



Better Outcomes for Children & Young People Experiencing Domestic Abuse – Directions for Good Practice: Literature Review

This review draws from international and Scottish literature to give directions for good practice for the continuing process of improving the lives of children and young people affected by domestic abuse.

Ministers have set up a National Domestic Abuse Delivery Group to develop and implement a three year strategic delivery plan (2008-11) and to oversee the National Getting it Right for Every Child Domestic Abuse Pathfinder (2006-8).

The Delivery Group has ensured that Scotland builds on its reputation as a lead in relation to children’s participation, with ministers recognising that there is a fourth P – Participation, to the three P’s of Protection, Provision and Prevention.

The literature review identifies that in England and Wales, around 29% of women experience domestic abuse at some points in their lives. A prevalence study in Scotland (general sample of 951 women) showed that a third of women had experienced domestic abuse at some point in their lives.

The report reviews the research evidence on children, young people and domestic abuse, and evidence from children and young people themselves, on domestic abuse, what helps or does not help, and their solutions.

There is a chapter on Protection which provides evidence that for children to be safe there needs to be: multi-agency collaboration; a focus on intervention with perpetrators; linked

but separate protection of children and their mothers (Humphreys and Houghton).

Another chapter identifies the need for services: for pregnant women and infants; to strengthen the mother/child relationship; for informal, individual and group support –reviewing wider literature to compliment children’s perspectives on support.

A chapter covering The Primary Prevention through Education Chapter discusses action to ensure all children and young people are equal, respected and responsible - to

prevent abuse in the future and in their own young relationships.

The authors provide directions for good practice at the end of each chapter. Their recommendations are relevant to all audiences in Scotland’s quest to improve the lives of children affected by domestic abuse.

The full report, written by Cathy Humphreys, Claire Houghton and Jane Ellis can be found at www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/08/04112614/0

SSRG Journal Editorial Board: Children’s Representatives Wanted!

On 18th September, Ofsted released the latest version (v2.22 2008) of the social care data analysis tool.

Other reports that were published cover the indicators that contributed to the 2007 APA for local authorities on their services for children and young people, where data are shown for social care and non social (data) indicators for all 150 local authorities.

Also published was the Labour Force Survey (LFS) data 2006 and 2007. This is the data used for indicator 5022SC - PAF CF/A4.

The reports can be accessed at: <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-forms-and-guidance-by/Title-A-to-Z/APA-indicators-for-2008/%28language%29/eng-GB>

