



DOMESTIC ABUSE - Things to consider

Child Developmental Needs:

- Progress within education and school attendance eg anxiety to be away from home
- Progress with development, speech and language and self care skills
- Emotional wellbeing, including anxiety, reports of illness without known cause, self-esteem and ability to regulate feelings
- Quality of relationships including challenges in friendships, bullying, protectiveness towards family and trust in others
- Injuries potentially caused through being caught in physical assaults

Parenting Capacity:

- Parental ability to put in place boundaries, offer consistency and meet parenting demands such as taking children to appointments
- Level of confidence in own parenting eg impact of being undermined, criticised, experiencing self doubt or experience of being alienated
- Associated risks linked to emotional impacts of domestic abuse, including risk of drug and alcohol use
- Emotional availability and fears for child's wellbeing due to experiences of abuse

Family and Environmental Factors:

- History of relationships – including risks within different households of blended families / stability of networks and housing, education arrangements incl. home schooling / off grid living / constraints to access to work and control of finances / cultural norms
- Isolation from friends and families
- Level of connectedness to family, friends and community

Things that can help:

- Legal recognition of children as victims in their own right and availability of support
- Remembering that anyone can be a victim, including men, people in same sex relationships and young people
- Exploring opportunities to build connections within the community
- Understanding the voice of the child
- Understanding that people can be both victims and perpetrators
- Making repeated attempts to work with families
- Offering coordinated support through Team Around the Family processes

USEFUL RESOURCES:

[Clare's Law](#)

[DASH Risk Assessment](#)

[Somerset Domestic Abuse website - Support for Children](#)

[Somerset Domestic Abuse website - Young people and domestic abuse](#)