

Presentation

by Nicola Hermitt

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¹ Presentation case study-Family A- Anti social behaviour team

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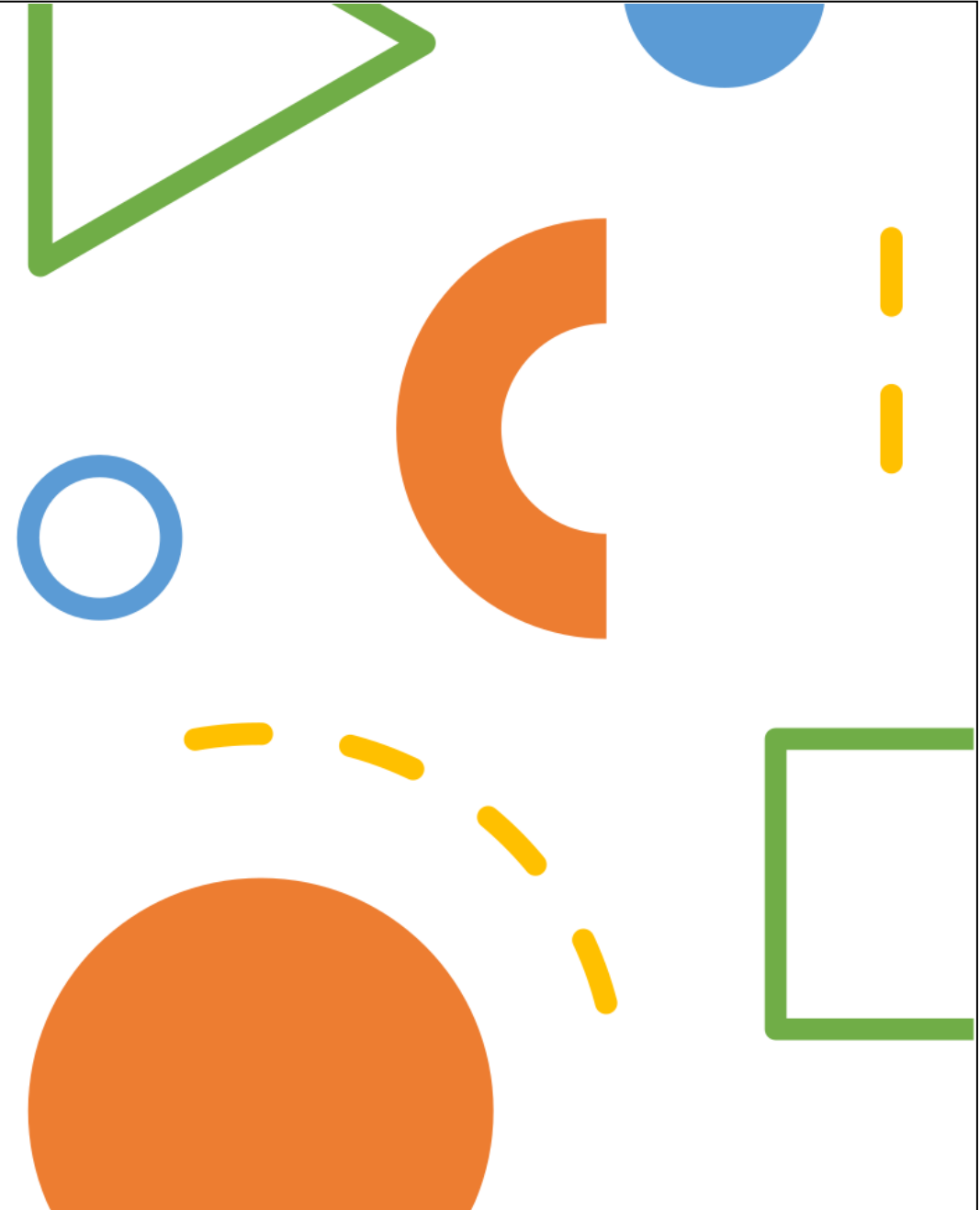


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Introduction

- Today as I address an important and sensitive topic that demands our attention and action. Today, I want to discuss a referral for anti-social behaviour concerning a young schoolboy in the context of domestic violence. This issue strikes at the core of our communities and requires a collective effort to safeguard the well-being of our children.
- In our society, children are meant to experience the innocence and joy of childhood, where their growth and development should be nurtured and protected. Unfortunately, for some children, their homes may harbour circumstances that expose them to distressing situations, such as domestic violence. Domestic violence is a grave concern that not only affects the individuals directly involved but also has a profound impact on the children who witness or experience it.
- Today, we focus our attention on a particular case involving a young schoolboy who has exhibited signs of anti-social behaviour, which is often considered a cry for help. It is our responsibility to intervene and address the underlying causes, acknowledging that anti-social behaviour can be a manifestation of the traumatic experiences the child has endured. By doing so, we can ensure that the child's well-being is safeguarded, and steps are taken to break the cycle of violence and create a brighter future for all involved.
- Throughout this presentation, we will explore the importance of identifying and understanding the root causes of anti-social behaviour, emphasizing the role of early intervention and the power of referral systems. We will also examine the essential partnerships between schools, social services, and other relevant stakeholders to provide the necessary support and resources for both the child and their family. By working collaboratively, we can empower these vulnerable children, protect their rights, and offer them a chance to grow up in a safe and nurturing environment.



Risk factors



Importance of Safeguarding in Domestic violence Cases: Safeguarding children affected by domestic abuse is crucial to ensure their safety, emotional well-being, and long-term development (Smith, 2019). It requires a comprehensive approach that takes into account the specific risks and challenges faced by these children.

Multi-Agency Collaboration: A collaborative approach involving various agencies is essential to effectively address anti-social behaviour linked to domestic abuse. Agencies such as social services, law enforcement, educational institutions, and healthcare providers should work together to share information, coordinate efforts, and develop integrated strategies (Harne & Radford, 2018).

Risk factors



Early Intervention and Identification: Early identification and intervention play a vital role in supporting children affected by domestic violence. Educators, social workers, and healthcare professionals should be trained to recognize signs of anti-social behaviour and provide appropriate support and referrals (Howard et al., 2019).

Trauma-Informed Care: Children exposed to domestic abuse often experience trauma, which can contribute to anti-social behaviour. Implementing trauma-informed care approaches that focus on understanding and addressing the underlying trauma is vital (Harne & Radford, 2018). This includes providing specialized counselling services and evidence-based interventions to help children process their experiences (Smith, 2019).

Risk factors



Strengthening Protective Factors: Promoting protective factors can reduce the impact of domestic abuse and reduce the likelihood of anti-social behaviour. These include nurturing relationships with caring adults, fostering a positive school environment, and promoting the development of social-emotional skills (Howard et al., 2019).



Parental Support and Education: Supporting parents and caregivers is essential in addressing anti-social behaviour related to domestic abuse. Providing parenting programs, counselling, and resources can help parents develop healthy coping strategies, improve parenting skills, and create a safe and supportive home environment (Smith, 2019).

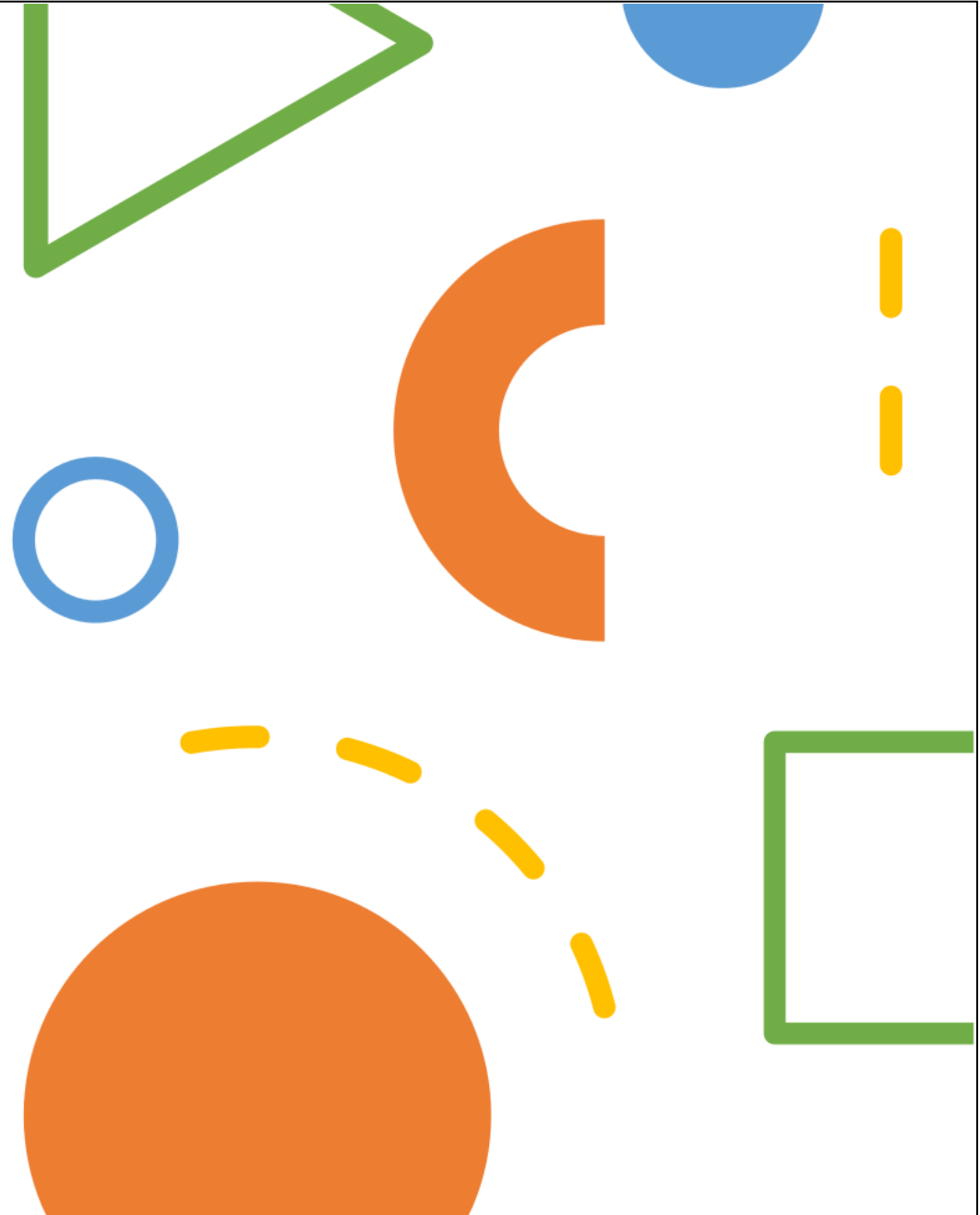


Legal Protections and Policies: Strengthening legal protections is crucial to safeguard children affected by domestic abuse. Laws should prioritize the safety and well-being of children, ensuring that perpetrators are held accountable and appropriate measures are taken to protect the child (Harne & Radford, 2018).

Poverty

when working with a family facing issues related to domestic violence, alcohol problems, and behavioural concerns, a comprehensive and collaborative approach is typically necessary. Here are some potential steps that professionals might consider:

- Initial assessment: Conduct a thorough assessment of the family's situation, including the children's behaviour, the extent and nature of domestic violence, and the parent's alcohol-related challenges. This assessment may involve interviews, observations, and reviewing relevant documentation.
- Safety planning: Prioritize the safety of the children and the non-abusive parent. Develop a safety plan that includes immediate steps to ensure their physical and emotional well-being, such as finding a safe place to stay, engaging law enforcement if necessary, or connecting the family with a local domestic violence hotline or shelter.



Poverty



Referral for specialized services: Refer the family to appropriate professionals and services that can address their specific needs. This may include referrals to therapists or counsellors experienced in trauma-informed care, substance abuse treatment programs, and support groups for both the children and the non-abusive parent.



Child protection services: Depending on the severity of the situation and local regulations, it might be necessary to involve child protection services to ensure the children's safety and well-being. These agencies can conduct their own assessments and provide ongoing support.



Poverty

Parenting support: Offer parenting support to the non-abusive parent, focusing on strategies to manage challenging behaviours and promote a safe and nurturing environment. This support can be provided through individual or group sessions, parenting classes, or referrals to evidence-based parenting programs.

Collaborative approach: Foster collaboration among professionals involved in the case, such as therapists, social workers, educators, and legal advocates. Regular case conferences or meetings can facilitate information sharing, coordinate interventions, and ensure a comprehensive approach.

Issue with families

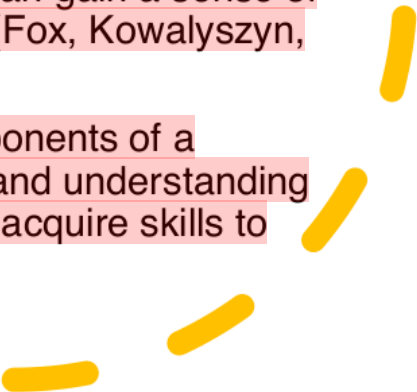
Problem	Parent	Children
Alcoholism and domestic violence	• poverty • mental ill health • interparental conflict or domestic abuse • housing problems • worklessness	• Behavioural issues, like shoplifting or fighting. • Excessive absences or lateness at school. • Isolating from peers. • Struggling in school. • Substance abuse. • Suicidal thoughts or attempts. • Symptoms of depression. • Risk-taking.
Preventing problem	• Mental health professionals • <u>Treatment</u> and <u>therapy</u> services • Counselling	• Counselling • <u>Family</u> or <u>individual counseling</u> • Mutual help groups



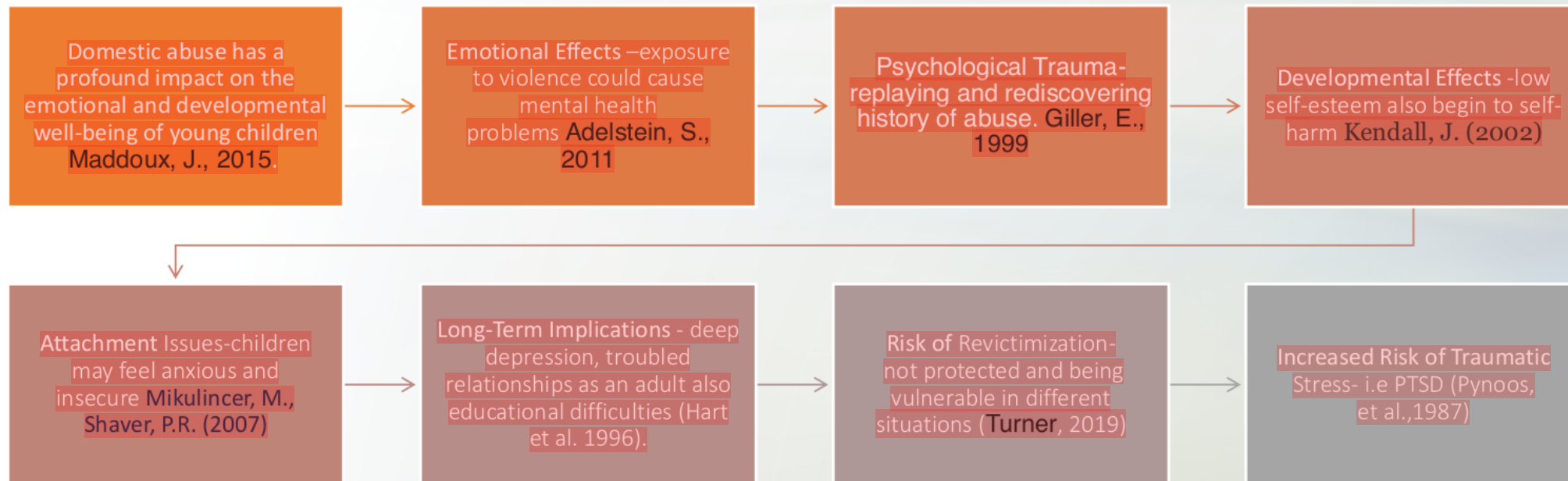
How this will help

- **Parent** - Counselling and mental health professionals can offer a safe and supportive environment where parents can explore their experiences, emotions, and concerns related to alcohol abuse and domestic violence. Through individual or group therapy sessions, these professionals can help parents develop coping strategies, enhance their self-esteem, and improve their overall mental well-being (Hien 2004).
- **Children** - Counselling helps children by providing them with a confidential space to talk about their experiences, emotions, and concerns. A trained counsellor can offer guidance, support, and validation, helping children understand that they are not to blame for their parent's behaviour. (Brown, O'Connell, & Cowen, 2020).
- Mutual help groups provide children with opportunities to connect with peers who share similar experiences. These groups offer a sense of belonging, normalize their feelings, and provide a platform for sharing strategies for managing difficult situations. Children can gain a sense of empowerment, learn effective communication skills. (Fox, Kowalyszyn, & Tuchman, 2017).

Both counselling and mutual help groups are vital components of a comprehensive support system as they provide a safe and understanding space where children can heal, develop resilience, and acquire skills to navigate their challenging circumstances.

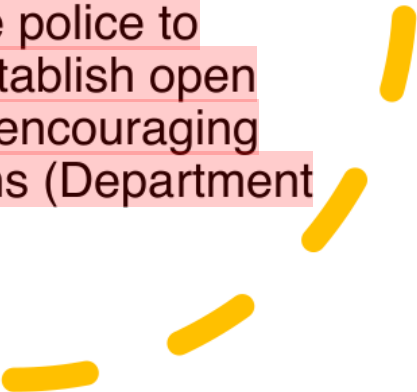


Development concern



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Safeguarding

- When dealing with a child who has behaviour problems and parents involved in domestic violence, it is crucial to prioritize the safety and well-being of the child. Here are some general guidelines to consider:
 - Report and document: If you suspect child abuse or neglect, it is important to report your concerns to the appropriate child protection agency or social services. Document any incidents or observations, including dates, times, and specific details, as this information can be valuable for investigations and future interventions (National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children [NSPCC], 2021).
 - Assess the child's immediate safety: Evaluate the immediate risk to the child. If the child is in immediate danger, contact emergency services or the police to ensure their safety. If it is safe to do so, establish open and honest communication with the child, encouraging them to express their feelings and concerns (Department of Health, 2018).
- 
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Safeguarding

Collaborate with professionals: Coordinate and work closely with professionals involved in the child's life, such as teachers, social workers, and healthcare providers, to gather additional information and develop an appropriate plan of action. Share your concerns and observations, ensuring that information is shared securely and confidentially to protect the child and respect privacy laws (Department of Education, 2018).



Support the child's emotional well-being: Recognize the emotional impact of domestic violence on the child. Offer emotional support, providing a safe space for them to express their feelings and concerns. Encourage the child to engage in activities that promote their well-being, such as play therapy or counselling, where appropriate (American Academy of Paediatrics, 2019).



Engage with the parents: It is essential to engage with the parents but prioritize the child's safety. If possible, involve both parents in discussions and decision-making processes, focusing on the child's needs. Provide information about available support services for domestic violence, parenting, and anger management, as appropriate (Department of Health, 2018).



Safety planning and intervention: Develop a safety plan for the child, which may involve temporary removal from the home if necessary. Collaborate with child protection services and other professionals to ensure the child's safety. Provide referrals to specialized support services for both the child and parents, emphasizing the importance of breaking the cycle of violence (NSPCC, 2021).



Conclusion

- Together, let us delve into the complexities of this issue, gain insights into effective referral mechanisms, and explore strategies that can help address anti-social behaviour stemming from domestic violence. By raising awareness, fostering empathy, and embracing our collective responsibility, we can build a compassionate society that upholds the rights and well-being of our most vulnerable members.
- Thank you once again for being here today and let us embark on this journey together towards a safer and brighter future for our children.

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