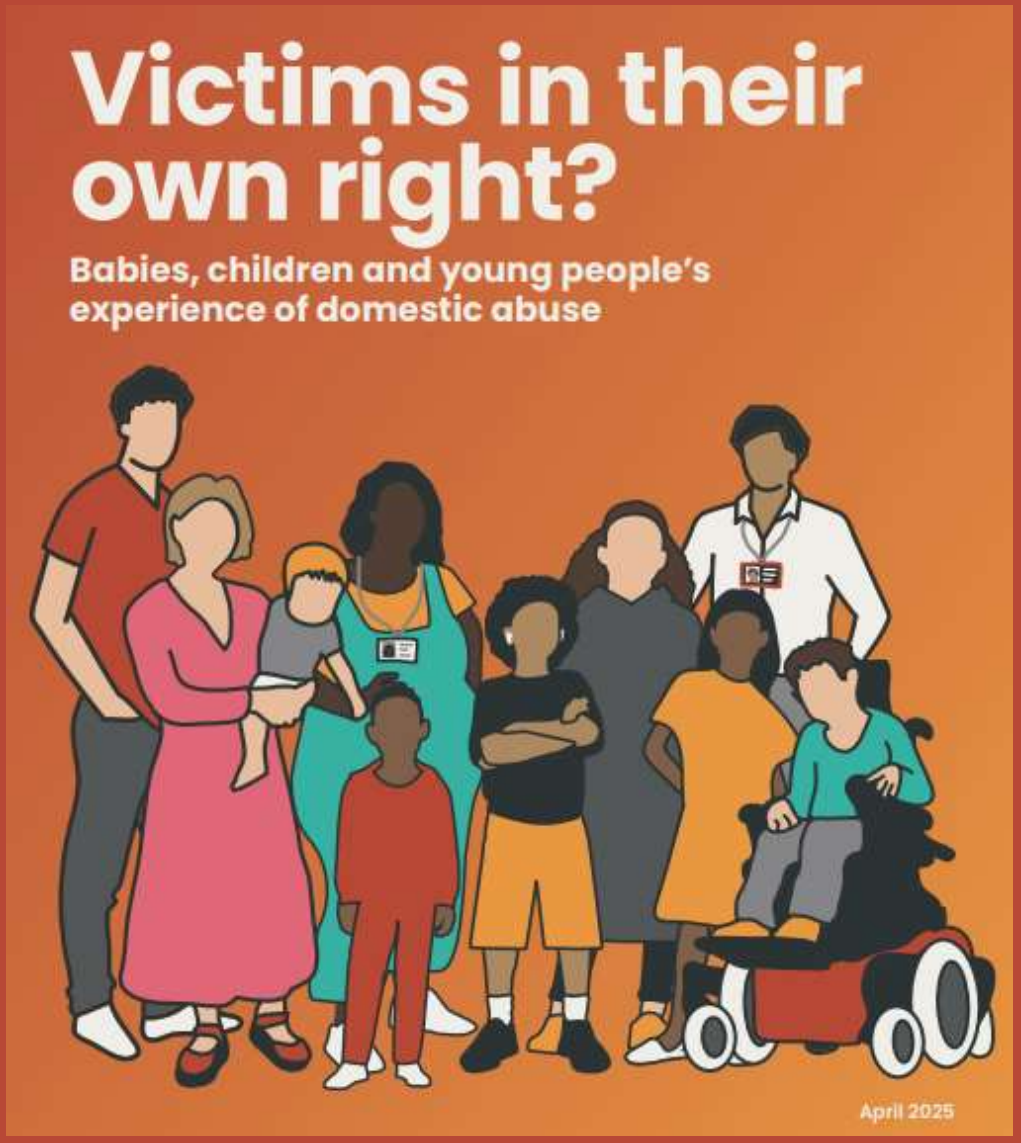


Victims in their own right

Webinar : Early Intervention

June 2025

domestic abuse commissioner

Agenda

Introduction
Tell Nicole
Exploration of support services
Key messages
Recommendations – for policy and practice
Q&A

Go to Menti.com and type code:
31340342

Commissioner@domesticabusecommissioner.independent.gov.uk

Content warning: The presentation does not include any direct descriptions of domestic abuse. There are words and pictures that children have written and made, which describe their feelings about the help they did or did not receive. They also describe what they wish would change. Some people may find the children's words upsetting. Please take a break away from the presentation if you need to.



Background

In 2021, children were, for the first time, recognised as victims of domestic abuse in their own right in England and Wales.

Section 3 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 defines a child victim as any child who “sees or hears, or experiences the effects of, the abuse.”

Despite this welcome change, it is still unclear what this means in practice.



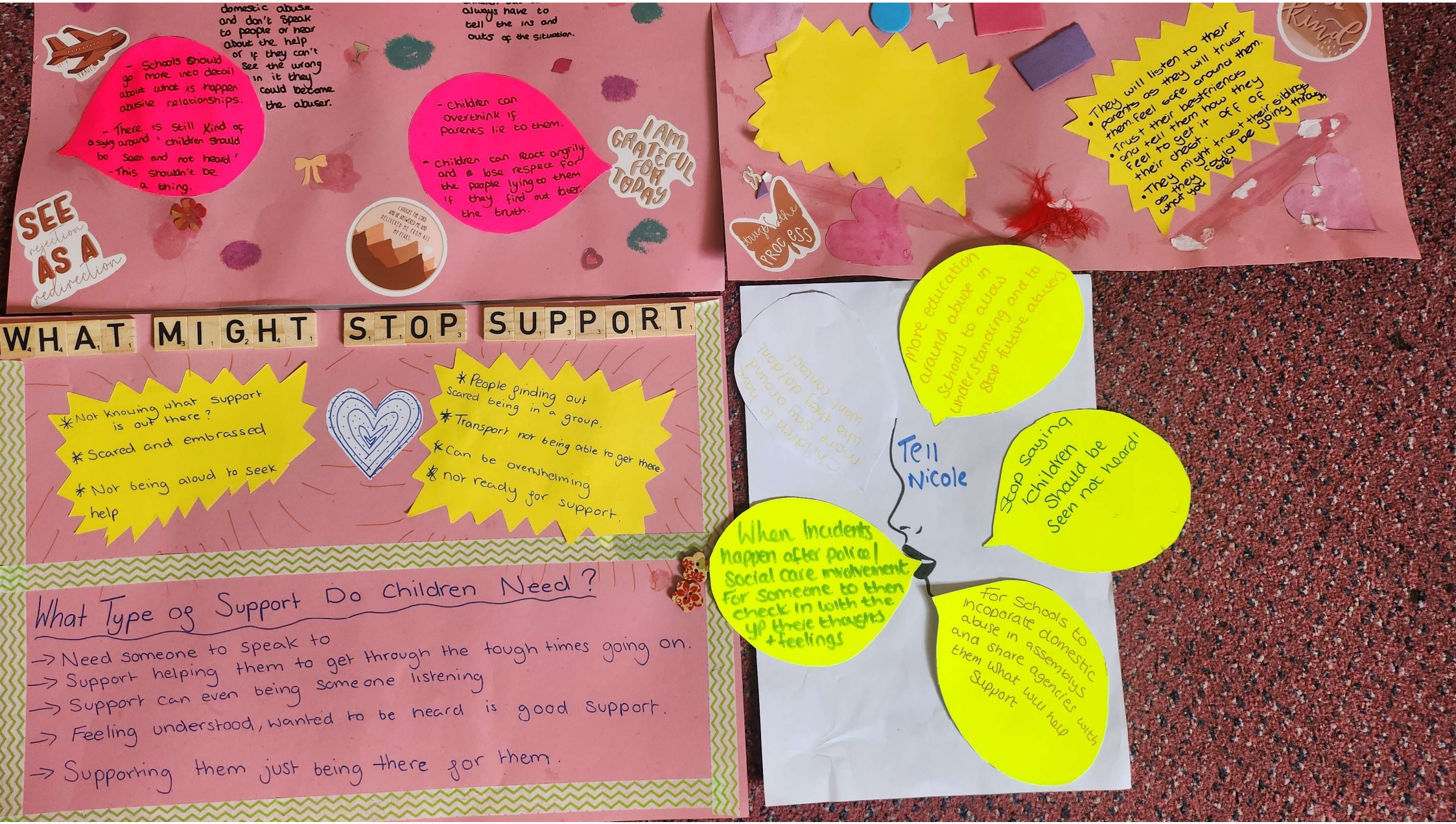

tell
nicole

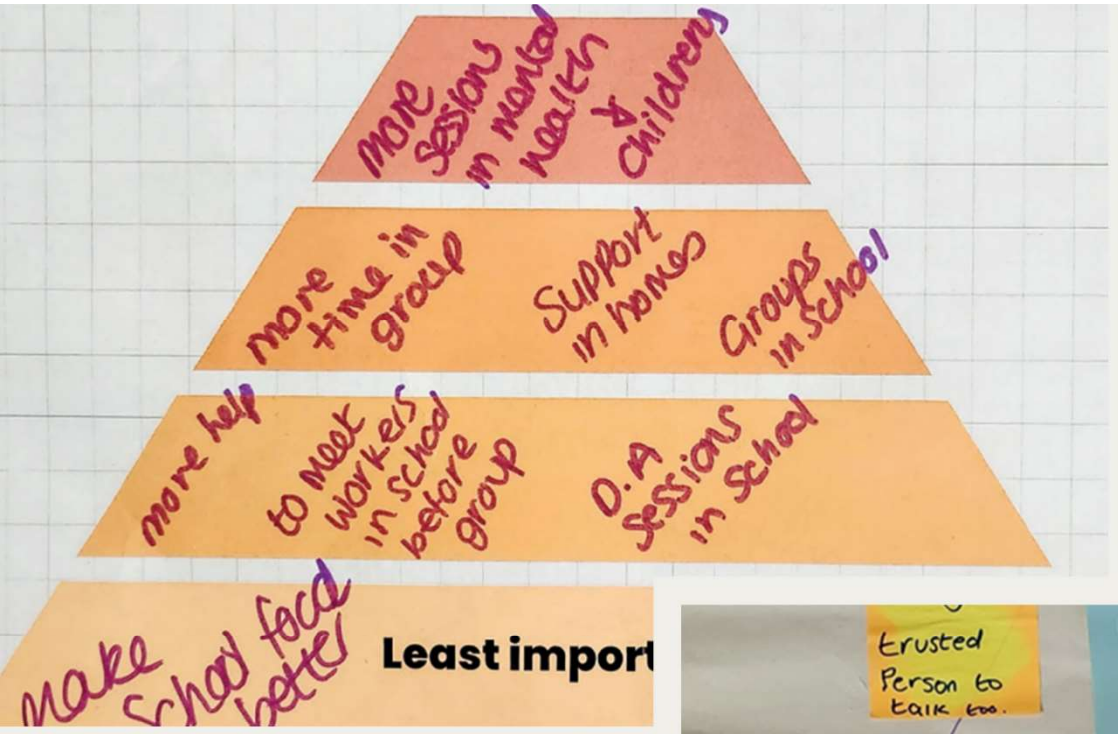
Tell Nicole enables children and young people to have the opportunity to ‘tell’ the Commissioner what they think about domestic abuse issues in a way that is meaningful to them.

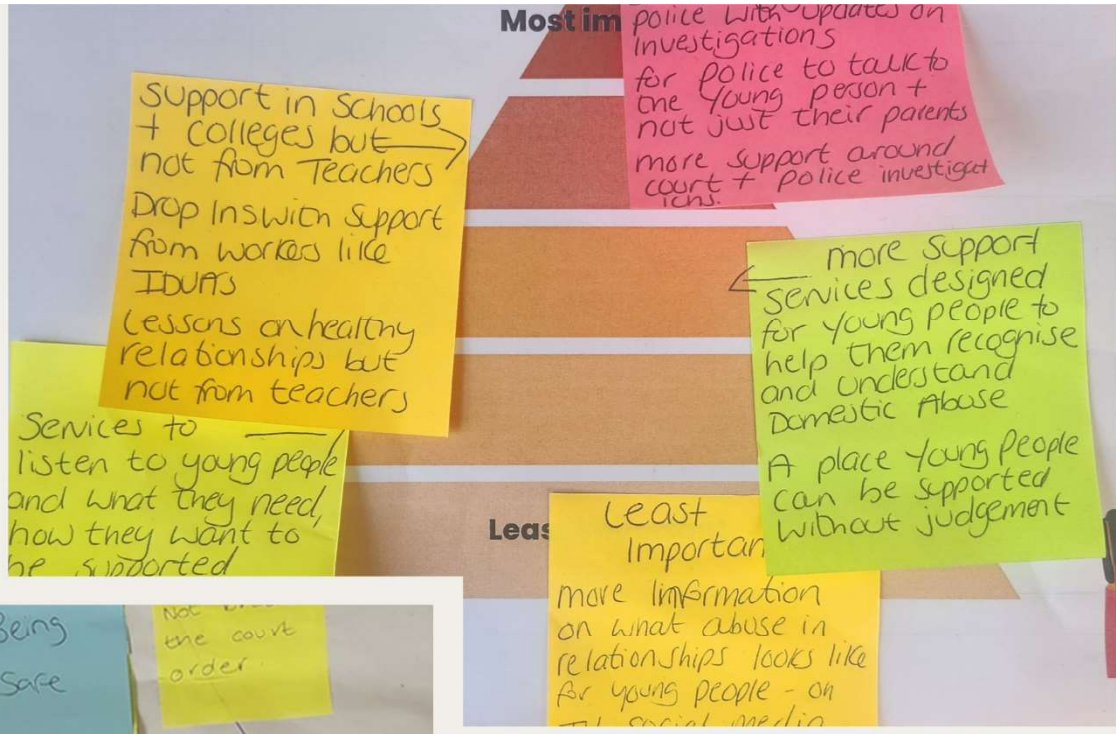
The key to this framework is to collaborate with professional who are already involved in children’s lives through voice, participation and engagement work. Materials and guidance documents were shared by the DAC team to enable engagement.

The guidance is flexible and encouraged workers to tailor sessions according to age, needs, and interests of young people

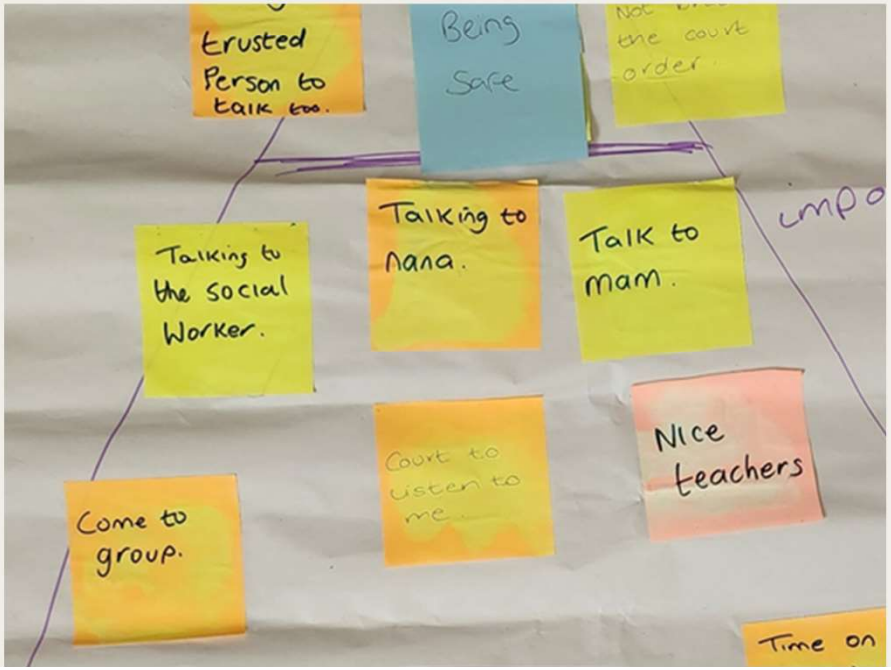


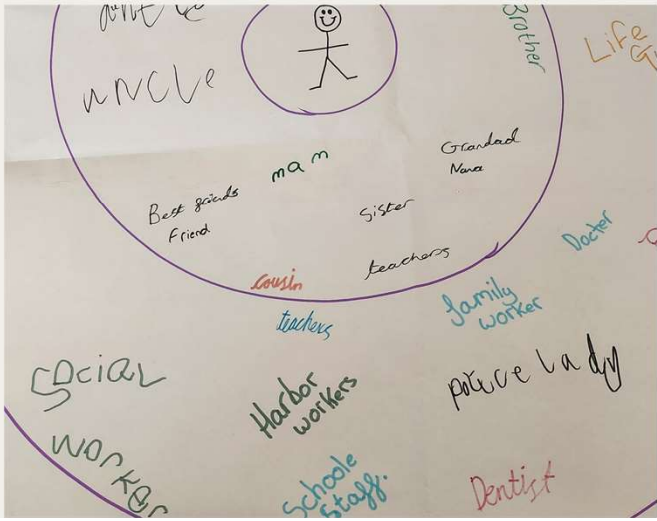

domestic abuse and don't speak to people or hear about the help or if they can't see the wrong in it they could become the abuser.
always have to tell the ins and outs of the situation.
- Schools should go more into detail about what is happen abusive relationships.
- There is still kind of a saying around 'children should be seen and not heard'
- This shouldn't be a thing.
- Children can overthink if parents lie to them.
- Children can react angrily and lose respect for the people lying to them if they find out later the truth.
I AM GRATEFUL FOR TODAY
SEE rejection AS A redirection
They will listen to their parents as they will trust them. Feel safe around them. Trust their bestfriends and tell them how they feel to get it off of their chest. They might trust their siblings as they are going through what you are.
WHAT MIGHT STOP SUPPORT
* Not knowing what support is out there?
* Scared and embrassed
* Nor being aloud to seek help
* People finding out
Scared being in a group.
* Transport nor being able to get there.
* Can be overwhelming
* Not ready for support.
What Type of Support Do Children Need?
-> Need someone to speak to
-> Support helping them to get through the tough times going on.
-> Support can even being someone listening
-> Feeling understood, wanted to be heard is good support.
-> Supporting them just being there for them.
More education around abuse in schools to allow understanding and to stop future abuses
Tell Nicole
Stop saying Children Should be Seen not Heard!
When Incidents happen after police/ social care involvement for someone to then check in with the yp their thoughts + feelings
For schools to incoporate domestic abuse in assemblys and share agencies with them what they help support


more sessions in mental health & childrens
more time in group
Support in homes
Groups in School
more help
to meet workers in school before group
D.A Sessions in School
make school food better
Least import


Most im
police with updates on investigations
for police to talk to the young person + not just their parents
more support around court + police investigat
Support in Schools + Colleges but not from Teachers
Drop Ins with support from workers like IDVAS
Lessons on healthy relationships but not from teachers
more support services designed for young people to help them recognise and understand Domestic Abuse
A place young people can be supported without judgement
Services to listen to young people and what they need, how they want to
Leas
Least Importan
more information on what abuse in relationships looks like for young people - on


POLICE
Social Worker
teacher
harbour
Neighbour
My Friend
My Mum
My Sister
Uncle
Aunt
grandady
doctor


Trusted Person to talk too.
Being Safe
the court order
Talking to the social Worker.
Talking to nana.
Talk to mam.
Nice teachers
Court to listen to me...
Come to group.
Time on


UNCLE
Brother
Grandad
Nana
mam
Best friends
Friend
Sister
cousin
teachers
Doctor
family worker
teachers
Social
Harbor workers
police lady
WORKER
schools staff
Dentist

Key themes: Tell the Government

Better **understanding** of children's experience of domestic abuse.

The **legal system** supports children affected by abuse.

Greater awareness of what **support** is helpful.

Improve the **availability of services**.

"Even though children are now classified as victims, their voices still feel hidden."

(Comment from online group meeting)



Key themes: What children need to recover

Safety and space where they can talk to someone who listens.

"To be able to play, relax and talk to adults. To have a place away from the hurting and fighting."

(Children aged 6 to 9 years)

"Young people need someone they can relate to and talk to when they need it."

(Postcard, secondary school-aged child)

Greater choice over length, location and type of support



Qualities that children valued in professionals

Experienced and have a good understanding of domestic abuse.

Able to relate, having been through things themselves.

Kind and respectful to children.

Good listeners and able to keep calm and positive.

Patient and non-judgemental.

Children want professionals to:
Take more time to listen to them and work at their pace.

Recognise that adults have more power, which can be unfair for children, e.g. confidentiality.



Support services for children affected by domestic abuse

TECHNICAL REPORT



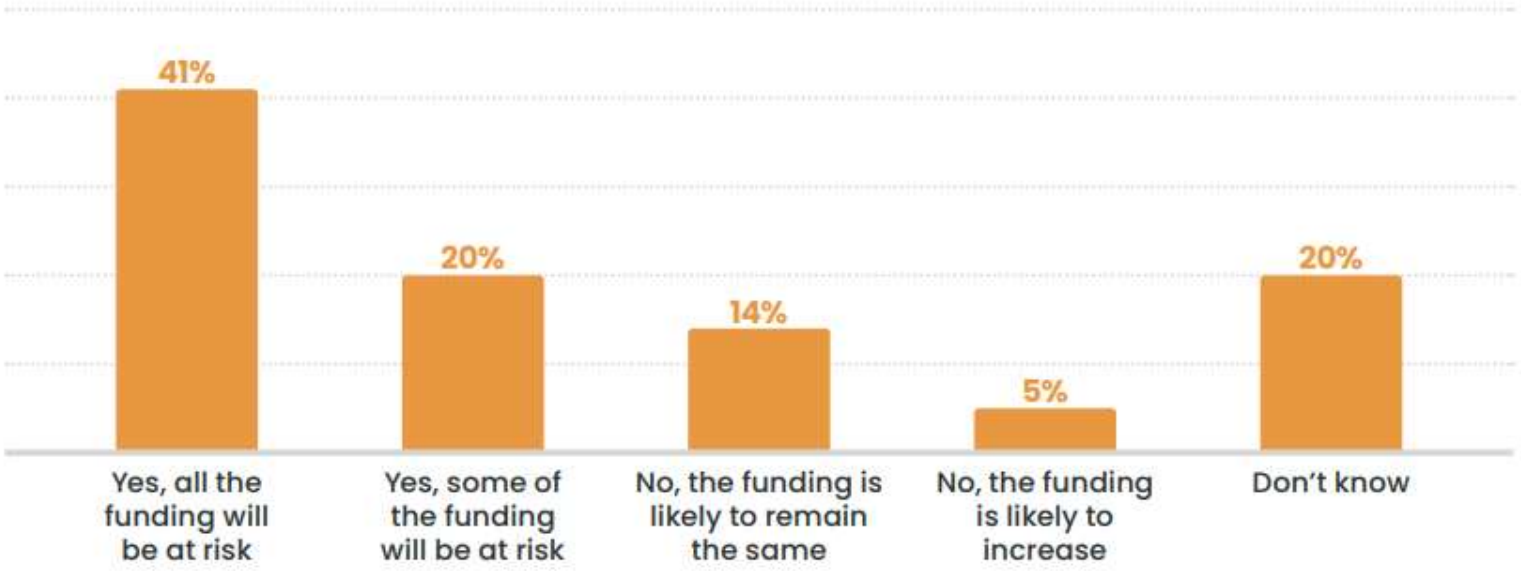
domestic abuse commissioner

April 2025

Two surveys of commissioners and providers of domestic abuse support services to children held during 2024.

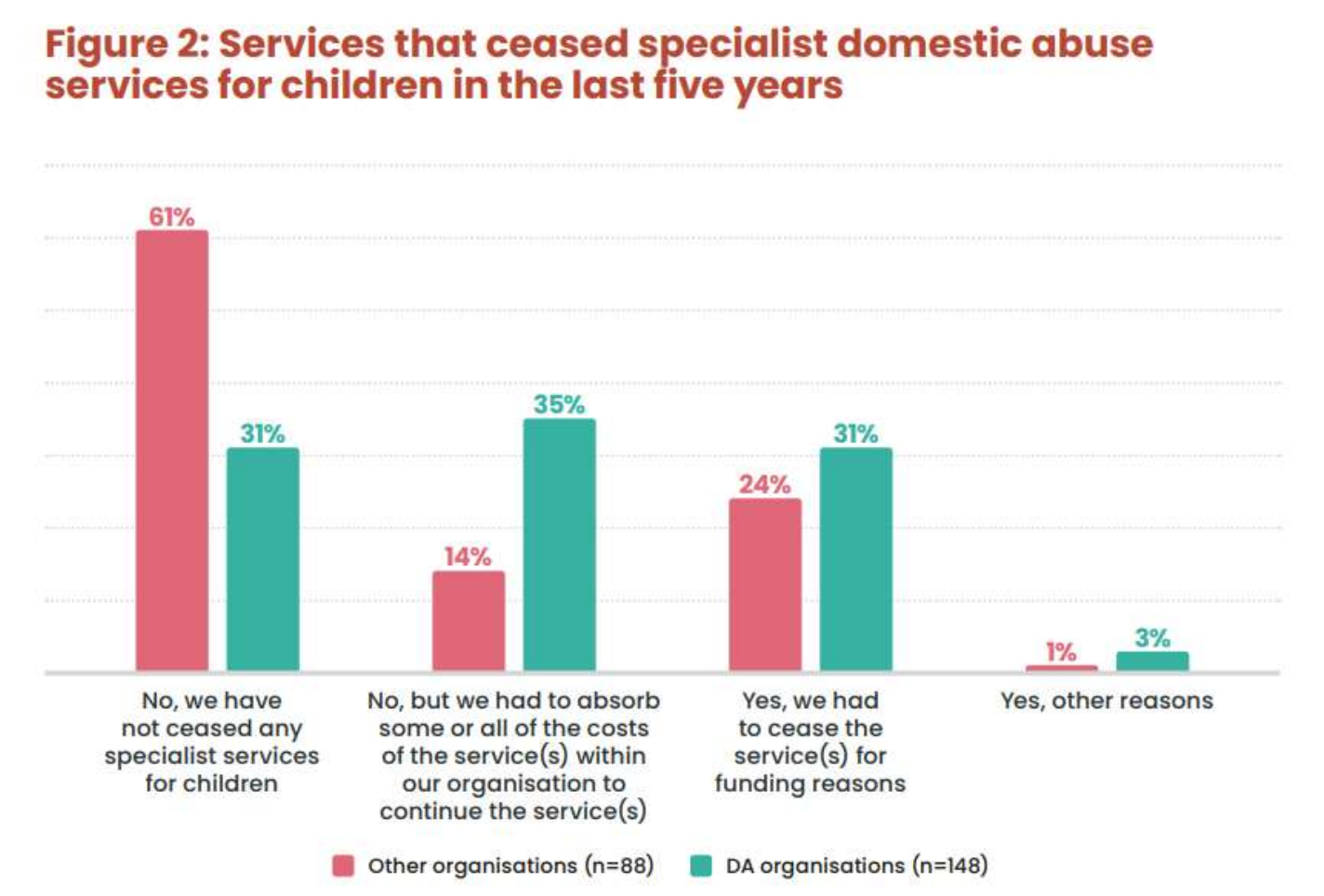
Funding of domestic abuse services for children is at risk

Figure 1: Commissioners' views on whether the funding for the service is at risk of being cut or reduced when the current funding comes to an end



Only one in five commissioned services had secure funding arrangements.

Services within domestic abuse organisations at greater risk



Majority of domestic abuse services reported that in the past 5 years they had to cease a service a service for children or absorb costs to continue delivering it.

Types of services and professions providing the support

30% of services for children categorised as ‘prevention and awareness’

	Freq	%
Accommodation based services	101	20%
Community based services	219	43%
Recovery work	231	46%
Open access	22	4%
Behaviour change	93	18%
Prevention and awareness	151	30%
Other	28	6%
Total	**506**	**100%**

Professions	No.	%
Practitioners who work with adults and children	186	37%
Children and Young People's IDVAs	122	24%
Children's Workers within a refuge	88	17%
Children's Therapists	83	16%
Children and Young People's Participation or Engagement Workers	77	15%
Specialist Youth workers	74	15%
Children's Counsellors	72	14%
Other (please specify other types of workers):	58	11%
Volunteers and People with Lived Experience of Domestic Abuse	50	10%
Specialist practitioners for children at risk or have experienced harmful practices including FGM	20	4%
Total	**508**	

37% of practitioners work with adults and children.

Prevention and early intervention services

Whole family intervention services for babies and expecting parents (8%)

Training and tools for professionals working with children and young people affected by domestic abuse (19%)

Mentoring to prevent domestic abuse and promote healthy relationships (24%)

Behaviour change interventions for individual child or young person (26%)

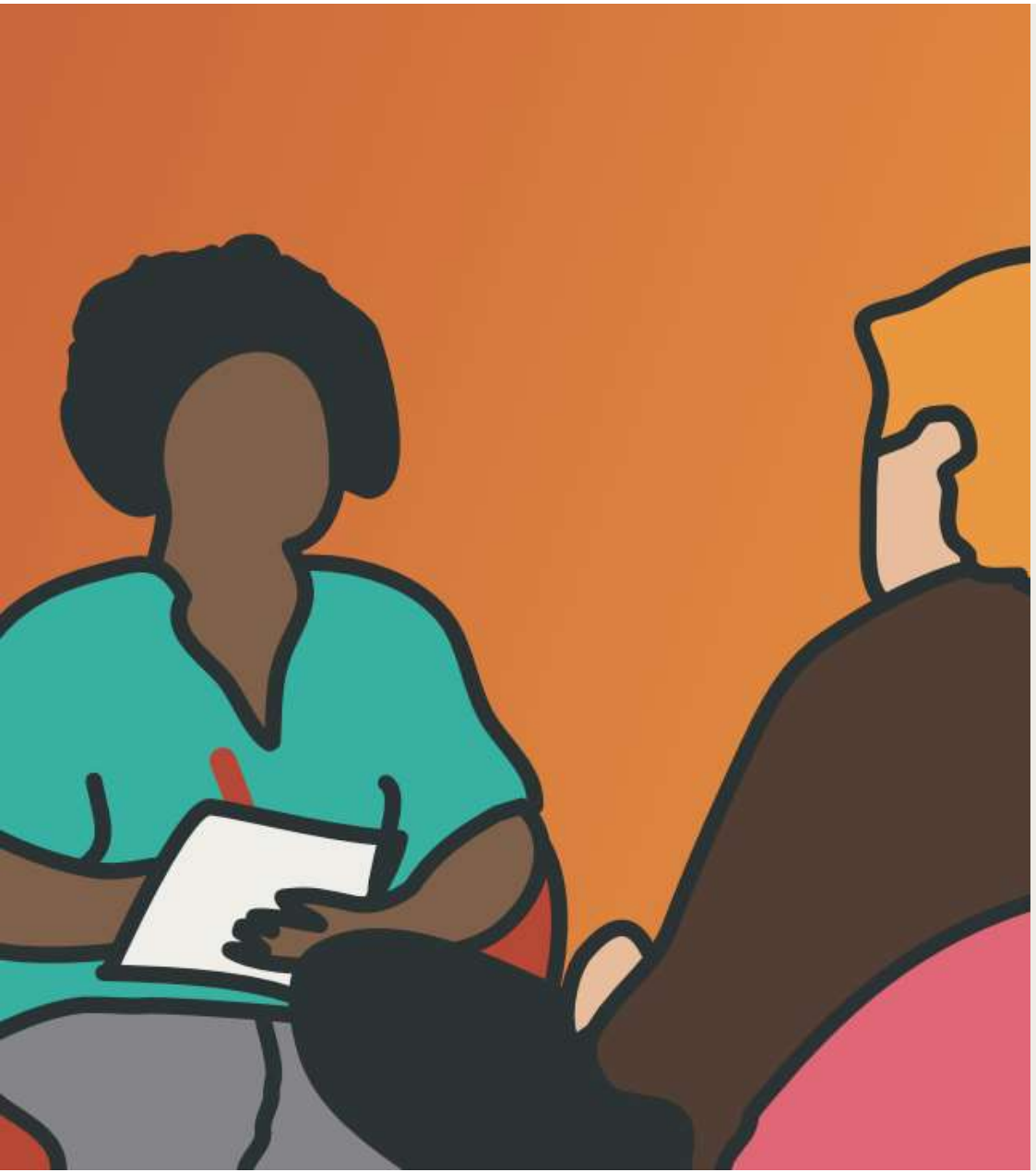
Healthy relationships group interventions delivered by specialist domestic abuse organisations within educational settings (28%)

Group work with young people to prevent domestic abuse and promote healthy relationships (delivered outside educational settings (32%)

Chapter 6

The multi-agency response in universal and targeted support





Early Help

The ADCS estimated in 2022 that there were 185,100 children with cases open in targeted Early Help services.

In real terms, spend on early intervention/early help has fallen by 21% in the last 5 years.

The Independent Review of Children's Social Care found in 2022 that Early Help services "were doing more and more work with families that need a lot of help, with only the highest levels of need where there are serious problems being managed under section 17."

This creates a revolving door of cases going between Early Help and Section 17. Action for Children found that 32% of children who were selected for Early Help following the closure of their child in need assessment were re-referred for another child in need assessment within 12 months.

Early Help and domestic abuse

84% of Early Help practitioners report working on cases involving domestic abuse in the last six months.

Research found that in some areas, domestic abuse specialist roles in multi-disciplinary teams had assumed all responsibility for referrals to external domestic abuse services and liaison with the family.

Research found that 32% of Early Help practitioners did not feel that they were sufficiently trained on the impact of domestic abuse on children and young people and how to support them, and that they lacked confidence as a result.

Moreover, the research found that there was a lack of confidence among Early Help staff in working with diverse communities and children with additional needs or who face higher barriers to support.

Evidence from the Angelou Centre shows that 70% of victims and survivors referred as 'No Recourse to Public Funds' (NRPF) to their VAWG services and Helpline in 2020/21 should in fact have access to either benefits or other public funding. The Angelou Centre described many of these cases as "revolving door cases" that involved repeat crisis calls to the police and social care.





Family Hubs

66% of respondents were unaware of the minimum service expectations for domestic abuse.

In a roundtable with Family Hubs Managers, just 54% of respondents were aware of the document, while 30% did not know about the minimum expectations, and 16% were unsure.

Practitioners reported links with local specialist domestic services, referral pathways, safe confidential spaces in the hub, posters, web-based information on local pathways and perpetrator programme referrals where available.

However, there were very few examples of co-located specialist domestic abuse services in hubs – which is part of the 'go further' criteria.

Many practitioners reported that specialist pathways for children are only available for those residing in safe accommodation settings.

85% of Family Hubs practitioners' recommendations focused on the need for training – with specific asks for training to focus on practical approaches, an understanding on impact for child victims, and trauma-informed induction training on domestic abuse.



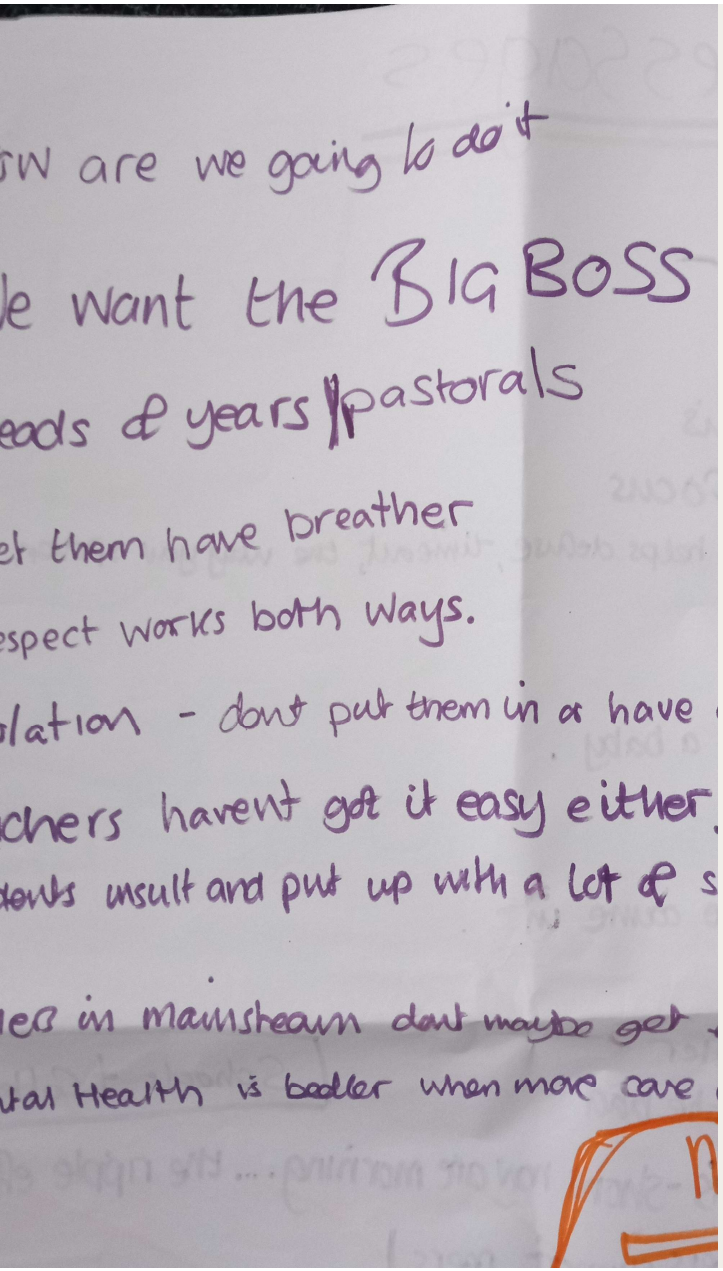
Reducing Parental Conflict

The third evaluation of the RPC Programme made reference to levels of conflict having “passed the domestic abuse thresholds”, that “the RPC programme seeks to address conflict below the threshold of domestic abuse”, and that “parents came to interventions with varying levels of conflict, from no conflict through to accusations of domestic abuse.”

“A key early challenge local authorities reported was working out at what point conflict in a relationship becomes abusive. Knowledge and understanding of the three key elements of domestic abuse (power imbalance, fear and control) was not widespread.”

Among participants in parental conflict programmes were those who had experienced domestic abuse, mentioning physical assault, coercive control and stalking.

Inappropriate referrals are being made, and domestic abuse screening prior to enrolment on the programme is ineffective or not taking place. The programme lacks the necessary input from specialist domestic abuse services, in providing training to practitioners on recognising coercive and controlling behaviour and identifying cases of domestic abuse.



This is a critical moment for the new Government.

- The forthcoming Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy,
- Spring 2025 Spending Review
- Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill

Bold leadership is needed for the Government to meet its ambition to halve VAWG within a decade.

This requires contribution from the whole machinery of the Government, requiring buy-in and coordination across each of its missions.

The Commissioner's recommendations represent a blueprint towards supporting children subject to domestic abuse and preventing future harm; as such, they should be considered in full.

Seven key themes

Representing a consistent thread throughout the report.

Centring children's voices.

Stronger cross-departmental working and strategic leadership.

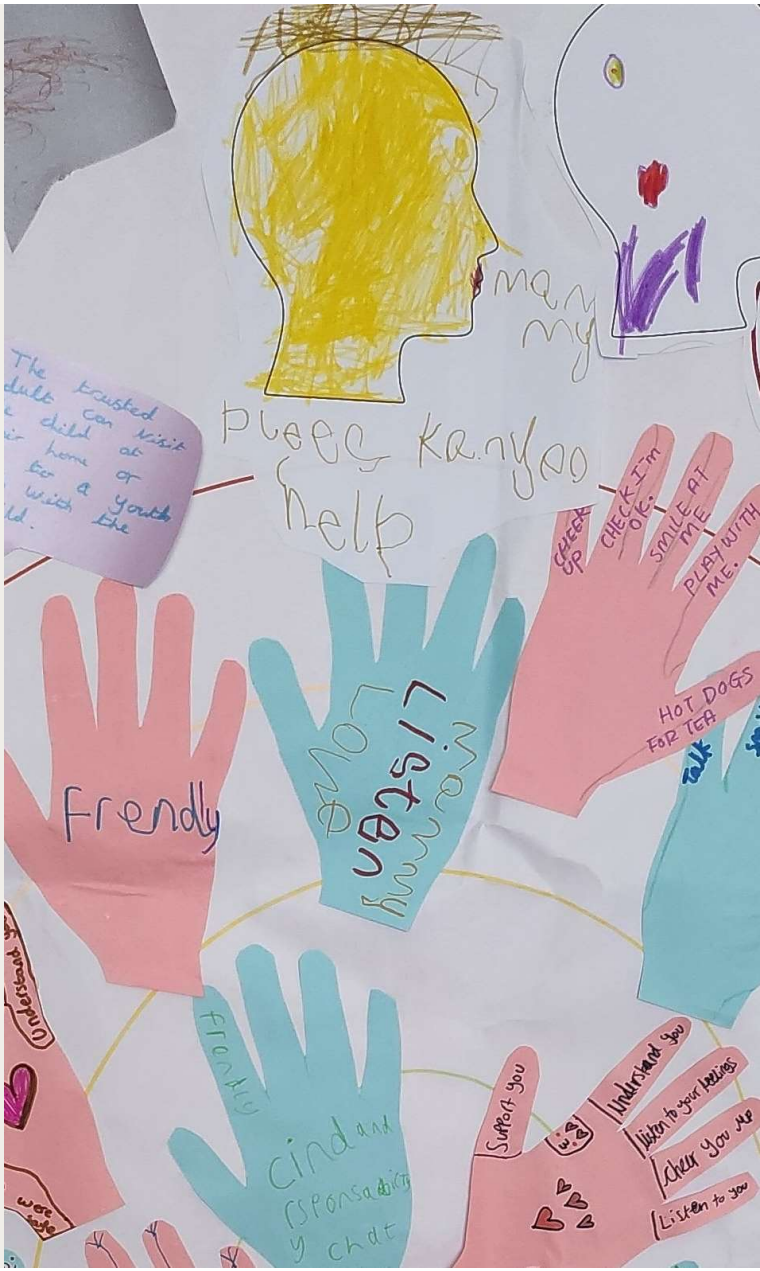
Holistic funding.

Data and evidence.

Specialist training for every frontline professional who may work with babies, children or young people.

Safeguarding.

Ensuring practice is informed by specialists



1: Centring Children's Voices

Recommendations

The Home Office and the DfE jointly funds the DAC Office to pilot the creation of a national youth panel, to inform policy, in England and Wales.

Every member department of the proposed cross-Government working group reviews and develops their response to children as victims, to reflect that children's voice is paramount in any interaction or policy development. This must include a review of the public bodies that they are responsible for.

The Home Office updates statutory guidance to require Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews to include the authentic voice of the child victim.

Children told us:

- they needed physical and emotional safety and space where they can talk to someone who will believe them and listen to them
- their accounts of what was happening may differ from those of their parents, carers and siblings
- their views have often been sidelined or considered secondary to those of adults

What this means for you

Theme 1: Centring children's voices

Children subject to domestic abuse, and their non-abusive parents or caregivers, must be listened to and involved in decision making about their own lives, at every level, by every agency.

Commissioners must consider how the experiences of children subject to domestic abuse can safely and meaningfully inform the shaping and delivery of services that are commissioned to support them. Commissioners could refer to existing best practice models, such as the CAFADA toolkit and Everyday Heroes' Participation Toolkit in Scotland.

Where children are bereaved by a domestic abuse-related death, children must have their voice included in decision making about their future. If done carefully, and in a trauma-informed way alongside a suite of specialist support, involvement in DHR/domestic abuse related death review processes could form part of the child's recovery, and be incredibly empowering

2: Stronger cross-departmental working and strategic leadership

Recommendations

Every Government Department contributes to ensuring that the new statutory guidance accompanying the forthcoming Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill includes substantial detail for frontline practice on what Section 3 of the Domestic Abuse Act means in practice, alongside a child-friendly version of this guidance.

The DfE develops updated RSE guidance.

The Department for Education makes implementing both the 'Minimum Expectations' and the 'Go Further' sections of the Family Hubs Service Expectations document in responding to domestic abuse mandatory and holds Family Hubs to account in the implementation of these.

CQC, HMICFRS and HMIP carry out bi-annual joint thematic inspections of local areas focused on domestic abuse.

Children told us:

- We should take their messages to those at the very top of government: "We want the BIG BOSS!"
- Those in charge did not fully appreciate the impact that domestic abuse can have on children's lives.
- All children needed to have basic information about domestic abuse.

What this means for you

domestic abuse commissioner

Theme 2: Stronger cross-departmental working and strategic leadership

Domestic abuse is a **shared strategy** with a public health lens, across the CSP, LSCP, various Safeguarding Boards and ICB, to ensure that there are shared objectives and a holistic whole-family strategy and approach across an area. This includes **pooling resources to fund shared posts for the development of a strategy and implementation**. This would be done by the **various boards sharing data on prevalence and demographics** as well as themes from Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews, serious case reviews, and other death reviews to inform strategy and needs assessments.

Where areas already have CSP led strategies, they should be refreshed and reviewed in partnership with the LSCP and Safeguarding Adult Board to ensure that children are represented equally to adults. As part of this arrangement, there should be agreed information sharing protocols put in place that each are held accountable for.

Local Safeguarding Children's Partnerships must give dedicated attention and resource to child victims of domestic abuse. This must include the oversight of multiagency domestic abuse and children and young people training, the collation and sharing of data, service information, referral pathways and strategies on how to support children subject to domestic abuse.

Family Hub managers should ensure that both the 'Minimum expectations' and the 'Go further' sections of the Family Hubs Service Expectations document are adhered to, and there is oversight of this through relevant governance arrangements in the local area.

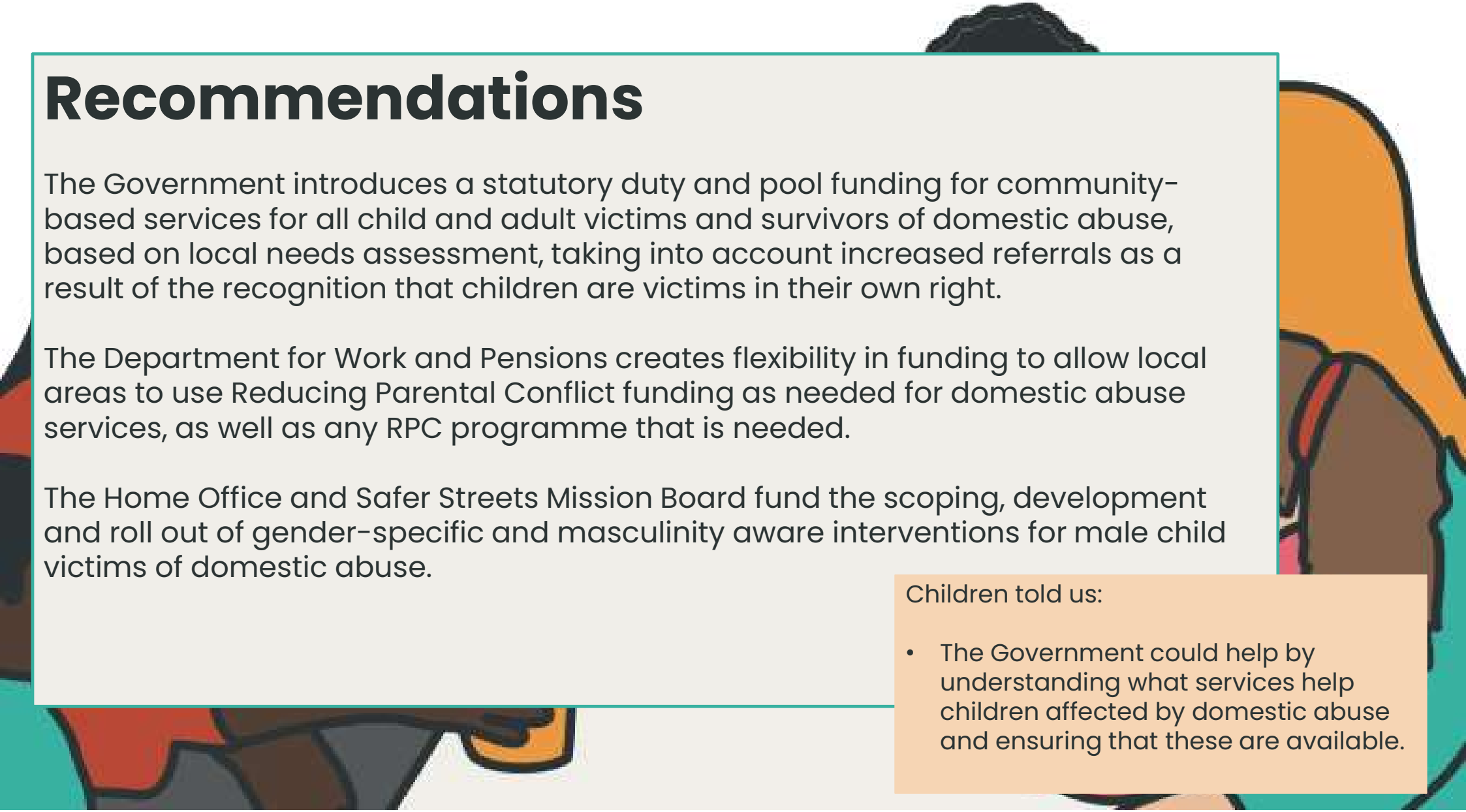
3: Holistic funding

Recommendations

The Government introduces a statutory duty and pool funding for community-based services for all child and adult victims and survivors of domestic abuse, based on local needs assessment, taking into account increased referrals as a result of the recognition that children are victims in their own right.

The Department for Work and Pensions creates flexibility in funding to allow local areas to use Reducing Parental Conflict funding as needed for domestic abuse services, as well as any RPC programme that is needed.

The Home Office and Safer Streets Mission Board fund the scoping, development and roll out of gender-specific and masculinity aware interventions for male child victims of domestic abuse.



Children told us:

- The Government could help by understanding what services help children affected by domestic abuse and ensuring that these are available.

What this means for you

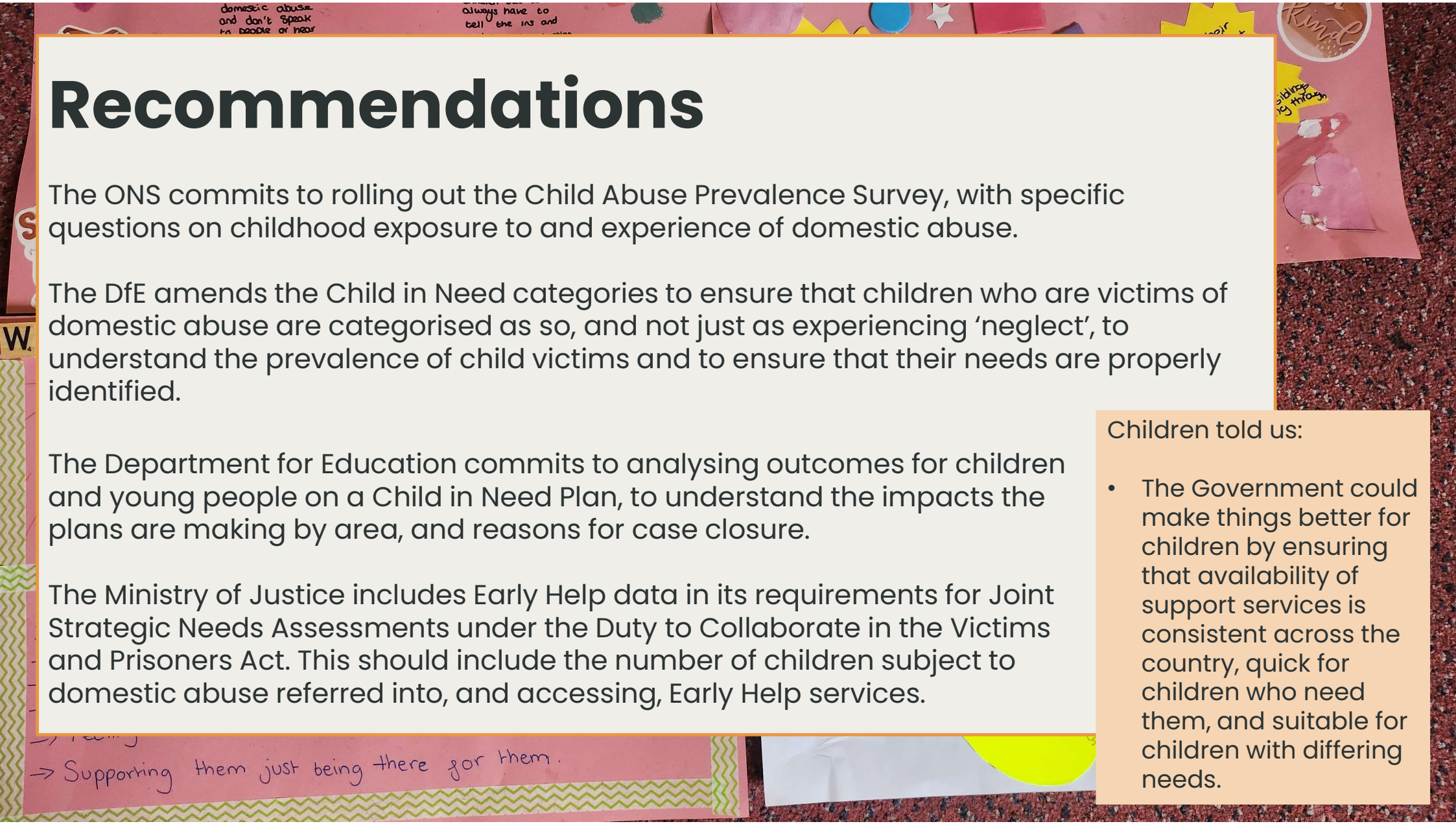
domestic abuse commissioner

***Theme 3*: *Holistic Funding*.**

Commissioners should create **joint strategic commissioning groups** to develop the Coordinated Community Response and respond to identified need through the Duty to Collaborate and the resulting **Joint Strategic Needs Assessments.**

Commissioners across all agencies in all areas collaborate on **understanding the prevalence and needs of children subject to domestic abuse**, including those with no recourse to public funds, and pool funding to commission specialist, independent community-based services, including 'by and for' services, to support them.

4: Data and evidence



Recommendations

The ONS commits to rolling out the Child Abuse Prevalence Survey, with specific questions on childhood exposure to and experience of domestic abuse.

The DfE amends the Child in Need categories to ensure that children who are victims of domestic abuse are categorised as so, and not just as experiencing 'neglect', to understand the prevalence of child victims and to ensure that their needs are properly identified.

The Department for Education commits to analysing outcomes for children and young people on a Child in Need Plan, to understand the impacts the plans are making by area, and reasons for case closure.

The Ministry of Justice includes Early Help data in its requirements for Joint Strategic Needs Assessments under the Duty to Collaborate in the Victims and Prisoners Act. This should include the number of children subject to domestic abuse referred into, and accessing, Early Help services.

Children told us:

- The Government could make things better for children by ensuring that availability of support services is consistent across the country, quick for children who need them, and suitable for children with differing needs.

What this means for you

domestic abuse commissioner

Theme 4: Data and Evidence

As part of their duties within the Duty to Collaborate, safeguarding partners, with the inclusion of education, must include **annual data on children subject to domestic abuse** in their area, to ensure that Joint Strategic Needs Assessments are as accurate as possible.

Local areas must **report on early help data, and the number of children subject to domestic abuse accessing, or turned away from Early Help services**, as part of the requirement to submit data as part of Joint Strategic Needs Assessments

All services that are commissioned for any type of work with children and young people should **build safeguarding case numbers and nature of referrals into contract management with a specific domestic abuse flag**.

.

5: Specialist training for frontline professionals

Recommendations

The Government funds the development and delivery of comprehensive and specialist training for every frontline professional who may work with babies, children and young people, including identifying domestic abuse and responding safely through a tiered, building block approach.

Social Work England commits to a rigorous inspection of Social Work degrees and the domestic abuse content in degree programmes and ensures that those delivering this curriculum are themselves trained in domestic abuse. The inspection criteria should be developed in close collaboration with the specialist domestic abuse sector and the DAC.

Social Work England reviews the Knowledge, Skills and Behaviours standards through a domestic abuse-informed lens to ensure that course providers understand what must be done to achieve the standards.

The Department for Education mandates specific curriculum and assessment criteria about domestic abuse, including coercive and controlling behaviour, through the 2025 Early Careers Framework and develops practice directions to accompany this.

Children told us:

- The Government could help by educating adults about the impact of domestic abuse upon children.
- They wanted workers to recognise that they as adults have more power, which can be unfair to children

What this means for you

domestic abuse commissioner

Theme 5: Specialist training for frontline professionals

Universal for all professionals that have contact with babies, children and young people	Exercise **professional curiosity** and confidently **spot the signs** of all forms of domestic abuse (including coercive and controlling behaviour, technology-facilitated abuse, so-called 'honour-based' abuse and harmful practices) for all children. Respond appropriately to children who are experiencing domestic abuse. This **includes demonstrating trauma informed practice, age-appropriate communication methods, understanding barriers to engagement**, and best responses for children with diverse identities and needs, and protected characteristics, recognising the importance of **intersectionality**. Refer children (and associated adults) to relevant services. This includes **knowledge of local specialist services** and understanding both organisational and statutory **safeguarding systems and local protocols** for all levels of need, including early help. Professionals should be confident navigating local and interagency referral pathways.

What this means for you

domestic abuse commissioner

Theme 5: Specialist training for frontline professionals

Tailored for professionals who have contact with children and young people in the context of their experiences of abuse	Understand children and young people's experiences of domestic abuse as **complex trauma,** including the **challenges faced by children and families.** Understand the **impact** of domestic abuse for children, young people, their families, and wider relationships and the coping mechanisms they may use in the context of intersectionality, recognising the **diverse nature of identities and need.** Understand the importance of **information sharing and multi-agency working** when working with children and young people with lived experience of domestic abuse. Understand **the link between domestic abuse and other forms of risk and harm**, including serious violence. Understand the **dynamics of domestic abuse,** including recognising 'victim blaming' and placing responsibility on perpetrators using harmful behaviours. Competence in **documenting interactions with children**, being mindful of appropriate terminology. Recognising **the protective role and strengths of the non-abusive parent** and the importance of protective relationships. Understand **typologies of perpetrators** (including various forms of presentation). Understand effective **strategies for prevention, identification and intervention** that ensure children and their non-abusive parent/guardian receive appropriate and timely support

What this means for you

domestic abuse commissioner

Theme 5: Specialist training for frontline professionals

Specialist for professionals supporting children and young people affected by domestic abuse/professionals providing interventions for individuals using harmful behaviours	Competence in **assessing risk and need** and **tailoring support** for children experiencing domestic abuse. Competence in **planning focused support sessions** with children that are appropriate for children's age and development and align with their individual and intersecting needs. Understand how **to tailor support for children bereaved by domestic abuse-related deaths.** Understand how to **deliver domestic abuse content in an RSE setting** for various age ranges. Understand how to **engage with perpetrators**, supporting them to engage in behavioural change programmes while holding them to account. Understand how to **advocate for children**, both on an individual and institutional level.

6: Safeguarding

Recommendations

The DfE makes education settings the fourth statutory safeguarding partner through the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill.

The Department for Education publishes guidance setting out the expected response that child victims of domestic abuse will receive as part of the new Child Protection and Family Help offer.

The Home Office conducts a full review of risk identification tools and Marac, through a whole-systems lens, including the extent to which the needs and risk to child victims are considered and have a voice in decisions that affect them. This must extend to research into, and the development of, child-specific tools and guidance to assess both risk and need alongside each other, with age-appropriate variations to cover all babies, children and young people.

Children told us that:

- The Government could help by placing a greater role on schools to support children affected by domestic abuse.
- They wanted workers who are experienced, understand domestic abuse, and who are kind and respectful to children.

What this means for you

domestic abuse commissioner

Theme 6: Safeguarding

All child safeguarding policies must be updated to reflect that children are victims in their own right as per the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 definition.

Social care and Reducing Parental Conflict teams should have **mandatory screening tools** to identify domestic abuse and coercive and controlling behaviours **before any assessment of parental conflict**. The sequencing of tools is crucial for safeguarding as any assessment of conflict where domestic abuse is present is likely to be inaccurate and misleading in determining risks. This can cause escalation and serious harm to adult and child victims

Local areas must develop robust and **comprehensive referral pathways and information sharing** processes, with specialist domestic abuse services, to ensure a whole family approach is available to any child referred to Early Help in the context of domestic abuse

What this means for you

domestic abuse commissioner

Theme 6: Safeguarding

Where children are identified as victims in their own right, information must be shared in a timely and relevant way with a view to supporting child victims and the non-abusive parent as early as possible, including referrals for advocacy and specialist support. **Communication between agencies and services should not be confined to formal meetings.**

There must be strong strategic and operational multi-agency working, governance and information sharing between Marac, MATAC, MAPPA and MASH, where these exist.

There must be **regular representation at MARAC meetings** from children's social care, education safeguarding, **children's health safeguarding**, probation, police, housing and the specialist domestic abuse sector to specifically represent child as well as adult victims. **These representatives must prepare for, attend, and take actions from MARAC. Each agency should record their own domestic abuse flags and case management for MARAC.**

What this means for you

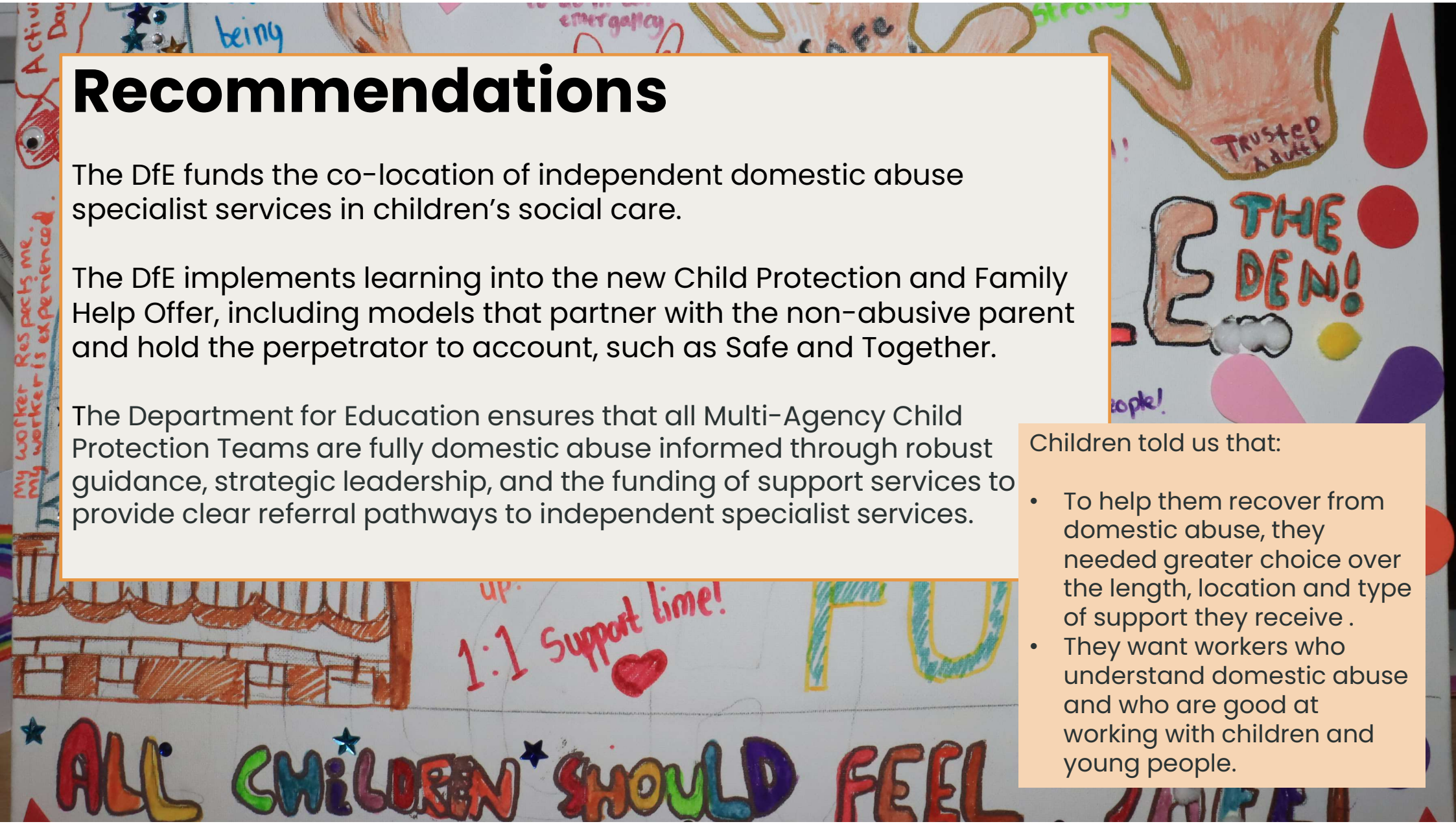
domestic abuse commissioner

Theme 6: Safeguarding

Local authorities must ensure that their **websites contain information on domestic abuse** that is accessible and user friendly for children who have experienced domestic abuse, including **helpline advice and support services in the local area,** with access to online chat capabilities and mobile interfaces on all sites. Sites should also have quick exit functions.

Local areas must **develop policies and procedures to minimise escalating risk to children and adults subject to abuse**. Frontline professionals including early help must ensure that their staff understand the risks associated with sharing information about a child to a parent that has been identified as abusive and know when to and how to withhold information.

7: Ensuring practice is informed by specialists



Recommendations

The DfE funds the co-location of independent domestic abuse specialist services in children's social care.

The DfE implements learning into the new Child Protection and Family Help Offer, including models that partner with the non-abusive parent and hold the perpetrator to account, such as Safe and Together.

The Department for Education ensures that all Multi-Agency Child Protection Teams are fully domestic abuse informed through robust guidance, strategic leadership, and the funding of support services to provide clear referral pathways to independent specialist services.

Children told us that:

- To help them recover from domestic abuse, they needed greater choice over the length, location and type of support they receive .
- They want workers who understand domestic abuse and who are good at working with children and young people.

What this means for you

domestic abuse commissioner

***Theme 7*: Ensuring Practice is informed by specialists.**

Independent specialist services (commissioned and non-commissioned) that work with child victims of domestic abuse **should be able to access local training and guidance** on child protection, adult safeguarding, the Mental Capacity Act, the Care Act, and other relevant information, in order to ensure their responses are informed within wider frameworks, and they are upskilled to be able to bid for local funding.

Universal access points for families, such as Family Hubs, **should display signposting information to specialist domestic abuse services.**

Commissioners should ensure that services they commission can take **self-referrals and be as accessible and flexible in their referral pathways as possible.**

What this means for you

domestic abuse commissioner

Theme 7: Ensuring Practice is informed by specialists.

Universal access points should receive **training and support to carry out routine enquiry** as part of their basic safeguarding duties. **Practical tools, resources and forms should be amended to prompt and then record that routine enquiry has happened.**

There should be resources for **independent domestic abuse specialists to be co-located** in children's social care and early help to provide guidance and advocacy support on cases where there are barriers for victims in engaging. This must be resourced at **full cost recovery** to meet demand.

Every **child and their non-abusive parent subject to domestic abuse should be offered a range of independent, specialist support**. This should continue if they are stepped down from children's social care or subject to no further action and met with an early help referral and support if appropriate and wanted, to avoid a repeat referral to children's social care.

What this means for you

Theme 7: Ensuring Practice is informed by specialists.

Local strategic leads and commissioners must recognise the value of the independent specialist sectors by:

- Treating them as subject experts and **using their expertise to inform work on children affected by domestic abuse, as well as more universal prevention activity**. This includes ensuring that any local and regional guidance produced that may relate to children as victims of domestic abuse reflects the Domestic Abuse Act.

- Appropriately **building in full cost recovery to cover their time and expenses required to fully engage in local and regional consultations and strategy development** in an institutional advocacy role. This goes beyond formal meetings and is relevant to preparation and action time required.

What this means for you

domestic abuse commissioner

Theme 7: Ensuring Practice is informed by specialists.

- Allowing **reasonable timeframes for local and regional consultations and strategy** development so that the independent specialist sectors are able to give each item the full attention it needs. Local and regional public bodies should coordinate their requests for information and consultation so that the specialist sectors are not put under undue pressure and time and financial constraints.

- Consider how to **support the independent domestic abuse sector with recruitment, retention, and capacity building, in recognition of the integral part it plays in the multi-agency response**. Local and regional processes must support the sector to thrive and not compound the multiple pressures they face.

Q&A

Which of the Commissioner's practice recommendations are relevant to your role or setting? What are the tangible actions you can be doing or starting a conversation about where you are?

Please share reflections, existing good practice and ideas on how responses can be improved for babies, children and young people.

Go to Menti.com and type code: 31340342

domestic
abuse
commissioner

Find our reports on the Domestic Abuse Commissioner's website:

www.domesticabusecommissioner.uk/reports/

Or scan this QR code:





Do you have feedback on the report?
Email: Commissioner@domesticabusecommissioner.gov.uk