

Relationship Matters – Reducing Parental Conflict and Domestic Abuse Spectrum

Respectful, equal and co-operative

- All relationships have tricky moments, it is how they are experienced and resolved that matters.
- Children are experiencing constructive resolution of any arguments, characterised by mutual respect and emotional control.

Mostly respectful, equal and co-operative but experiencing difficulties

- Conflict is frequent, can be intense and poorly resolved.
- Lack of open and honest communication, difficulties are minimised, not recognised or addressed.
- Children are beginning to be affected by conflict between their parents

Conflictual and non-communicative

- Conflict is frequent, intense and poorly resolved.
- Fear maybe present, with one or both parents.
- Whilst there may not always be physical violence, parents are emotionally unavailable to their partner and children. There is a lack of consistency in parenting, feeling isolated and a toxic atmosphere.
- Children are being adversely affected

Frequent Abuse, which may include physical violence

- Abuse is frequent and may include physical violence.
- Fear is present, with one or both parents.
- Day to day unresolved and unresolvable conflicts.
- Children being adversely affected, children may show signs of distress and their mental health/behaviour may be affected

Frequent and Intense abuse, which may include physical harm, fear of violence/death

- Abuse is frequent and intense. Non-abusive parent lives in fear. Abusive parent maintains control over the family environment. Where physical violence is a factor, this will result in physical harm.
- Clear risk of significant harm to non-abusive parent
- Children being significantly adversely affected; children's mental health and /or behaviour may be affected. Children at risk of significant harm.

