

The use of Professional Judgement on the Dash RIC – Nottingham City

You use professional judgement when there are identifiable indicators of risk of serious harm, which have not been identified by the DASH RIC questions and the potential event could happen at any time and the impact would be serious.

Key Information for using professional Judgement:

- ★ Don't just say you think it is High Risk – give clear reasons why.
- ★ Expand on yes questions with more information wherever possible.
- ★ If you are not sure if this is high risk and would like to discuss with an specialist, please contact the **Juno Women's Aid Helpline on 0115 947 6490** or speak to your agency **Safeguarding Lead**

Don't

- ✗ Don't Put in lots of information – think about what is relevant and pertinent. You don't need the survivor's whole life history.
- ✗ Don't panic and send as high risk without clear reasons.
- ✗ Don't make a case high risk, where there is only 1 main concern which is not a high risk factor on its own. For example loss of child contact / residency issues (they are of concern to the survivor, but do not make it high risk).
- ✗ Don't use professional judgement instead of completing the questions section.
- ✗ Don't complete for historic information where there is no current risk / abuse e.g. survivor details previous abuse but is no longer at risk from the perpetrator.

Things to consider when using professional judgement

Consider the additional indicators provided in the professional judgement section of the DASH RIC. The following may help you identify information of concern that you are aware of that is not covered elsewhere:

Early Commitment (living together, pregnancy, engagement etc) happened very quickly after they met. Use of possessive language by perpetrator, changes in survivor's routine / behaviour early in the relationship.

The mapping patterns of abuse / behaviours - are there aspects of the survivor's life the perpetrator controls / are there any expectations set by the perpetrator or consequences if the survivor does not meet those expectations / demands.

The use of technology and or others to monitor and control - cameras in the house, the perpetrator knows all passwords to survivor's personal accounts, the use of friends to track and monitor the survivor, secret tracking apps.

Reasons why the survivor is unable to leave the relationship (that would have a significant impact or harm – emotional as well as physical).

Changes in mental ill health and changes in physical health.

Are there any significant changes or anything different that could prompt further abuse, e.g. retirement, ill health, inheritance?

What has the perpetrator got to lose: loss of control and relationship, professional status / reputation tarnished / damaged, police involvement (impact on status / finances / reputation)?

