



We need to talk; differential understandings and responses to domestic abuse and violence

International & Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Complex Trauma and its Treatment; University of York

April 2020 Dermot Brady

It is not once nor twice but times
without number that the same ideas
make their appearance in the world

What I will try to address today

- Overview and prevalence
- Children's experiences
- Complexity and parallel processes
- Working with men
- Discuss?

And I will try to remember...

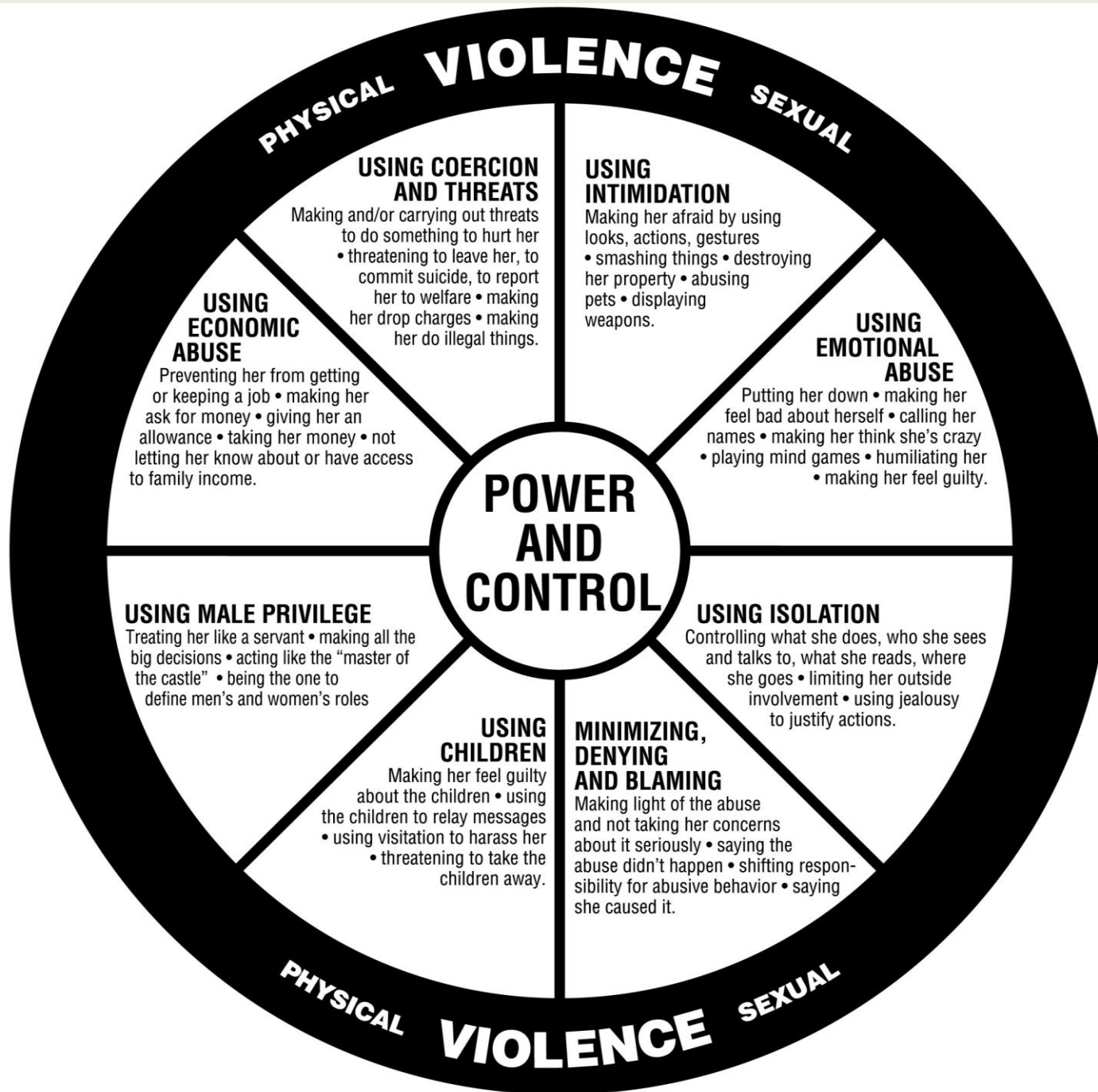
Safety

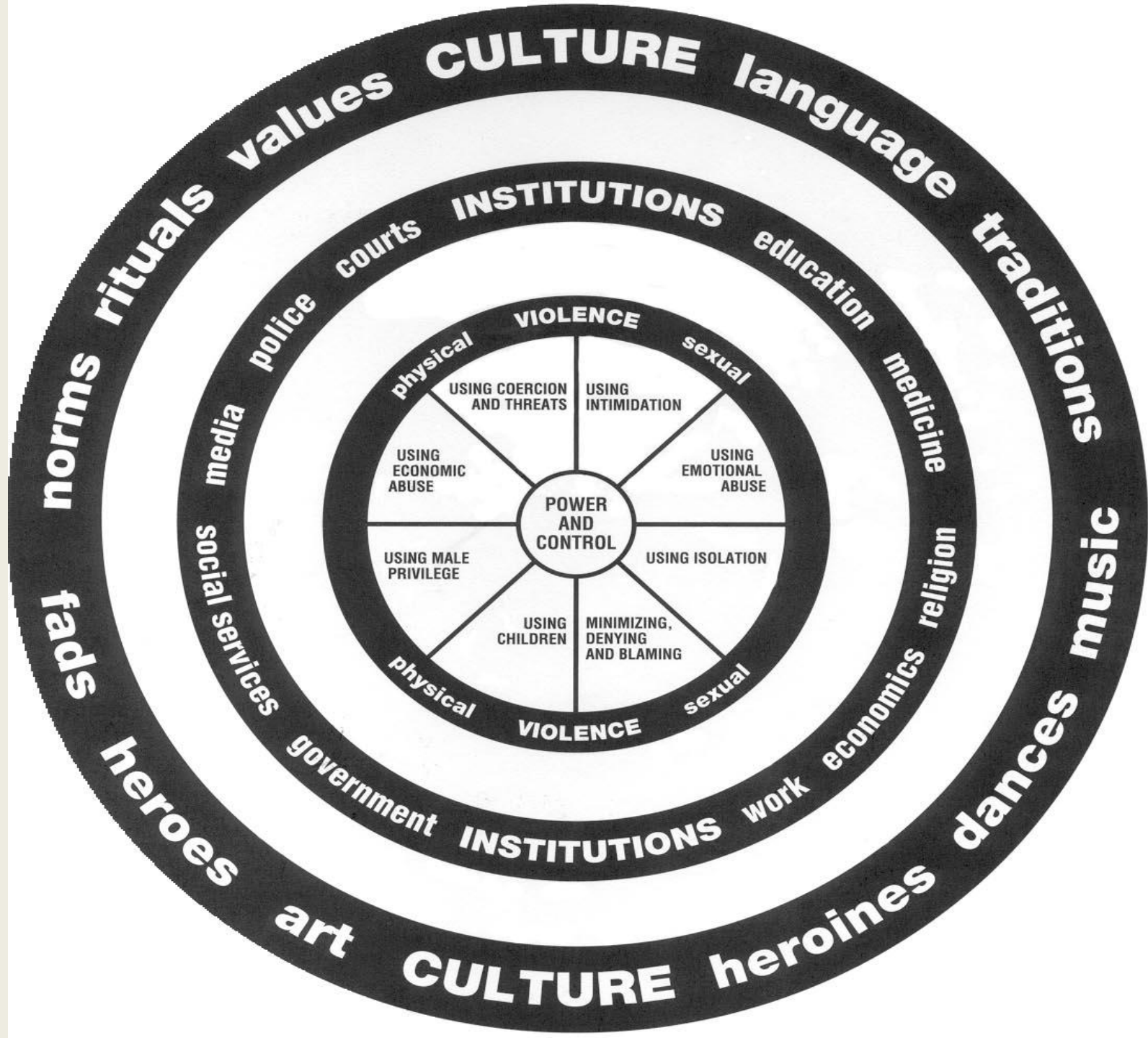
Remembrance and mourning

Re-connection and commonality

Chiswick 1974







Coordinated Community Response

An interagency effort to change the climate of tolerance of battering by institutionalizing practices and procedures which centralize victim safety and offender accountability in domestic assault related cases.



**Verbal
abuse**



**Sexual
abuse**



**Physical
abuse**



**Emotional
neglect**



**Physical
neglect**



**Mental
illness**



**Domestic
violence**



**Problem drug
and alcohol use**



**Parental
incarceration**



**Parental
separation**

Annual Report of the Director of Public Health. 2018. Highlands
file:///C:/Users/KU57381/Downloads/DPH-Annual-Report-2018_web-version.pdf

Changing Definitions



What constitutes domestic abuse?

Any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between adults who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality. This can encompass but is not limited to the following types of abuse

- Psychological
- Physical
- Sexual
- Financial
- Emotional



Defining Domestic Violence

Controlling behaviour is: a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour.

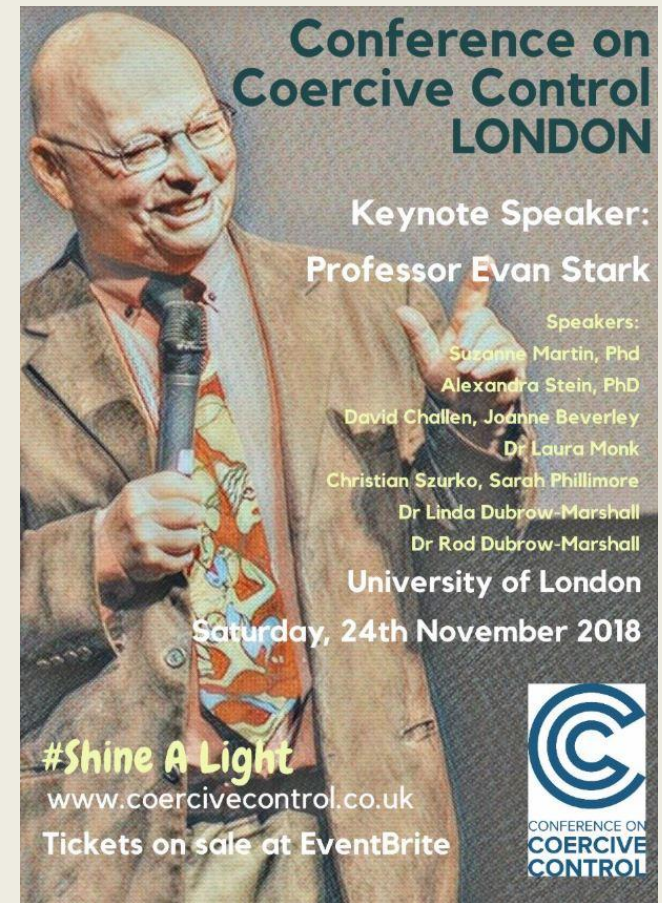
Defining Domestic Violence

<https://www.gov.uk/search?q=vawg#government-results>

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/142828/vawg-newsletter-spring13_1_.pdf

Coercive behaviour is: an act or pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim’.

This definition which is not a legal definition, includes so called ‘honour’ based violence, female genital mutilation(FGM) and forced marriage, and is clear that victims are not confined to one gender or ethnic group.



https://twitter.com/david_challen/status/1036960161833910274

Domestic Abuse in England and Wales: year ending March 2018

[https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/articles/domesticabuseprevalencea
ndtrendsenlandandwales/yearendingmarch2019](https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/articles/domesticabuseprevalencea
ndtrendsenlandandwales/yearendingmarch2019)

Around 2 million adults aged 16 to 59 years experienced domestic abuse in the year ending March 2018

Prevalence rate of approx. 6 in 100 adults

Women were around twice as likely to have experienced domestic abuse than men (7.9% compared with 4.2%).

“The estimates do not take into account the context and impact of the abusive behaviours experienced. Research suggests that when coercive and controlling behaviour is taken into account, the differences between the experiences of male and female victims become more apparent.”

Defining Domestic Violence

In January 2005, Section 120 of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 amends the meaning of harm to include

“impairment suffered from seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another”

<https://www.edu.uwo.ca/faculty-profiles/peter-jaffe.html>





Figure 5: Proportion of domestic abuse-related offences recorded by the police by sex of victim, selected offence groups (28 forces)

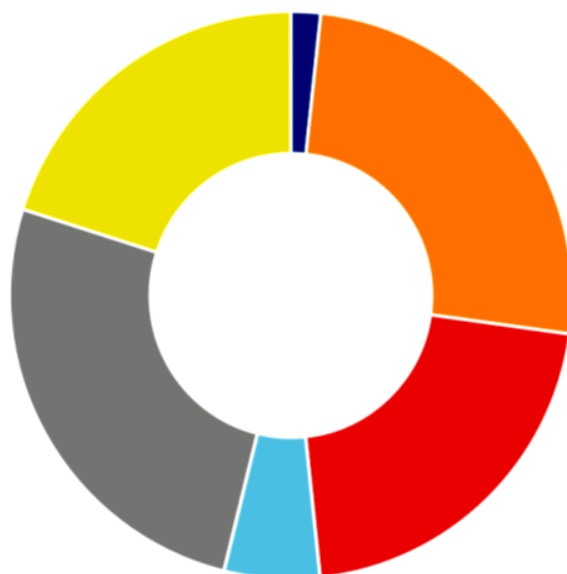
Year ending March 2018, England and Wales



<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/domesticabuseinenglandandwalesoverview/november2019>

Figure 12: Reasons for unsuccessful domestic abuse-related prosecutions

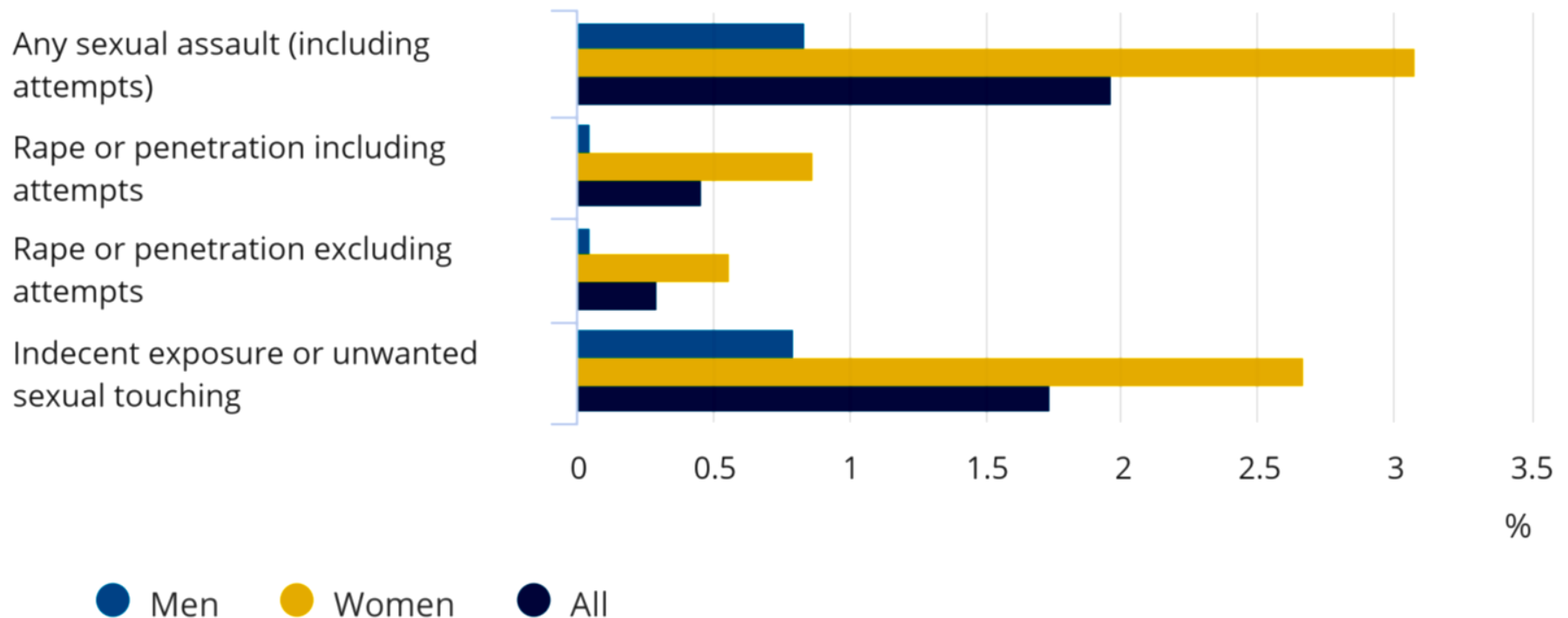
Year ending March 2018, England and Wales



- Victim evidence does not support the case
- Victim retraction
- Acquittals
- Conflict of prosecution evidence
- Victim non-attendance
- Other reasons

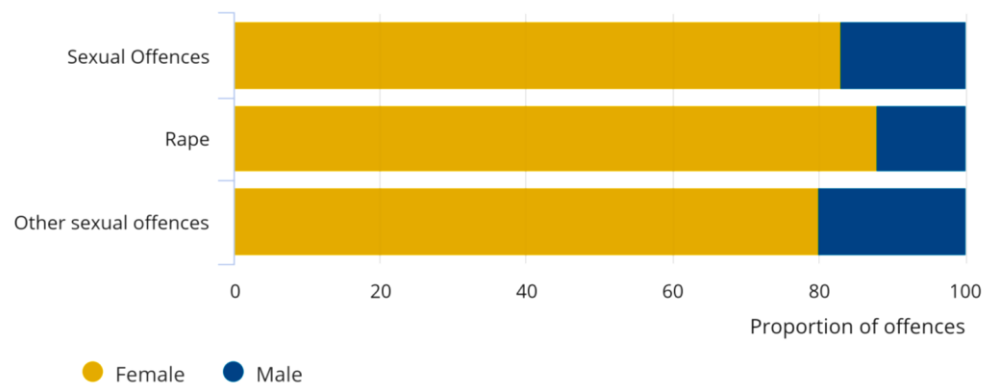
Figure 4: Prevalence of sexual assault in the last year for adults aged 16 to 59, by sex and type of sexual assault

Year ending March 2017, Crime Survey for England and Wales



<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/articles/sexualoffencesinenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2017>

Figure 5: Sexual offences recorded by the police, by sex of victim, police recorded crime (35 forces), year ending March 2017



Offender characteristics

Majority of respondents who had experienced rape or assault by penetration since they were 16 reported that the offender(s) were male (99%), with 65% of victims reporting male(s) aged between 20 and 39

The majority of victims reported being assaulted by a single offender (70%), with 20% assaulted by two 5% by three and 4% by more than three offenders

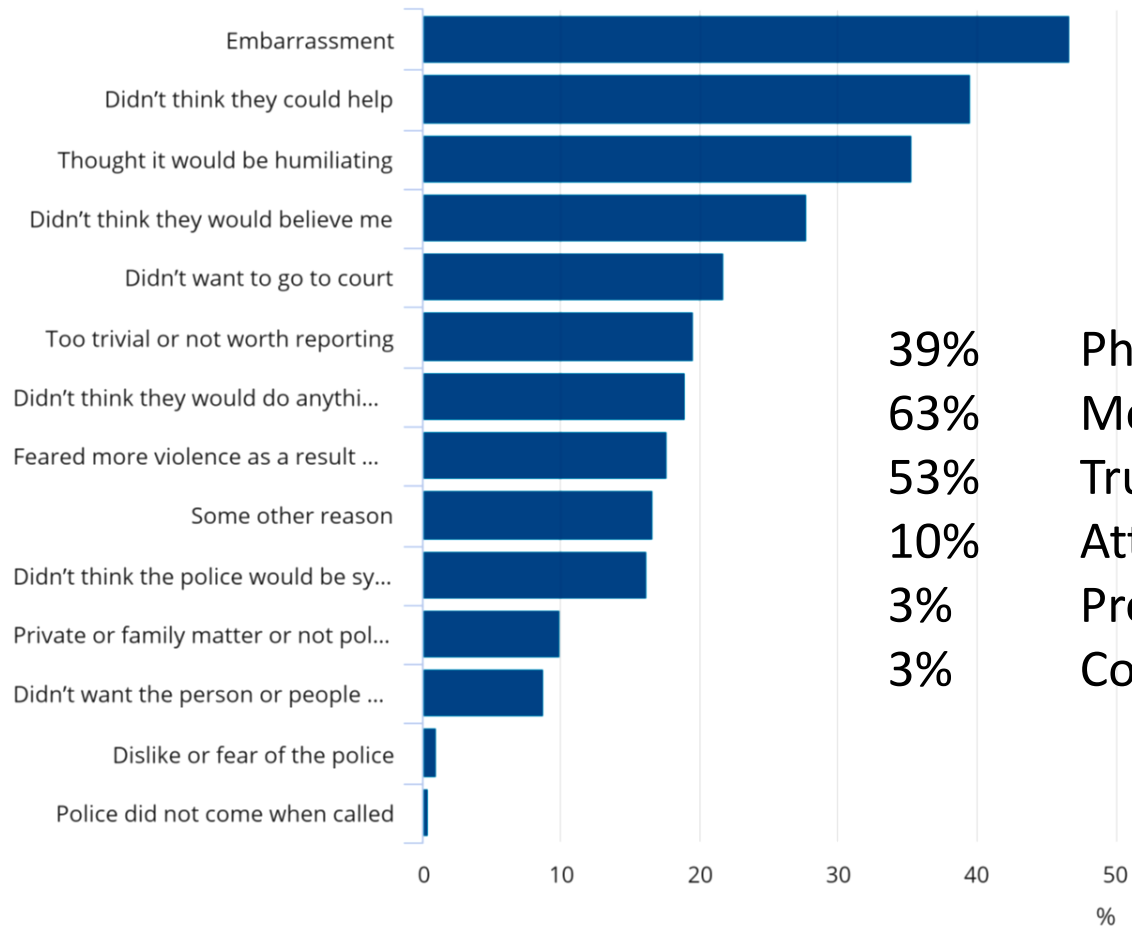
Location

The most common location for rape or assault by penetration to occur was the victim's home (39%), followed by the offender's home (24%).

The assault had taken place in a park, other open public space or on the street for 9% of victims

Figure 14: Reasons why victims aged 16 to 59 of rape or assault by penetration (including attempts) experienced since age 16 did not tell the police

Year ending March 2017, Crime Survey for England and Wales



Physical injuries

Mental/emotional problems

Trust/relationship problems

Attempt suicide

Pregnant

Contract a disease

Exploring the Relationship between **Stalking and Homicide** *Monckton Smith, J. et al (2017)*.
<http://eprints.glos.ac.uk/4553/1/NSAW%20Report%2004.17%20-%20finalsmall.pdf>

At least ten people will die every week in the UK as a result of violence related to interpersonal abuse.

Includes child deaths, domestic homicide, and suicides related to partner abuse.

Two women will be killed every week by a partner or former partner (Women's Aid 2017)

Three children will die as a result of abuse (NSPCC 2017)

One man will be killed every three weeks in relation to abuse (Flatley 2016)

Between four and ten women suffering coercive control and domestic abuse will kill themselves every week (Walby 2004).

These figures do not include 'near misses' where people manage to survive, or hidden and unidentified homicides, male and LGBTQ suicides, or those suicides or deaths where the cause is unidentified.

And health implications?



Intimate Partner Violence and the Risk of Developing Fibromyalgia and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome
Joht Singh Chandan, Tom Thomas, Karim Raza, Caroline Bradbury-Jones,1 Julie Taylor,
Siddhartha Bandyopadhyay, and Krishnarajah Nirantharakumar. Journal of Interpersonal Violence 1– 2 (2019)

Abstract

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a global public health issue with a variety of ill health consequences associated with exposure. **Due to the stimulation of chronic stress and inflammatory pathways, childhood abuse has been associated with the subsequent development of functional syndromes such as fibromyalgia and chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS).** Although IPV in women appears to elicit similar biochemical responses, this association has not been tested thoroughly in IPV survivors. These functional syndromes are complex in etiology and any indication of their risk factors would benefit health care professionals managing this population. Therefore, we aimed to investigate the association between exposure to IPV with functional syndromes: fibromyalgia and CFS. We conducted a retrospective open cohort study using “The Heath Improvement Network” database between January 1, 1995 and December 1, 2017. A total of 18,547 women who were exposed to IPV were each matched by age to four controls who were not exposed ($n = 74,188$). The main outcome measures were the risk of developing fibromyalgia and CFS. These were presented as adjusted incidence rate ratios (aIRR) with 95% confidence intervals (CIs). We found that 97 women in the exposed group developed fibromyalgia (incidence rate [IR] = 1.63 per 1,000 person-years) compared to 239 women in the unexposed group (IR = 0.83 per 1,000 person-years). Following adjustment, this translated to an IRR of 1.73 (95% CI = [1.36, 2.22]). Similarly, 19 women developed CFS in the exposed group (IR = 0.32 per 1,000 person-years), compared to 53 in the unexposed group (0.18 per 1,000 person-years), which translates to an aIRR of 1.92 (95% CI = [1.11, 3.33]). **Therefore, we have identified an association between a history of IPV in women and the development of these functional syndromes,** which may provide more information to inform the biopsychosocial pathway precipitating the development of fibromyalgia and CFS.

Joht Singh Chandan, Tom Thomas, Caroline Bradbury-Jones, Rebecca Russell, Siddhartha Bandyopadhyay, Krishnarajah Nirantharakumar and Julie Taylor (2019) Female survivors of intimate partner violence and risk of depression, anxiety and serious mental illness. The British Journal of Psychiatry

Background

Internationally, intimate partner violence (IPV) cohorts have demonstrated associations with depression and anxiety. However, this association has not yet been described in a UK population, nor has the association with serious mental illness (SMI).

Aims

To explore the relationship between IPV exposure and mental illness in a UK population.

Method

We designed a retrospective cohort study whereby we matched 18 547 women exposed to IPV to 74 188 unexposed women. Outcomes of interest (anxiety, depression and SMI) were identified through clinical codes.

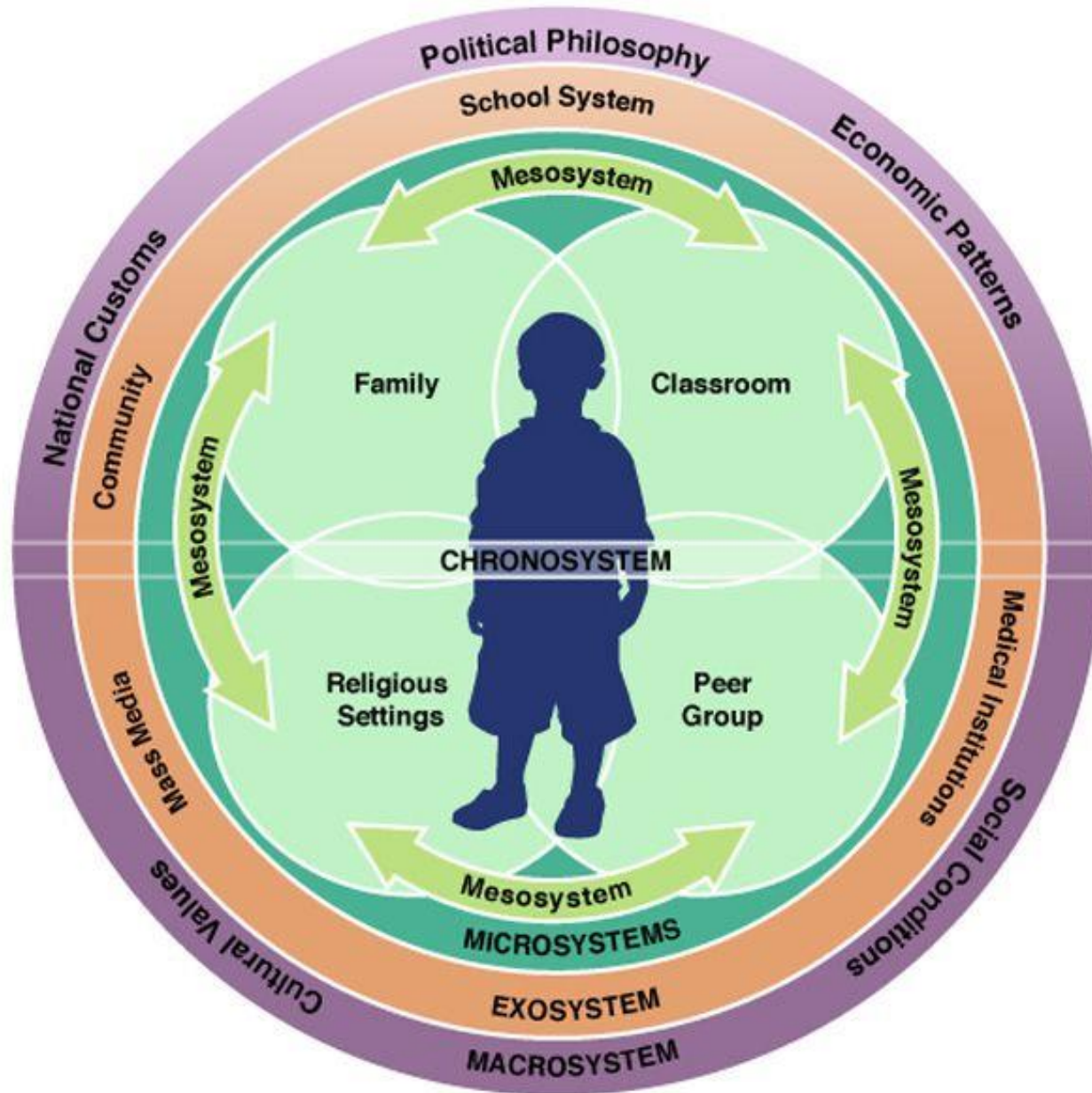
Results

At baseline, 9174 (49.5%) women in the exposed group had some form of mental illness compared with 17 768 (24.0%) in the unexposed group, described as an adjusted odds ratio of 2.62 (95% CI 2.52–2.72). Excluding those with mental illness at baseline, 1254 exposed women (incidence rate 46.62 per 1000 person-years) went on to present with any type of mental illness compared with 3119 unexposed women (incidence rate 14.93 per 1000 person-years), with an aIRR of 2.77 (95% CI 2.58–2.97). Anxiety (aIRR 1.99, 95% CI 1.80–2.20), depression (aIRR 3.05, 95% CI 2.81–3.31) and SMI (aIRR 3.08, 95% CI 2.19–4.32) were all associated with exposure to IPV.

Conclusions

IPV remains a significant public health issue in the UK. We have **demonstrated the significant recorded mental health burden associated with IPV in primary care, at both baseline and following exposure**. Clinicians must be aware of this association to reduce mental illness diagnostic delay and improve management of psychological outcomes in this group of patients.

Bronfenbrenner's Ecological Model of Child Development



Children's Experiences



ARCTIC OCEAN

CHILDREN'S WORLD MAP

Countries with a ban on corporal punishment of children

ATLANTIC OCEAN

PACIFIC OCEAN

PACIFIC OCEAN

INDIAN OCEAN

ATLANTIC OCEAN





蝴蝶
此面具為台灣原住民布農族所製，其造型為蝴蝶，象徵著布農族對大自然的崇拜與敬畏。面具上飾有白色斑點，象徵著蝴蝶翅膀上的斑紋。此面具多用於布農族的傳統祭典中，如豐年祭等。

紅毛雞頭面具
此面具為台灣原住民布農族所製，其造型為紅毛雞頭，象徵著布農族對大自然的崇拜與敬畏。面具上飾有白色斑點，象徵著紅毛雞頭上的斑紋。此面具多用於布農族的傳統祭典中，如豐年祭等。



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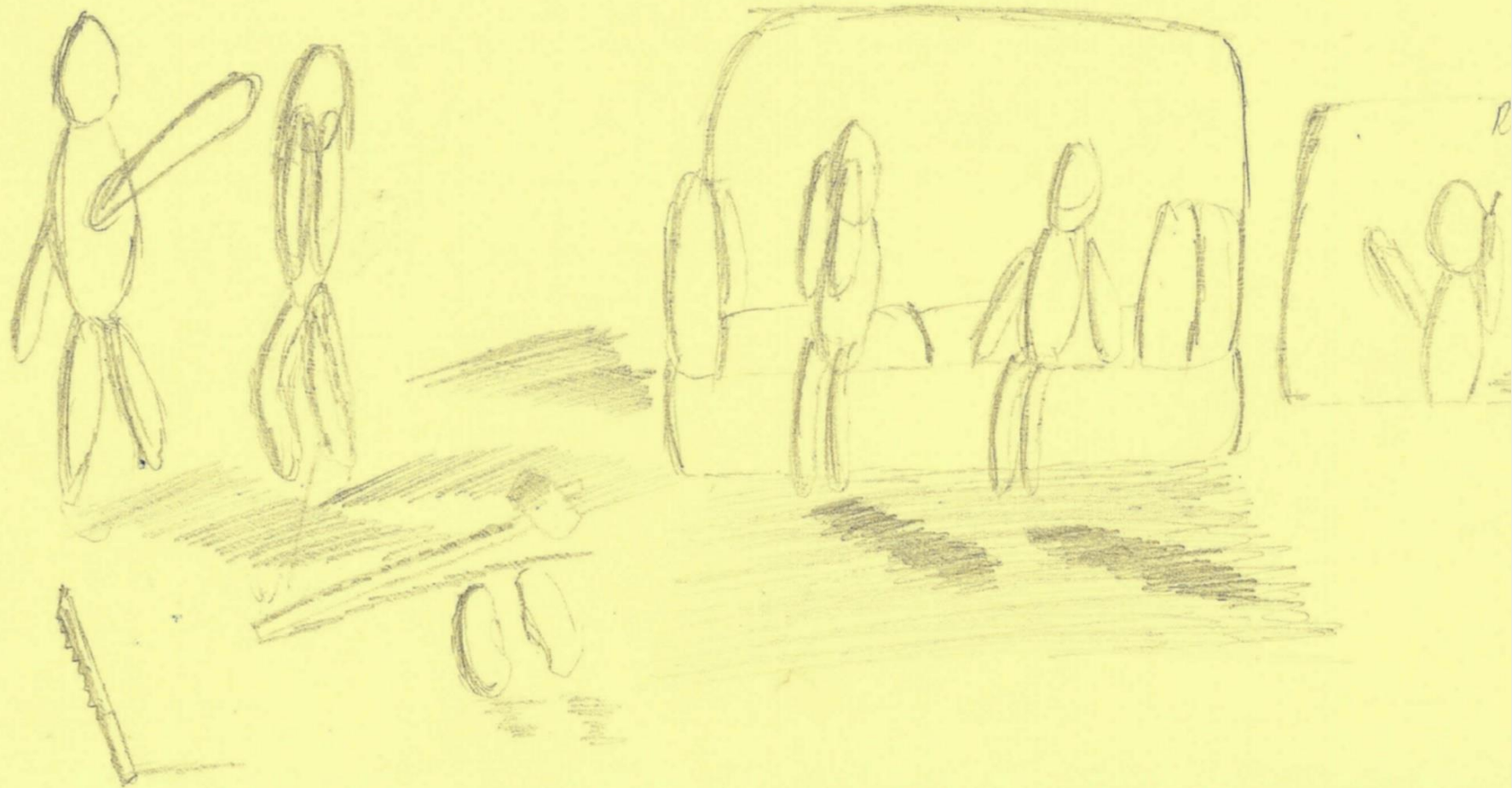
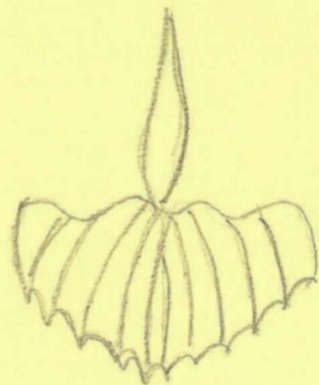


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He threatened to beat me if I called the Police. He threatened to kill me when I put only Mum's name on the Easter card. He forced us to watch and wouldn't let us leave. One day it was from 10.00 in the morning until 10.00 at night. Sometimes he pushed me and he would slap me round the face.

Peter, aged 14

ICEBERGING FEELINGS



Domestic Violence and Child protection (mostly from Stanley 2011)

- The concurrence of domestic violence and child abuse and neglect is high in children's services' caseloads - overlap in about 50 per cent of cases.
- Domestic violence is associated with child deaths and characterises a high proportion of Serious Case Reviews
- About 4.5 per cent of UK children and young people have experienced severe forms of domestic violence in their lifetime.
- Strong links to mental health, poverty, separation, substance misuse, repeat victimisation, FGM, forced marriage, stalking
- Key indicator for child abuse and neglect. CYP experiencing domestic violence are between 3 and 4.5 times more likely also to experience physical violence and neglect.
- Domestic violence has also been found to co-exist with child sexual abuse.

Child Protection Plans

England

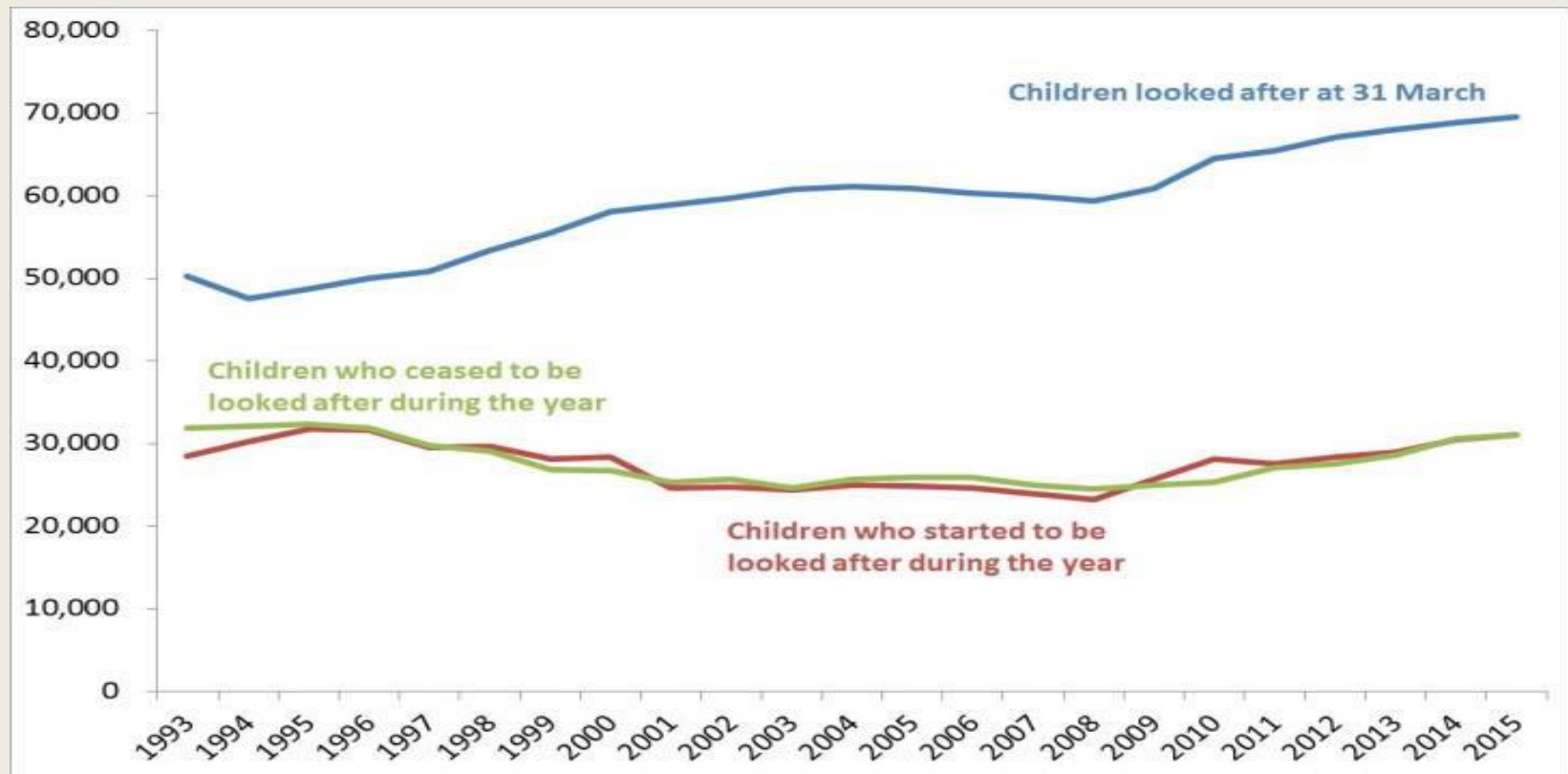
Number of children on and becoming subject to a child protection plan



Increase of 93% S.47 enquiries 64% increase in plans

Children Looked After

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/464756/SFR34_2015_Text.pdf

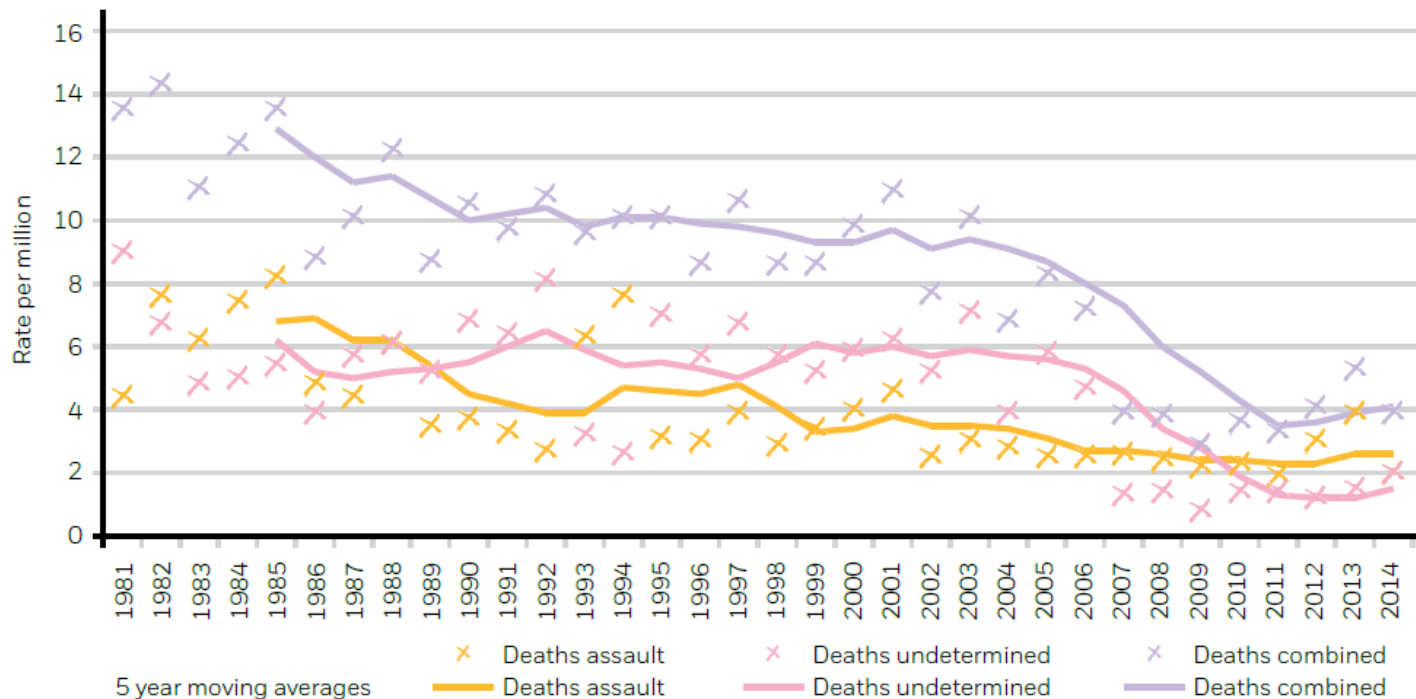


MARCH 2009 60,000 MARCH 2016 70,440 AN INCREASE OF 17.4%

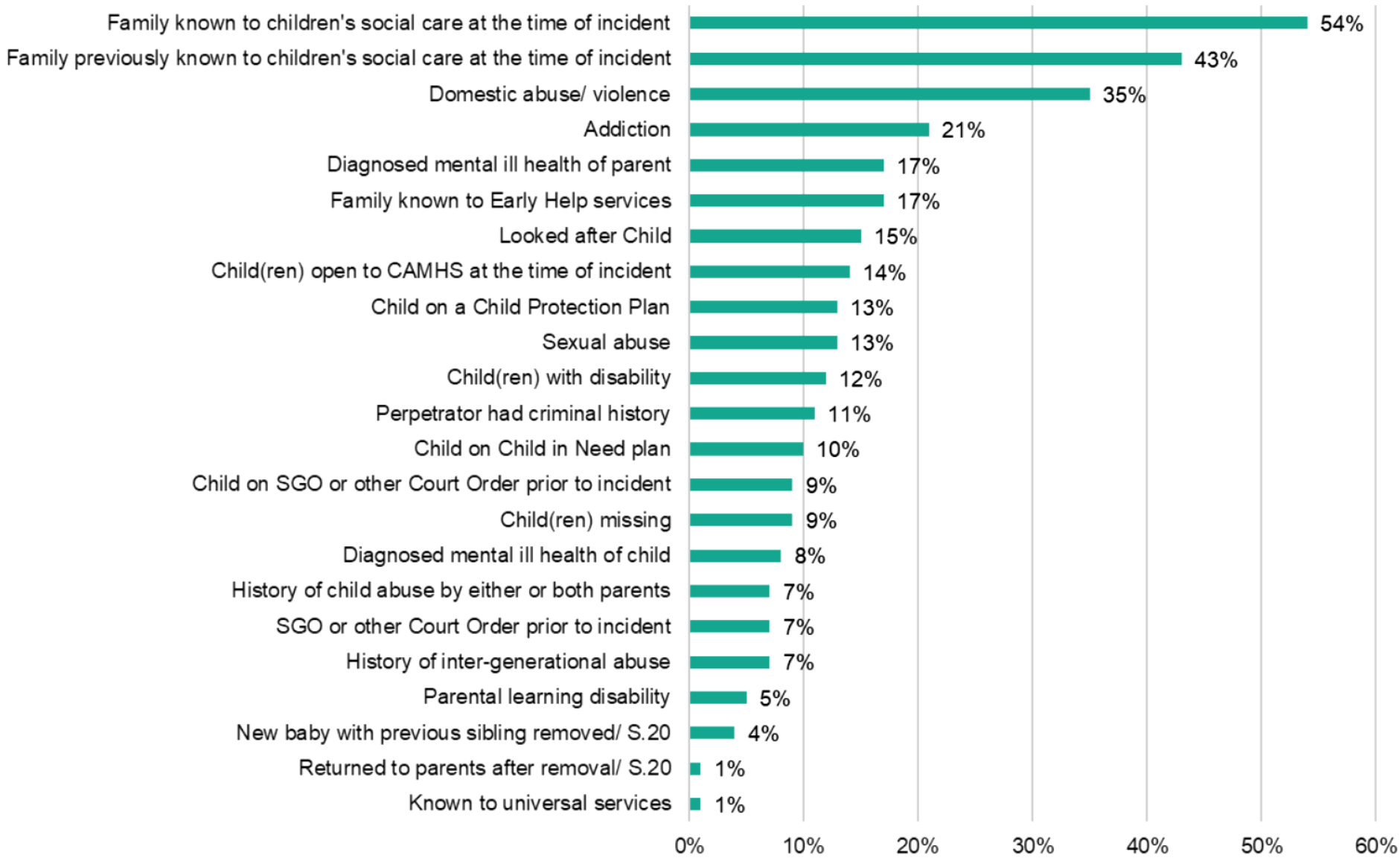
Mortality rates from 1981

England

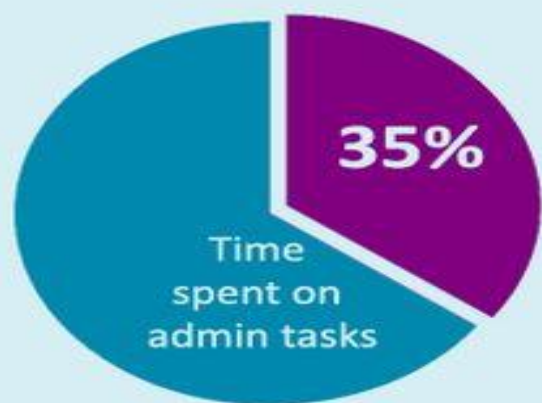
Mortality rates among children aged 1 month to 14 years
by assault and undetermined intent



Characteristics of all 538 cases received by Panel



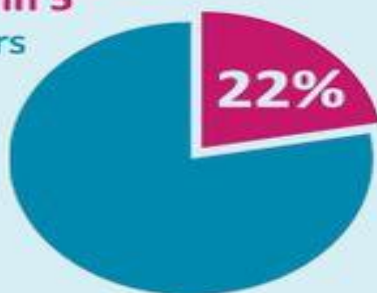
Social Work: the typical working week



Working hours have increased for over 6 in 10 practitioners in the last 12 months



More than 1 in 5 work 48 hours or more per week



Liquid
Personnel

Weekly overtime hours by service user group:



Monthly training:



Monthly supervision:



New Public Management

- Galpin (2005 and 09) describes New Labour modernisation, very high levels of dissatisfaction among SWs with employers (78%) with job (56%), wanting to leave (28%)
- McDonaldisation? (Ritzer 1993)
- Commodification of Children in Need? (Hafford-Letchfield and Lawler 2010)
- Debates about whether education equips students to practice

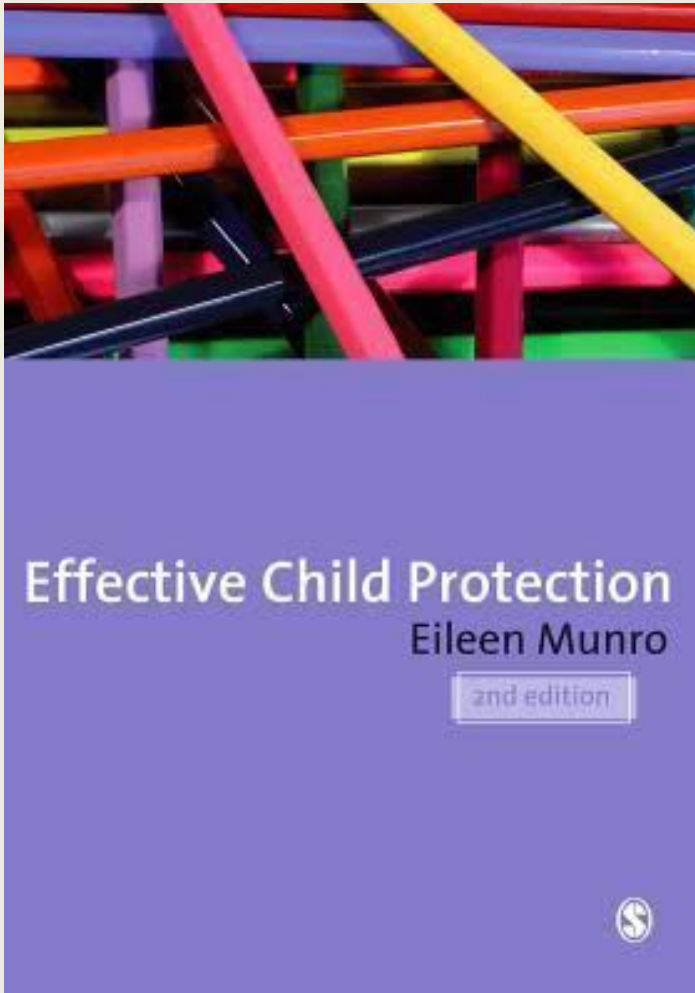
You are not alone



- New public management = dystopian interventions
- Public service markets aren't working for the public good...or as markets
- Everything you know about management is wrong
- Outcome performance based management makes things worse
- Government cannot innovate
- Family intervention doesn't work
- The performance management emperor has no clothes

Pell, C., Wilson, R and Lowe, T. (2016) *Kittens are Evil. Little Heresies in Public Policy*. Devon. Triarchy Press.

Systemic working?



Munro

- Why previous well-intentioned reforms have not worked...*“the development of expertise, both in the individual and in the profession in general, has been hampered by a career structure that fails to encourage and reward growing expertise.”*
- Doing the right thing instead of doing things right?
- Doing the wrong things righter?

Bloom, S. L. (2012). Trauma-Organized Systems. Encyclopedia of Trauma. C. R. Figley. Thousand Oaks, CA, Sage: 741-743. Chp 8. <http://sanctuaryweb.com/PublicHealth/Trauma-OrganizedSystems.aspx>

Trauma-organised systems

When a system becomes fundamentally and consciously organised around the impact of chronic and toxic stress, even when this undermines the essential mission of the system

Relationships in such situations are ‘organized’ by traumatic events and become “mindless action systems” that come to dominate family life because of secrecy, loyalty and patterns of trauma and violence that are repeated in family relationships

Bentovim described how physical and sexual abuse organize and create the personality style of the abused child and thus help determine the subsequent choice of partners, family life, parenting patterns and then the subsequent re-enactment of traumatic abuse in the next generation (Bentovim 1992; Bentovim and Davenport 1992; Bentovim 1996).

Parallel Processes

Bloom and Farragher (2010) applied the notion of “trauma-organized systems” to the organizations who provide services to traumatized individuals and families.

Their starting point is that organizations are, like individuals, living systems (Senge, Scharmer et al. 2004). Being alive, they are vulnerable to stress, particularly chronic and repetitive stress.

They asserted that chronic stress stealthily robs an organization of basic interpersonal safety and trust and thereby robs an organization of health. Similarly they believe that organizations, like individuals, can be traumatized and the result of traumatic experience can be as devastating for organizations as it is for individuals.

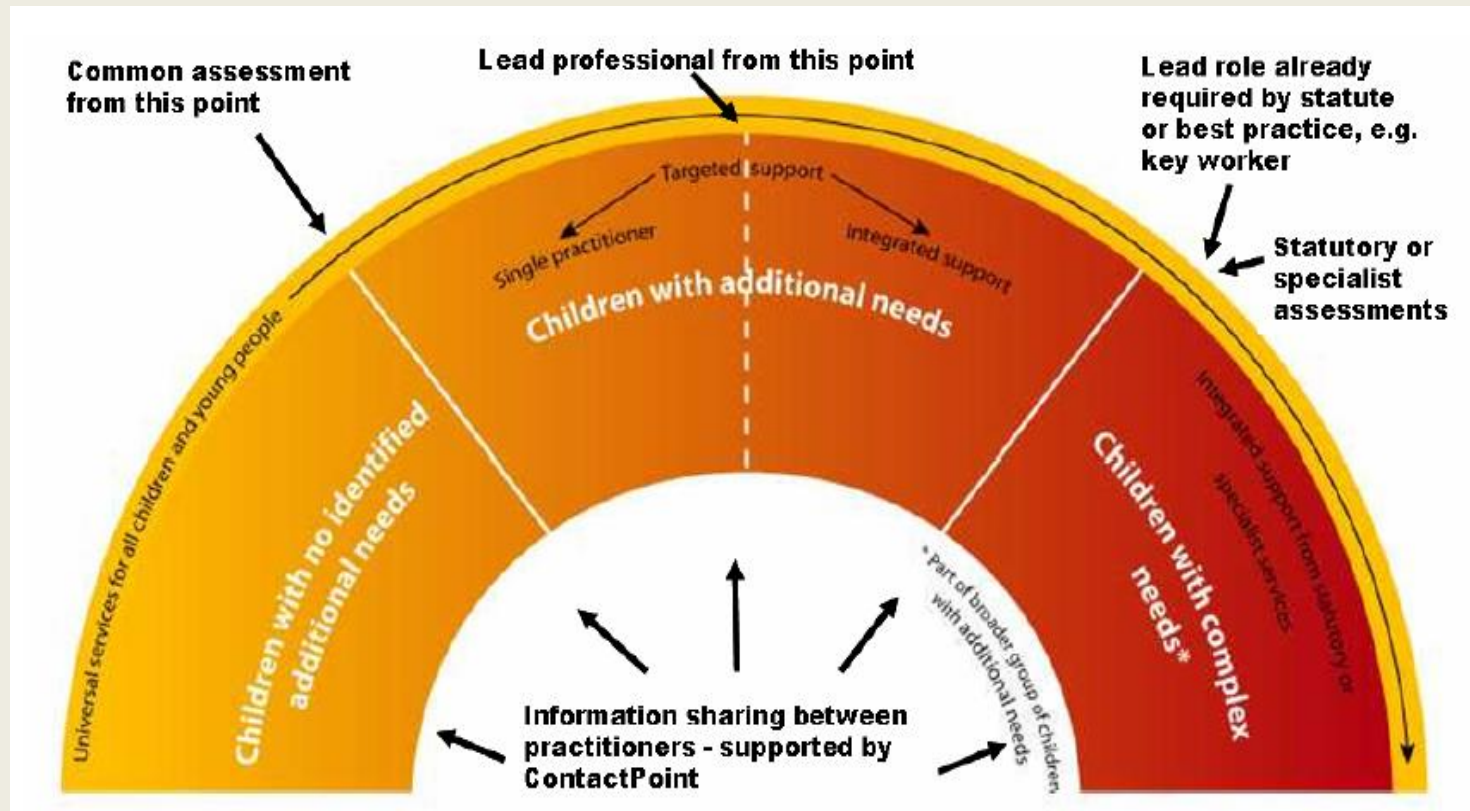
When two or more systems – whether these consist of individuals, groups, or organizations – have significant relationships with one another, they tend to develop similar affects, cognition, and behaviors, which are defined as parallel processes

What might that look like?

...(co-opting Stanley et al 2010)

- The notification system...draws large numbers of children and families into the auspices of children's social services but fails to deliver a service to the majority of families
- Those families who received a service were seen to struggle to acknowledge the extent of domestic violence in the family and its impact on children.
- Together with families' fears and suspicions of children's social services, this was seen to make some families unwilling to engage with social workers. As a result, a child protection rather than a family support response was more likely.
- A "stop-start" pattern characterised interventions with some families who received services with repeated notifications or referrals resulting in repeated assessments.
- Intervention was often withdrawn when families informed social workers that the couple had separated; this happened despite evidence that domestic violence continues beyond, or can intensify at, the point of separation.

Complex systems and services

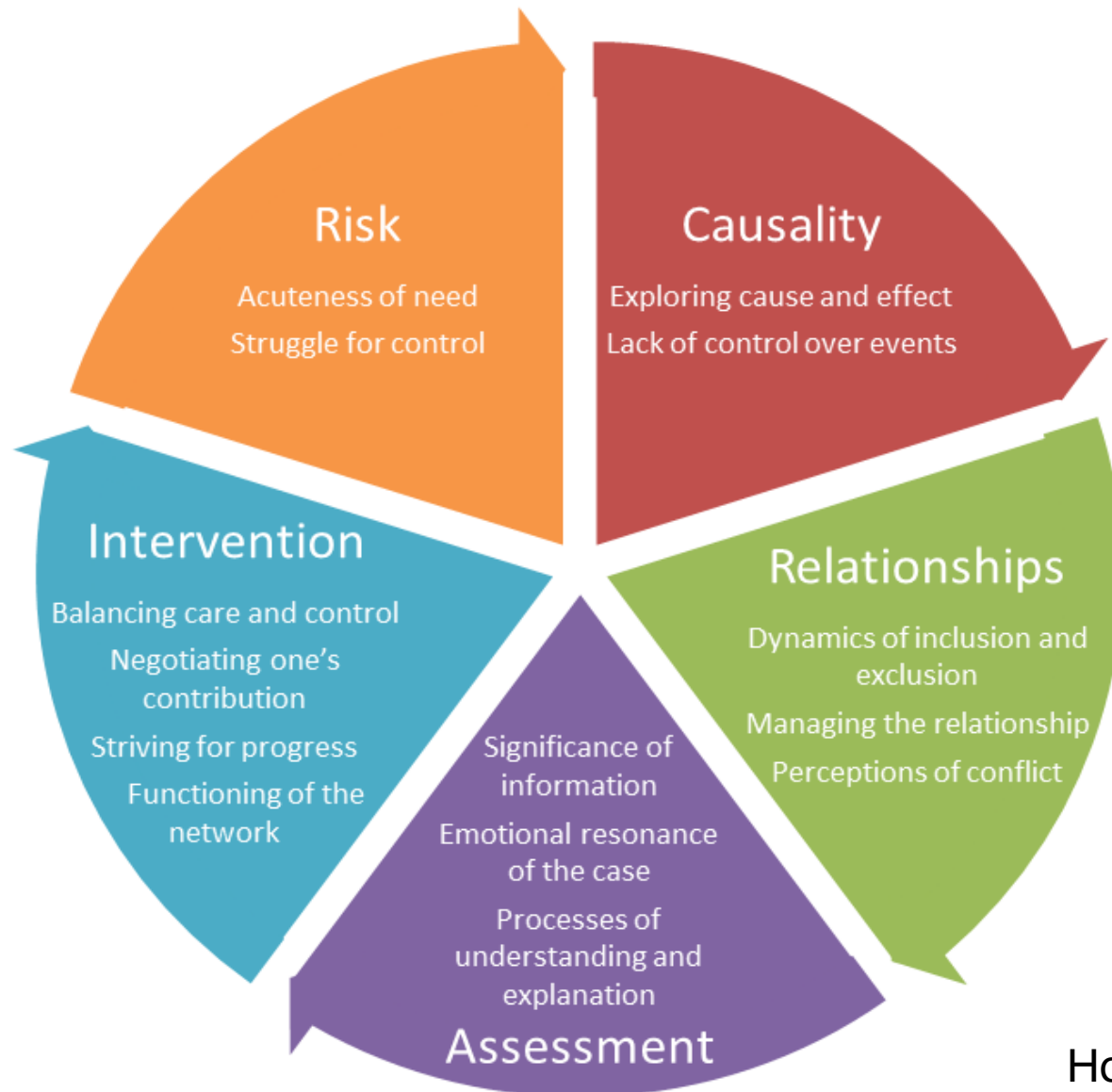


Source: DCSF 2007: 11

What is complexity?

- Complexity derives from the attributes of complex systems, which may also be described as open and adaptive.
- Such systems are composed of individual agents, who have the freedom to act in unpredictable ways, and whose actions are interconnected so that one agent's actions changes the context for other agents.
- Examples: termite colonies, stock markets, the Internet, gardens, human beings, groups of people

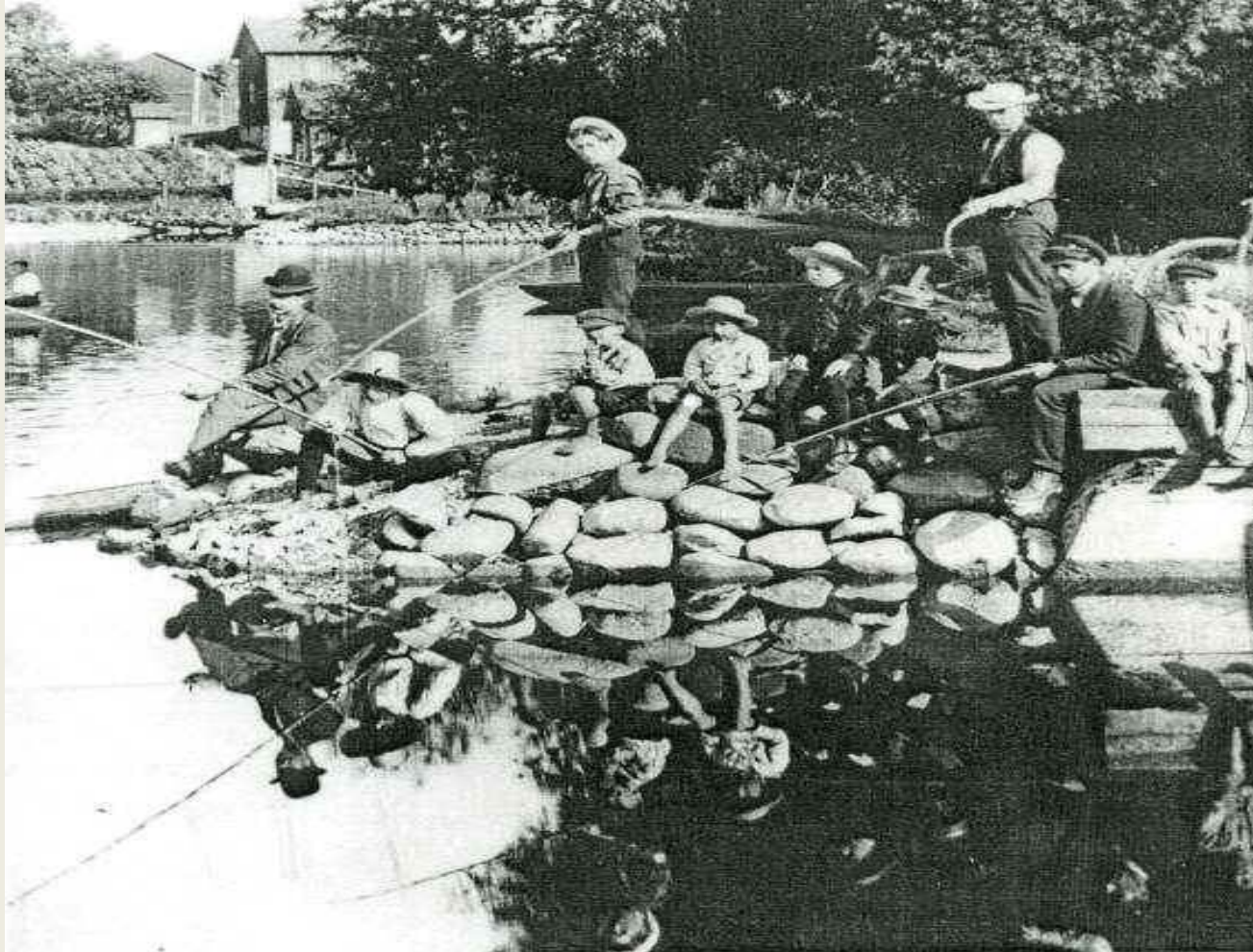
How professionals experience complexity



Hood (2015)

“Complexity makes it hard for practitioners to understand cause and effect, predict outcomes and control the course of events. To manage complexity, the team around the child may need to operate as a strategic unit rather than a collection of tactical interventions. When complex cases become 'stuck', professional networks may need additional support and consultation from specialist agencies”

Working with men



Problems engaging fathers

- “Drawing from a piece of qualitative research with fathers about their experiences of social care services, it would appear, however, that the fathers were preoccupied with mothers and their perceived power. Indeed, they had constructed a world of powerful unpredictable women who were supported by feminized services” (Featherstone)
- Social Worker’s fears of assault – which appears to be justified to a degree
- Swann (Doctoral Thesis) notes female social workers fear of sexual violence from male service users
- The idealisation of motherhood and exclusion of men?

Understanding attachment?

- Domestic abuse as a form of disturbed attachment
- Origins in child's ability to develop and manage separation anxiety with primary carer
 - Secure
 - Anxious-avoidant
 - Anxious-resistant
 - Disorganised
- Allows for development of reflective function
- Acts as buffer against later abuse/trauma (and converse)
- Replicated in romantic attachments

Types of relationship violence

Holdsworth-Munroe and other researchers, including Gilchrist et al for Home office (RDS 217) defines 3 types of perpetrator

- for much more detail go to

<https://www.google.co.uk/search?q=gilchrist&oq=gilchrist&aqs=chrome..69i57j0l5.4053j0j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#q=gilchrist+et+al+typologies>

Batterer typologies

Family-only abusers (50%)

- Predicted to be least violent
- Violence as result of stress and low-level risk factors that during an escalating marital conflict might result in use of physical aggression
- Not as severe or frequent
- Low levels of psychopathology
- Positive attitudes to women, negative views of violence
- Less violence outside the home
- May be preoccupied in attachment and over-dependant on partner
- Maybe rigid, perfectionist & conforming
- Negative self model and positive other model

Batterer typologies

Dysphoric/borderline abusers (25%)

- Predicted to be moderately violent
- Moderate/high levels of childhood abuse
- Violence primarily (not exclusively) to partner
- Most psychologically distressed, borderline PD
- Delusional jealousy, can't tolerate separation
- Preoccupied/fearful attachment style, dependent but mistrustful in close relationships
- Become violent when perceive a threat of abandonment

Batterer typologies

Generally violent-antisocial abusers (25%)

- Predicted to be the most violent
- High levels of marital violence
- Long criminal histories
- Moderate/high levels of parental violence and childhood abuse
- Deviant peers
- Attitudes highly supportive of hostility toward women and pro-violence
- Dismissing in attachment style (positive self-model, negative other model)
- Uncomfortable with displays of dependence from partners
- DV one facet of their aggressive behaviour



https://www.linkedin.com/posts/mingrob_patriarchy-and-power-how-socialisation-underpins-activity-6642730233839579136-V8sw

“ Trauma-based entitlement is very common in people who are abusive – the notion that

‘I had to go through so much, so fuck you, you just have to deal with whatever I do to you.’

When that entitlement is thwarted, there is this notion of being defied, of being humiliated – of being shamed. This is what has been called “humiliated fury” – when insecurity, toxic shame and entitlement combine. That is a very dangerous emotional state.”

Jess Hill, author of “See What You Made Me Do”



Laughing Boy

Wheeling and dealing

Social ease

Slippery and wily

Avoid drink and drugs

Instinctive, opportunistic

FROM BOYS TO MEN: PHASE THREE KEY FINDINGS David Gadd, Mary-Louise

Corr, Claire L. Fox and Ian Butler. www.boystomenproject.com.

“We were specifically interested in how some young men become victims or perpetrators of domestic abuse...interviews with 30 men, aged 16-21, who had been affected by domestic violence, having experienced it as either a victim, witness or as a perpetrator”

Most disclosed a range of personal vulnerabilities and multiple forms of social disadvantage, including:

- Histories of institutional care;
- Poor mental health and alcohol and substance misuse.
- School exclusions, learning difficulties and attention deficits;
- Involvement in crime, periods of imprisonment, community based supervision and electronic surveillance.

Boys to men; “Witnessing”

- ...“witnessed” family violence during teenage years described feelings of powerlessness, insecurity and helplessness. They often resolved to protect females and challenge bullying male aggressors in the future.
- Murderous feelings were commonly expressed towards fathers and other adult men who had abused mothers. But vengeful violence was also threatened and enacted against mothers who were seen as neglectful, to blame for violence, or behaving in hurtful ways.
- Though many had had to care for siblings in the context of abuse, neglect or economic hardship, some adopted the role of family disciplinarian after abusive fathers left.

Boys to men; perpetrating

Over two thirds of participants reported having perpetrated abuse against a female partner. Many of these also reported having been a victim of partner abuse, though none claimed to have lived in fear or to have experienced life threatening forms of violence from a partner. The research found:

- That potentially lethal violence was sometimes perpetrated by young men in the context of 'fighting' with partners over more trivial matters, especially sexual jealousies.
- That some men are relatively accomplished in the use of threatening behaviours to control partners, while others have limited insight into why they behave as they do.
- That not all of the domestic violence described was instrumental in nature. Some participants were struggling to contain difficult emotions and felt alone, angry and betrayed, having experienced multiple losses, endured periods of neglect, and having few sources of support to which they could turn.
- Some of those who had grown up in violent homes viewed themselves as having demonstrated restraint by hitting walls as opposed to their partners, or because on most occasions their use of violence fell short of completely 'losing it'.

Boys to men; responses

Over half of the sample had been arrested for domestic violence offences. Many were known to social services because of the violence they had grown up around and/or because of the risks to women and children they now presented. The research suggests that

- Constructive and containing responses to violence were rare in participants' lives, although efforts by grandparents, counsellors and criminal justice workers sometimes helped young men to redress their violence or work through difficult emotions.
- Many young men had little recollection of service providers talking to them about the 'fights' and 'arguments' they had had with partners, ex-partners, parents and step-parents.
- In this respect, critical opportunities to prevent subsequent generations of young men becoming domestic abuse perpetrators are still being missed.

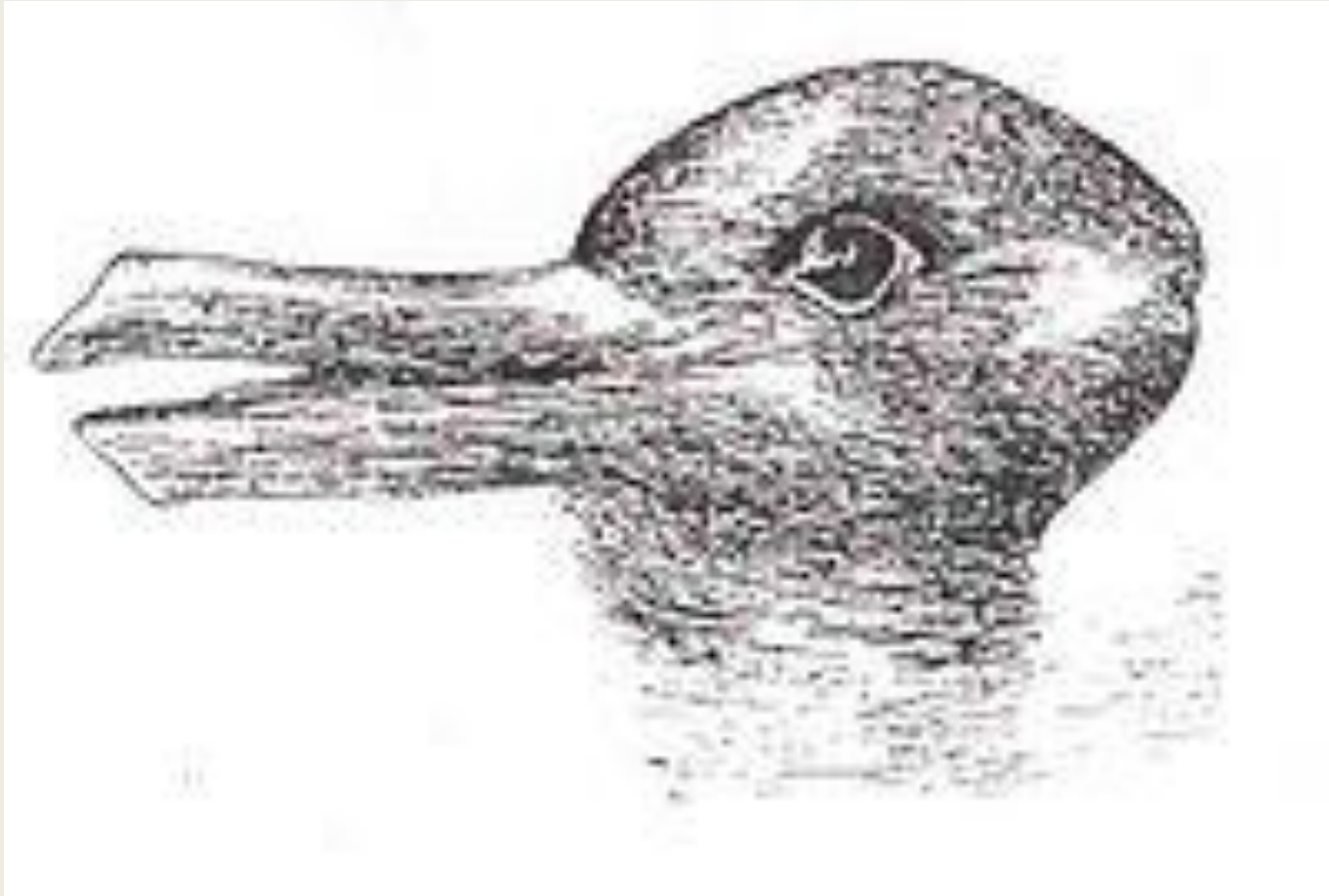
Longer-term indicators of male IPV

- Cambridge Study in Delinquent Development
– 40 year longitudinal study
- See Theobald and Farrington (2012)
- Family factors that are predictive include father's criminality, a disrupted family, poor supervision and parental relationship problems
- Individual factors include unpopularity, daring, impulsivity, aggressiveness and low verbal IQ

So much research, so many fields...

- Heise (2011) on prevention of partner violence in context of international attempts to reduce vulnerability to HIV
- The Lancet (2015) a series of articles
- Other health-related projects include IRIS, increasing referrals from GPs to community Services
<http://www.irisdomesticviolence.org.uk/iris/>
- And of course midwifery, dentistry, sexual health, A+E
- Domestic abuse as a public health issue?

Paradigm shift?



a fundamental change in the basic concepts and experimental practices of a scientific discipline (Thomas Kuhn)

Strengths Based Models (Lehmann and Simmonds) Common Themes

- IPV interventions should take a *therapeutic* position rather than didactic, educational or authoritarian stance.
- The *therapist* should be empathic rather than confrontational
- The *therapy* should adopt an “idiographic” rather than “one size fits all” approach, embracing the complexity of IPV and diversity of perpetrators
- The *therapist* should be respectful, not punitive, perjorative or moralising.

Importance of programme modality

- How the programme is delivered is important
- Standardised programmes? “application of one size fits all approaches to the complexity of human behaviour” (Morran 2010)
- Desistance narratives? Moving from skills teaching to the creation of meaning, masculinity and maturity
- Essentially desistance thinks about how change happens rather than what practice should look like

The most common way people give up their power is by thinking they don't have any.

-Alice Walker



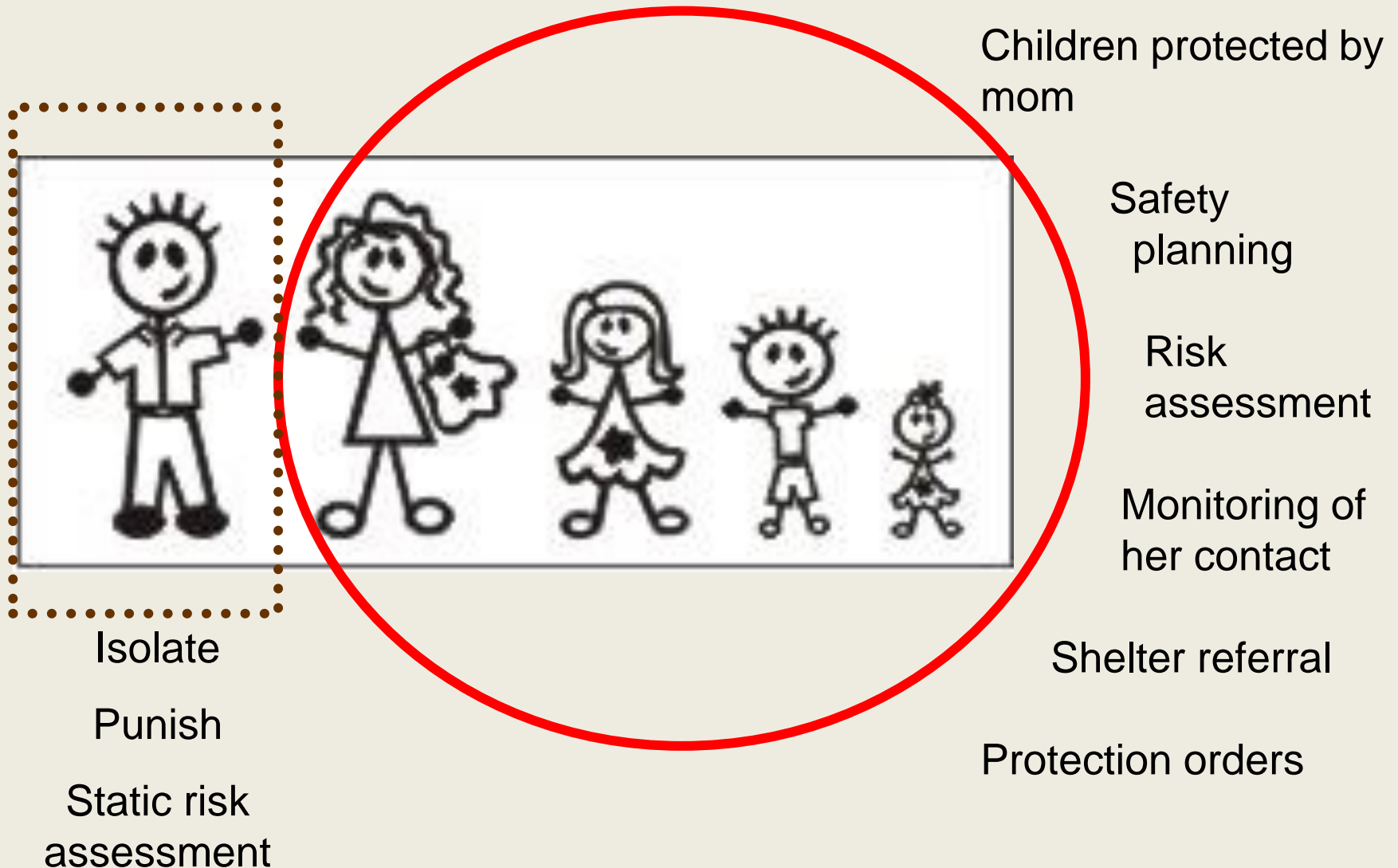
Development of Caring Dads

- In Canada a history of inter-agency working addressing domestic abuse
- A focus on children
- Realisation that there was a new generation of abusive men coming onto programmes
- Started to see other reasons to address role of men as fathers e.g. men moving between different families
- Failure of systems to hold men accountable for their abuse of children but focussing on mothers
- In UK NSPCC and LPT in partnership

Addressing abusive fathering – why bother?

- “Despite father’s violence, suicide attempts, he is still a good father”
- “Father is uncaring and horrible but...he will be alright with the baby and wants to bond”
- “Violent fathers’ parenting can remain unassessed, little concept of male failure to protect, good father identity asserted” (Harne 2010)
- “No one is going to come between me and my children, because they are mine”
- “Its because of the unconditional love they give you, you can’t get love like that from anywhere else”
- “I’ve told them I will get their mother sent to prison if she does not allow more contact”

Current Practice: Canadian Child Protection and Justice – similar to UK



Towards Safer Practice

Father held accountable
for keeping family safe

Probation monitors
and assesses risk

Ongoing safety
planning for him

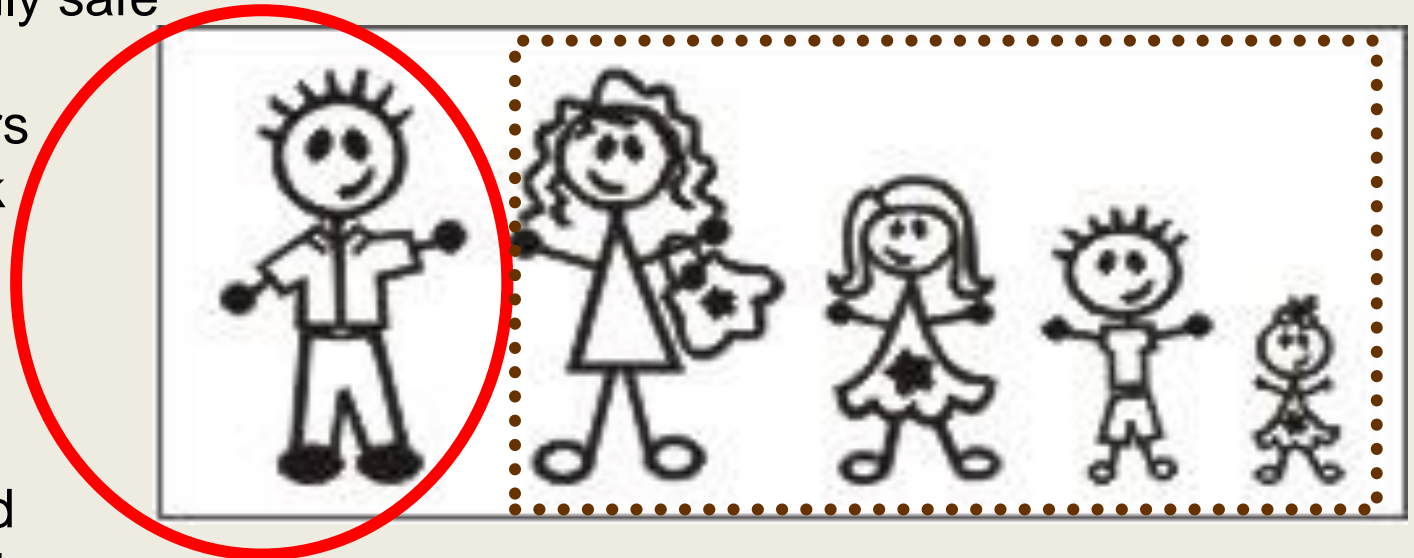
Collaboration and
information sharing
between systems

Court system
Probation Services
Child Protection
Women's Advocates
Addiction Services
Mental Health Services

Intervention for trauma and
violence

Support in keeping herself and
her children safe

Support for housing and other
practical needs



Consequences of Failing to Include Fathers

1. Risk to children increases due to dad's isolation and depression
2. Mothers are left with the responsibility of protecting children and without the support of our intervention systems
3. Fathers move onto other families. When they do, they often abandon their children. Moreover, in these new families, fathers are more of a risk to children
4. We lose an opportunity to promote change in men and in the father-child relationship

Characteristics in Caring Dad sample (Scott, Mederos 2012)

- Domestically violent and controlling; hostile, demanding, entitlement, impatient, rigid, high expectations, strict
- Emotionally disconnected; long for closer bond with children but lack of connection can lead to emotional and physical of children
- Physically disconnected; more than one family, history of violence, infidelity, chronic unemployment, substance/alcohol misuse, prison
- Reasonably healthy and connected; past abuse, harassment, denigration of children's mother, process of change. Complex group.

Goals of the programme

- Develop sufficient trust and motivation to engage men in the process of examining their fathering
- Increase men's awareness of child-centred fathering
- Increase men's awareness and responsibility for abusive and neglectful fathering behaviours and their impact on children
- Consolidate learning, begin to rebuild trust and plan for the future



Clare, A (2009) *On Men: Masculinity in Crisis*. London. Random House.

“As I get older and perhaps wiser, I realise more and more what I do not know....

What I do know is what it is like to be a man. However, as I reflect on how I learned about masculinity and manhood, I realise that almost all the teaching was implicit and all the learning by way of a kind of osmotic process. I don't recall anyone, my father, my mother, my teachers, my peers, saying 'This is what it means to be a man, a son, a brother, a lover, a dad'. Yet I learned very early on that what a man does; his work is as important as, even more important than, who he is; that a man is defined in modern capitalistic society in terms not of being but doing.

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2000/sep/25/firstchapters.reviews>

Contact details

Dermot Brady

Dermot.brady@sgul.kingston.ac.uk

07736 519 245

