Children and Young People in Lancashire 2013

JSNA Article: CYP & Domestic Abuse

Intelligence for Healthy Lancashire (JSNA)
Background

Domestic Violence

The protection of children in England progress report by Lord Laming (2009) clearly outlines that: “Domestic Violence is a consistent feature of serious case reviews...demonstrating how seriously they put children at risk of significant harm”

Children who live with domestic abuse are more likely to experience a wide variety of mental health, social and educational problems than other children (differences that cannot be explained by other factors such as socioeconomic status and other forms of childhood abuse):

- Domestic violence may intensify in pregnancy and is associated with premature labour, low birth weight, foetal trauma, delayed prenatal care and child behavioural problems;
- Children whose mothers experience domestic abuse in the child’s first year of life have more difficult temperaments at age one;
- Witnessing domestic abuse at any age of childhood is linked to depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, aggression, antisocial behaviour, and academic difficulties throughout the course of childhood and adolescence;
- It is also linked to depression, domestic abuse, child maltreatment and alcohol dependence in later adulthood;
- The mental development of children exposed to domestic abuse during the first two years is particularly affected; they have IQ scores that are, on average, 7.25 points lower than those who were not exposed;
- Approximately two-thirds (63%) of child witnesses show more emotional or behavioural problems than the average child;

In Lancashire districts, there were 30,187 domestic abuse related calls to the police between April 2012 – March 2013, an increase of 2.3% in the same period the previous year, and of these,

- 15,743 children lived in households where the police were called to a domestic abuse incident, of which 12,131 children were referred to LCCs Care Connect team for Domestic Abuse related issues
- 2,868 children were in households where a MARAC took place.
- domestic abuse refuges accommodated 475 children in the same period, but were unable to accommodate 1013 children

In addition, national evidence shows

- Six per cent of young adults report witnessing in childhood one parent being kicked, choked or beaten up by the parent’s partner or ex;
- 12 per cent of children under 11 report witnessing domestic abuse;

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3 Evans SE, Davis C, Delilo D ‘Exposure to domestic violence: A meta-analysis of child and adolescent outcomes’ 2008
4 Roustit C, et al ‘Exposure to interparental violence and psychosocial maladjustment in adult life’ 2010
5 Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health 2012 – measured using short forms of standard IQ tests
7 MARAC – a multi agency risk assessment conference to discuss risk reduction approaches – top 10% of DA cases at significant risk of harm or death
8 Ibid
9 Ibid
• 70 per cent of high-risk victims of domestic abuse have children;\textsuperscript{10}
• 94 per cent of domestic abuse children witness is from a male to a female parent or stepparent (3.6 per cent is reciprocal and 2.5 per cent is from a woman to a man);\textsuperscript{11}
• A recent audit of 70 local authority child protection/children in need files where domestic violence was a feature found that in 41 % of cases the adult victim had been pregnant at the time of being abused;\textsuperscript{12}
• domestic abuse is a factor in two thirds of cases where children have been killed or seriously injured\textsuperscript{13}
• Nearly three quarters of children (75\%) on the 'at risk' register live in households where domestic violence occurs\textsuperscript{14}
• Every year, 23,500 children stay in refuges in England\textsuperscript{15}
• Of 1000 women living in refuges, 70\% of their children had also received physical violence from the abusive parent\textsuperscript{16}
• Women that are being abused are 6 times more likely to have a child deemed at risk\textsuperscript{17}
• Domestic abuse was a feature of child protection cases with the worst outcomes\textsuperscript{18}
• In the last 10 years, it is estimated that 50 children have been murdered during contact visits from a violent father\textsuperscript{19}

Data
Recent research by NSPCC\textsuperscript{20} states that children who have witnessed violence between their parents or other family members are:

• four times as likely to carry a weapon, such as a knife, or hurt someone badly than their peers;
• three times as likely to take drugs, steal, spray graffiti or bully others than their peers;
• twice as likely to get drunk or get into fights than their peers; and
• five times more likely to run away from home than their peers.

Over half (56\%) of children from violent homes show three or more of these kinds of disruptive behaviours whilst at secondary school. The damaging impact is even seen in primary school children. Five to 10 year olds from violent or abusive homes are two to four times more likely to hit, slap or push other children; pick on others or break, damage or destroy someone else's belongings. Victims of domestic abuse in Lancashire-14 (Table 1) are most likely to be females aged between 18 and 31 years old. This has been a consistent pattern over the last 3 years.

\begin{thebibliography}{99}
\bibitem{11} Ibid
\bibitem{12} Family Rights Group, \textit{Working with risky fathers}, London: Family Rights Group, 2011
\bibitem{13} Home Office report: Homicides, Firearm Offences and Intimate Violence 2008/09 Supplementary Volume 2 to Crime in England and Wales 2008/09
\bibitem{14} Department of Health, 2002
\bibitem{15} Women’s Aid 2002
\bibitem{16} Bowker 1988
\bibitem{17} Stark and Flitcraft 1986
\bibitem{18} Farmer and Owen 1995
\bibitem{19} Women’s Aid 2002
\bibitem{20} NSPCC research illustrates the consequences of children witnessing domestic violence http://www.familylawweek.co.uk/site.aspx?i=ed9821
\end{thebibliography}
A number of studies have suggested that annually around 1 woman in 10 will experience domestic violence. This would suggest that, in Lancashire-12, nearly 48,000 women will experience domestic violence in any one year. This is likely to be a conservative estimate as domestic violence may not even be reported to surveys. Research has suggested that for half those experiencing domestic violence there are children aged under 16 in the household. If an average of 2 children per woman is assumed, then we may have around 48,000 children living with domestic violence in Lancashire-12 in any given year.

Table 2: Number of Domestic Incidents Involving Children reported to the Police

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Blackpool and Fylde</th>
<th>Lancaster and Wyre</th>
<th>Chorley, South Ribble and West Lancashire</th>
<th>Preston</th>
<th>Blackburn, Hyndburn and Ribble Valley</th>
<th>Burnley, Pendle and Rossendale</th>
<th>Lancashire-14</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009/2010</td>
<td>2,771</td>
<td>1,897</td>
<td>1,994</td>
<td>1,755</td>
<td>2,373</td>
<td>2,455</td>
<td>13,245</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010/2011</td>
<td>3,262</td>
<td>2,170</td>
<td>1,765</td>
<td>1,919</td>
<td>2,488</td>
<td>2,666</td>
<td>14,270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011/2012</td>
<td>2,976</td>
<td>2,026</td>
<td>2,256</td>
<td>1,860</td>
<td>2,451</td>
<td>2,424</td>
<td>13,993</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012/2013</td>
<td>3,142</td>
<td>2,576</td>
<td>2,542</td>
<td>2,117</td>
<td>2,997</td>
<td>2,477</td>
<td>15,743</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Lancashire Constabulary

Table 3: Referrals of Children to LCC Contact and Referral Team (CART) for Domestic Violence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Burnley</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>1,094</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hyndburn/ Ribble Valley</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>245</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>1,422</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pendle</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>66</td>
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<td>66</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>907</td>
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<td>Rossendale</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>35</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Preston</td>
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<td>157</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>1,232</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chorley/ South Ribble</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>228</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>219</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>187</td>
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<td>90</td>
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<td>99</td>
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<td>105</td>
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<td>1,158</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lancaster</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>170</td>
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<td>139</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>1,571</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fylde/ Wyre</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>211</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>174</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>164</td>
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<td>130</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>1,899</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lancashire-12</td>
<td>931</td>
<td>1,360</td>
<td>1,014</td>
<td>1,055</td>
<td>1,130</td>
<td>872</td>
<td>1,094</td>
<td>987</td>
<td>801</td>
<td>1,246</td>
<td>880</td>
<td>755</td>
<td>12,125</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Lancashire County Council Contact and Referral Team

The role of the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) is to facilitate, monitor and evaluate effective information sharing across agencies to enable appropriate actions to be taken to increase the safety of victims. All cases assessed as high-risk are referred to the MARAC, such as serious harm or death cases.

Caseload equates to 10% of domestic abuse victims. In Lancashire-12 between July 2011 to June 2012 there were 1,387 MARAC cases (2,190 pan-Lancashire). Children are exposed to this abuse in the home and there were 1,906 CYP included in these MARAC cases. (2,905 pan-Lancashire)
Areas for concern
With the number of domestic incidents involving children reported to the police increasing by 16% since 2009/10, effective intervention should be taking place earlier to reduce the growing number of serious cases where domestic violence is a factor.