

Information Sheet on the role of EDDACS

What does EDDACS do:

EDDACS stands for the Edinburgh Domestic Abuse Court Service, within Edinburgh Women's Aid (EWA). The service works with women who are victims in a Domestic Abuse court case. The service receives a referral, often from the DAIU although also through other sources such as Women's Support Workers in EWA, self-referrals and many others. This is a voluntary service, the woman has the choice to engage with EDDACS or not.

The woman works with EDDACS to risk assess (using the RIC [Dash risk checklist quick start guidance FINAL.pdf \(safelives.org.uk\)](#)), and safety plan. The woman is informed about the court process, including the potential and actual outcomes. Information gathered from women will be used to develop a specialist court report which will be presented at court which provides information on the level of risk that the woman is experiencing and her preferred outcomes from the trial. EDDACS will also look to signpost and refer to other services where there are additional needs / supports required.

What does an EDDACS Worker do:

The core work of an EDDACS worker is to call the woman who has been referred and if she wants to work with EDDACS start the process of – Risk assessment, safety planning and demystifying the court process. Following this until the trial, the EDDACS worker will be in planned contact with the woman at a frequency which reflects risk, need and choice for the woman. Core to the EDDACS role is working with women to have their voices heard in the court case.

Within this court reports are required to be submitted (as outlined in part 1), the EDDACS worker will gather the information, discuss and confirm with the woman and compile & send report to the court. When a court case concludes the EDDACS worker contacts the women to update them on the outcome from court, and if required then risk assess and support plan.

EDDACS workers also refer into and attend at MARAC [Resources for Marac meetings | Safelives](#). This involves the EDDACS worker creating a report which identifies risk and desired actions, then presenting this to the multi-agency conference.

Contacts /Partnerships:

Daily: *Court services including VIA, the DAIU (Police Domestic Abuse Investigation unit).*

Frequently: *Women's Aid East and Midlothian, Social work (adult and Children & families), Council Services (Housing/ Homelessness, FHS) and Health Services, Interpretation services, Shakti.*