



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



Ending domestic abuse



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



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.

Ending domestic abuse



Best Practice

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



Ending domestic abuse



Contact SafeLives



knowledgehub@safelives.org.uk



0117 403 3220



www.safelives.org.uk

Ending domestic abuse