

- The DVRIM was created by Barnardo's to provide practitioners with a quick reference tool that assesses the severity of domestic abuse in conjunction with the evidenced risk and protective factors. It can be found on the tools matrix on the intranet or uploaded from the case plan/ECMS folder.

1 Background

- The DVRIM is quick to use and does not require face to face contact with parents to complete it.
- The tool is evidence based and can add significant value to your professional analysis.
- The tool is easy for parents to understand.

5 Benefits

- The DVRIM should ideally be used with the Domestic Abuse "what we need to know" tool and should be completed without the parents present by applying all the information gathered from agency checks, interviews, DA tools and professional judgements.

2 Use of the tool

- It promotes an excellent framework and critical thinking regarding balancing risk factors against protective factors.
- The DVRIM is recognized and respected by LA's, courts and voluntary safeguarding agencies nationwide.

6 Benefits

- The tool is divided into 4 levels ranging from moderate (level 1) to severe (level 4). When the tool is fully completed FCA's should be able to map the results to identify the severity of risk.
- FCA's can use the risk indicators and key vulnerability/protective factors to promote defensible decision making in their reports.

3 Information

- Can I add text to the box? Yes, FCA's can add sticky notes and comments by selecting the relevant icons on the tool. You can date them and also add your signature to personalise the DVRIM to the case your working on.
- What do I do if the DVRIM indicates severe DA risks? FCA's should consider completion of the SafeLives tool; consultation with a SM and referral to the LA.

7 Questions

- If FCA's complete or reference the DVRIM, the tool should always be uploaded to ECMS.
- In the checkbox columns the FCA should check Y for yes (this is an evidenced risk) or S (if the abuse is suspected).
- If a number of suspected high risk indicators are evident this could indicate the need for further enquiries such as Finding of Fact hearing or enhanced police checks

4 Did you know?

Feedback:

"The DVRIM is an integral part of the domestic abuse pathway. I use the DVRIM routinely in DA cases and it has really helped me to develop the evidenced base analysis in my reports. This is the most valuable tool in my tool bag for assessing domestic abuse."

Alison FCA, Anytown

7 Minute Briefing A Tool for You... BARNARDO'S DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RISK IDENTIFICATION MATRIX (DVRIM)