



# Domestic Abuse Within Families Learning from Reviews

10<sup>th</sup> July 2023 developed by Jackie Barstow Learning and Development Lead, Swindon Safeguarding Partnership and Lin Williams Domestic Abuse Lead, Community Safety Partnership

# **Domestic Abuse Within Families**

Is it family conflict or domestic abuse?

# Context

- The aim of this resource is to remind professionals of the importance of adopting a ‘think family approach’ when working with children, families and adults.
- [See the adult, see the child’ practice guidelines](#) highlights the need for all practitioners and managers to ensure that when working with children, adults and families, consideration is given to the needs of all of the ‘whole family’. There is a need to move away from a culture and system of: “I only work with adults” or “I only work with children”.
- When practitioners and managers are made aware of or when they identify an adult or child who has an unmet need that their service cannot support, it is important that they work in partnership to ensure a holistic assessment is undertaken to identify the most appropriate service to offer support.
- This is irrespective of whether or not the adult or child concerned is the person to whom they are providing a service.

# How to use this brief

- This brief focuses on the theme of domestic abuse within families, sometimes referred to as adult family violence or intergenerational domestic abuse.
- The definition within the Domestic Act (2021) refers to domestic abuse where “people concerned are each aged 16 or over” and are “personally connected to each other” as a consequence of being family members rather than intimate (ex)partners.
- **Regardless of the terminology used it is domestic abuse and professionals should consider this when responding to concerns.**
- This brief will provide a reminder of some key definitions, things to consider to aid identification and the professional response when risk assessing and safeguarding.

# Why is this important?

- Local safeguarding reviews relating to both adults and children have identified this as a learning theme.
- The next slides will provide a precis of the learning themes from two Swindon Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs) where learning relating to domestic abuse between family members was identified.
- There is also reference to relevant learning from a Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review and the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel's, report following the murders of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and Star Hobson.

# Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) - Honor

- Honor was a 90 year old widow living with her middle aged son in her own home.
- In June 2014 Honor's daughter reported concerns about her mother's welfare including financial abuse by her brother. She continued to raise concerns about her mother's treatment by her brother.
- The GP, Community Care and Safeguarding Team made repeated attempts to encourage Honor and her son to engage with social care and other services.
- Honor denied the alleged psychological abuse and neglect and refused assistance from community care apart from a Homeline fob.
- Between June 2014 and December 2016 six safeguarding referrals were made by different people including Honor's daughter, a friend and voluntary organisations.
- Honor continued to deny the abuse. In December 2016, following a visit by the GP and Swindon Domestic Abuse Support Service Honor disclosed psychological abuse.
- In January 2017 Honor's son rang the GP Surgery and asked for a home visit. The GP called Paramedics who took Honor to hospital where she died the same day of pneumonia.

To access the full report please click on this link [Safeguarding Adult Reviews \(SAR's\) - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership](#)

# SAR Honor Learning

The review noted (section 3.2.1) “... that Honor was experiencing abuse despite her repeated denials. People raised continual concerns about Honor and yet this did not produce a professional response that kept her safe. The case is particularly characterised by repeated closure of safeguarding referrals without effective investigation. On the other hand, there are repeated efforts to find ways to protect her that sadly proved equally ineffective. However it was not an easy case for practitioners to manage because of the complexities present in the relationships in the family and Honor’s cogent explanations and repeated denials that she was experiencing abuse. This case also typifies both the challenges that non-specialist practitioners face in understanding and recognising the nature of coercive control especially in intergenerational domestic abuse, and the challenges of multi-agency working”

# Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) Andrew

- In September 2020, Andrew a 77 year old male was found unresponsive inside a property besides his adult son Christopher who was deceased at the scene. Andrew subsequently passed away in hospital. Both deaths have since been ruled as suicide by the Coroner.
- Andrew and Christopher were holding hands. Toxicology reports indicated that Andrew had ingested Benzodiazepines which were not prescribed.
- Andrew was open to the Safeguarding Adults team, Swindon Borough Council with a Section 42 enquiry on-going at the time of his death after a referral was made by the Ambulance Service on the 12/03/20. Whereby Andrew's son Christopher had given him unprescribed drugs and Andrew had been hospitalised.

**Continued on the next slide**



# SAR Andrew continued

- Andrew lived alone and had a number of health conditions and had been shielding due to high risk of COVID-19.
- Following Andrew's wife death in 2017 he was treated for depression and low mood.
- Andrew began to show signs of self-neglecting behaviours including a deterioration in his living environment, cancellation of a care package and poor self-care.
- Andrew's son was his unpaid family carer and was heavily involved in services being unable to access his father to provide support.

To read the full report, executive summary and learning leaflet please click on this link [Safeguarding Adult Reviews \(SAR's\) - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership](#)

# SAR Andrew Learning

Several learning themes were identified, those relevant to this brief include:

- Family and Intergenerational Domestic Abuse: The review noted a focus needs to be given to family and intergenerational abuse, and the way in which it may be different from partner violence, for example if the perpetrator is the victim's (adult) sibling, child, or grandchild. Abuse of an adult at risk, or a child, may also be used by a perpetrator to exercise control over their victim.
- Coercive control
- Coercive control and capacity assessments
- Trauma Informed Practice

**To go to the definitions section click on this [link](#)**

# National Child Safeguarding Practice Review

A [national review into the murders of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and Star Hobson](#) identified several learning themes and recommendations. Professionals are encouraged to read the review. A webinar Remembering Arthur and Star is available on the [SSP website](#).

This resource focuses on those learning themes pertinent to domestic abuse and highlighted:

- History of domestic abuse in both cases.
- Risks posed by new partners was not fully considered. For example, a range of historic and current domestic abuse issues were present in both cases, but the risk posed to the child was not thoroughly explored.

# National Child Safeguarding Practice Review continued

## Arthur

- Background information relating to his father's partner (Emma), who was later found to be the main perpetrator of the abuse, was not included in a screening ahead of a home visit.
- She was both a victim and perpetrator and accused of coercive and controlling behaviour. *(page 40 Key Practice Episode 5)*. **Practitioners need to have an understanding of coercive control, female perpetrators, and impact of domestic abuse on children.**

# National Child Safeguarding Practice Review continued

## Star

- Opportunities for critical thinking and challenge between agencies were missed. For example, practitioners did not test their findings about domestic abuse with the specialist domestic abuse service, who may have been able to provide important challenge.
- Savannah (Star's mother's partner) had a history of domestic abuse with a previous partner and was made subject of a restraining order.
- Details of a domestic abuse incident, between family members (Star's grandparents) were not shared by police. A Domestic Abuse Stalking and Harassment Risk Identification Checklist (DASH RIC) was not completed and there was no acknowledgement of Star and other children being in the house.
- Domestic abuse between Frankie (Star's mother) and Savannah occurred whilst children were present.

# Swindon Rapid Review

- A local Rapid Review also identified learning themes relating to a female who was a victim of domestic abuse but also a perpetrator of abuse on a family member.
- This again highlights the need for professionals to be aware of the complexities of family (intrafamilial) domestic abuse and conflict across households, between immediate and extended family members and how this impacts on the safeguarding of adults and children and their lived experiences.



# Reminder of Definitions

This section covers some definitions used in this brief, there may be an overlap between them.

The professional response will need to consider the family dynamics and history together with the presenting concerns and risks.

# Domestic Abuse Definition 2021

The [Domestic Abuse Act 2021](#) (Section 1) defines domestic abuse as the:

Behaviour of a person towards another person is “domestic abuse” if

- (a) People concerned are each aged 16 or over and are personally connected to each other, and
- (b) the behaviour is abusive.

Behaviour is “abusive” if it consists of any of the following -

- (a) physical or sexual abuse;
- (b) violent or threatening behaviour;
- (c) controlling or coercive behaviour;
- (d) economic abuse;
- (e) psychological, emotional or other abuse;

It does not matter whether the behaviour consists of a single incident or a course of conduct.

Abusive behaviour from one adult (or person aged 16+) family member to another is domestic abuse



# Definition of ‘personally connected’

[The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://legislation.gov.uk) section 2 states:

Two people are “personally connected” to each other if any of the following applies—

- (a) they are, or have been, married to each other;
- (b) they are, or have been, civil partners of each other;
- (c) they have agreed to marry one another (whether or not the agreement has been terminated);
- (d) they have entered into a civil partnership agreement (whether or not the agreement has been terminated);
- (e) they are, or have been, in an intimate personal relationship with each other;
- (f) they each have, or there has been a time when they each have had, a parental relationship in relation to the same child (see subsection (2));
- (g) they are relatives.

A person has a parental relationship in relation to a child if—

- (a) the person is a parent of the child, or
- (b) the person has parental responsibility for the child.

- “child” means a person under the age of 18 years;
- “civil partnership agreement” has the meaning given by section 73 of the Civil Partnership Act 2004;
- “parental responsibility” has the same meaning as in the Children Act 1989 (see section 3 of that Act);
- “relative” has the meaning given by section 63(1) of the Family Law Act 1996.

# Put simply...

Personally connected means circumstances where there is -

- Intimate partner or ex-partner - abuse/violence
- Familial abuse/ violence e.g. daughter/son to mother/father
- Siblings
- Grandparents
- Step parents/step grandparents

# Resources to find out more – Adult Family Violence



To view this clip click on hyperlink - [Understanding Adult Family Violence](#) (duration 1:38)

## Other useful resources/briefings:

<https://www.standingtogether.org.uk/blog-3/adult-family-violence-briefing>

<https://www.alberta.ca/recognize-family-violence.aspx>



To view this clip click on hyperlink - [Lambeth Masterclass: Adult Family Violence – YouTube](#) (2020, duration 2:28 minutes)

**Please note the definition referred to in this presentation has changed since the recording. Refer to the webpage for the updated definition (2021) [Domestic abuse - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership](#)**

# Children as victims of domestic abuse

The [Domestic Abuse Act 2021](#) (section 3) classifies any child who “sees or hears, or experiences the effects of, the abuse” and is personally connected as a victim of domestic abuse.

Children living or visiting a home in which domestic abuse is being perpetrated should be seen through a child safeguarding lens.

A child is related to a person for the purposes of subsection (2) if—

- (a) the person is a parent of, or has parental responsibility for, the child, or
- (b) the child and the person are relatives.

# 16 and 17 year olds

- While domestic abuse is defined as abuse perpetrated by and towards “people [who] are each aged 16 or over” it should be borne in mind that 16 and 17 year olds are children.
- If a 16 or 17 year old is harming or being harmed by others such as a parent, other family member, partner or peers/another child the [Right Help at The Right Time Threshold Guidance](#) should be consulted and if appropriate a referral made via the MASH.
- Consider completing the Domestic Abuse Stalking and Harassment ([DASH](#)) [risk assessment checklist - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership](#)

Further information can be found on the SSP webpages via the links below

- [The Right Help at the Right Time - Swindon’s Multi-Agency Threshold Guidance - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership](#)
- [Referral guidelines and MASH contact information - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership](#)
- [SSP practice brief - DASH risk identification checklist and MARAC - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership](#)

# Safeguarding Adults

[Safeguarding duties](#) apply to:

- a. anyone who is aged 18 or over
- b. has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs)
- c. is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect
- d. as a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect

If the domestic abuse is thought to relate to an adult with care and support needs, consideration should be given to referring making a safeguarding referral.

Further information and guidance can be found on the SSP webpage below [Report a concern - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership](#)

# What is coercive control?

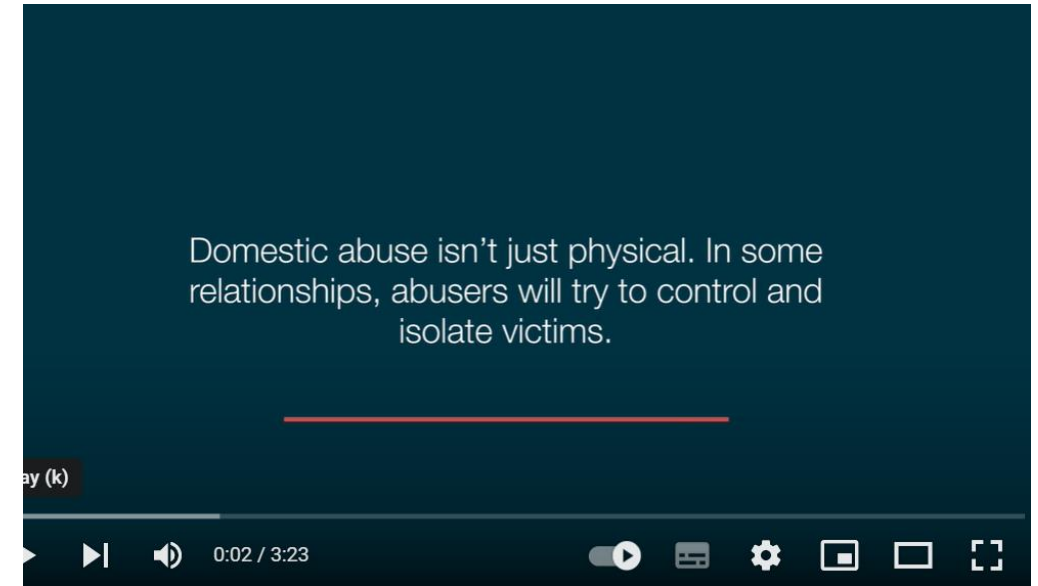
- Term used to describe a pattern of behaviour which seeks to take away the victims sense of liberty or freedom.
- Controlling behaviour is designed to make a person dependent by isolating them from support, exploiting them, depriving them of independence and regulating their everyday behaviour.
- It is a form of domestic abuse and relates to partners/ex-partners.
- Many perpetrators never use physical violence. Some may use what is best described as minor assaultive violence such as pushing, grabbing and/or getting “up in a victim’s face”.
- Others may threaten physical violence and may follow through on threats, but only when they are losing control over the victim.
- Often it starts through grooming to win the trust of their victim, leading to a pattern of behaviour including:
  - Isolating a person from their friends and family;
  - depriving them of their basic needs;
  - monitoring their time;
  - repeatedly putting them down such as telling them they are worthless;
  - controlling the finances;
  - threats to hurt or kill.

**The next slide will signpost to some resources to find out more.**

# Further resources



To view this clip click on hyperlink - [Staffordshire Police - Coercive Control](#)  
(duration 5 minutes)



To view this clip click on the hyperlink - [Wakefield Council.](#)  
(duration 3 minutes)

See also SSP/CSP 7 Minute brief [on Coercive Control available on the SSP website. 7 minute brief – Coercive Control](#)  
[Coercive control - Women's Aid \(womensaid.org.uk\)](#) including a toolkit to download  
[Tools | Coercive Control \(ripfa.org.uk\)](#)



# Coercive Control and Capacity Assessments

- There is a need for a formal capacity assessment where there are any concerns raised about a person's capacity to make a decision, including documentation of all parts of that capacity assessment within the records.
- Should there be any concerns about coercive control, discussions with the person at risk including any capacity assessment it is important that this takes without the potential perpetrator(s) of the coercive control present.
- If there are concerns (i.e. if the alleged perpetrator will not leave) it may be necessary to involve the police to enable the capacity assessment to take place.

## **Useful resources (relevant to all professionals)**

- Toolkit for Practitioners on Mental Capacity click on this link - [Mental Capacity Toolkit](#)
- Online Capacity Guide - Guidance for clinicians and social care professionals on the assessment of capacity [Home - Capacity guide](#)

# Family Conflict

- Family conflict refers to active opposition between family members. Because of the nature of family relationships, it can take a wide variety of forms, including verbal, physical, sexual, financial, or psychological.
- Conflicts may involve different combinations of family members: it can be conflict within the couple or between parents and children or, again, between siblings.
- All interpersonal conflicts, whether they occur between family members, romantic partners, or groups, have certain elements in common. One of the popular definitions of conflict offered by Coser ([1956](#)) asserts that conflict is a “struggle over values and claims to scarce status, power, and resources in which the aims of the opponents are to neutralize, injure or eliminate the rival” (p. 8).

**Source:** Marta, E., Alfieri, S. (2014). Family Conflicts. In: Michalos, A.C. (eds) Encyclopedia of Quality of Life and Well-Being Research. Springer, Dordrecht. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-94-007-0753-5\\_997](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-94-007-0753-5_997)

To access click on this [link](#)

# Family Conflict

- Conflict within families - e.g. arguments and disagreements - can occur without it being domestic abuse.
- To help determine whether abuse is likely to be occurring agencies should consider the type, intensity and frequency of the behaviour and whether there is an imbalance of power.
- The varieties and types of family conflicts span a wide range of potential disputes for example;
  - over money,
  - family business,
  - in-law related conflict,
  - conflict over family events,
  - Sibling Conflict Over Care of Elderly Parent,
  - Step-parent-Step-child Conflict,
  - Divorced Parents Conflict Over Care & Discipline of Children

Further information can be found on [Why Do Families Fight? 7 Common Types of Family Conflicts - PPS](https://www.pollackpeacebuilding.com/why-do-families-fight-7-common-types-of-family-conflicts-pps)  
([pollackpeacebuilding.com](https://www.pollackpeacebuilding.com))

# What is Parental Conflict?

Some level of arguing and conflict between parents is often a normal part of everyday life. However, there is strong evidence to show how inter-parental conflict that is frequent, intense and poorly resolved can have a significant negative impact on children's mental health and long-term life chances.

The Reducing Parental Conflict (RPC) programme is aimed at damaging conflict between parents that can be expressed in many ways such as:

- aggression
- silence
- lack of respect
- lack of resolution

Conflict can affect children in all types of parental relationships, including:

- parents who are in a relationship, whether married or not
- parents who have separated or divorced
- biological and step parents
- other family members playing a parenting role
- foster and adoptive parents
- same-sex couples

**You need to consider if this conflict constitutes domestic abuse when responding and assessing the risk and refer accordingly.**

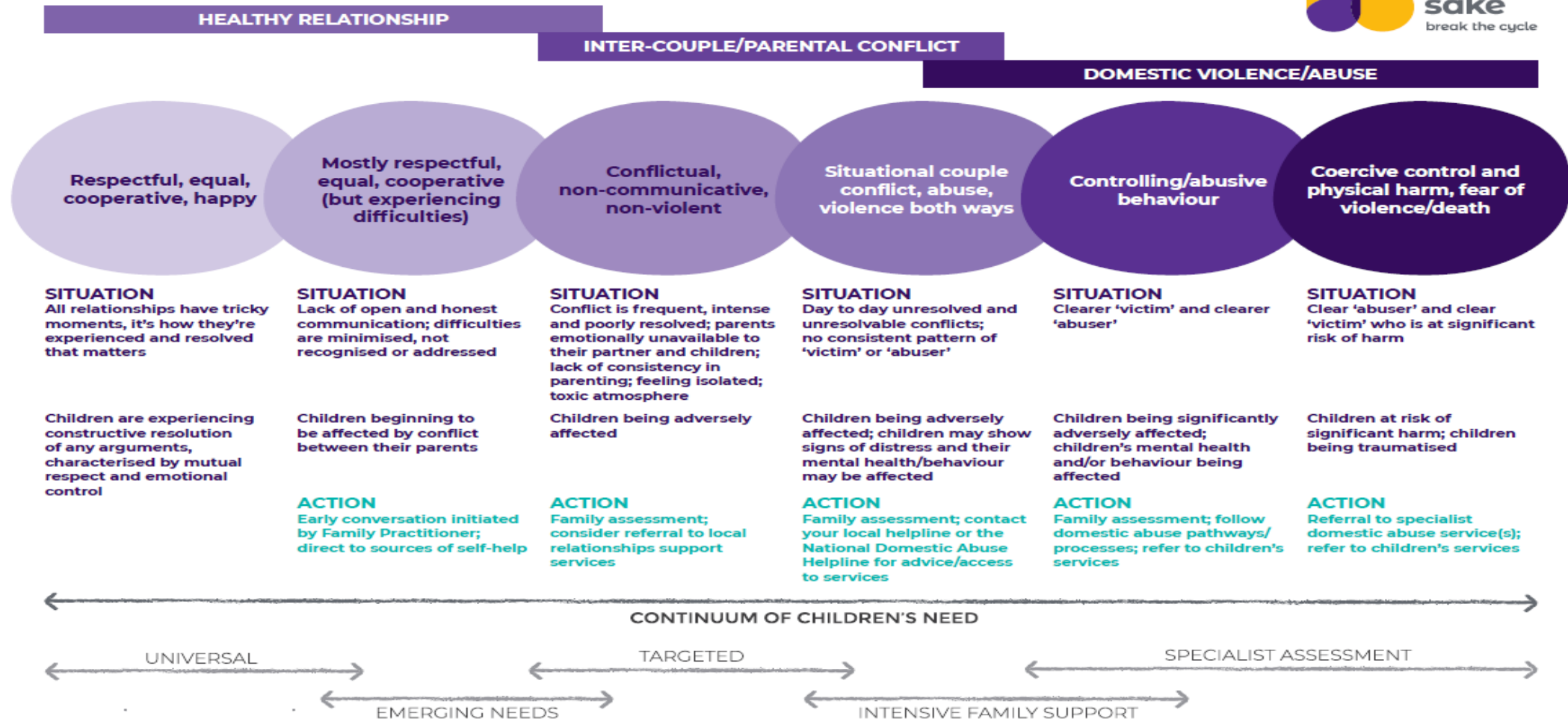
# Parental Conflict or Domestic Abuse?

- Parental conflict and domestic abuse are two separate things, but it can sometimes be difficult to work out if a relationship is abusive or just in a bad place.
- As a general guide, if a relationship with a partner, ex-partner or a member of a family is abusive:
  - they will want to hold all the power and control.
  - a person might be fearful of them.
  - their abuse will have happened more than once, or you may notice patterns.

# Situational couple violence (SCV)(situationally-provoked violence)

- Violence that occurs because the couple has conflict which turns into arguments that can escalate into emotional and possibly physical violence.
- SCV often involves both partners (as opposed to intimate terrorism).
- Women as likely as men to engage in SCV but impact on women (when committed by men) is much larger (due to physical size etc.) in terms of physical injury as well as fear and psychological consequences (in about a quarter of cases it is only the man who is violent; in about a quarter of cases it is only the woman who is violent, and in the other half of cases both the man and the woman have been violent at some point in the relationship).
- Violence can on occasions escalate to become chronic and severe.
- SCV follows a socio-economic gradient and is more prevalent in poorer families. Substance misuse, anger management issues and communication issues are deeply implicated. SCV is more common than intimate terrorism in co-habiting relationships than in marriages.
- Alcohol plays a significant role in SCV as a source of conflict in itself and as a factor which leads to escalation of violence.
- In 40% of couples characterised by this type of violence, the SCV comprises one incident (such as a slap, or a push).The couple is horrified by what has happened, deals with it, and there is no further violence within the relationship. For the remainder, there is chronic violence (ranging from a few incidents per year to chronic arguing that frequently turns to violence).

# Parental Relationships Spectrum\*



\*Adapted by The For Baby's Sake Trust from the model developed by Dr Mark Farrall, Ignition Creative Learning Limited  
[www.Forbabysake.org.uk](http://www.Forbabysake.org.uk)

**Parental Relationships Spectrum** this helps professionals (and parents) to distinguish between healthy, conflictual and abusive relationships For further information refer to the [Parental Relationships Spectrum](#) (this may go directly to your downloads folder)

# Links with other forms of abuse

There may also be an overlap with other forms of abuse as highlighted below. Please click on the hyperlinks to find out more.

- **Honour Based Abuse:** can take many forms, including child marriage, virginity testing, enforced abortion, forced marriage, female genital mutilation, as well as physical, sexual and economic abuse and coercive control. ([What is Honour Based Abuse? – Karma Nirvana](#))
- **Forced Marriage:** a marriage conducted without valid consent of one or both parties where duress is a factor. [Forced marriage and honour-based violence - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership](#)
- **Female Genital Mutilation (FGM):** is defined as “all procedures which include the partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. [Female genital mutilation \(FGM\) - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership](#)
- **Predatory Marriage:** is the practice of intentionally targeting and marrying a vulnerable (often older) person in order to gain access to their estate and assets upon their death. Predatory Marriage relies on grooming and coercion to exert control over another person to persuade them to marry for financial, material or other gain. [Exploitation of adults - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership](#) and [SSP Practice Brief Adult Exploitation - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership](#)



# Suicide where there is domestic abuse

On 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2017, Kellie Sutton, 30, was found unconscious at the home she shared with partner Steven Gane.

A previous inquest concluded she died by suicide, but this now been overturned.

It is believed to be the first time an inquest has returned a conclusion of unlawful killing after a woman has taken her own life following domestic abuse.

Further information can be found on:

[BBC News: Kellie Sutton: New inquest finds abuse victim unlawfully killed - BBC News](#)

Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Future Deaths – Courts and Tribunals Judiciary [click on this link](#) to access the report from the Senior Coroner.



Channel 4 report - July 2023 (duration 10:46 minutes) click on link below to play

[Groundbreaking ruling in UK domestic abuse case - YouTube](#)

# Suicide where there is domestic abuse

- Where a victim has taken their own life (suicide) and the circumstances give rise to concern, for example it emerges that there was coercive controlling behaviour in the relationship, or if the victim has been discussed at MARAC consideration for a domestic homicide review should be undertaken.
- Even if a suspect is not charged with an offence or they are tried and acquitted.
- Reviews are not about who is culpable. Consideration should be given to a joint review where there is a safeguarding concern relating to adults or children or a mental health review.
- Further information can be found on the:
  - [DHR Statutory Guidance](#)
  - [Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and Case Learning leaflets - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership](#)
  - [Safeguarding Adult Reviews \(SAR's\) - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership](#)

**NB** local protocols are currently being updated in relation to DHRs.



**Identification and  
Professional Response  
to Safeguard**

# Identifying Domestic Abuse Within Families

To help determine whether abuse is present, professionals should consider the type, intensity and frequency of the behaviour and whether there is an imbalance of power. Below are some tips to assist you to gather information and identify risks to inform the professional response.

- a. Partner (name, date of birth, address)
- b. Children (names, dates of birth, address(es))
- c. Household members (names, dates of birth)
- d. Anyone else for whom the person has caring duties or from whom they receive care
- e. Housing status of the person and those they live with
- f. Vulnerabilities / risks the person faces or poses to others (substance use, mental health, offending behaviour, physical or learning disability, economic/legal instability)
- g. Professional involvement supporting the victim or working with the perpetrator

# Consider using the following to assist

- Genogram - a tool used to visualise a person's family relationships and history. It's a step further from a traditional family tree and highlights generational patterns and psychological factors that affect the relationships. Some useful information on [Genogram symbol guidance](#)
- Use of a chronology – this should include factual information such as key dates, life events and changes in family composition transitions and life changes, key professional interventions, Family or health issues and should give a sense of lived experience. See [SSP chronology guidance - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership](#)

# Some considerations...

It may be helpful to consider the following about the family you are working with:

- Is it family conflict, parental conflict or domestic abuse
- Is the person as a victim or perpetrator or are they both to other people
- Is it Honour Based Abuse ?
- Forced Marriage?
- Female Genital Mutilation ?
- Is there a child victim of domestic abuse – is this a child in need?
- Is there an adult at risk?
- See the Adult See the Child – Think Family!

Click on [this link](#) to refer back to the definitions section

# Importance of history in assessments

- Opportunities to reduce risks may be missed if critical information in the family history is not shared with agencies working with the child or adult and may mean that interventions to support the family are not based on a full understanding of the family history.
- Family functioning and history is a key part of assessment and includes both genetic and psycho-social factors. The experience and history of parents, and their experience of parenting, will have significant impact on a child's lived experience.
- Consider:
  - Who is living in the household?
  - Have there been any significant changes in family/household composition?
  - What is the history of childhood experiences of the parents?
  - all the current & historical information about all the children, parents and household members
  - Who are the people that are important to the family such as absent parents and siblings Have the family been previously known to services?

# Risk Assessment – Domestic Abuse

To assist with the identification of risk and to support a referral use the following:

- Domestic Abuse Stalking and Harassment (DASH) Risk Assessment Checklist [DASH risk assessment checklist - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership](#)
- Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) [Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference \(MARAC\) referral - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership](#)
- High risk domestic abuse should be referred to MARAC.
- Consider an application via the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme – further information can be found on this brief [Clare's Law - Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme \(DVDS\) - 7-minute brief - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership](#)



# Information Sharing

- The [Domestic Abuse Statutory Guidance Framework 2022](#) sets out *Safe and Effective Information Sharing* (paragraph 445, pages 138 -139) excerpt below:
- **Decision-making about what to share, and when**, should be governed by a clear, collective understanding about the risks to safety for an individual and family, and how those risks and the other needs within that family can be addressed. Information sharing should happen with the express intent of reducing risk to one or more family members. There must be a lawful basis to process (including sharing) any personal data. What lawful basis is appropriate will depend on the specific purpose for the processing. The six different lawful bases are set out in Article 6 of the UK GDPR, one of which must be met before personal data can be processed or shared. If using consent as the lawful basis this must be a freely given, specific, informed and unambiguous indication, and an individual should be able to withdraw consent at any time. Consent may not be the most appropriate lawful basis and consideration should be given to each situation.

For further information and guidance please refer to [Domestic Abuse Statutory Guidance Framework 2022](#)

# Information Sharing continued

- **Document these decisions** to demonstrate data protection compliance.
- **Record all relevant data**, information sharing is only as good as the quality of the information being shared, and the level of detail can be crucial to accurate risk assessment. For example, simply recording “there is a history of domestic abuse” does not give other professionals the level of detail needed to be able to risk assess. When sharing personal data, consideration must be given to whether it is lawful, personal data can only be shared if there is a lawful basis for doing so.

Source: [Domestic Abuse Statutory Guidance Framework 2022](#)

# If you have concerns

If professionals are unsure as to whether the behaviour they have become aware of constitutes domestic abuse they can seek advice from **Swindon Domestic Abuse Support Service (SDASS)** via the Website [Contact Us – SWA Domestic Abuse](#)

**HELPLINE: [01793 610 610](#)** (staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

**General Enquiries:** 01793 864 984

You can also discuss concerns and seek advice from:

- your manager/safeguarding lead
- **Adult Safeguarding** - if the potential victim or perpetrator has or is believed to have care and support needs – further information and a link to the referral form can be found on this webpage [Report a concern - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership](#)
- **Contact - Adult safeguarding** E-mail: [adultsafeguarding@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:adultsafeguarding@swindon.gov.uk) (During office hours - Monday to Friday inclusive, 8.30am to 5.00pm). Tel: 01793 463555
- **Child Safeguarding** – further information and a link to the referral form (RF1) can be found on this webpage [Referral guidelines and MASH contact information - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership](#)
- **Contact – Child Safeguarding** Email: [Swindonmash@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:Swindonmash@swindon.gov.uk), Telephone: 01793 466903 (normal office hours - 8.30am to 4.40pm, Monday to Thursday and 8.30am to 4.00pm Friday)
- Emergency Duty Service (EDS) (children/adults) is available outside office hours on 01793 436699
- Making a 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Report to Police via 101 or 999 in an emergency

# Perpetrator Interventions

- Open2Change programme: The Open2Change team provide early intervention and prevention support to those who recognise and want to change their abusive behaviour.
- For further information visit the webpage - [Open2Change – SWA Domestic Abuse](#)
- Email Open2Change: [o2c@swindonwomensaid.org](mailto:o2c@swindonwomensaid.org)
- Referral form: [Open2Change referral form](#)
- National website for further information: [Help For Domestic Violence Perpetrators | Respect Phonenumber UK](#)
- National contact number 0808 8024040

# Resources

Below are some links to resources/training available on the SSP/CSP website which provide further information:

- [Domestic abuse - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership](#)
- [SSP practice brief - DASH risk identification checklist and MARAC - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership](#)
- [Supporting victims of domestic violence - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership](#)
- [Clare's Law - Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme \(DVDS\) - 7-minute brief - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership](#)
- [Coercive control - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership](#)
- [SSP Practice brief - female genital mutilation October 2022 - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership](#)
- [Financial abuse and exploitation - May 2023 - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership](#)
- [Exploitation of adults - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership](#)
- [Training Information - Swindon Safeguarding Partnership](#) under heading domestic abuse modules.

# Additional resources

- [ADASS Adult Safeguarding and Domestic Abuse](#)
- Professionals can consult the [Making Safeguarding Personal Toolkit](#) for further advice and resources around engaging with victims with care and support needs.
- [Why language matters: domestic abuse is broader than domestic violence | NSPCC Learning](#)
- [Parental Relationships Spectrum](#): a tool for professionals and families to help distinguish between relationship conflict and domestic abuse.
- [Home - For Baby's Sake \(forbabysake.org.uk\)](#)
- [System change - For Baby's Sake \(forbabysake.org.uk\)](#)
- [Tools | Coercive Control \(ripfa.org.uk\)](#)
- [Things to do for Avoiding Arguments & Conflict | NSPCC](#)
- [Why Do Families Fight? 7 Common Types of Family Conflicts - PPS \(pollackpeacebuilding.com\)](#)
- [Parental conflict or domestic abuse - Durham County Council](#)
- [Reducing Parental Conflict: what is parental conflict? - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- [Resources Common Conflicts Between Parents And Grandparents, how to manage? | Thoughtful](#)
- [Parents or Careers in Conflict | Resolving Parental Disputes | Anna Freud Centre](#)
- Research in Practice ([https://coercivecontrol.ripfa.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Case\\_Study\\_4\\_Tool\\_1\\_Checklist-Developing\\_safety\\_plans.pdf](https://coercivecontrol.ripfa.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Case_Study_4_Tool_1_Checklist-Developing_safety_plans.pdf))
- [Parents or Careers in Conflict | Resolving Parental Disputes | Anna Freud Centre](#)



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