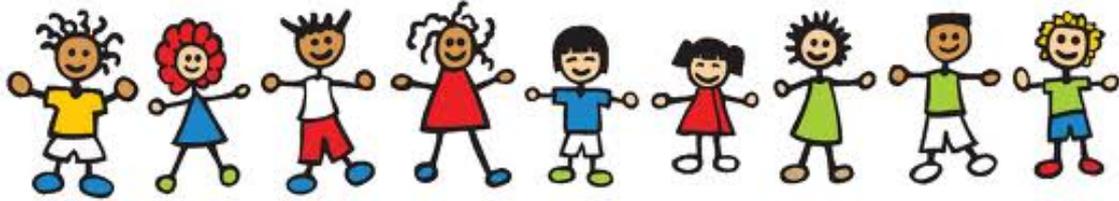


CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE DOMESTIC ABUSE PROJECT

DAP NEWS



Domestic abuse can happen to anyone at any stage in their life, regardless of age, gender, social status, religion, sexuality or ethnicity. Domestic abuse consists of abusive behaviour perpetrated by one person aged 16 and over against another person aged 16 and over with whom they are personally connected, for example, a partner, ex-partner, or family member.

Abusive behaviour can include: - physical or sexual abuse - violent or threatening behaviour - controlling or coercive behaviour - economic abuse - psychological, emotional or other abuse.

This reflects the recently proposed government definition of domestic abuse. The impact on children who see, hear or are otherwise exposed to domestic abuse perpetrated by one adult against another is such that they should also be seen to have experienced the abuse.

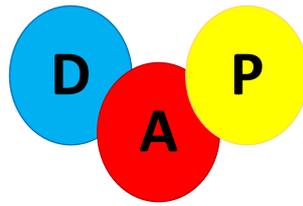
We have explored the evidence on the impact of domestic abuse on children and young people but assessing the scale of the problem is more difficult. It is clear, though, that large numbers of children are affected. Analysis by the Children's Commissioner shows that 831,000 children in England are living in households that report domestic abuse. Research dating back to 2011 suggests that as many as one in five children and young people under the age of 18 have been exposed to domestic abuse. A quarter (25%) of children in high-risk domestic abuse households are under 3 years old. On average, high-risk abuse has been going on for 2.6 years, meaning these children are living with abuse for most of their life.

62% of children living in domestic abuse households are directly harmed by the perpetrator of the abuse, in addition to the harm caused by witnessing the abuse of others.

Nearly one in three women who suffer from domestic abuse during their lifetime, report that the first incidence of violence happened while they were pregnant

Speak up and speak out, we all have the right to feel safe all of the time. We can talk with someone about anything, even if it feels awful or small.

SafeLives 2020 'Children and young people need the right support, at the right time, to keep them safe and help them rebuild and recover. If this doesn't happen, the consequences can be long-term and devastating. We should consider which universal or non-statutory services can be provide a little support, even for those families who don't meet the threshold for children's social care intervention. It costs more in the long run, both financially and in resources, when supportive actions are not implemented at the earliest opportunity, but the cost is greatest for the families we aim to help'.



There has been a quite a few changes to the Domestic Abuse Project since our last newsletter some time ago, we are a team of 4 consisting of 2 Domestic Abuse Practitioners and 2 Child and Family Workers, working with families across all thresholds, from early intervention through to LAC.

We work with children and young people who have or are being exposed to domestic abuse, including supporting those young people who may be experiencing potential harm within their own relationships. This support needs to be the right intervention at the right time, if there remains ongoing crisis within the home or the home environment is unsafe, safety planning support needs to be completed as a matter of urgency and the DAP practitioners can offer guidance around this.

An assessment needs to have been completed within 6 months of the referral to DAP or an updated assessment following a significant incident. This is to ensure we have a holistic view of the family's needs and we are the right service to provide support at the right time.

We first meet with the non-abusive parent and offer practical and emotional support where needed to ensure home is as safe and stable as possible prior to the commencement of 1.1 work with the children. This may involve the completion of the DASH, referrals to Healthy Minds, Safenet, Freedom Programme or support from the Child and Family worker to equip and empower the parent to move forward.

We provide 1.1 trauma informed support to children and young people on a weekly basis incorporating safety planning (increasing safety and reducing risk), exploring trusted adults, emotional literacy activities, however this is needs lead and is bespoke to the child/young person we are supporting. We also advocate on behalf of children in meetings ensuring the voice of the child is heard and work closely with our multiagency partners. The family may need some help with repairing relationships within the home so family sessions can take place between the non-abusive parent and child/ren.

We have attached the referral form to enable services to refer directly to the team and a pathway for reference. Please note all referrals for DAP input need to be referred using the correct form to: earlyhelp@bury.gov.uk

Following receipt of your referral, screening takes place to ensure we are the best form of support at the right time. If the referral is not accepted for any reason a consultation with you will take place and if appropriate resources can be provided. Please feel free to call for a consultation or to obtain further details. We are more than happy to offer guidance and share resources with professionals and parents.

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"On average 692 social care assessments a day in England feature domestic violence as an issue faced by children"

This means that, on average in England, there are 692 children's social care assessments carried out every day that highlight domestic violence as a feature of a child or young person's life. It is important to note that this is an underestimate of the total number of children and young people affected, as many live with abuse without it ever coming to the attention of children's social services.

Impact on children

Research has shown that infants as young as one year old can experience trauma symptoms as a result of witnessing domestic violence (Bogat, G.A., 2005)

Symptoms may include eating problems, sleep disturbances, lack of normal responsiveness to adults, mood disturbances and problems interacting with peers and adults

Clinical reports indicate these babies often have poor health, poor sleeping habits or irritability, and exhibit high rates of screaming and crying (NSPCC, 2012)

Children can experience both short and long term cognitive, behavioural and emotional effects as a result of witnessing domestic abuse. Each child will respond differently to trauma and some may be resilient and not exhibit any negative effects. Children's responses to the trauma of witnessing domestic abuse may vary according to a multitude of factors including, but not limited to, age, race, sex and stage of development. It is equally important to remember that these responses may also be caused by something other than witnessing domestic abuse.

Children's experiences

- Studies show that far from watching passively, children experience the abuse with all of their senses

- Children may not always observe the abusive behaviours (and in many instances the abuse is manifested in psychological and controlling behaviour by the perpetrator) but they are still aware that the abuse is happening



Useful documents/resources:

Please see Young Person's DASH and DASH with MARAC referral:



GM MARAC DASH.docx



GM MARAC Young People Marac_.docx

Please see information leaflet, referral to DAP and pathway:



Appendix 1 CHILDREN DAP REFER



CHILD AND YOUNG PERSONS DOMESTIC



DA leaflet.pub

Please see attached Safety Planning Booklets for children and young people:



Safety Planning work booklet for children.d



Safety Planning work booklet for young pe



Encouraging_Healthy_Contact.pdf



PARENTAL SEPARATION DA.pdf



YP Safety Plan.pdf



safety-plan-form.pdf



Parents_Domestic_Abuse_.pdf



Parenting_positively_helping teenagers to c

Useful Apps

Bright Sky

Bright Sky is a free to download mobile app, launched in partnership with the Vodafone Foundation, providing support and information to anyone who may be in an abusive relationship or those concerned about someone they know.



<https://www.hestia.org/brightsky>

Features

- Available in 4 languages: English, Urdu, Punjabi and Polish.
- A unique UK-wide directory of specialist domestic abuse support services with contact details.
- A secure My Journal tool to record incidents of abuse via text, audio, video or photo form, without any of the content being saved on the device itself.
- Questionnaires to assess the safety of a relationship, plus a section on dispelling myths around domestic and sexual abuse.
- Links to further resources and information on topics around domestic abuse.

Hollie Guard

Hollie Guard was developed by the Hollie Gazzard Trust (HGT) to help people stay safe. HGT supports young hairdressers and charities fighting domestic abuse and anti-knife crime. The app was created in honour of Hollie Gazzard. Hollie Guard turns your smartphone into a personal safety device.



Features

- In danger? Shake your phone or tap the screen to generate an alert. Your location and audio/video evidence will automatically be sent to your emergency contacts who can take action to help you quickly. Three alert types - Personal, Stealth, and Deterrent - allow you to choose an alert setting appropriate to your specific needs.
- Meeting someone? The Meeting Timer gives you extra protection when you are going to a dangerous meeting or are meeting someone new. Simply enter descriptive information and the duration of the meeting. When the meeting time has expired an alert will automatically be raised.
- Traveling? The Journey feature allows you to notify your friends, family, and co-workers of your movements while traveling. Enter your start and end point, and an SMS & email will be sent to your emergency contacts when you've started and safely completed your journey.

<https://hollieguard.com/>

Websites:

<https://thehideout.org.uk/>

<https://www.themix.org.uk/>

<http://www.respectnotfear.co.uk/relationship/>

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