

Kent & Medway Domestic Abuse Referral and Support

What is domestic abuse?

Domestic abuse is any single incident, course of conduct or pattern of abusive behaviour between individuals aged 16 or over who are “personally connected” to each other as a result of being, or having been, intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality. Children who see, hear or experience the effects of the abuse and are related to either of the parties are also considered victims of domestic abuse.

Behaviour is “abusive” if it consists of any of the following: physical or sexual abuse; violent or threatening behaviour; controlling or coercive behaviour; economic abuse; or psychological, emotional or other abuse. This includes incidences where the abusive party directs their behaviour at another person (e.g. a child). Economic abuse means any behaviour that has a substantial adverse effect on someone’s ability to acquire, use or maintain money or other property, or obtain goods or services.

What is Clare’s Law

Clare’s Law, also known as DVDS (Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme) is a police-run scheme that lets you, or any member of the public, formally request or receive usually confidential information about a romantic partner’s criminal history. This might be a current partner who you are worried might have been abusive in the past. It can also be an ex-partner you are no longer involved with but believe may be a threat to your safety.

[You can find out more and make a request here.](#)

What help is available?

Domestic Abuse Drop In’s - One Stop Shops

Domestic Abuse One Stop Shops offer free and confidential advice, information, and support from a range of agencies to help victims of domestic abuse. You may even remain anonymous if it is just advice you are seeking.

[Find your nearest drop in here.](#)

Support for people affected by domestic abuse in **Kent**:

Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse Service (KIDAS) offer person-centred support to any victims and their family in Kent. Support available includes:

- Safe refuge accommodation
- Specialist Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVA) support
- Community Outreach Services
- Therapeutic and group programmes (e.g. Freedom or Phoenix Programme)
- Sanctuary provision (adaptations to make the home safer)
- Assistance with legal issues including seeking court orders and access to legal advice.

- Emergency welfare assistance for clients in crisis (food, energy, travel)

Support can be accessed by contacting Victim Support for assessment and referral to your local service via the phone number below or the **Live Chat** facility.

Call - 0808 168 9111 - 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Support for people affected by domestic abuse in **Medway**:

Medway Domestic Abuse Service (MDAS) is a specialist domestic abuse. MDAS offers a range of services to increase safety by offering:

- Advice & Information
- One-to-One specialist support to keep victims safe, to help them recover and move on, including to young people at risk
- A joined-up package of support, bringing in and working together with partner agencies in housing, health, police and services for children and others to best suit victims' needs
- Specialist group support programmes
- School programmes to help young people identify and understand abusive behaviour
- Specialist support to families affected by domestic abuse, working with the non-abusive parent and child

Call - 0800 9179948 from 9.30-11.30am on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, 12.30-2.30pm on Thursday and 9.30-11.30am on Friday

Email - helpline@oasisdaservice.org

People using abusive behaviour –

Interventions Alliance deliver a variety of one-to-one and group work interventions that work to help people who use abusive or stalking behaviour in their relationships to address the root cause and to make positive changes.

These services are free and impartial and can help by giving practical and emotional support. They work in partnership with Kent Police, Lookahead and Victim Support. For more information go to : <https://interventionsalliance.com/services/healthy-relationships-and-cobi-interventions/> or email MASIP@kent.police.uk

Community Domestic Abuse Programme is a rolling programme of sessions. Based on the Duluth Programme, it is designed to help men who feel their behaviour towards their partner has been, or is still, abusive.

[Find out more here.](#)

What is a risk assessment (DASH?)

Risk assessment is a crucial part of helping to deal with domestic abuse. Levels of threat, danger and violence need to be identified and established to ensure the most

appropriate course of action, and also to ensure the victim's safety. It also identifies cases needing to be referred to MARAC. In Kent & Medway we recommend using the DASH risk assessment.

What is MARAC?

MARAC is a process where agencies share relevant information about high-risk cases and make collaborative plans to help the people in that situation and reduce the risk. It identifies the actions needed to keep people safe and the most appropriate services for all those involved: the person experiencing abuse, any children connected to the people involved and the person using abusive behaviour.

If you identify someone as being high risk you should download this information and referral form and send this, together with the DASH assessment if you have one, to the email addresses enclosed.

[MARAC Information and Referral Form.](#)

Key contacts and services:

- Kent Police: 999 in an emergency and 101 for all other calls/enquiries
- Clare's Law: [Request Information under Clare's Law](#)
- Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse Service: 0808 168 9111
- Medway Domestic Abuse Service: 0800 917 9948
- Kent Children's Services: [Worried about a child](#)
- Medway Children's Services: [Concerned about a child](#)
- Kent & Medway Safeguarding Adults: [Concerned about an adult](#)
- MARAC: [MARAC Information and Referral Form.](#)
- Sexual Assault Referral Centre: 01622 726461 (weekdays, 9am - 5pm) Out of Hours: 0800 133 7432

National helplines:

- [Respect](#): a confidential helpline, email and webchat service for domestic abuse perpetrators and those supporting them – call [0808 8024040](tel:08088024040) or email info@respectphoneline.org.uk
- [Galop](#): this helpline is for LGBT+ people experiencing abuse or violence – call 0800 999 5428.
- [Karma Nirvana](#): The national Honour Based Abuse Helpline - 0800 5999 247
- [Forced Marriage Helpline](#): call 02070080151 or email fmu@fco.gov.uk

Jargon Buster

DASH – Domestic Abuse, Stalking & Harassment and Honour Based Violence – a risk assessment checklist.

Clare's Law - This scheme enables the police to release information about any previous history of violence or abuse a person might have.

IDVA – Independent Domestic Violence Advisor – a person who works with those affected by abuse to increase their safety and wellbeing.

MARAC – Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference – a process for agencies to share information and action plan to reduce risks

MATAC – Multi-Agency Task and Coordination – a meeting where high harm perpetrators are discussed and proactive plans are put in place to reduce the risk they pose

Safelives – The organisation that developed and oversees DASH and MARACs.

KIDAS – Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse Service – are the group of organisations commissioned to provide safe accommodation and community services for adults affected by abuse in Kent.

MDAS – Medway Domestic Abuse Service – the service that delivers community services in Medway.

ISVA – Independent Sexual Violence Advisor– a person who works with those affected by abuse to increase their safety and wellbeing.

SARC – Sexual Assault Referral Centre - offer confidential medical and practical support to people who have recently been raped or sexually assaulted.