

## 5. Responding

### Suggested responses to clients following assessment

**Guidance:** when you have gathered information from the man about what happened and about the patterns in the relationship, either by using the formal assessment process outlined in this section of the toolkit or by more informal methods if you have less time, you will have a clearer idea of whether they are a victim, perpetrator or some other category of client. Use the Respect matrix and identification process in Chapter 3 to help to identify which category they are in. Now use the table below to help plan your response.

Category of client	Possible responses
<p><b>Victim</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May have injuries, likely to be fearful and feel controlled</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss level of risk &amp; concern with man &amp; outline options</li> <li>• Discuss safety planning such as emergency numbers on mobile phone, panic button, alarm etc</li> <li>• Legal options &amp; specialist Solicitors</li> <li>• Expert Risk Assessors if child contact case</li> <li>• Report writing if &amp; when necessary</li> <li>• Onward referral to specialist agencies if needed e.g. alcohol, drugs, mental health</li> <li>• Specialist referral for children</li> <li>• Referral to Parenting/Family Support/Sure Start</li> <li>• Explore alternative housing options</li> <li>• If refuge is appropriate explain the implications of this</li> <li>• Advocacy including attending court</li> <li>• High Risk case referred to MARAC</li> <li>• On-going emotional support/counselling which should deal with abuse, internalised resentment &amp; anger</li> </ul>
<p><b>Perpetrator (presenting as victim)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• History of violence and abuse towards partner</li> <li>• Sense of entitlement</li> <li>• Partner (and children) facing significant amounts of violence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make clear that the violence is unacceptable and illegal and that he is putting himself, his partner and children in danger</li> <li>• Be clear that he has a choice to change his behaviour</li> <li>• If appropriate and possible, talk through with him alternatives to being violent / abusive, but stressing that one conversation is not enough and he is likely to need more help</li> <li>• Motivate him to get help</li> <li>• Referral to perpetrator programme and/or Respect Phoneline 0808 802 4040</li> <li>• Contact/Referral to Child Protection Team</li> </ul>

## Respect Toolkit for work with male victims of domestic violence

<p><b>Perpetrator (presenting as victim) whose victim has used violence in self-defence or resistance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Used violence against partner which results in partner feeling controlled, fearful, injured</li> <li>• Sense of entitlement</li> <li>• Client is not afraid, does not feel controlled</li> </ul>	<p>As above, PLUS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be clear that self-defence is legal and that if he puts his partner or children in danger, the law will protect her if she needs to use force to defend self/children</li> <li>• Be clear that the violence is likely to get worse and cause danger to himself, partner, children</li> <li>• Recognise that the perpetrator may be very resistant to hearing that they are a perpetrator</li> <li>• Encourage them to think about how their partner feels</li> </ul>
<p><b>High Risk Perpetrator</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identified as high risk of continuing and escalating violence, using recognised risk assessment tool</li> <li>• Partner (and children) facing significant amounts of violence and danger and/or extreme coercive control</li> </ul>	<p>As above PLUS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MARAC referral</li> <li>• Consider reporting direct to police and if relevant probation officer</li> </ul>
<p><b>Unhappy relationship but no abuse at this point</b></p> <p>No evidence of physical or sexual violence, no evidence of verbal abuse causing fear or control though arguments may be unpleasant.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be aware that this may be the preliminary stages of a relationship prior to abuse and alert to the possibility that you may have missed significant information or implications, such as controlling behaviour – make sure you check both whether he feels afraid of his partner being violent or abusive, or whether he thinks his partner is afraid of him</li> <li>• Explain the purpose of this service is for men who are experiencing abuse and that you cannot support him but can put them in touch with someone else who can, if that's appropriate (bear in mind it may not always be appropriate)</li> <li>• Refer to Relate or other counselling or couples work</li> <li>• Refer to Citizen's Advice for financial information</li> <li>• Refer to lawyer if separation indicated</li> </ul>

## LEGAL RIGHTS

We have provided clear information about legal rights for victims on our website. Please see [www.mensadviceline.org.uk](http://www.mensadviceline.org.uk) for more information.