

BACKGROUND

Child to parent violence and abuse (CPVA) is the most hidden and stigmatised form of family violence. It is also much misunderstood by agencies and professionals. CPVA is also vastly under reported due to the stigma felt by parents living with an abusive child. Parents and carers often feel guilt and shame when their child is abusive and violent towards them.

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WHAT IS CHILD TO PARENT VIOLENCE

There is no current legal definition of CPVA. It is any behaviour used by a child in a family to control, dominate, threaten or coerce a parent or sibling.

It is recognised as a form of domestic violence and abuse and, depending on the age of the child, may fall under the government's official definition of domestic violence and abuse. Identification of a child involved in CPVA should warrant a referral to children's social care as a safeguarding precaution.

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WHY IT MATTERS

The impact is extremely severe, debilitating, isolating and often parents and carers do not know how to start to tackle it. Emotional and physical abuse are both part of the picture. Parents often feel ashamed of the situation which can also prevent them from reporting they often see it as *their* failure to control the child.

CPVA can be experienced by mothers, fathers, siblings and carers from daughters and sons, however, studies and statistics show that women and mothers are most at risk. Whilst girls and boys use CPVA, boys are most likely to use physical violence.

It is predominantly mothers, lone parents and those parents facing significant social and family stressors who are most likely to experience abuse from their children.

The majority of cases are in birth families, but there is a higher prevalence in fostered and adopted children since the latter are more likely to have disruptive behaviour problems.

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FURTHER INFORMATION AND READING

Thorley and Coates: Let's Talk about child to parent violence 2018

Holes in the wall.co.uk

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7 Minute Briefing Child to Parent Violence

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WHAT IS OUR RESPONSE

A pilot intervention, using the Respect young People's Programme, is under way, working predominantly with families in South Manchester. If successful, it is hoped that this programme will roll out across the rest of the city during 2020/21.

For further information please contact The Community Safety Team in the first instance on: 0161 234 1284 or Email: communitysafety@manchester.gov.uk.

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RISK FACTORS

There are a number of risk factors which make abusive behaviour more likely. There are many reasons why children and young people can become abusive. There may be a combination of issues or no explanation at all.

Witnessing family violence. Trauma, loss and disruption Substance misuse. Mental Health.

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's) are stressful or traumatic events, including abuse and neglect. It is likely that children displaying violent or aggressive behaviours will have an ACE score of at least 4 and in most cases higher.

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WHAT DOES IT INVOLVE

Anger is an emotion; violence is about power and control. **Violence is not the same as anger.**

CPVA can include any or all of the following:

Physical violence, including bullying or physical violence to siblings as well as parents. **Emotional, Psychological and Verbal abuse** yelling, screaming, swearing, 'put downs' and humiliation for example.

Financial can include demanding money or things parents cannot afford. Incurring debt that the parent is then responsible for.