

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request Reference FoI/24/261

Domestic Abuse

Information Requested:

The most recent materials/guidelines for midwives, obstetricians [and GPs if you hold it] about domestic abuse and pregnancy which staff are meant to follow when identifying and supporting a pregnant woman in their care who is a potential victim of domestic abuse.

What training you give for using the DASH risk assessment (or equivalent risk assessment).

What training your staff receive on coercive control and behaviour.

If you have them, guidelines offered on what to look for in a pregnant person's partner as to whether they might be a domestic abuse perpetrator.

Response Details:

Please find attached the following PDFs:

- Ask and Act Domestic Abuse Assessment referral form – this is used by staff to aid in discussions around domestic abuse and, following this, a referral can be made to the Health Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) of Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (the UHB) who are able to provide support to individuals when they are within the hospital setting.
- Ask and Act Domestic Abuse Pathway – this pathway is used alongside the Ask and Act form, and informs staff as to the next steps following a positive disclosure of domestic violence, and also the steps to take following a negative disclosure.
- Domestic Abuse Procedure – this is a UHB-wide procedure and also provides information for supporting staff who have been involved in domestic violence.
- Safeguarding in Maternity Guideline – this guideline offers support and guidance to staff when addressing safeguarding concerns, and also mentions domestic violence.
- Domestic Abuse within Maternity Services Guideline – this guideline offers support to staff in relation to identification, assessment, and response in pregnancy where there is domestic violence present.

Staff receive safeguarding training, they must also complete domestic violence training on the Electronic Staff Record and should attend a half-day session on violence against women, domestic abuse, and sexual violence. Staff are expected to complete levels 1, 2, and 3 of safeguarding training, which are expected to be completed once every three years.

Staff are also expected to attend violence against women, domestic abuse, and sexual violence training. This is provided by the IDVAs and safeguarding nurse advisors. Staff access group 1 online, and group 2 is

provided via Teams with a presentation. There is specific discussion within this training regarding coercive behaviour and control.

The UHB's IDVAs usually complete the DASH risk assessment and they receive intensive IDVA-specific training via SafeLives.