

Risk and Decision Log

Participating in Authentic Voice work and sharing information about yourself could present risks to your safety and/or well-being.

When should this be completed?

The Risk and Decision Log is an overall risk assessment for your Authentic Voice work. It is important for us to explore together what the risks may be in you participating in this work, and what we can do together to manage or reduce risk. Where risk is current, you may also want to consider completing a DASH risk assessment with the involvement of the victim/survivor (where safe).

We complete this together **before** you start any Authentic Voice work, and we review it regularly. This will be at least when you have your quarterly check in but can be earlier if your situation changes, e.g. contact is re-established by the perpetrator(s), or they are released from prison. We will also review this together if you end your Authentic Voice work.

As well as completing this, we will also complete individual safety assessments with you **during** your involvement in Authentic Voice for each piece of work you do. The individual event planning document comes in three forms: in person events, online events and ongoing project work.

How should this be completed?

We will firstly check if it is safe to share a blank copy of this with you; we don't want to increase risk if perpetrator(s) find this.

If it is safe to share, we will give you a blank copy at least a week before our meeting so you are aware of what questions we will ask. This means you can feel more prepared for the discussions we will have, and you may have time to think more about what the risks might be to you and your family.

We will then complete this together, which means we can explore what the risks are, how you might already be managing this, and any additional safety planning or support that might be helpful.

If it is safe, we will offer to share the completed Risk and Decision Log with you. This means that you know what information we keep about you. We will also keep a copy of this in a confidential file, in accordance with GDPR legislation.

Safeguarding

If you disclose any safeguarding concerns about yourself, another adult or child, we have a duty to follow our Safeguarding policy and procedure. We will give you a copy of the procedure, and discuss this with you, before we begin this work.

Your name: _____

Date completed: _____

Date of review: _____

	Comments	Wellbeing/Safety Needs
<p>Are you afraid that you and/or your child(ren) may come to harm as a result of participating in Authentic Voice work? If so, what kind of harm are you concerned about?</p> <p>This may include (and is not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Risk from perpetrator(s) increasing if they find out you've participated• Risk from other family or community members if they find out you've participated• Risk to other family or community members if they find out you've participated• Risk to your emotional health• Risk to ongoing court proceedings (criminal, civil or family court)• Risk of perpetrator(s) raising a defamation claim against you• Risks to your own wellbeing, for example, being triggered <p>Even if there is no current contact, it is important for us to understand from you the level of risk from the perpetrator if they re-establish contact</p>		<p>This may include not doing 'public facing' work, using a pseudonym (a fake name), arranging support with your regular support network, referral to a specialist support organisation.</p>

	Comments	Wellbeing/Safety Needs
<p>Do you still have contact with the perpetrator(s) of the abuse?</p> <p>This can include direct contact, contact for children and contact through family/community members</p>		
<p>Are you still experiencing abuse from the perpetrator(s)?</p> <p>If abuse is ongoing, we will ask if there is an up-to-date DASH risk assessment. If there isn't we will talk through with you to complete one and discuss signposting or referrals to appropriate specialist services</p>		
<p>Are there any other people who pose a threat to you?</p> <p>Multiple perpetrators, or perpetrator's friends/family/community</p>		
<p>Are there any aspects of Authentic Voice work that you think could put you and/or your children/family at risk?</p> <p>We want to think about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Types of work that may be a no go for you (e.g. media work, public-facing work) Areas/subjects that you want to avoid? Any areas of the country where it might be unsafe to work? Any agencies it may not be safe to work with? If you are concerned about your access to the services, you need being affected by your Authentic Voice work? Ongoing criminal investigations, or witness protection arrangements 		
<p>How has your experience(s) of domestic abuse and/or other traumas impacted on your mental health and emotional wellbeing? This may be recent, or non-recent.</p> <p>How is your wellbeing at the moment?</p> <p>This work is personal and can impact us in unexpected ways. We want to work with your knowledge of what has impacted you in the past, and what works for you, to keep this work as safe as possible.</p> <p>We want to think about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Triggers History of mental health issues History of self-harm/suicide If you are accessing professional support at the moment 		
<p>Are there any adjustments we can make so you can participate in this work?</p> <p>For example, around:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Language Support Accessibility Health needs Childcare Financial impact IT and internet connections <p>Please provide details</p>		
<p>What kind of support network do you have around you?</p> <p>This might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family members Friends Local services Peer support groups Formal support 		
<p>Are there any other areas of your life that you need support in now?</p> <p>This might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child contact Housing Finances Legal advice Other traumatic experiences 		
<p>Is there anything that you think would be helpful to address risk (from the perpetrator or otherwise)?</p>		