

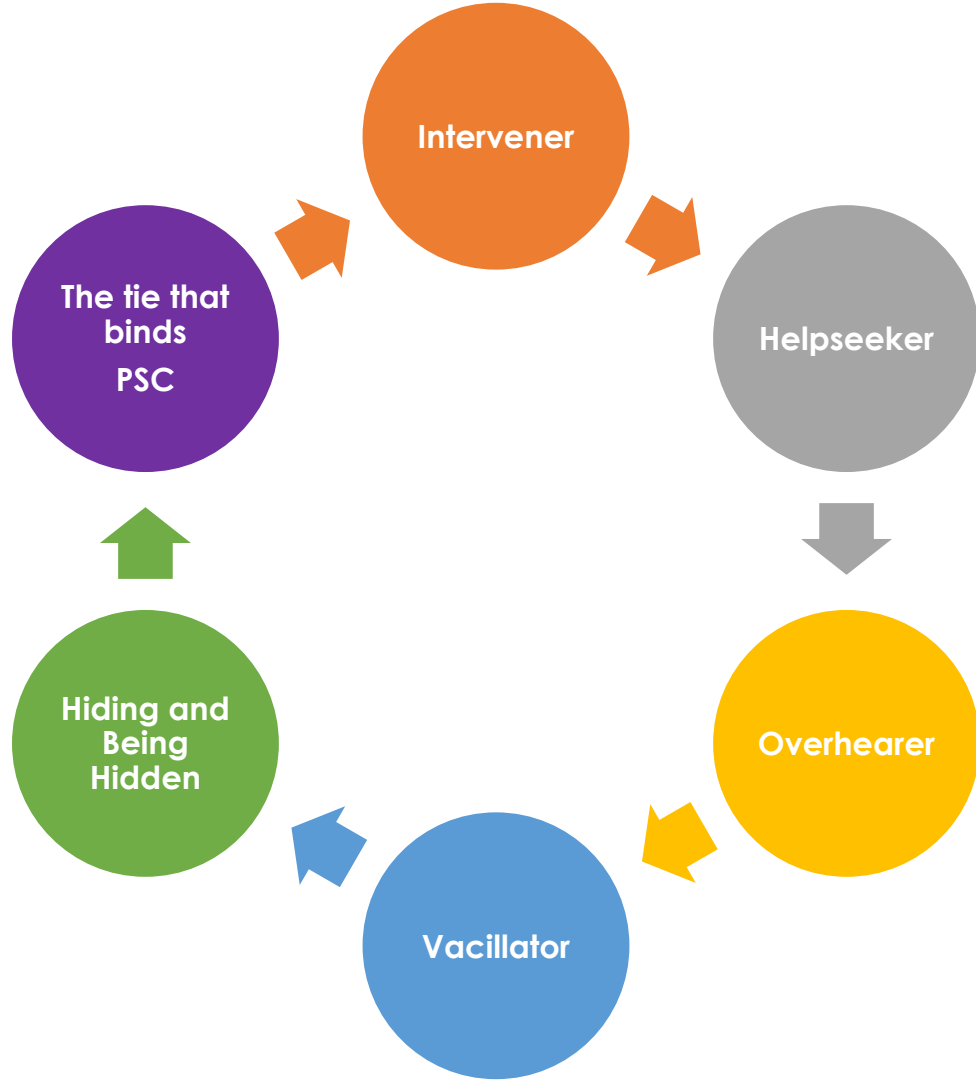


# Scale of the Problem: Children

Language, Lens, Learning & Legacy

# Prevalence

- One in five children in the UK and one in four in Australia have experienced domestic violence by 18 years of age (Indermaur, 2001; Radford et al., 2011)
- The majority of households affected by domestic violence have children living in them (Kaukinen, Powers, & Meyer, 2016)







# Impact

- A higher risk of mental health difficulties throughout their lives (Bogat et al. 2006; Meltzer et al 2009; Mezey, et al 2005; Peltonen et al. 2010)
- Increased risk of physical health difficulties (Bair-Merritt et al 2006)
- Risk of educational drop out and other educational challenges (Byrne & Taylor, 2007; Koenen, Moffitt, Caspi, Taylor, & Purcell, 2003; Willis et al., 2010)
- Risk of involvement in criminal behavior (T. Gilbert, Farrand, & Lankshear, 2012; R. Gilbert et al., 2009)

# Impact

- Interpersonal difficulties in their own future intimate relationships and friendships (Black et al. 2010; Siegel, 2013).
- More likely to be bullied and to engage in bullying themselves (Baldry, 2003; Lepistö et al. 2011),
- More vulnerable to sexual abuse and sexual exploitation (Finkelhor et al. 2007; Turner et al. 2010)
- Risk of becoming involved in violent relationships themselves (Finkelhor et al. 2007; Turner et al. 2010)
- May also experience lasting neurological impact that can have far reaching implications for their lifelong well-being (Anda et al., 2006; Choi et al. 2012; Koenen et al., 2003).



# Language



**Witness**

Passive

*Collateral Damage*

**Present**

***Bystander***

Present

Exposed

**Bystander**

Exposed

**Heard**

Exposed

*Present*

**Heard**

**Witness**

**Witness**

Present

Heard

*Passive*

Present

Passive

**Heard**

Collateral Damage

Victim

Exposed

**Witness**

**Exposed**

Survivor

**Witness**

*Collateral Damage*

**Witness**

**Collateral Damage**

**Exposed**

**Witness**

**Passive**

Present

*Heard*

Witness

Passive

*Collateral Damage*

present

**Bystander**

**Present**

***Exposed***

Witness

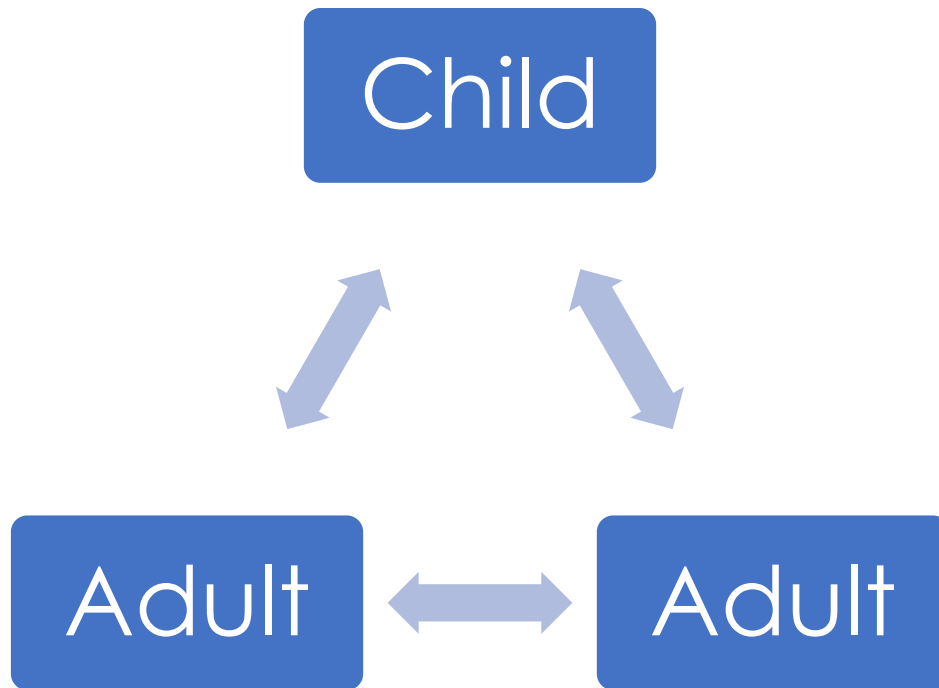
Bystander

**Witness**

***Collateral Damage***



# Triangulation



# Lens





# Focus

- Witness: positions children as affected by domestic violence, but it does not give them the status of direct victims (Callaghan 2017)
- Negative impact: limits recognition of children's and mothers' agency and strengths in domestic violence contexts. (Mullender et al., 2002; Overlien and Hyden, 2009; Katz, 2015).
- Physical Incident/single incident: The physical incident model is harmful because it ignores the many non-physical forms of abuse inherent to coercive control, as well as the ongoing nature of the domestic violence (Stark 2007)



# Focus

- Contact: the complex, challenging and potentially dangerous risks of post-separation contact with abusive fathers for both children and their mothers (Thiara & Harrison 2016)
- Separation: Her perceived protectiveness (or otherwise) in the face of domestic violence has been the focus of investigation and measured by her willingness to separate from her abusive partner: regardless of the increased danger during separation, the risks of homelessness, and the extensive nature of postseparation violence (Humphreys & Campo, 2017; Stanley et al., 2011).

# Learning



# Learning & CPD

- NHS England report on improving the response to children's and young people's mental health Identified the value of professional training on exposure to trauma for those working with families (NHS England, 2015).
- Healthcare and social service professionals should receive sufficient training and ongoing individual and system-level support to recognise and respond safely to children's exposure to IPV. (Lewis et al. 2017)

# Legacy





# Meeting children's needs into the future: Our Legacy

- Safety & Security
- Voice & Visibility
- Therapeutic interventions where appropriate
- Collaboration, Coordination & Integration of services
- Greater links between research, policy & practice
- Learning & Continuous Professional Development for responders.

Thank-you!

