

Identifying & Responding to Domestic Abuse within NHS GGC Children's Services

Indicators of abuse present during contact with the woman & her child/ren or you suspect abuse may be an issue.

Consider language needs e.g. interpreter/ BSL

¹Suspected abuse but no disclosure

Ensure private environment
See woman alone
Discuss consent & confidentiality²
Ask direct questions

Disclosure of abuse
(It is not expected that staff will "fix" the situation but that they will signpost/refer to the appropriate service)

⁶Offer support & domestic abuse helpline number.

³Where there are concerns about the safety of the woman or child/ren complete shared referral & contact CPU³ /GBV⁷ resource unit for support and or advice.

⁵**Discuss** sharing information with relevant health professionals- GP/HV/specialist or school nurse & agencies e.g. social work.

Document disclosure & actions taken safely in the child's notes (chronology) as this is important information that can impact on the health of the child/young person.

What to do
Let the woman talk & don't judge her. Believe what she tells you & remind her it's not her fault.

Safety of the woman & children should be a priority. ⁴Ask about safety & consider risk factors.

³Complete shared referral & follow child protection guidelines & contact CPU.

Give her the Scottish Domestic Abuse Helpline number but check with her she is safe to take this.

Discuss contacting the police. Remind her that she can call 999 in an emergency. For support contact the GBV⁷ resource unit or CPU³

If other health professional are involved in care of the child/ren notify them of your concern e.g. health visitor, specialist nurse /school nurse/GP.

Discuss options: Does the woman have somewhere safe to go with her children? Are they safe to go home? Can they stay in the hospital? Does she need assistance to arrange safe accommodation? Does she have the number for support services? Would she like to contact services from a safe phone in the hospital/clinic?