

Sheffield Children and Young Persons Pathways:

This document outlines the pathways for children and young people that disclose domestic abuse and/or sexual violence.

This pathway should be familiar to all professionals in Sheffield who may receive a disclosure from a victim/survivor aged under 18. It outlines key questions to consider and the steps to follow at each point.

Remember this might be the first time that the victim/survivor has disclosed abuse so make sure that you approach these conversations sensitively and, in a trauma-informed manner.

Sheffield Children and Young Persons Domestic Abuse Pathway:

A visual overview suitable for printing is available on page 4.

Key question 1: Is the person under 18?

If no, go to the [Adults Domestic Abuse Pathway](#).

If yes, then go to question 2.

Key question 2: is the person in immediate danger?

If yes, call the police on 999 and then answer question 3.

If no, then go to question 3.

Key question 3: Is the domestic abuse in their own intimate partner relationship? (If aged 13-18)

If yes, go to question 4.

If no, go to key action.

Sheffield Children and Young Persons Pathways:

Key question 4: Are you able to complete a DASH risk assessment form?

To note: Please select no if you do not know what this is and/or have not had training on this. Please use the most recent version of the Young Person's DASH.

If no, then please go to question 5.

If yes, complete the DASH risk assessment form then go to question 5. To note, this should only be completed with victim/survivors aged 13-18.

Key question 5: Is the person aged 16-18?

If yes, go to key question 6.

If no, go to the key action.

Key question 6: Is the case assessed as high risk?

To note, if there is a mention of non-fatal strangulation (i.e. choking, grabbed neck, suffocated) this is high-risk case, and [the non-fatal strangulation pathway](#) must ALSO be followed.

If yes, please discuss the case with the MARAC representative in your organisation, if applicable, then refer the case to MARAC. To do this email the DASH risk assessment to sheffield.marac@idas.cjsm.net and sheffield.idva@idas.cjsm.net. To send to the cjsm.net inboxes, you need to have an email from selected institutions, which unfortunately does not include @sheffield.gov.uk email addresses. If your email leads to a bounce back from the cjsm.net address, please password-protect the completed DASH form and send to sheffield.marac@idas.org.uk. Go to the key action.

If no, then please refer to IDAS with consent, and in the absence of consent provide them with the IDAS helpline- 0808 808 224. For more information on what IDAS can offer please see here. Go to the key action.

Sheffield Children and Young Persons Pathways:

Key action: Contact Sheffield Children's Safeguarding Hub on 01142734855 (open 24/7)

The Children's Safeguarding Hub will discuss your concerns with you, and you can share information gathered via a DASH if applicable. The steps taken from this point onwards will depend on the threshold of need and wider context. Further information can be found at:

[Sheffield Children Safeguarding Partnership - Referring a safeguarding concern to Children's Social Care \(safeguardingsheffieldchildren.org\)](https://safeguardingsheffieldchildren.org)

Key question 7: Have you identified other support needs?

Consider the needs of the child and wider family. If sexual abuse has been disclosed, please ALSO see the sexual violence pathway on pages 7-9.

Please consider the needs of the child and their wider family system and if anyone connected to the child may have care and support needs that warrant an adult safeguarding referral. More information on what constitutes an adult safeguarding concern can be viewed on the [Sheffield Adult Safeguarding Partnership website](#). If you are worried about adult self-neglect please see the [Multi-Agency Self Neglect Policy](#).

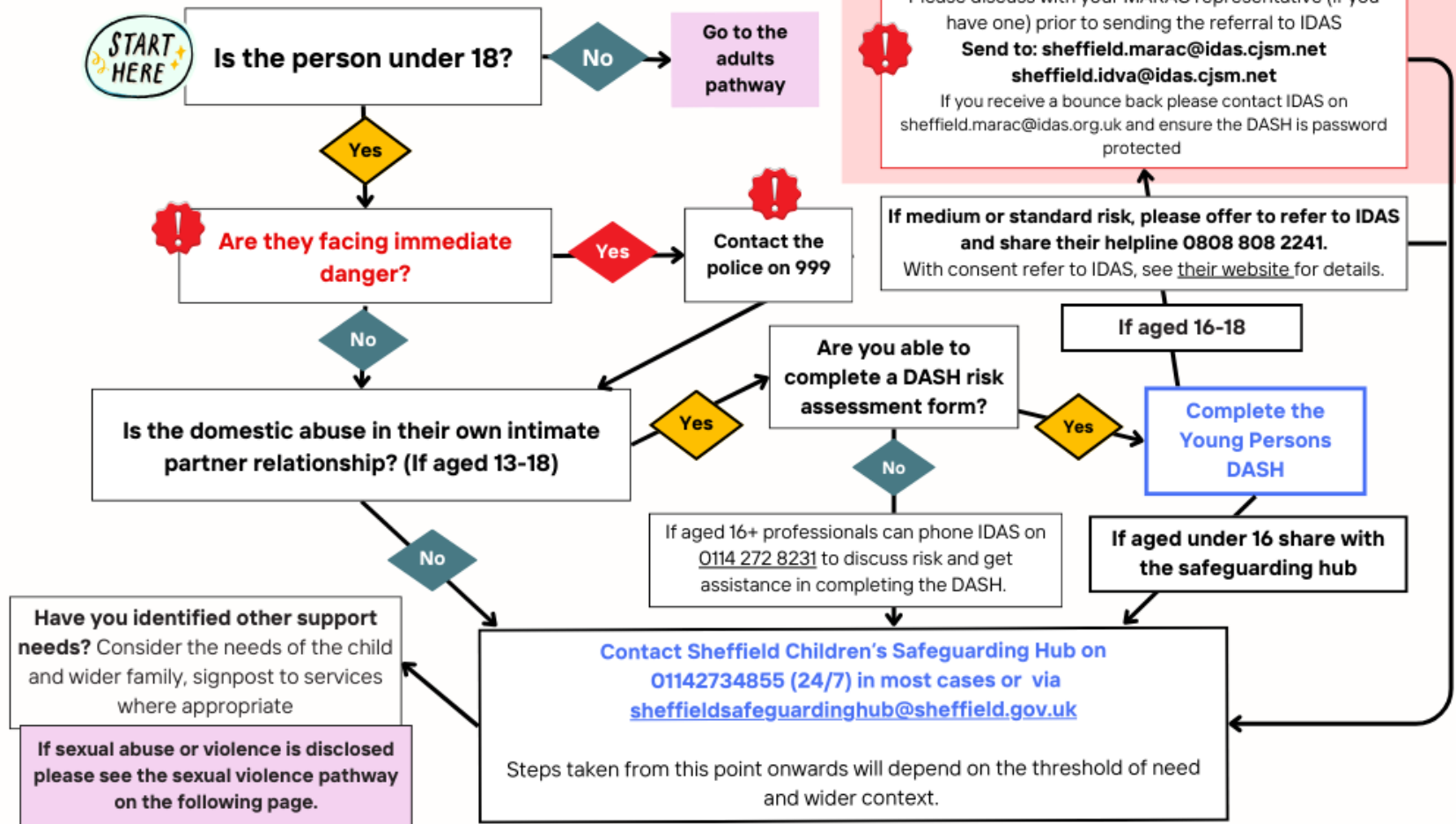
If yes, please consider options for further support (see page 5).

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Sheffield Domestic Abuse Pathway (2024)

RESPONDING TO DISCLOSURES FROM CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Are you under 18 and worried about your relationship? Get advice from ChildLine by visiting [their website](#) or calling 0800 1111 for free.



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Supporting information:

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 recognised children as victims of domestic abuse in their own right for the first time. Children are seen as victims of domestic abuse if they see, hear or experience abuse, and are related to the perpetrator of the abuse or the victim of the abuse. You can read the [statutory guidance](#) on the GOV.UK website.

Children's Safeguarding Hub:

Sheffield Children's Safeguarding Partnership is a group of multi-agency professionals who work together to try to reach our vision that every child and young person in Sheffield should be able to grow up free from the fear of abuse or neglect.

Safeguarding concerns are made to the Safeguarding Hub, you can find out more about the process the occurs when contacting the safeguarding hub [here](#). This shows how the next steps are based on the threshold of need present. The latest version of the threshold of need guidance is available [here](#). These thresholds are dynamic in nature and reflect the need of a whole-family approach.

You can find safeguarding procedures for children, including how to recognise signs of domestic abuse, sexual abuse and other harms [here](#).

IDAS support overview (16–18-year-olds):

IDAS are the commissioned local provider of community domestic abuse support and Safe Zones dispersed safe accommodation.

If the victim/survivor is 16-18 they can help with:

- One-to-one support and advocacy, including advice, safety planning, and group support
- Providing measures to secure a property (sanctuary measures)
- Support with navigating the criminal justice system (police, courts)
- Accessing safe accommodation and other housing options, including their Safe Zones properties which are open to all genders
- Interpretation and translation are available

IDAS run the Sheffield Domestic Abuse Helpline: **08088082241** (free). Open Monday – Friday : 8am – 8pm, Saturday, Sunday & Bank Holidays 11am – 8pm. A webchat is also available daily between 1-4 pm. You can find out more on their website: [Domestic abuse support - IDAS](#)

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Professional training and development:

You can view a range of professional resources including DASH forms and best practice guidance on Sheffield City Council's website here. IDAS are commissioned to provide training on domestic abuse, which is available for free to Sheffield professionals, you can view this on [their website](#). Sheffield Children's Safeguarding Partnership also provide relevant training, accessible via their websites.

Other local support services:

A more comprehensive list of support services can be found on [Sheffield Directory](#) but below are some local support services that may be able to support individuals or families with unmet needs.

- [Haven](#): Provide support to children impacted by domestic abuse.
- [Sheffield Futures/Door 43](#): Provide wellbeing and therapeutic support to those aged 13-25.
- [Ashiana Sheffield](#): A by-and-for service for black and minority ethnic women affected by abuse and exploitation. They currently (Jan 2025) run a programme called Bright Horizons for children impacted by domestic abuse.
- [Young Women's Housing Project \(YWHP\)](#): Provide safe accommodation and specialist therapeutic support services for young women, girls and their children.
- [Sheffield Women's Aid](#): Provide safe accommodation and support for female survivors of domestic abuse and their children in two refuges. Accessed by Sheffield City Council Housing Solutions.
- [Roundabout](#): Provide support to young people aged 16-25 who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.
- [South Yorkshire Sexual Violence Partnership](#) : Provide Independent Sexual Violence Advocate (CHISVA) support and child victims of sexual abuse. If you are a Sheffield resident this will be delivered by Sheffield Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre (SRASAC).
- [Sheffield Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre](#): Provide counselling support for child victims of sexual abuse aged 4-18.
- [Children's Sexual Assault Referral Centre \(SARC\)](#): Provide support to child victims of sexual assault and rape at Sheffield Children's Hospital.
- [Hackenthorpe Lodge Sexual Assault Referral Centre \(SARC\)](#): Provide a range of support to victim/survivors of sexual violence including forensic examination. Open ages 16 and over.
- [The Corner/ Change Grow Live](#) : Provide alcohol and drug support in Sheffield to children and young people aged 10-18.
- [Sheffield Young Carer's Centre](#): Provide a range of support for young carers in Sheffield.

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Sheffield Children and Young Persons Sexual Violence Pathway:

A visual overview suitable for printing is available on page 9.

Key question 1: Is the person aged under 18?

If no, go to the [Adults Sexual Violence Pathway](#).

If yes, then go to question 2.

Key question 2: is the person in immediate danger?

If yes, call the police on 999 and then answer key action 1.

If no, then go to key action 1.

Key action 1: Contact Sheffield Children's Safeguarding Hub on 01142734855 (open 24/7)

The Children's Safeguarding Hub will discuss your concerns with you, and you can share information gathered via a DASH if applicable.

The steps taken from this point onwards will depend on the threshold of need and wider context. Further information can be found at:

[Sheffield Children Safeguarding Partnership - Referring a safeguarding concern to Children's Social Care](https://safeguardingsheffieldchildren.org)
(safeguardingsheffieldchildren.org)

To note: If there is a mention of non-fatal strangulation (i.e. choking in the context of 'rough sex') please refer to the dedicated [pathway for non-fatal strangulation](#). If the child is 13-18 and the sexual violence is in the context of their own intimate partner relationship, please see the domestic abuse pathway for children and young people.

Also, consider their wider support needs, see page 6 and Sheffield Directory.

Go to key action 2.

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Key action 2: Reassure the child that you believe them and are taking it seriously. Let them talk freely and reassure them that what happened was not their fault. Explain what you are doing as a result.

Local specialist support services:

[Children's Sexual Assault Referral Centre \(SARC\)](#) is based at Sheffield Children's Hospital. They provide forensic medical examination and wider support to victim/survivors. You can view the support they provide on their website which has a video describing the support. It should be noted that only social workers and police can refer to Children's Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC). However, if aged 16-18 you can advise that they can also self-refer to the adult service at [Hackenthorpe Lodge](#), appointments are required to attend.

[South Yorkshire Sexual Violence Partnership](#): can offer support to consider reporting options, navigate the criminal justice system and provide wider advocacy support. Their Children's Independent Sexual Violence Advocate (CHISVA) service is open to professional and self-referral, you can find out more on their website: www.syisva.org.uk. If they have a Sheffield postcode the service will be provided by SRASAC.

[Sheffield Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre \(SRASAC\)](#): have recently started to offer specialist counselling for child victims of sexual abuse, that includes 1:1 therapy and direct work with parents/carers. Professionals can call 01142412766 or email cyp.info@srasac.org.uk for guidance around handling cases, and to request a referral form to the service.

Information of sexual violence in the context of children and young people:

Sexual violence in the context of children and young people includes:

- Contact sexual touching of any part of a child's body, whether they're clothed or not
- Making a child take part in sexual activity
- Exposing children to sexual acts, sexual imagery or body parts and/or making sexual imagery of children
- Coercion of a child into sexual activity for something in return (child sexual exploitation)

You can find out more about this on the [Sheffield Children's Safeguarding](#) website which contains the [safeguarding manual](#), information can be found in section 3.11.1 and information on child sexual exploitation can be found in section 3.5.4. Further information and guidance is also on the [NSPCC website](#). Training around these issues can be accessed on the [training page](#) on the Sheffield Children's Safeguarding website.

Sheffield Children and Young Persons Pathways:

Sheffield Sexual Violence Pathway (2024)

RESPONDING TO DISCLOSURES FROM CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

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- Exposing children to sexual acts
- Showing a child sexual imagery or body parts and/or making sexual imagery of children
- Coercion of a child into sexual activity for something in return (child sexual exploitation)

