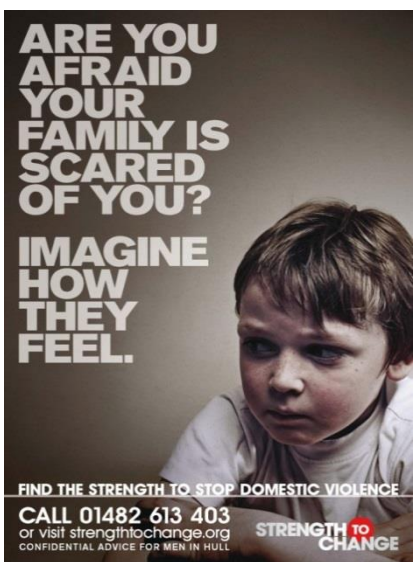


Abusive parenting V Responsible parenting

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STRENGTH TO CHANGE

Find the strength to stop domestic violence

Strength to Change themes



- ▶ 1) Intimidation & Coercion vs Respect & Negotiation
- ▶ 2) Emotional Abuse vs Intimacy & Love
- ▶ 3) Gender & Privilege vs Partnership & Participation
- ▶ 4) Sexual Abuse vs Sexual Respect
- ▶ 5) *Abusive Parenting vs Responsible Parenting.*

Caring Dads

A 17 week intervention programme for men who have abused their children's mother or maltreated their children.

Caring Dads programme goals

- ▶ Develop trust and motivation to engage men to examine their fathering
- ▶ To increase men's awareness of child-centred fathering
- ▶ To increase men's awareness of and responsibility for abusive and neglectful behaviours and their impact on children
- ▶ Consolidating learning, rebuilding trust and planning for the future

Caring Dads should not be offered as a stand-alone intervention. As domestic violence abusers form Caring Dads' main client group, it is essential that Domestic Violence Prevention Programmes (DVPPs) directly addressing men's violence against women are available alongside Caring Dads. Therefore in areas where such services do not exist, Caring Dads should not be offered as a stand-alone intervention.

The men's positive responses to the child centred focus of the programme suggest the parenting of their children became safer and more nurturing and this included a greater awareness of the need to avoid abusive behaviour towards the children's mother. A similar shift in men's attitudes towards women, which would suggest the programme improves woman's safety, was not as evident (McCracken and Deave 2012, p.79)

What is the impact of domestic abuse on children?

- ▶ Attachment/development issues Disruption in relationship
- ▶ Poor concentration, Anxious
- ▶ Depressed, Difficulty sleeping
- ▶ Nightmares, Flash backs
- ▶ Behavioural issues, Problems at school/truancing
- ▶ Low sense of worth, Self harm
- ▶ Drugs/alcohol misuse, Emotional: Guilt, shame, blame
- ▶ Death



As has been convincingly documented, child exposure to domestic abuse has negative effects on children's development. Moreover, men's perpetration of domestic abuse is related to more chronic, severe and potentially lethal child maltreatment.

What children learn from abusive parenting

Children learn that it's acceptable to use violence to deal with disagreements, and that it's okay to hit someone if they don't agree with what that person is saying or doing.

Children learn that hitting is a good way to make someone stop doing something they don't like, or to make someone do something s/he doesn't want to do.

Children learn that others have the control - especially bigger stronger others. They do not learn that they can make decisions themselves, that they are capable of doing so.

Children learn that love and violence go together. This sets the stage to accept violence in other relationships.

Children learn that when someone is under stress, tense or angry, violence is an acceptable way to cope.

Children learn that they deserve to be hit if they have done something that the other person disapproves of.

Children learn to deal with other authority figures, like teachers, in unhealthy ways.

Children learn not to get caught.

Children learn to avoid the person who has abused them, and they lose trust in that person. They learn that this person is not safe and cannot be relied upon



Men's denial of the impact on children

- “My child doesn’t even know what's going on when we're fighting.”
- “It has no real effect on them – they are not involved.”
- “He may be upset for a little while but he’ll get over it soon enough.”
- “My kids know that they shouldn’t hit”. “My behaviour won’t change that.”
- “The kids know that our fights are not their fault.”
- “The kids know I would never hurt them”
- “ Kids today sometimes need a good whack it never did me any harm.”
- “I'm great with the kids she just winds me up”



Parenting Continuum





Find the strength to stop domestic violence

Children's safety and well-being is intrinsically connected to that of their mothers

You can't be a good father and a disrespectful, abusive partner."

Any questions ?