

7 MINUTE BRIEFING

Supporting Children Affected by Domestic Abuse-Domestic Abuse Risk Identification Matrix DARIM

Knowsley Safer Communities
Team also has a Children's
Domestic Abuse Advocate who
will provide advice and guidance
to schools on supporting children
affected by DA; encourage
families to take up support at an
early stage and provide direct
support to children of school age
whose needs fall within Levels 1 &
2 in KMBC's Threshold Guidance.
Contact 443 5079.

In 2015/16 a total of 1,874 domestic abuse incidents reported to the police were recorded as having had a child present during the incident. Domestic abuse continues to be the single biggest reason for contacts made to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) about safeguarding concerns for Knowsley children.

A referral to Listening Ear can be a follow up action from an Operation Encompass notification to a school or health professional and completion of a DARIM may be a recommendation from the MASH to any agency working directly with children and families.

As part of the Knowsley DA
Action Plan (16/17) the Listening
Ear service will be providing
support to children affected by DA
and referrals must be
accompanied by a completed
DARIM. This service will be
available until January 2019 and
any agency can refer directly to
the service. Partner agencies can
also request the support of the
Early Help Team in completing
the DARIM on 443 4707.

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Any worker can complete a DARIM, though it is usually necessary to include multiagency partners in the process to gather as much information as possible. The child and parent should be given the option be take part in the DARIM and should always know that one is being completed on their behalf.

When working with children affected by domestic abuse it is important to consider the level of risk posed to the child to make sure the right support is in place. The Domestic Abuse Risk Indicator Matrix (DARIM) helps practitioners determine this and is the tool endorsed by the KSCB for this purpose.

The key benefits of this nationally used tool developed by Barnardo's are that it identifies risks to children and mothers. It supports staff in ensuring there is a consistent safeguarding response to domestic abuse and promotes the sharing of information and a 'common language' for understanding the level of risk and the nature of the response provided.