

The three central imperatives of any intervention

for children living with domestic violence and abuse are:

- to **protect the child/ren**, including unborn child/ren;
- to **empower the parent** to protect themselves and their child/ren;
- **identify the abusive partner**, hold him/her accountable for their violence/abuse and provide them with opportunities to change

RESOURCES

Websites for Children and Young People

- www.thehideout.org.uk (Women's Aid)
- www.childline.org.uk (NSPCC)
- www.dotcomcf.org (Primary)
- www.burstingthebubble.com (Secondary)
- www.mywell-being.org.uk (Ages 5–19)
Online team provides support for children and young people experiencing a range of issues including relationships, moving to secondary school, self-harm, low mood and depression)
- www.disrespectnobody.co.uk (Government campaign aimed at preventing abuse in teenage relationships)
- www.actonitnow.co.uk (Resources explaining domestic abuse to teenagers)

Toolkit resources for professionals

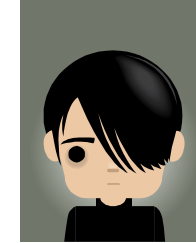
Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013 – search!

Helping Hands – Support children (Women's Aid)

Talking to my Mum – Tool to support parents and children to talk about Domestic Abuse – from Amazon

Programmes: Contact the Integrated Access Referral Team (i-ART) for availability – 0300 123 7047

PROMOTING the SAFETY and RECOVERY
of CHILDREN and YOUNG PEOPLE
EXPOSED TO DOMESTIC ABUSE



National Domestic Abuse 24/7 helpline – 0808 2000 247

Professionals should offer all children, young people and adults, accompanied or not, the opportunity of being seen alone (including in all assessments), wherever practicable, and asked whether they are experiencing or have previously experienced domestic violence and abuse

Working Together to Safeguard Children 11.83

As soon as a professional becomes aware of domestic violence and abuse within a family or a young person's relationship they should help the young person or parent and each child, according to their age and understanding, develop a safety plan

Working Together to Safeguard Children 11.84

**Safety planning increases power
and reduces fear**

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

- If the parent is abused, there is an increased risk that children are also subject to abuse
- Safeguarding a non-abusing adult is good safeguarding children practice
- Witnessing another's abuse is also defined as harm
- Parenting could be affected
- There could be other factors affecting a child's welfare and development (e.g. financial abuse, substance misuse, mental ill health)
- Children often intervene
- Remember the Child's emotional needs as well as physical safety (guilt, fear, attachment issues)

THINK 'RISK'

- When was the most recent incident of violence or abuse?
- Were the children present?
- How do they respond to incidents? Do they ever try to intervene?
- How do the children describe what happens?
- Is the abuse connected with any other factors that may undermine parenting capacity (such as alcohol or substance misuse or mental health issues)?
- Is the non-abusing parent able to meet the child's needs effectively?
- Are weapons involved in incidents of violence or abuse?
- Is the child forced to participate in the abuse?
- Have a pregnant woman and her unborn child been threatened or abused?

THINK SAFETY

Children's safety plans should emphasise that the best thing a child can do for themselves and the parent experiencing abuse is not to try to intervene but to keep safe and, where appropriate, to get away and seek help

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Remember:

- *Never promise confidentiality*
- *Build on the child's strengths and coping strategies*
- *Let them know they're not the only one to experience this*

Children and Young People need to know:

- They are not responsible for adult violence – it is not their fault
- They should not try to intervene but get out and if possible try to get help
- Where to go to be safe (a safe place, an identified neighbour or relative)
- If appropriate and safe do they know how to call for help e.g. the police? (Make sure they know their address)
- Can they discuss keeping safe with their abused parent/carer?
- Who else can they talk to about the difficulties they live with?
- They can help siblings but they are not responsible for their long term safety. This is an adult responsibility