

See her on her own, in a private, safe, quiet space

'We know that some women are abused and scared by a partner/ex-partner or family member. Has your partner/ex-partner ever hurt or threatened you?'

If she does not speak English, use a professional interpreter, DO NOT USE FAMILY OR FRIENDS

Disclosure of ABUSE

NO

YES

Sensitively demonstrate you have an understanding of abuse
'It can sometimes be difficult for someone to talk about any experience of abuse, people can feel very isolated and alone, but it can help to talk'

'You are not to blame and you are not alone. Many women experience abuse.'

Responding to Disclosure
Listen, Tell her you believe her and **she is not to blame**, Respond sympathetically, in a non-judgemental manner. Respect confidentiality but explain boundaries ie child protection

'Do you ever feel afraid of your partner, does your partner try to control who you see or what you do?'

Disclosure of ABUSE

Has any abuse happened in the last 12 months?

Do you still have contact with him?

Are you living with him?

Are you separated from him?

Are you planning to leave?

Do you feel safe?

Do you feel safe?

No Disclosure

'I can give you information on agencies who can offer you further help and support'.

RISK ASSESSMENT & SAFETY PLANNING

Sign post to Support and information

Be prepared to offer a follow up appointment.

Those experiencing abuse are NOT TO BLAME. The responsibility for any abuse lies with the perpetrator who CHOOSES to abuse.

'Significant numbers of women are victims of more than one type of violence and many experience repeat victimisation' (research findings 6/2010 Scottish Government)
Forced marriage, 'honour' crimes are forms of domestic abuse and sometimes child abuse. Research found that 54% of rapes were committed by the women's partner/ex partner and levels of reporting are particularly low for rape and sexual assault within a pattern of domestic abuse. (Walby&Allen 2004) Stalking may feature across all forms of gender based violence and is recognised as a key risk indicator . 78-86% of stalking victims are female with between 18 and 31% experiencing sexual violence within the context of stalking behaviour. (Scottish Government 2009)