



BFSWS

BRITISH FORCES SOCIAL WORK SERVICE OVERSEAS

Framework for Decision-Making

Guidance for making the right
choice about the safety and
wellbeing of Adults at Risk



Introduction

This document has been created to support professionals in the overseas commands when faced with a decision about providing support, and ensuring the wellbeing and safety of adults at risk.

The term adult covered in this Threshold Document is any person who is 18 years or over for whom MOD assumes responsibility, who are classed as adults with care and support needs and who may be at risk of harm, neglect or abuse (JSP834). The threshold criteria provides guidance and levels of intervention that may be required to support adults. This document focuses on adults' strengths, and its aim is to promote resilience and positive outcomes for adults in need of support, and adults at risk, ensuring adults at risk receive the most appropriate level of support, and are free from significant harm.

This document should be used by professionals/partner agencies to support decision making, and be used in conjunction with discussions with BFSWS Social Workers/Managers to agree appropriate next steps. This is not to replace the conversations/consultations we have when faced with concerns about an adult at risk to determine the best next steps. All professionals should use their own internal management leads for support, guidance and reflection.

Supporting and protecting adults at risk can be challenging and complex. This document is to support practitioners with thresholds, to help understand levels of need and support required, and to analyse past and current concerns and risks in relation to potential harm, whilst promoting safety and strengths to develop next steps.

BFSWS staff should read this document in conjunction with 'BFSWS Adults At Risk Policy & Procedure,' which clearly sets out the legislative framework & responsibilities, e.g. the Care Act 2014 and associated statutory guidance, and the importance of consent to intervene, or become involved, in some way, with the care and welfare of adults who may be need of support and or safeguarding.

Non BFSWS staff should refer to JSP 834 for further guidance on working with adults at risk: 'Those MOD personnel who work, with or have contact with adults at risk are to be familiar with the Care Act (2014) and should carry out their responsibilities in accordance with professional standards, regulations and policy set out by the DHSC (England)/Devolved Administration equivalent (JSP834).

Contact for consultation/referral

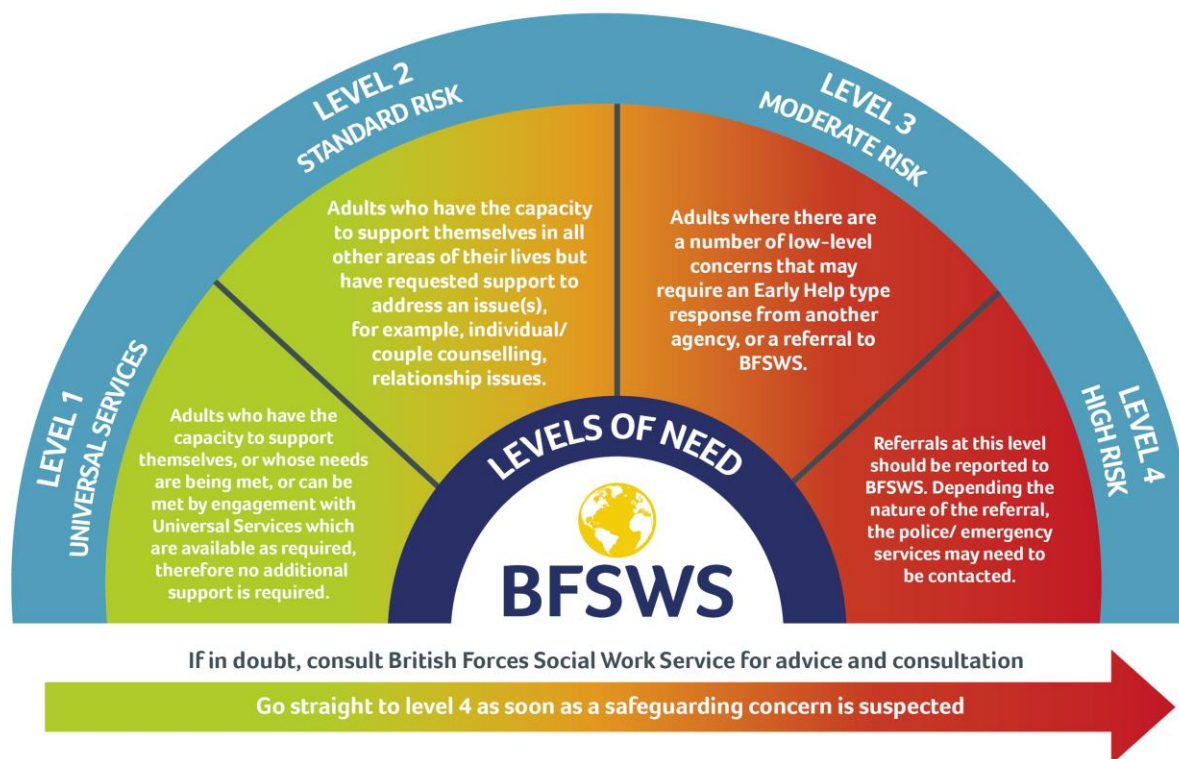
- BFSWS Overseas: crt.bfsws@coreassets.com 0044 (0) 808 1683111
- BFSWS Cyprus: contactuscyprus@forcessocialwork.com (00 357) 2596 3609. Out of Hours: (00 357) 9777 1252
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BFSWS RoW Adult Threshold Eligibility Criteria

The four levels of need reflect a holistic approach to providing support for Adults which is flexible and responsive.

The needs of adults do not move through the levels in a structured way, but rather along a continuum of need. Adults may experience a range of different needs at different times and as such will move backwards and forwards through the continuum as needs are met, or change.



Universal Services – Level 1

Adults who have the capacity to support themselves, or whose needs are being met, or can be met by engagement with Universal Services which are available as required, therefore additional support is not necessary.

Some examples may include:

- Appropriate self-care skills and good level of personal care
- Good support networks/relationships through family/friends/community etc
- Good physical and mental health and promotes healthy choices
- Access to adequate and nutritious diet, good physical activity and healthy weight
- No concerns regarding substance misuse/sexual behaviour
- Accesses health and universal services as necessary
- Has no caring role, or has a caring role with all required supports in place



Standard Risk – Level 2

Adults who have the capacity to support themselves in all other areas of their lives but have requested support to address an issue(s), for example, individual/couple counselling, relationship issues.



Standard Risk – Level 2

Health & Social Care

- Small risk to safety which can be managed or prevented by the person
- Small risk to health which can be managed or prevented by the person themselves
- Person suffers from preventable health problems or injuries, or these might happen from time to time
- Person's behaviour presents a moderate risk to themselves or to others

Mental Capacity

- Person's home environment places a minimal or limited restriction on their choice and control over their life
- Person needs help getting around outside of their home
- Person is able to achieve outcomes without assistance, but doing so is likely to/endangers the health or safety of the adult/others e.g. where the health/safety of a family member, including a child, could be endangered when an adult attempts to complete a task or an activity without relevant support

Personal Care

- Person is unable, or needs help, to carry out some of their own personal care or domestic routines over the course of a week
- Person needs help in maintaining cleanliness of their home: shopping for items that are not used every day

Standard Risk – Level 2

Family & Wider Community Life

- Unable to sustain their involvement in 1 or 2 aspects of work/education
- Important relationships are stressed, but are not at risk from breakdown
- One-off incident of teasing or taunts motivated by prejudicial attitudes towards an adult's differences
- Possibility that some social supports (eg friends, neighbours) are at risk
- Person would benefit from taking part in work/education

Family & Wider Community Life

- Arguments/conflict between adult couple in absence of any standard/moderate/high risks
- Patterns of EITHER blaming, entitlement, jealousy, in absence of other risks
- One-off incident with no injury or harm experienced
- Trust/communication issues in the absence of other risks
- Relationship breakdown or extra-marital affairs in the absence of risks or additional vulnerabilities for either adult
- Conflict due to alcohol/gambling/ in absence of other risks

Family & Wider Community Life

- Difficulty in sustaining their involvement in some aspect of work, education or learning
- Person unable to undertake all of their family and social responsibilities
- Support being received from local community support organisations is likely to break down
- Important personal or close relationships have broken down
- Signs of radicalisation/modern day slavery
- Risk of exposure to extremist language/ideas

Standard Risk – Level 2

Caring Role

- There is, or will be, some inability to carry out 1 or 2 domestic tasks whilst sustaining their caring role
- 1 or 2 relationships or social support systems are, or will be, at risk
- There is, or will be, some loss of autonomy for the carer in decisions about the nature of the tasks they will perform and how much time they will give to their caring role
- There is, or will be, some inability to look after their own domestic needs and other daily routines whilst sustaining their caring role

Moderate Risk – Level 3

Adults where there are a number of low-level concerns that may require an Early Help type response from another agency, or a referral to BFSWS.



Moderate Risk – Level 3

Health & Self Care

- Has suffered abuse or neglect, or this is likely to happen
- Risk of abuse strongly suspected
- Lifestyle, behaviour or personal care poses a significant risk to self or others
- Health or safety at risk due to home environment
- Risk of falls when moving around, or being moved around, e.g. from bed to chair

Mental Capacity

- Person only has partial choice/control over vital aspects of immediate environment
- Person is seriously restricted in what they can do due to their home environment
- Person is disorientated even in familiar places
- Person has communication difficulties or a sensory loss which has a major impact on their life
- Person's ability to make an informed choice, or take control over vital aspects of their life, is restricted in any way

Personal Care

- Unable to carry out the majority of own personal care or domestic routines
- Person depends on daily help to meet most of their personal or domestic routines, including their financial affairs: care routines associated with work, education, leisure or wider community: help with buying everyday items such as food: help with maintaining a balanced diet

Moderate Risk – Level 3

Family & Wider Community

- Victims assessed as moderate risk of serious harm using DASH
- Incident(s) of serious and/or persistent physical violence in family. Increasing in severity/frequency and/or duration - History of previous assaults, slapping, pushing, creating lasting pain or mild/light bruising or shallow cuts
- Victim required medical treatment but not sought/or explanation for injuries implausible
- Victim and/or children indicate that they are frightened of abuser - put in fear by looks, actions, gestures and destruction of property
- Recent separation - repeated separation/reconciliation/ongoing couple conflict

Family & Wider Community

- Stalking/harassment of victim/children - including frequent phone calls, texts, emails
- Abuse through the use of Intense verbal abuse-consistent use of derogatory language, putting victim down in public
- Abuser breaching bail conditions/civil protective orders/non-contact orders
- Recurring or frequent requests for police intervention
- Threats of harm to victim and/or children texting/social networking sites
- Intense verbal abuse-consistent use of derogatory language, putting victim down in public
- Abuser breaching bail conditions/civil protective orders/non-contact orders

Family & Wider Community

- Intense verbal abuse-consistent use of derogatory language, putting victim down in public
- Abuser breaching bail conditions/civil protective/non-contact orders.
- Recurring or frequent requests for police intervention
- Threats of harm to victim and/or children
- Evidence of intimidation/bullying behaviour - pushing/finger poking/shoving/to victim
- Excessive jealousy/possessiveness of abuser - domineering in relationship. Abuser makes irrational accusations of infidelity. Victim isolated from family, friends or support network

Moderate Risk – Level 3

Family & Wider Community

- Financial control maintained by abuser
- Abuser increasing control over victim's time; intercepting mail or calls; constant criticism of role as partner/wife/mother/ husband/ father
- Abuser has history of domestic violence in previous relationships
- Abuser uses pressure to obtain sex, unwanted touching, non-violent acts that make victim feel uncomfortable about sex, gender or sexual orientation

Family & Wider Community

- Important work or educational commitments are at risk
- Unable to gain access to learning or employment opportunities which will improve the person's ability to manage or lessen their risk to independence
- Current support networks are under stress
- Close or important relationships at risk of breakdown
- Lack of social contact is causing the person's health and wellbeing to deteriorate
- Heightened concerns re-radicalisation

Caring Role

- Several significant relationships or social support systems are, or will be, at risk
- Significant health problems have developed, or will do
- There is/will be, some significant loss of carer autonomy in decisions about the tasks they will perform/how much time they can give to caring role
- There is/will be, an inability to look after some of the Carer's own domestic needs/daily routines whilst sustaining their caring role
- Carer's involvement in some significant aspects of employment or other responsibilities is/at risk

High Risk – Level 4

Referrals at this level should be reported to BFSWS. Depending on the reason for the referral you may need to contact the police/emergency services.



High Risk – Level 4

Health & Self Care

- Life is, or will be, threatened by own behaviour or lifestyle
- Has suffered serious abuse or neglect, or is likely to do so
- Has caused serious abuse or neglect, or is likely to do so
- Significant and major health problems have developed, or will develop

Mental Capacity

- Person unable to make essential needs known to others
- Person unable to keep themselves safe from dangerous or harmful situations
- Person unable to recognise danger or risks to themselves or to others
- Person has no choice over vital aspects of their immediate environment

Personal Care

- Unable to manage the essential personal care or domestic tasks which need to be undertaken on a daily basis, e.g. unable to eat or drink enough to avoid risk to health: unable to maintain a level of personal cleanliness without serious risk to health: unable to get in/out of bed safely

High Risk – Level 4

Family & Wider Community

- Victim assessed as high risk of serious harm using DASH
- Repeated serious/severe physical/life-threatening violence
- Assault with weapons or threats to use weapons
- Violation of protective and/or child contact orders
- Criminal/antisocial history of abuser, aggression towards previous partners/family members, military service/training
- Recurring/frequent requests for police intervention
- Medical attention required but not sought or explanation for injuries is implausible

Family & Wider Community

- Intense stalking/harassment e.g. constant/obsessive phone calls, texts, emails etc., uninvited visits/loitering to home/workplace etc. destroys/vandalises property, pursues/ stalks victim after separation, involvement of others
- Victim requires treatment as a result of incident – e.g. pain, bruising, lacerations, broken bones, strangulation, holding under water, loss of consciousness, head injury internal injury, permanent injury, miscarriage
- Threats to kill or seriously injure victim and/or children and/or pets. Threats of suicide/homicide to victim and other family members

Family & Wider Community

- Victim is very frightened of abuser - believes intent of threats - retaliatory violence a concern
- Victim is intensively controlled/submissive - worn down by abuse. Abuser controls most/all of victim's daily activities, prevention taking medication/accessing care needs, extreme dominance e.g. believes absolutely entitled to partner, locks person up/severely restricts movements, threats to take the children, suicide/homicide/familicide, involvement of wider family members/honour crimes

High Risk – Level 4

Family & Wider Community

- Victim is pregnant/abused in postnatal period/separated with new baby raises risk level
- Confirmed emotional/psychological/abuse of victim
- Child/ren subject to abuse, abuser is a perpetrator of child abuse, not been prosecuted, Known to MAPPA
- Threats/actual sexual assault/violence/force to obtain sex, rape, deliberately inflicts pain during sex, combines sex with violence including weapons, sexual exploitation, intentional transmission of STIs etc.

Family & Wider Community

- Loss of current employment or education would have a major impact on person
- Unable to carry out essential family or social responsibilities
- Participates in extremist actions in language and behaviour

Caring Role

- Carer's life may be threatened by role/others related to their role
- Major health problems have/will develop
- There is/will be, an extensive loss of carer autonomy about the tasks they will perform/time they can allocate to caring
- Carer's inability to look after their own domestic needs or other daily routines whilst sustaining their caring role employment or other responsibilities is, or will be, at risk
- Many significant relationships and social support systems are at risk