

13 April 2012

To: All Members of the Children's Safeguarding Policy and Practice Advisory Committee

Dear Member,

Children's Safeguarding Policy and Practice Advisory Committee - Thursday,
19th April, 2012

I attach a copy of the following reports for the above-mentioned meeting which were not available at the time of collation of the agenda:

8. PROTOCOLS FOR RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE BETWEEN YOUNG PEOPLE (PAGES 1 - 4)

The committee to consider recently developed protocols for raising awareness about domestic violence between young people.

11. EXEMPT URGENT BUSINESS (PAGES 5 - 14)

The Chair has agreed to accept, as an item of urgent business, a follow up report by the Head of First Response on cases examined by the Independent Member of the Committee, involving children under 2 years referred to First Response in July 2011 and where the primary concern was domestic violence.

Yours sincerely

Ayshe Simsek
Principal Committee Co-ordinator
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Practice Guidance Teenage Partner Abuse

Background

Teenage relationship abuse consists of the same patterns of coercive and controlling behaviour as domestic abuse. These patterns might include some or all of the following: sexual abuse, physical abuse, financial abuse, emotional abuse and psychological abuse.

Terminology

Teenagers prefer the term “partner abuse” or “partner violence”

The attached link is to an NSPCC report, Teenage Partner Violence which provides information on aspects of Teenage Partner Violence and how young people view this issue including how they want professional to talk to them about it

[NSPCC report - teenage partner violence](#)

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime/violence-against-women-girls/teenage-relationship-abuse/>

Indicators

- *Witnessing DV in childhood*
- *Gang involvement*
- *Self-harm*
- *Changes in behaviour (eg becoming withdrawn or isolated; over-performance or under-performance in education)*
- *Changes in demeanour e.g. style of dress*
- *Unexplained Physical injuries*
- *Symptoms associated with Post traumatic stress disorder such as sleeplessness, anxiety, hyper-vigilance, depression, low self-esteem, fearfulness*
- *running away/being missing*
- *Inexplicable gifts, possessions*
- *Secrecy, withdrawal of trust from significant adults*
- *Controlling/stalking-type behaviour by boyfriend/girlfriend*
- *Disclosure to peers*
- *Disclosure to significant adult*
- *Bullying/being bullied*

(None of the above is in itself an indicator of partner abuse and each needs to be viewed in the context of what is “normal” for that young person – i.e. evidence of change can be significant)

Safeguarding and support

It is important to assist the young person experiencing abuse to understand that what is happening is in fact abusive and controlling behaviour that can escalate to extreme violence. In order to stay safe they also need to be able to identify behaviour that is coercive although the abuser may be calling it “love” or concern. For example: excessive or unwanted texting; comments on clothes; taste in music; friends, can all be used to undermine a person’s self-belief and confidence, particularly if that person is younger, vulnerable or susceptible to being influenced by another person.

We can use tools such as the **Teenage Power and Control Wheel** or the **This is Abuse website** to support young people to explore and understand this issue and how it may be effecting them.

It is important that where possible we speak to the young person about how they can stay safe and assist them to draw up a personal safety plan ([SAFETY PLAN TEENS](#))

Services and support

- **The Hide Out** <http://www.thehideout.org.uk/default.aspx>

- **This Is Abuse** <http://thisisabuse.direct.gov.uk/>
- **Safe Choices (Nia) (supporting young women involved in Gang violence:**
<http://www.niaendingviolence.org.uk/young/index.php>
- **NSPCC** <http://www.nspcc.org.uk/>

Resources

Tools for talking to young people about partner abuse:

- [Relationship Spectrum](#)
- [Teen Power & Control wheel](#)
- [Expect Respect: Home Office teen-abuse-toolkit\[1\].pdf](#)
- [Help Your mates \(peer support leaflet\)](#)
- Safety Planning Template [SAFETY PLAN TEENS](#)

Teenage Domestic Violence

Adolescents experience similar levels of domestic violence as adults. Teenagers/Adolescents are often more acceptant of, and dismissive of, this form of behaviour than adults. Domestic Violence is often hidden or not recognised because the victim and perpetrator are young. Where police encounter cases they are not likely to be flagged as domestic violence.

Attach links to research....

Step1. **MASH.** All incidents of violence between teenagers should be subject to the MASH for evidence gathering.

Step2. **Initial Assessment.** All teenage DV cases to be Initial Assessment to assess the level of risk.

- Must involve discussion with the young person (SAFELY).
- Must involve discussion with the primary carer.
- Must involve key partners in school/college.
- Can I speak to the perpetrator safely (victims safety needs to be paramount)

Step3. **Ensure young person is linked with key partner agencies.** Do the key people/person know

about the abuse. Do they have the ability / remit to do this support.

Step4. **What support has the Young Person Identified.** Who might they go to if the violence persists – should be done as part of a Safety Plan.

Step5. **Young Persons Wishes.**

Step6. **Has assessment fully explored the nature of the abuse.**

- Physical / Emotional / Sexual etc
- Number of incidents
- Insight
- Gang membership or connections

Step7. **Identify perpetrator(s).** Assess where they come into contact with them (school / college / after school / youth clubs)

Step 8. **Parental Ability to protect.** Do the parent(s) have the ability to safeguard. Do they have insight into DV.

Step 9. **Provide information for Support services available.**

- Link to Accompanying guidance: [Teenage Partner Abuse Practice Guidance.doc](#)

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 1, 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is exempt

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