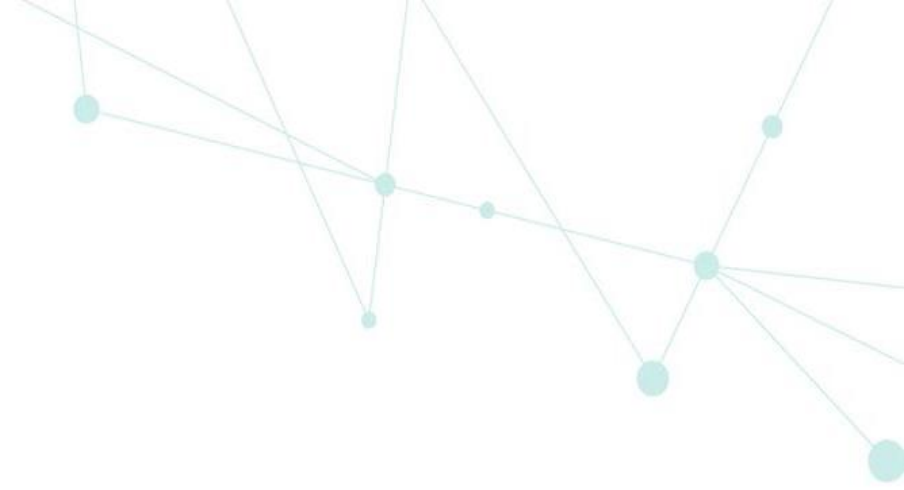


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Developing Therapeutic Services for Children & Young People Affected by Domestic Abuse in Northumbria



Findings from the mapping of local services (Early 2021)

- 1:1 counselling therapeutic work for C&YP affected by DA was largely absent in 4/6 LA areas
- Play therapy/counselling services for the youngest age group (4-7 years) was a key gap in 5/6 LAs.
- DA specific group work was thin on the ground
- Joint work with children and the non-offending parent was still in its infancy.



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Service Development/ Delivery (2021-22)

The delivery of therapeutic support to 1139 children and young people

The development of specialist support for the under 7's (9% of recipients)

The provision of specialist support for C&YP from BAME communities (12% of recipients)

The delivery of 2 'Meet the Provider' events

The Identification of Additional Needs

A child's readiness to engage is vital but mediated by:

- The readiness of the parent to facilitate this engagement
- The interplay of various individual, relational and contextual factors that can impact the readiness of both.

Some factors affecting the readiness of C&YP were being addressed by services:

- Individual - Initial assessments used to explore child's understanding of DA, whether consulted on referral, etc.
- Relational – Staff meeting C&YP in advance, investing time in building interpersonal trust etc.
- Contextual – Referral processes used to explore whether C&YP have had time to adjust /overcome the initial trauma of separation

But few resources to address needs of non-offending parent

The Development of a Joint Proposal (2022-25)



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- The continued delivery/development of **therapeutic services for C&YP**
- **Consultancy work** – to better understand the parent's journey through local services
- The development/delivery of **parental engagement interventions**
- The development/delivery of **parent and child interventions.**

CADA Funded Delivery To Date

Oct 22 – May 2024 the CADA providers have delivered:

- Children's Therapeutic Work (1:1 & Group) – to a further 552 C&YP
- Parent & Child Interventions – to 367 children and their parents
- Parental Engagement Work – to 353 non-offending parents

Introduced some initial changes to systems/practices to address factors that can impact a child's engagement:

- Introducing 'waiting list support' to the non-offending parent
- Lengthening service induction/welcome processes for C&P
- Redesigning initial assessments
- Embedding joint review sessions for C&P within the 1:1 /groupwork offer

Services
have
continued
to develop
their
service
offer:

'An important 'step down' development has been to ensure C&YP are able to communicate their feelings, needs and concerns to their mother through 1-1 sessions ... and then joint meetings to discuss topics young people have been unable to approach. For instance, a child who had a history of self-harm and wanted to share their triggers, coping mechanisms and the language she felt comfortable using to indicate she was in danger of low mood and self-harm [allowing her to] continue recovery with her mother when they have ended their programme of support [Service 3]

'Child violence towards parent accounts for around 40% of parents...we have shared ideas from current thinking [and offered] collaborative learning sessions with parents who are struggling'. [Service 4]

'We have implemented an internal best practice meeting to help identify any issues with our parent support and children's work. This includes representatives from outreach, counselling, accommodation ...[and] will run quarterly to ensure we are creating a space to discuss and reflect on our practice' [Service 6]

The Ongoing Identification of Needs & Issues



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IDVA SERVICES & PARENTING SUPPORT NEEDS.

COMPLEXITY OF NEED

CHILD & ADOLESCENT TO PARENT VIOLENCE & ABUSE

PARENTING IN THE CONTEXT OF TRAUMA

THE IMPACT OF FAMILY COURT PROCEEDINGS