

Safe and Together Edinburgh 2015



Safe and Together Edinburgh 2017



Safe and Together Edinburgh 2018 and beyond...?



the Safe and Together™ model:

A perpetrator pattern, child centered, survivor strength based approach to the intersection of domestic violence and child maltreatment

David Mandel, MA,LPC

Goals

- To outline learning from Edinburgh's domestic abuse case file audit
- To introduce the Safe and Together principles and critical components
- To talk about how the model can be used in child welfare and domestic abuse service settings
- To outline how the model has been implemented in Edinburgh



A note on language...



Why Safe and Together?

- What did Edinburgh's domestic abuse case file audit tell us?



Domestic Abuse Case File Audit Key Themes

- Assessment

- Focus on physical violence
- Pattern of domestic abuse
- Impact on children



- Planning

- Focus on calling the police, separation, moving home
- Primarily focussed on the actions of the victim
- Lack of recognition of other protective actions

The audit indicates that our response to domestic abuse has a number of characteristics:

It has an overemphasis on singular incidents of physical violence, rather than recognition of a wider pattern of abuse; it assumes separation or removal of the perpetrator will automatically reduce risk; it places responsibility for care of the children and for ending the abuse primarily with the victim, whilst superficially engaging with perpetrators; it explicitly encourages separation, without addressing risks around safe contact or ongoing disruption to family life.

Domestic Abuse Case File Audit Recommendations

Suite of training:

- Intervening successfully with domestic abuse victims.
- Intervening successfully with perpetrators of domestic abuse.
- Assessing and describing the impact of domestic abuse on family functioning and children's wellbeing and development



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Safe and Together™ Principles

1

Keeping child Safe and Together™ with non-offending parent
Safety Healing from trauma Stability and nurturance

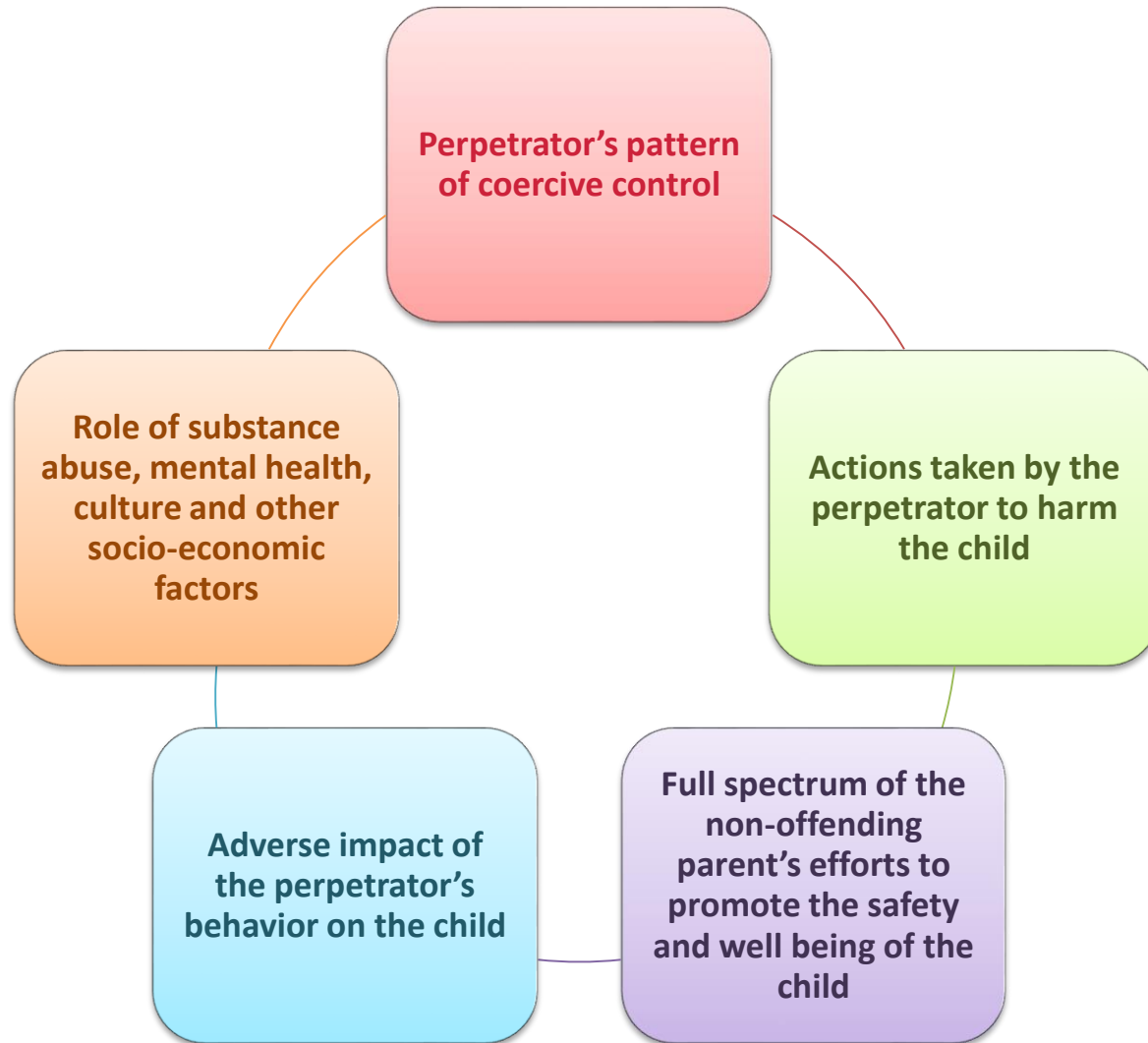
2

Partnering with non-offending parent as default position
Efficient Effective Child-centered

3

Intervening with perpetrator to reduce risk and harm to child
Engagement Accountability Courts

Safe and Together™ Critical Components



Domestic
Violence
Destructiv
e

Domestic
Violence
Incapable

Domestic
Violence
Blindness

Domestic
Violence Pre-
Competence

Domestic
Violence
Competence

Domestic
Violence
Proficiency

Policy

Practice

Training

Services

Collaboration

Weak Nexus

Strong Nexus

About the Adults

Integrated with children/other CPS issues

“Failure to Protect”

Perpetrator Pattern

Fathers Invisible

High Standards for Fathers

Child v. Adult Survivor

Child Safety & Well Being Tied to Adult Survivor

What's the problem with a 'failure to protect' discourse?

It wrongly focuses on living arrangements and relationship status versus the domestic abuse perpetrator's tactics and access to the children



What's the problem with a 'failure to protect' discourse?

It ignores everything that a non-offending parent is doing day to day to *actively* reduce the impact of the domestic abuse on her children



What's the problem with a 'failure to protect' discourse?

It assumes that the non-offending parent is in control of the violence rather than the perpetrator



What's the problem with a 'failure to protect' discourse?

It is expensive



What's the problem with a 'failure to protect' discourse?

It sends a dangerous message to children:
your mother cannot protect you and the
perpetrator is not fully responsible for his own
behaviours



What's the problem with a 'failure to protect' discourse?

It prevents the ability to partner with the non-offending parent which in turn impacts on assessment of risk to children



What's the problem with a 'failure to protect' discourse?

It creates ineffective plans



“The yardstick is flawed because it is based on inaccurate assumptions which place unnecessary barriers to collaboration between child welfare and survivors.

The impact of these myths is missed opportunities to partner with non-offending parents who are sincerely and actively invested in the safety and well-being of their children. This in turn may lead to poor case planning and inefficiency as the child welfare systems invests energy in developing and enforcing its own strategies for safety.

And since these strategies are being developed without the input of the person most knowledgeable about the perpetrator’s behavior, they are often unnecessarily aggressive and disruptive to the family, trap the non-offending parent between the child welfare system and the perpetrator, and fail to meet the needs of the children.”

In your groups...

Creating a domestic violence informed
child welfare system

In your groups...

How could you implement any of the Safe and Together principles into your practice?

In your groups...

Describe protective efforts

- Question 1: “can you tell me one thing the survivor has done to promote the safety of the children?”
- Question 2: “can you tell me one thing the survivor has done to promote the well-being of the children?”
- Question 3: “can you tell me one thing the survivor has done to promote stability for the children?”
- Question 4: “can you tell me one thing the survivor has done to nurture the children?”

Why validate the survivor's protective efforts?

It identifies the worker as someone who understands the victim's experiences and as a source of help



Why validate the survivor's protective efforts?

Allows the worker to gather more comprehensive information about child safety



Why validate the survivor's protective efforts?

Allows efficient and collaborative development of more effective safety plans



Validating strengths is not the same as saying:

- 1) that the perpetrator isn't harming the children
- 2) that we don't have to communicate to the survivor
 - our concerns about the children
 - work collaboratively with her to increase the safety of the children
 - in some extreme cases remove children

*"I see how hard you've worked to protect your children, and we've tried everything we can to intervene with him **and** we remain very concerned that your partner will hurt them."*

Safe and Together Action Plan



Safe and Together Champions are confident in using the model and practice tools

- 92 Champions attended the four day practice tool in 2015 and 46 in 2017
- Champions to attend the practitioners' forum
- Champions can become a Safe and Together Institute member and review blogs and You Tube channel
- The domestic abuse case file audit is being repeated to show practice change between 2014 to 2017

Safe and Together Action Plan



Practitioners across Edinburgh are aware of the Safe and Together model and understand the principles

- Over 200 practitioners have attended the Safe and Together conference
- Champions deliver briefings in their local area, carry out consultations and case mapping
- Briefings have been delivered to city wide services including social care direct, Scottish Children's Reporter Administration, Family Group Decision Making, the Ministry and Defence, PrePare, Caledonian Edinburgh, Edinburgh Women's Aid and Edinburgh Voluntary Organisation Council
- Principles are embedded in all domestic abuse training

Safe and Together Action Plan

**Safe and Together principles
are embedded in Edinburgh's systems
and processes**

- Further one day training carried out for key decision makers
- Children and Families paperwork is being reviewed to include Safe and Together principles; including development of a set of questions for duty workers, review of assessment paperwork and amendments to letters to families about social work visits
- A mechanism for a referral from MARAC for case mapping is being established
- Case consultations are being formalised within localities



Safe and Together Action Plan

**Safe and Together is
developed nationally across Scotland**

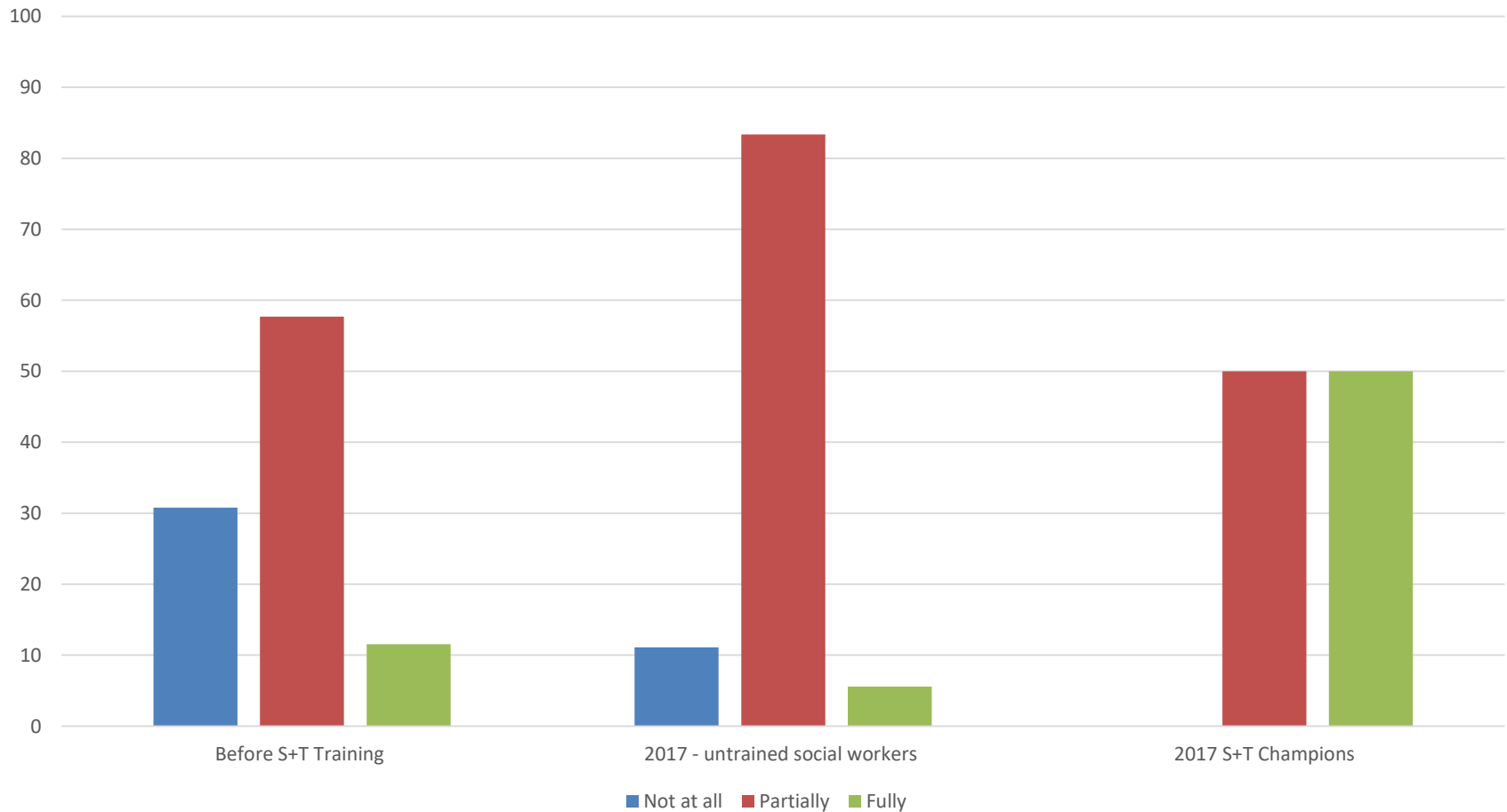
- Briefings have been delivered to ...
- Safe and Together Consortium



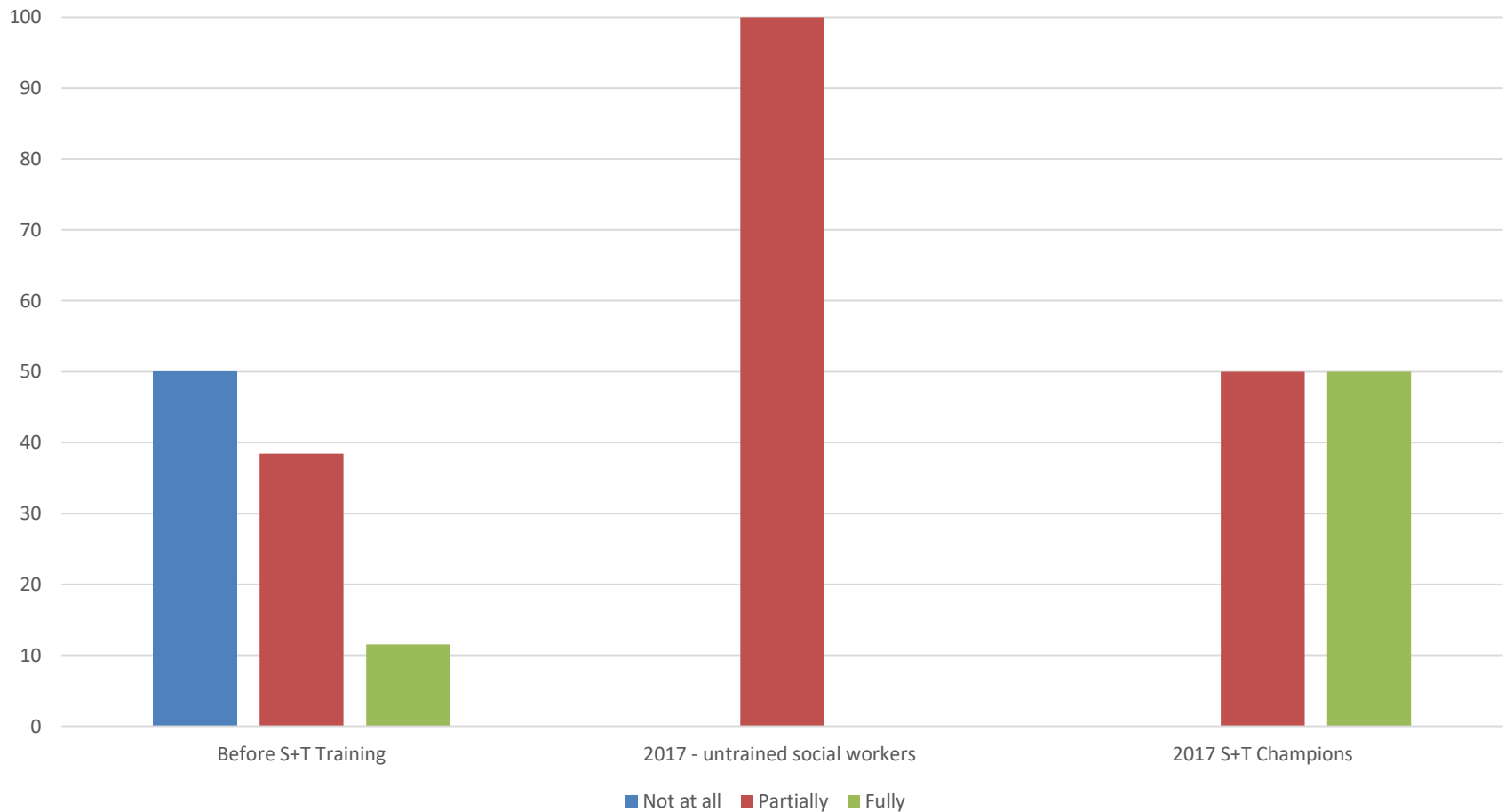
What Changed?



Quality of the Assessment of Risk and Need in Relation to Domestic Abuse



Quality of the child's plan



Supporting Safe and Together: Changing practice



- Readers noted that cases held by Safe and Together Champions
 - Understanding of patterns of abuse and controlling behaviour
 - Wide-ranging analysis of the impact on the non-offending parent and the child
 - Analysis of the non-offending parent's protective efforts and effective partnering
 - Connections between substance misuse, trauma, mental health and care for the children
 - Clear expectations of parents in the plans
 - Interventions with the perpetrator

Supporting Safe and Together: Changing language



Scottish Children's Reporter Association

Are we asking the right questions when requesting reports?

Do we pick up on gaps in assessments?

- Assessment of perpetrator
- Strengths of the victim

Can we develop tools to support reporters, like a set of questions to ask?

When we draft grounds around lack of parental care how does that impact on partnering with the victim?

Supporting Safe and Together: Changing language



Police Scotland

When we call the victim after an incident, rather than saying “We are calling about the incident between you and your partner...”

Try saying:

“We are calling because your partner assaulted you...”

How can we think about our language to better partner with the victim when we approach them about past or current partners?

Supporting Safe and Together: Changing language



Health visitors

Ask the victim

“Can you tell me what your partner does to support your parenting?”

Supporting Safe and Together: Changing systems



Social Care Direct

Record the police incidents under the perpetrators file

Southwest Domestic Abuse Action Group

Engaging with perpetrators

Focus on the perpetrator's pattern

Supporting Safe and Together: Changing practice



Better partnering with non-offending parent:

- Increase in quality of information gathered
- Changes in case notes and reports
- Partnering during meetings

Case Study: Liz and Dave

In your group, Use the five critical components to analyse the case study

- What is the perpetrators pattern of coercive control and the actions taken to harm the children?
- What are the non-offending parent's efforts to promote safety and wellbeing?
- What is the adverse impact of the perpetrator's behaviour on the children?
- What is the role of substance abuse, mental health, culture and other socio-economic factors?

Safe and Together™

in practice

Issue	Desired Outcome	Action	What resources are required?	Who is responsible for this action?	By when?
Domestic Abuse	Chloe and Lauren are kept safe from the negative impacts of domestic abuse	<p>Karen to ensure Mr Smith is not allowed contact with the children.</p> <p>Karen to report any incidents of domestic abuse to professionals or police as required.</p> <p>Karen to be open and honest with professionals regarding her relationship with John</p>	<p>Unannounced and announced home visits.</p> <p>Karen's willingness to stick with the safety plan.</p>	Karen, social worker, other professionals	review at next core group

Issue	Desired Outcome	Action	What resources are required?	Who is responsible for this action?	By when?
John Smith	That John fully engages with the Caledonian Project and the work around domestic violence	<p>John to meet with Caledonian SW when appropriate.</p> <p>Professional discussions to take place post September 19th when John in on trial for offences relating to his ex partner.</p> <p>Karen to be open and honest with professionals in relation to John's situation.</p>		Karen, Caledonia SW, Chloe's SW	Review at next core group

Issue	Desired Outcome	Action	What resources are required?	Who is responsible for this action?	By when?
Domestic abuse	Chloe, Lauren and Karen are kept safe from the negative impacts of domestic abuse.	Karen cannot be held responsible for John's behaviour. If John wants to be a part of Karen, Lauren and Chloe's lives without ongoing social work involvement, then he needs to evidence that he can support Karen's parenting. Domestic abuse is a parenting choice that does not support Karen's parenting, and is damaging to Chloe and Lauren's development. In the meantime, John should not have contact with Chloe and Lauren.	<p>Andrea to assess John's pattern of coercive control, and the risk this poses to Chloe and Lauren. Andrea will meet with John as part of this.</p> <p>Caledonian will continue to work with John to reduce the factors that lead to his offending behaviour. John needs to attend his appointments.</p>	John Smith Andrea Davidson Caledonian SW	<p>Andrea's assessment of John's pattern of coercive control will begin in Spring 2015.</p> <p>John's work with Caledonian must continue until he addresses his offending behaviour.</p>

Issue	Desired Outcome	Action	What resources are required?	Who is responsible for this action?	By when?
Domestic abuse continued	Chloe, Lauren and Karen are kept safe from the negative impacts of domestic abuse.	Although Karen cannot be held responsible for John's behaviour, there are steps she can take to keep herself and her children safe from harm. There needs to be a clear safety plan in place, which takes into account the pattern of John's behaviour, and builds upon the positive aspects of Karen's parenting.	Karen and Caledonian Women's SW need to agree a clear safety plan	Karen Caledonian Women's SW	By summer 2015

Pathways to Harm:

- Consider the different ways in which the perpetrator's behaviour harms the child
- Strengthens assessments

Perpetrator Behaviour	Pathways to Harm	Child Welfare Issue
Physical violence; his substance abuse; control vehicle and/or time out of house;	Trauma creating conditions for substance abuse; interfering with her accessing recovery resources;	Maternal substance abuse and mental health issues
Financial control; control of transportation; control of insurance cards; interfering with parenting	Survivor not having transportation or money for medical appointments; perpetrator not letting survivor take children to appointments; can't call or get out of home in medical emergency	Medically complex/medically fragile/medical neglect
Physical violence leading to arrests and time removed from the home; verbal abuse	Income lost, perpetrator paying rent elsewhere while out of home leading to eviction; neighbours making complaints about yelling; police coming to home lots leads to eviction	Housing issues
Verbal abuse; breaking items in the home; undermining parenting; targeting one child and favouring one	Children afraid because of yelling/abuse/broken items; child feeling emotionally targeted; children not respecting survivor and getting into trouble, etc.	Emotional neglect
Financial control; physical violence including strangulation; threats to take children away	Children afraid to go to school because of violence; children refusing to leave victim's side; children not getting necessary school supplies; victim not getting to school meetings	Educational neglect
Physical violence towards adult survivor; criticising adult survivors' parenting/discipline; verbal abuse	Survivor taking on physical discipline so perpetrator won't do worse; kids interfering in violence and getting hit/hurt; kids punished by perpetrator for using language learned from perpetrator	Physical abuse
Isolation; financial control; verbal abuse; undermining parenting; control of transportation	Survivor not having access to stores/food leading to neglect issues; children have no one to call in emergency due to isolation, verbal abuse led to victim's depression led to not taking physical care of children	Physical neglect

“On 24 February 2017, David assaulted Margaret by punching her on the face, causing two black eyes and a swollen jaw. Margaret called the police, and David was detained, charged and remanded in custody.”

“On 24 February 2017, David assaulted Margaret by punching her on the face, causing two black eyes and a swollen jaw. Margaret called the police, and David was detained, charged and remanded in custody. Margaret later told her Women’s Aid worker that the assault happened because David was unhappy that Margaret had allowed Connor to go to the shops on his own in the dark, so they began arguing. Margaret also said she had sent Connor to the shops because David had come home drunk, and she wanted Connor out of the way in case David “kicked off”. Connor was kept awake due to the police being in attendance at his house. Connor slept in for school the next day, so was late. Connor was already on a behaviour card, and got in trouble from his guidance teacher, who had not yet been made aware of the police incident. Connor chose not to disclose the incident to his guidance teacher.

“This incident happened two days before Connor’s 13th birthday. Because Margaret had visible injuries to her face, Connor asked that she cancel his birthday trip to bowling, as he was too embarrassed to let his friends see his mum’s face. Because Margaret had called the police on David, David’s family fell out with Margaret. Connor was therefore unable to see his paternal grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins around the time of his birthday, nor did he receive presents from them. Connor was made to visit his dad in prison on the day of his birthday, as David wanted to see him and made arrangements for this with Margaret. Connor did not want to go to the prison. Margaret felt unable to refuse David’s request, despite Connor sharing his feelings with her. As David controlled the family finances, Margaret did not have full access to money while David was on remand. Margaret was unable to purchase Connor the computer game he wanted for his birthday. Connor told me that he had “the worst birthday ever”, and that he was angry with his mum for calling the police.”

Safe and Together™

Investigation Relationship Interview Protocol

Language

Batterer



Perpetrator

Caretaker



Mum

Co-worker



Colleague

Case Study: Liz and Dave

Dave's pattern of coercive control and actions taken to harm the children

- Emotionally and physically abusive towards Liz since the birth of their first child
- Only allows Liz to leave the house to go food shopping and has isolated her from her family and friends
- After binge drinking calls her names and criticising everything she does, saying that the kids walk all over her
- Calls the house phone and makes threats towards Liz.
- Hangs around the local neighbourhood and goes to Liz's family and the children's friends' houses and harasses them.
- Refuses to have contact with the children
- Spat in his daughter's face
- Calls the children names and verbally abuses them

Case Study: Liz and Dave

Liz's protective efforts to promote the safety and wellbeing of the children

- The children all have good attendance at school
- Asks Dave to leave the house
- Called the police to remove him
- Lets him back into the family home to stop him humiliating the family
- Has spoken with the police and with the teachers
- Made decision let him return home was based on what she thought was best for Brian, who badly missed his Dad
- Tried hard to answer all her children's questions about the abuse
- Encourages them to stay with friends at the weekends when Dave's drinking is worse

Case Study: Liz and Dave

The adverse impact of Dave's behaviour on the children

- Brian is bullying other children
- All three children miss him greatly and become very angry with Liz. Their behaviour becomes a lot more disturbed at home and at school
- Brian in particular tends to get into trouble with the local police and his behaviour at school has resulted in him being threatened with expulsion
- Dave has always told her that he is much better at disciplining the children than she is

Case Study: Liz and Dave

The role of substance abuse, mental health and other factors

- If Dave hits her when he is drunk, his assaults tend to be more violent and last longer
- Liz's mental health deteriorates and she is less able to cope with the children. She feels that Dave is much better at disciplining the children than she is
- Dave kept telling her that if someone would help him stop drinking things would get better.
- Liz used to go to a group for her depression, but Dave accused her of having an affair with one of the other men

Case Study: Liz and Dave

Other service generated risks

- The neighbours always call Liz telling her that Dave is annoying them and ask her when she will let him back in the house
- The door to the stairwell is broken
- Liz overheard the police talking about her on their way down the stairs
- Social work sent a letter to Liz

Questions



Safe and Together Institute

Safeandtogetherinstitute.com – join as a member
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Also on Twitter / Facebook / youtube

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