuser(s)] ever mistreated an animal or the family pet?				
20.Are there any financial issues? For example, are you dependent on [name of abuser(s)] for money/have they recently lost their job/other financial issues?				
21. Has [name of abuser(s)] had problems in the past year with drugs (prescription or other), alcohol or mental health leading to problems in leading a normal life? If yes, please specify which and give relevant details if known. Drugs Alcohol Mental health				
22. Has [name of abuser(s)] ever threatened or attempted suicide?				
23.Has [name of abuser(s)] ever broken bail/an injunction and/or formal agreement for when they can see you and/or the children? You may wish to consider this in relation to an ex-partner of the perpetrator if relevant. Bail conditions Non Molestation/Occupation Order Child contact arrangements Forced Marriage Protection Order Other				
24.Do you know if [name of abuser(s)] has ever been in trouble with the police or has a criminal history? If yes, please specify: Domestic abuse Sexual violence Other Other				
Total 'yes' responses				

For consideration by profe	essional		
Is there any other relevant informati victim or professional) which may in risk levels? Consider victim's situat relation to disability, substance mis mental health issues, cultural / langulariers, 'honour'- based systems, geographic isolation and minimisati Are they willing to engage with your Describe.	ocrease ion in use, uage on.		
Consider abuser's occupation / inte Could this give them unique access weapons? Describe.			
What are the victim's greatest priori address their safety?	ties to		
Do you believe that there are reason	able grounds for referring	Yes □	
this case to Marac?		No □	
If yes, have you made a referral?		Yes □ No □	
Signed		Date	
Do you believe that there are risks family?	acing the children in the	Yes □ No □	
If yes, please confirm if you have made a referral to safeguard the children?	Yes □ No □	Date referral made	
Signed		Date	
Name			
Practitioner's notes			

Date:

Restricted when complete

Name of victim:

This document reflects work undertaken by SafeLives in partnership with Laura Richards, Consultant Violence Adviser to ACPO. We would like to thank Advance, Blackburn with Darwen Women's Aid and Berkshire East Family Safety Unit and all the partners of the Blackpool Marac for their contribution in piloting the revised checklist without which we could not have amended the original SafeLives risk identification checklist. We are very grateful to Elizabeth Hall of CAFCASS and Neil Blacklock of Respect for their advice and encouragement and for the expert input we received from Jan Pickles, Dr Amanda Robinson and Jasvinder Sanghera.

SafeLives Relationship Dynamics Assessment (modified):

	Evidence Type	Evidence present	Lack of evi- dence
1	Client has experienced violent or abusive behaviour from (ex)partner		
2	Client has been injured or required medical attention		
3	Client is in fear of violence, abuse or other actions		
4	Client is being controlled and unable to make decisions		
5	Client is fearful of consequences at separation		
6	Client is NOT using violence, threats or abusive behaviour		
7	Client's account of events is authentic		
8	Client is isolated from support networks		
9	Client blames themselves or makes excuses for partner		
10	Client gives examples of incidents, and the impact on them		
11	Client has used some violence in self-defence or to prevent an attack		
12	Client has used some violence to protect children		
13	Client has used some violence in retaliation to violence from partner		
14	No injuries to client or child		
15	Client is NOT afraid of partner		
16	No pattern of control/coercion in either direction		
17	Client's account of violence/abuse is inauthentic or inconsistent		
18	Client has used violence, NOT in self-defence or retaliation		
19	Client's partner has been injured or required medical attention		
20	Client's child has sustained injuries as a result of something client did		
21	Client's partner has NOT used violence, or only in self-defence		
22	Client's partner is afraid of client, or what they might do		
23	Pattern of controlling behaviour in which client is the controlling one		
24	Client has threatened partner, child or another person		
25	Client has used coercion/threats/violence to gain sexual access		
26	Client presents as 'entitled'		
27	Client readily assumes 'victim' identity and language		
28	Client complains about multiple agencies and services		
29	Client uses derogatory language about partner		
30	Client refers to different types of abuse, but no specifics or impact		

Assessment Outcome

- \circ \square Victim of DV
- □ Perpetrator of DV
- □Victim (used violent resistance)
- \circ Perpetrator (victim has used violent resistance)
- □ Unhappy relationship
- □Unclear/not enough evidence

Appendix 4 – Relationship Dynamics Assessment: Contd.

This tool is intended to record information systematically to guide a professional's judgement, not to produce exact answers in every case. Professionals who are skilled and experienced in working with responses to intimate partner violence will be able to use their experience, clinical judgement and sense of authenticity, as well as the number of ticks in each row or section to come to a conclusion. Those without specialist skills will need to rely more on the ticks and on collecting verifiable evidence.

Victim of domestic violence

If there is evidence to support the statements in rows 1 - 10 and no evidence to support those in rows 17 - 30, this is likely to indicate that the client is the victim of domestic violence. If there are any in rows 17 - 30, check that they are not actually violent resistance or self-defence (which should be recorded in rows 8 - 10). Clarifying questions about the incidents will help to provide more information, as will other information from other sources.

Perpetrator of domestic violence

If there is evidence to support the statements in rows 17 - 30 and no evidence to support those in rows 1 - 10, this is likely to indicate that the client is the perpetrator of domestic violence.

Victim who is also using or has used violent resistance

If there is evidence that some of the statements in rows 1-10 are true but also some evidence that the statements in rows 11, 12 or 13 are true and evidence that the statements in rows 14-30 are **NOT TRUE** this is likely to indicate a victim who is also using or has used violent resistance.

Perpetrator whose victim has used or is using violent resistance

If there is evidence that some statements in rows 17 - 30 are true, some evidence that statements 1 and 2 are true and evidence that the statements in rows 3 - 10 are **NOT TRUE** it is likely that the client is a perpetrator whose victim has used or is using violent resistance.

Unhappy relationship or not clear

If there is evidence that rows 14-16 are true, it is possible that there is no domestic violence in this relationship but that the client is unhappy in the relationship and has identified some behaviour as abusive. If there is evidence that rows 1-10 are true it is possible that the client is a victim of domestic violence. However, if there is little evidence in rows 1-10, particularly if there is evidence that rows 1 and 2 are **NOT TRUE**, this is likely not to be a victim of domestic violence. If there are also ticks in rows 17-30 it is likely that the client is a perpetrator. More information will be needed to be clearer about this.

Appendix 4 – Relationship Dynamics Assessment: Contd.

Unclear evidence – no conclusion yet

In some cases there will be insufficient evidence to form even a tentative conclusion. In these situations it is important not to reach a hasty or false conclusion and to record instead that there is no conclusion and carry out further assessment if possible.

Appendix 5

Empowerment Star™ Heat Map with legend on page 27:

STAR OUTCOME			Money Children Work & Learn			100000000000000000000000000000000000000				Learning	arning Empowerment &							
	ARU.7		VIST1		VISIT L	VISIT 2	VISIT 1	VISIT 2	VISIT 1	VISIT 2	VISIT L	VISIT 2	VISIT 1	VISIT 2	VISIT 5		WST1	VISIT 2
1 STAR-0-00019		10	à	- 4	10	1.0	- 1			34	- 8	8	- 6	E	- 1	10	4	
2 STAR-0-00023		- 1	8		- 4	- 4	-				10							
3 STAR-0-00025		100	-10			10	30						10				4	
4 STAR-0-00028	4	:00	6	- 12	- 4	- 6	4			_	. 2					- 6	4	_
5 STAR-0-00027	- 4			- 1	4	- 8										- 6	- 4	_
6 STAR-0-00031	2	- 3	- 2	- 1	2	- 6										- 4		
7 STAR-0-00011		- 1	10	10	4		- 4				10	10	- 6		4	- 8	- 4	
8 STAR-0-00084			- 6	- 6	4		- 6	- 6					10			2		
9 STAR-0-00097	-	10	- 6	10	9		-30	35		30			10	10	A	4	8	
10 STAR-0-00040		- 1		- 1			- 0	1					6	- 6		- 6	- 6	
11 STAR-0-00044	- 4				- 4	1.8	6			1	- A	8		1/6		- 8	- 6	
12 STAR-0-00049		1	-10	30	- 4		-			4			4				16	
13 STAR-0-00064	4		10	10				1					10	10		1.0	4	
14 STAR-0-00065					8	10	10	95		-	- 4		30	10		1.0	- 4	
15 STAR-0-00066	- 4	- 4	2	- 6	3	1/4	- 4	4	- 4	- 4	- 6	6	10	10		- 6		
16 STAR-0-00069	1		6	3	- A	100	- 4		-		- A	. 10	10	10	- 2	- 0	- 4	
17 STAR-0-00070	-		- 6	4	- 4	- 4	4	- 4		. 6	- 4	4	- 4	4	4	- 4	. 4	
18 STAR-0-00071			10				- 2				- 11		10	- 616	- 4	- 6	-	20
19 STAR-0-00099		- 2	8		10	10				10	200			-	- 6	- 6	4	-
20 STAR-0-00094	- 4		- 0				6			30							- 4	1000
21 STAR-0-00097						10												
22 STAR-0-00106			10														6	_
23 STAR-0-00130	19	- 0	- 40	- 10		- 10	- 40				10						- 6	
24 STAR-0-00120	4	10	4	10	8	10				- 10				10			-	
			4				- 1											
25 STAR-0-00170	- 4			10		10				10				10			- 6	
2605TAR-0-00205	- 3		- 3	4		- 6		4							_	_	4	
27 STAR-0-00206	- 4					10	9											
28 STAR-0-00237	-		8			10	- 0											
39 STAR-0-0034E	4																	
30 STAR-0-00252						- 8	10										- 4	
31 STAR-0-00297	- 4		4	10		10												
32 STAR-0-00902			- 8			@	-							10			4	_
13 STAR-0-00126	- 6		- 6													1 1 1 1	4	
14 STAR-0-00033	- 4							_		_							- 0	
15 STAR-0-00041			10					15				10		.10			- 4	
56 STAR-0-00961	1	10	10	10	8	10	10	10	- 10	10			10	10			6	
57 STAR-0-00965	. 6	. 10	10	10	1.5	10	6					10		10			4	
19 STAR-0-00434		10	8	1.0	10	1,0		15		10	55	10				10	6	
38 STAR-0-00436	- 5	10	- 8	- 8	- 6	- 6		35		- 6			6	10		1.0		
40 STAR-0-00477			10	10			11.0		30	10		- 4	10	10	50	10	- 4	
41 STAR-0-00493	2		2	- 4	4	- 5	- 10	30			2		6	. 6	. 2	2	- 4	
42 STAR-0-00652		. 3	6	. 6	8	8				- 6		- 8		1.0	1 2			
43 STAR-0-00653	30	10		10	10	10	- 6	10		- 10		10	10	10		. 6	- 6	1
44 STAR-0-00654			- 6		- 6	- 6	6	- 6		6	14	100	10	10	1 1	22.0	6	
45 STAR-0-00713					10	1,0		10		- 10	A STATE OF	Service.	10	10	7	10	A	
46 STAR-0-00731	- 4	50	- 6	10		10				10	- 11	. 8	10	10		100	4	
67 STAR-0-00712		10	6	10	4	10		10		and the	. 4	50	10	10	30	10	- 6	
48 STAR-0-00742		- 2	6				4			(E	- 4		- 6	- 8		- 4	6	
49 STAR-0-00748	- 8	- 1	6	10		10				- 10	-	11.0	10	10				
SD STAR-0-00853		10	10	10	- 6	- 6						. 8						
51 STAR-0-00999	- 4			- 6		10	. 10	10	10	10	30	10	- 0		30	50	7 10	
52 STAR-0-01012	- 6	- 5	. 8		- 6	6 TO 10					- 1		- 4	- 0			- 4	
53 STAR-0-00030	. 4		- 8		4	- 6	- 4	4			- 6	. 6	2	- 4		- 1	4	
54 STAR-0-01126						10											8	
5 STAR-0-01136	- 4												-		4		- 4	
6 STAR-0-01156						10								10		4		_
7 STAR-0-01182	- 4		. 6		_	- 4					10		- 6	10			14	
6 STAR-0-01202		10					- 4			10						50	- 4	
9 STAR-0-01252	1	10				10	- 0											_
D STAR-0-01474	4	_	4	- 4		- 34				6 6	6		10	10	- 4			
1 STAR-0-01476	1		- 4			100	100		- 1	1	- 2	-	10	10		- 6	- 2	
2 STAR-0-01483	4					-	10	10					10			4		
3 STAR-0-01804	- 8		6				8			6								
4 STAR-0-01874																		
S STAR-0-01784	4.5	93		10														_
6 STAR-0-01788		4																
7 STAR-0-01820			- 0				10						10					
6 STAR-0-01823		30										19						
6 STAR-0-01823 0 STAR-0-01863																		
							- 60							10		E		
D STAR-0-01875		1					1.0					30						
1 STAR-0-01889																		
2 STAR-0-01993	30	- 62		10				10										
8 STAR-0-01943	35	190		10						- 8	10							
6 STAR-0-01850					4	10		10			- 8		8	1,0		110		
5 STAR-0-02000	-		- 10										- 0					
6 STAR-0-02009			- 4		- 6		6			- 6								
7 STAR-0-02306	30	11																
8 STAR-0-02119		33	10			. 10												
9 STAR-0-02123	Name and Address of the Owner, where	. 60	- 4											10			- 6	
D STAR-0-02124		99										- 10		10		10	- 1	
1 STAR-0-0215D	- 6							1 2										
2 STAR-0-02171	4							10				100	10			354	2	
3 STAR-0-02194							4.0					1.00				. 2		
4 STAR-0-02301	- 15						1.0											
S STAR-0-02509			- 0	10			100											
COLUMN TO SERVED		30					0 6											

Heat Map legend:

Green	Outcome Improved
Amber	Stayed the same but at a high level
White	Stayed the same but at a low level
Red	Outcome Deteriorated

Sacro National Office: 29 Albany Street, Edinburgh EH1 3QN.

Telephone: 0131 624 7270 Email: info@sacro.org.uk

FearFreeInfo@sacro.org.uk

Website: www.sacro.org.uk www.FearFree.scot

© Sacro 2020





