

# Risk, Threat & Toxic Trio



**Ending domestic abuse** 

Viv Bickham Focus on Families 2017

## **Aims and Objectives**

# Improve outcomes for high risk victims and their children in complex cases

- Identify risk and threat factors from recent research
- Promote effective partnership working in complex cases
- Examine the benefits and challenges of best practice





#### The Toxic Trio

- Research shows that the environment in which a child lives is crucial to a child's welfare and development.
- The term 'Toxic Trio' has been used to describe the issues of domestic abuse, mental ill-health and substance misuse which have been identified as common features of families where harm to children and adults has occurred.
- The Toxic Trio are indicators of increased risk of harm to families and are significant factors in IPV (Interpersonal Violence) and AFV (Adult Family Violence)
- Work in this area has shown that there is large overlap between these parental risk factors and impact on outcomes for children into adulthood through the research into Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE)



#### **Serious Case Review:**



Daniel Pelka; Assaulted, starved, neglected No of DA incidents seen in isolation – lack of professional curiosity.



Keanu Williams; Major injuries received over a period of days - Escalation – missed a significant number of opportunities to intervene and take action.



Hamzah Khan; Neglected; lay dead for over 2 years. Mental health of mother and lack of response when siblings disclosed.

#### **Ending domestic abuse**

### **Dynamics of Domestic Abuse** and Coercive Control

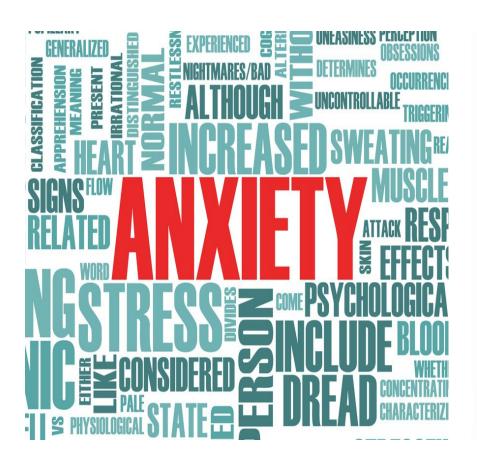




140,000 children live in households where there is high-risk domestic abuse

SafeLives (2015), Getting it right first time: policy report. Bristol: SafeLives.

### **Mental Health affecting Parenting capacity**





50,000 to more than 2 million children are affected by parental mental ill-health
Source: How safe are our children? NSPCC 2014

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# **Substance misuse and Parenting Capacity**





250,000 to 978,000 children have a parent who misuses drugs 920,000 to 3.5 million children in England are affected by parental alcohol problems

Source: How safe are our children? NSPCC 2014

### **Recurring Themes of Risk and Threats**

The following six issues were the most frequently identified missed opportunities for interventions:

- Victim/perpetrator contact with General Practitioners (GPs)
- Mental health
- Safeguarding adults
- Safeguarding children
- Risk assessment

In the DHR process the identification of what informal networks knew – yet nobody asked

Other potential warning signs of domestic abuse suggested: missed appointments; lack of compliance with prescribed medication; and homelessness.





## **Best Practice**

- Early intervention 'working with, not being done too'
- Common Language
- Understanding Risk is dynamic and fluid, escalation in volatile circumstances
- Relevant and proportionate information sharing justifiable
- Professional curiosity
- Whole Family Assessment





#### **Contact SafeLives**



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