



Vulnerability & Attachment

Indicators of Vulnerability

This tool is designed as a guide for social work professionals who attend DV-ACT vulnerability and attachment training.

Static Indicators

These are the most reliable indicators that do not change and form a baseline of vulnerability.

01



Demographic factors

Young age, female, insecure immigration status, ethnic minority.

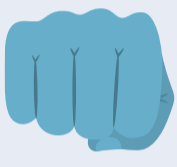
02



General & developmental

Developmental factors, attachment and family stability, parental conflict, maltreatment, educational attainment, conduct problems.

03



Victimisation & violence

Victimisation in previous and subsequent relationships, violence to/from non-intimates.

04



Mental health & substance misuse

History of mental health problems and alcohol and substance misuse.

05



Passivity and/or recklessness

Evidence of dependency, lack of agency, past events or incidents show reckless behaviour.

Dynamic Indicators

Indicators which can change and moderate or increase vulnerability.

06



Attachment

Ongoing emotional attachment to the abuser, especially if distorted i.e. believes that the benefits outweigh the risks.

07



Co-operation

Disguised compliance, breaching agreements, avoiding professionals and especially denying access to children.

08



Insight & understanding

Poor insight into her own victimisation and poor understanding of violence and abuse in past and present relationship.

09



Safety

Poor ability to recognise risk, take action and maintain it e.g. failing to report incidents, allowing illicit contact with the children.

10



Parenting

Impact of abuse on parenting such as poor boundary setting, use of aggression, neglecting or maltreating the children.

11



Empathy

Lack of empathy evidenced by e.g. coaching the children, openly disrespecting child care professionals, lying about the children's experiences.



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