

Kent Multi Agency Child/Adolescent to Parent/ Carer Violence and Abuse (CAPVA) Procedural Flow Chart – Child, Adult and Family

Please also read the Good Practice Guidance on page two

<p>Recognising and Enabling Disclosure: CAPVA is a hidden harm. There are many reasons why parents/carers will not, or feel they cannot, make a disclosure, so it's important to build trust to enable a potential, future disclosure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always be alert to the possibility that the parent/carer may be experiencing violence/abuse from their child/adolescent and be prepared to offer support. • Be aware of signs that could indicate violence/abuse is taking place, e.g. physical injury (inconsistent explanations for bruises or other injuries, frequent bruises or injury), environmental indicators (holes in doors/walls, broken furniture, tense atmosphere in the home) and controlling behaviour (parent/carer talks about how their child behaves if they don't get what they want, child demands and gets money, parent talks about how they can't do certain things, or go to certain places because it causes conflict, so it's not worth it) • Only ask questions about child/adolescent violence/abuse when parent/carer is on their own and in a private place. Ensure professional interpreters are used, never use family members, children, or friends where abuse is known or suspected. 	<p>This guidance is applicable to all families who are impacted by child (including primary school aged children) /adolescent violence and abuse.</p> <p>There is currently no legal definition of child/adolescent to parent violence and abuse (CAPVA). However, it is increasingly recognised as a form of domestic abuse (DA) and, depending on the age of the child (16+), it may fall under the government's legal definition of DA.</p> <p>CAPVA involves a pattern of behaviour. Abusive behaviour can include physical violence; emotional, economic or sexual abuse; and coercive control. It may also include damage to property and abuse towards other family members, particularly siblings.</p>
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Remember: CAPVA can escalate and increase in severity over time

Parents/carers report feeling isolated, guilty, and ashamed. They are unlikely to report/disclose the abuse for fear of not being taken seriously, not being believed, being blamed or judged on their parenting. They can fear their children being taken away from them, of being held to account for their children's behaviour and typically do not want to criminalise their children.

CAPVA is often preceded by an experience of trauma, i.e. domestic abuse. Young people may not understand the impact of their actions or be concerned about the consequences (social care or justice system interventions) and may not seek help, allowing the situation to escalate. Separation is not typically an option because parents may not want their child taken into care, and appropriate housing for adolescents is not always available.

Always consult domestic abuse specialist agencies for safety planning advice if the parent/carer and child/adolescent will continue to live together.

Deal with any immediate risks, including risks to others and yourself. Check records for risk information or warnings. Contact emergency services if required.

Always use the [DASH Risk Checklist](#) to assess risk to the parent; use the [Kent Support Levels Guidance](#) and/or the Young Persons [Dash risk checklist: young people - SafeLives](#) to assess the needs of the child or young person.

for the child/adolescent

Never assume that someone else will take care of the CAPVA issues. You should seek confirmation that other professionals/agencies have acted in a way which you would expect. You may be the parent/carers/child/young person's first and only contact. Remember they could deny abuse is happening and minimise the risk and/or harm. Discuss with your line manager, assess the threshold level and act accordingly.

Supporting parent/carers impacted by CAPVA	Children as victims and those causing harm	Case meets the MARAC Criteria (aged 16 or over)	Case meets the safeguarding adult's criteria
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognise that CAPVA is often gendered, with harmful behaviour often directed towards female care givers. • Consider immediate and long-term risks. • Review any previous risks/decision-making in relation to CAPVA/DA or safeguarding– do not assume risk remains the same. • Safety plan with parent/carer, ask how they would like the behaviour to be described – ensure they know where to go for help and consider that the child/young person will likely continue to live with them. • Signpost/refer parent/carer/child/young person to appropriate support services (see below). • Share information with other relevant agencies. Consider whether the case needs escalating to another service. • Ensure recording is clear for future workers. • Regularly revisit level of risk in terms of MARAC and safeguarding action. • Consider any co-existing issues for the family/child/young person e.g. substance misuse, mental health, learning or physical disability, previous experience of DA within the family 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A child is classed as aged between 0 - 18 years of age. • CAPVA affects everyone in the family including siblings and other children connected to the young person causing harm through their violent/abusive behaviour. • Children living with violence/abuse are considered at risk of harm. • Children who are causing harm to others through their use of violence or abuse are also deemed to be at risk. <p>If you have a concern that a child is at risk of harm due to CAPVA as a victim, witness or the person causing harm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access the Kent Support Levels Guidance Sheet • Use the young person DASH to understand risk • Telephone the Front Door Service 03000 41 11 11 • Complete the social care enquiry form. <p>If you are concerned a child or adult is at immediate risk of harm due to CAPVA, contact Police to inform them of the ongoing incident to ensure immediate protection of the child or young person.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For referrals into MARAC for CAPVA both the parent and the child/adolescent must be aged over 16. • Where the case is visible high risk (14 ticks); or based on your professional judgement you have serious concerns about a parent/carer's situation you must make a referral into MARAC. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Be clear with the parent/carer about confidentiality and MARAC procedures. 2. Complete the MARAC Risk Checklist (SafeLives DASH Risk Checklist) with the parent/carer where possible. 3. Complete MARAC referral form. Make a MARAC referral - Kent & Medway Domestic Abuse Partnership 4. Please download the completed form and email a password protected copy to the relevant IDVA team so that expert support can be arranged as promptly as possible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAPVA is a form of abuse covered by multi-agency safeguarding adults. • Where the parent/carer experiencing abuse is an adult at risk as defined by the Care Act 2014: aged 18 or over; and has needs for care and support (whether or not those needs are being met); and as a result of those needs is unable to protect themselves against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it, a safeguarding adult's referral must be made • Download the Kent and Medway Threshold Tool to help you identify when to raise safeguarding concerns. <p>Report your concern.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tell us about an adult safeguarding concern • Phone 03000 41 61 61 Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm • Phone (out of hours) 03000 41 91 91. • Text relay 18001 03000 41 61 61 <p>If you have a hearing or speech impairment, Relay UK can make communication over the phone easier.</p>

In all circumstances

- Document decision-making, actions taken to manage risk and rationale for sharing or not sharing information.
- Be aware of your professional role and consult with other partners to clarify their roles and responsibilities, share information, and seek advice e.g. Police, health, housing, domestic abuse specialists.
- Follow up any referrals.
- When signposting to other agencies always consider risks associated with the young person causing harm.

Good practice guidance when responding to a parent/carer as a victim of CAPVA	Good practice guidance when responding to a child who is a victim of CAPVA	Good practice in working with children/young people causing harm
<p>If you suspect that CAPVA is happening, but it is not disclosed: When your suspicions are raised it is important that you act on them. You could provide the only opportunity for the parent/carer child/young person to tell someone. Use open questioning, follow safety, and risk assessment procedures and as you would for any form of domestic abuse.</p> <p>Suggested questions to use when assessing risks and needs.</p> <p>About parent/carer’s relationship with their child</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. How would you describe your relationship with your child?2. When did their behaviour start to concern you?3. What happens when your child is angry?4. What do you do when things get verbally or physically aggressive? For example, what boundaries or consequences do you attempt to use?5. Do you ever feel afraid of your child?6. What has been the worst incident of CAPVA?7. Have you ever called the police because of your child’s behaviour? If yes, what happened?8. Are you and/or your child isolated from people and services that could support you? <p>About the parent/carer</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Is there a history of domestic abuse. If yes, do you or your child still have contact with the perpetrator? If yes, do you have any concerns relating to this contact?2. Does anyone else frighten, threaten or harm you or anyone else in your household?3. What are you most worried about?4. What would you like to happen now? What would you like to change?5. Does the parent/carer have care and support needs	<p>Domestic abuse framing questions for children (under 16):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We know that in many families, brothers and sisters have arguments and disagreements, does that ever happen in your family?• What happens when there are arguments? <p>To obtain accurate and reliable information from a child regarding a CAPVA situation the language and questions must be appropriate for the child's age and developmental stage. Consider the possible impact of any neurodivergence.</p> <p>Professionals should not press a child for answers. Instead:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Listen and believe what the child says.• Reassure the child that the abuse is not their fault, and it is not their responsibility to stop it from happening.• Give several telephone numbers, including Childline, Kent Police and local specialist domestic abuse services.• Explain the limits of confidentiality and your safeguarding responsibilities. <p>For young people (16-18 years old):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use the adult questioning techniques and refer to domestic abuse specialist services.• Safety plan with young person• Child who is pregnant and experiencing domestic abuse/CAPVA is high risk. MARAC or child protection procedures should be initiated. <p>PRACTICE NOTE: Be aware to the fact that so called ‘Honour based abuse’ can happen in the context of CAPVA as sons or daughters may seek to control their family member’s behaviour/dress etc... to prevent what they perceive as shame being brought on their family/community</p>	<p>Be alert to and prepared to receive and clarify a disclosure from a child/young person about their use of violence/abuse towards their parent/carer/other family members. Many young people would like help to stop this behaviour but may not know how to ask for help.</p> <p>You may have contact with a child/young person directly or in the context of a family. The child/young person may present with a problem such as anxiety, depression, aggressive or offending behaviour – without reference to violence/abuse in their home, family or towards their parents/carers.</p> <p>Before seeking to clarify a disclosure from a child/young person, professionals should first consider their own safety, the safety of the parents/carers and any siblings, younger children or extended family members living in the home.</p> <p>Changing the behaviour of a child/young person causing harm through their violent/abusive behaviour requires a multi-faceted approach, working with the whole family with support being provided to the parent/carer/other family members alongside work with the child/young person around their use of violence/abuse and work with the parent/carer and child/young person together.</p> <p>PRACTICE NOTE: It is important to remember that work and support with families where an older child/teenager is using violence/abuse towards their parent/carer will require a risk assessment and will be very different to work and support for families when a younger child is using violence and abuse</p> <p>About the child/young person - The following questions can be posed to the parent/carer or child/young person</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Does your child have access to weapons?2. Have they ever used a weapon or an object to threaten or hurt you?3. Has your child ever experienced or witnessed a traumatic event?4. Is your child in an abusive intimate relationship?5. Do you believe your child to be neurodivergent?6. Is your child being coerced into using abusive behaviours?7. Is your child involved in a gang?8. Are they at risk of sexual exploitation?9. Are they displaying heightened sexualised behaviours?10. Are they associating with peer groups who are involved in offending or older peers?11. Are they using alcohol or drugs? If yes, is the use causing any immediate problems?12. Do they have any mental health issues, particularly self-harming that could lead to serious or fatal injuries?13. Are they disengaged from education?14. Are they a looked after child?15. What coping skills do they have?16. Do they have difficulties in forming relationships?17. What are their social networks like?18. Are they being bullied?19. How active are they on social media?20. Do they display an obsessive use of violent games or pornography?21. Do they identify their behaviour as abusive?

Support Services for children/young people and families
In an **Emergency** always ring **999**

Salus - Adolescent to Parent Violence and Conflict Service

Support for families experiencing verbal abuse, threats, or minor assaults.
Restorative conversations to improve communication and manage conflict
Coverage: Kent and Medway
[More info \[salusgroup.org.uk\]](#)

HEART - Healthy Emotions and Attitudes in Relationships for Teens

Designed to support young people aged 14 – 17 who have caused harm to someone they are personally connected with e.g., partner or family member
[Our interventions - Interventions Alliance](#)

Family Lives

National charity offers support and advice for families needing help for range of family issues. Parent workshops for managing conflict and developing communications 0800 800 2222
[Parenting and Family Support | Family Lives](#)

Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC)

Medical and counselling service following a sexual assault, for all victims.
[Beech House SARC](#)
Make an appointment - Call: 03302230099
Professional Referral: [Professionals - Beech House](#)

Respect Phone Line

Confidential phone line for anyone concerned about violence to a partner and for children /young people who are using violence towards parents/carers
0808 802 4040
[Directory | Respect Young People's Service](#)

National Child/Adolescent to Parent Violence and Abuse (CAPVA) Service Directory

This map provides information and contact details of services in the UK who support parents and carers which are experiencing violence and abuse from their children or the children they care for.
[Directory | Respect Young People's Service](#)

Further guidance/reading:

- KSCMP – SWAY on [Adolescent to Parent Violence](#)
- Understanding CAPVA - Domestic Abuse Commissioner’s Office Literature Review - [CAPVA-Rapid-Literature-Review-Full-November-2021-Baker-and-Bonnick.pdf](#)
- Child and Adolescent to Parent Violence and Abuse (CAPVA) Handbook - [Child and Adolescent to Parent Violence and Abuse \(CAPVA\) Handbook](#)
- Home Office Information guide: adolescent to parent violence and abuse (APVA) https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/420963/APVA.pdf
- Guidance on The Prevention and Reduction of violence committed by children and young people with autism (The National Autistic Society) http://www.autismeurope.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/guide_two.pdf
- Reports of child/adolescent family violence in calls to Family Lives UK helpline (2020-2022) [Feeling Under Siege report | Family Lives](#)
- Break4Change Programme Toolkit For professionals working with families where young people are violent/abusive towards their parents/carers [b4c_toolkit_english.pdf](#)
- Behind Parenting behaviour the Parenting Understanding children’s violent behaviour towards their parents Insights from Parent Talk 2024/25 [Behind the behaviour: Insights from Parent Talk 2024-25](#)
- Mood Matters: Exploring Conflict and Emotions, a free training course designed to deepen young people’s understanding of emotions and enhance emotional intelligence [Transforming youth conflict - Coram Leap Confronting Conflict](#)