

Child & adolescent to parent violence and abuse (CAPVA)

1. What is domestic abuse?

Domestic Abuse Act 2021

Domestic Abuse is any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality. It is not limited to people who live together. Domestic abuse is a crime, including coercive control. Children are also victims if they see, hear, or experience the effects of the abuse.

Anyone can be a victim, but women, including older women, and people with physical disabilities, mental ill health, substance dependence, and/or learning disabilities are at particularly high risk

2. Disclosures

Every professional should be using 'Routine Safe Enquiry' asking service users about their experience of domestic abuse, regardless of whether there are any signs of abuse or whether abuse is suspected. Lanyard Cards with routine enquiry are available in Bexley to support you.

If you receive a positive response to any form of domestic abuse, you **MUST** complete a DASH risk assessment toolkit.

If you have concerns and are unable to safely complete the DASH, please speak to your safeguarding lead or contact Solace

Training is available in Bexley for completing a DASH

10.4 million adults (aged 16+) in England and Wales have experienced domestic abuse since the age of 16.

3. What is CAPVA?

Child and adolescent to parent violence and abuse describe the dynamic where a young person (8 years -18 years) engages in repeated abusive behaviour towards a parent or adult carer. Abusive behaviour can include physical violence; emotional, economic or sexual abuse; and coercive control. It may also include damage to property and abuse towards other family members, particularly siblings.

4. IMPACT

Experiencing CAPVA can be devastating. Families report high levels of distress, and a negative impact on the mental health of all those involved.

Recent research from London's Violence Reduction Unit found that 40% of those experiencing CAPVA refuse to report it; the majority of CAPVA cases involve boys in late adolescence and their mothers and is most likely to be physical violence; parents/carers interviewed said they only contacted the police at crisis points when they felt they had no other choice and were afraid for their physical safety; and all parents/carers affected said they had experienced multiple incidents of violence before reaching crisis point.

5. Risk Assessment

CAPVA is known as a hidden harm. It's common for parents and young people to feel shame about this behaviour, and many are scared that their child will be criminalised or removed from the family. As a result, CAPVA incidents often go unreported. On a disclosure of domestic abuse, you **MUST** complete a Safe Lives DASH risk assessment and make appropriate referrals. The DASH will highlight 15 high risk factors in domestic abuse – once identified you must then complete safety planning.

6. National Support

Respect lists CAPVA support providers in a specialist directory for parents and practitioners.

Holes in the Wall – A blog focusing on CAPVA created by social worker and CAPVA expert, Helen Bonnick.

The blog is aimed at parents, professionals and academics.

CAPA First Response – An organisation focusing on CAPVA, providing information and support for parents and professionals.

Family Lives – An organisation providing information and support around CAPVA.

7. Bexley Support

If the victim is safe right now and with you, this is a good opportunity to get specialist help. Do not wait to refer until after they have gone. By then, the opportunity for them to get specialist support may be missed. Ask what the victim wants and what the barriers are to safety in their view

For support on risk assessment and safety planning contact Solace on 0203 198 4659.

One stop Shop in Bexley every Wednesday 12.30 -3pm at Central Library, Bexleyheath.

Referral to MARAC@bexley.gov.uk
Support through Children's social care

For further information about domestic abuse services in Bexley please visit

www.bexleydomesticabuseservices.org or visit www.gov.uk or www.safelives.org.uk