If you need further information, please refer to the BME Matrix.

Protective factors

**Child/mother relationship is nurturing, protective & stable.**

*Significant other in child’s life - positive and nurturing.*

*Family/friends and community are supportive.*

*Older children/Adolescent - increased risk of intervening in abuse and emerging concerns re self-harm.*

*Victim has experienced domestic violence in previous relationships.*

**Risk factors/Potential vulnerabilities**

*Abuser has history of domestic violence in previous relationships.*

*Victim/minor(s) with a history of domestic violence.*

*Abuser shows lack of insight/empathy into how his behaviour affects children/victim.*

*Abuser has a minimal education and poor employment prospects.*

*Abuser has a history of criminal offending.*

*Risk of offending exacerbated by substance abuse and/or mental health needs.*

*Abuser isزBoyfriend/Father figure. Family unit has step-siblings.*

*Victim is pregnant/victim is abused in post natal period/recently separated with new baby.*

**Evidence of Domestic Violence**

*History of minor/moderate incidents of domestic violence-longer duration.*

*Victim received minor injuries - medical attention not sought.*

*Empathy towards child/ren - Destruction of property.*

*Child/ren were not drawn into family dynamics.*

**Evidence of Domestic Violence**

*Abuse and violence were not directly witnessed.*

*Victim has experienced domestic violence in previous relationships.*

*Older child/ren use coping/protective strategies.*

*Substantial risk of repeated serious domestic violence.*

*Confirmed emotional/psychological/abuse of mother.*

*Substantial risk of sexual exploitation.*

*Abuser has a history of criminal offending.*

*Abuser shows lack of insight/empathy into how his behaviour affects children/victim.*

*Abuser has minimal education and poor employment prospects.*

*Abuser has a history of criminal offending.*

*Risk of offending exacerbated by substance abuse and/or mental health needs.*

*Abuser isزBoyfriend/Father figure. Family unit has step-siblings.*

*Victim is pregnant/victim is abused in post natal period/recently separated with new baby.*

**Evidence of Domestic Violence**

*Substance abuse by abuser and/or victim-causes concern.*

*Substance abuse by abuser and/or victim raises concern.*

*Abuser and/or victim’s instability is a source of conflict/anger.*

*Abuser and/or victim’s impulsivity may cause problems.*

*Victim is pregnant/victim is abused in post natal period/recently separated with new baby.*

**Evidence of Domestic Violence**

*Abuser needs professional support to address his abusive* behaviour.

*Abuser indicates genuine remorse and a willingness to seek support for abusive behaviour.*

*Victim has positive support from family/friends and community.*

*Victim appeared emotionally strong (not worn-down by the abuse).*

*Victim sought appropriate support and was engaged in seeking help from other agencies.*

**BME (Black, Minority, Ethnic) Issues**

*Ask yourself the following questions:*

*If this parent…*

*Cannot speak, read or write English.*

*Fears that the ‘State’ is authoritarian.*

*Cannot speak, read or write English.*

*If this parent…*

*Ask yourself the following questions:*

*If this parent…*

*Cannot speak, read or write English.*

*Fears that the ‘State’ is authoritarian.*

*Cannot speak, read or write English.*

*If this parent…*

*Ask yourself the following questions:*