

Safeguarding Current Awareness Bulletin

October 2021

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Title: Domestic abuse and intimate partner violence: the role of digital by design

Citation: The Journal of Adult Protection; 2021; vol. 23 (no. 5); p. 282-301

Author(s): MacLure, Katie; Jones, Ali

Objective: Domestic abuse or intimate partner violence is a term that describes a pattern of abusive behaviours, often experienced concurrently and linked to gender-based violence. This study aims to explore through the literature the potential to design effective digital services that work for victims, survivors and those who provide domestic abuse support services.

Design/methodology/approach: This study is based on a systems or service design thinking methodology which was adopted during a Scottish Government-funded Technology Enabled Care (TEC) pathfinder project on domestic abuse. This methodology is the basis for the Scottish Approach to Service Design which is based on the Design Council Double Diamond. During the first phase, known as the discovery phase, desk-based research is conducted by the service design team to inform their approach to the later phases (the second half of the first diamond is define whilst design and deliver form the second diamond). Time is spent during discovery to unpack the complexity whilst the approach takes a pragmatic worldview.

Findings: Technology has yet to be shown to provide an effective solution to any aspect of the victim or survivors' experience or support services albeit these are often over-stretched and under-funded even without the Covid-19 pandemic. Digital abuse is increasing with perpetrators adapting new technologies. Digital developments should be grounded on ethical design principles.

Research limitations/implications: This study is the result of the desk-based research during a TEC project considering the potential role of technology in tackling domestic abuse. Limitations include only including evidence from the literature; interviews were conducted but are not reported here. Another limitation is the pragmatic rather than academic nature of the approach; it was to be a foundation for service re-design. So hopefully useful for new practitioners to immerse themselves in the topic area but with no claims to be reproducible as would be the case in a formal review.

Practical implications: All the evidence shows the authors need to keep trying different approaches, different forms of engagement and ways to empower survivors. Could technology support health-care practitioners to consistently use sensitive routine enquiry? Perhaps enable independent domestic violence advisors to attend more multidisciplinary team meetings in local community settings? Meanwhile, digital abuse is increasing with perpetrators adapting new technologies. Technology has not yet provided a digital solution which is practical and meets the needs of the broad intersectional population affected by domestic abuse nor those who provide support. If the future is to be based on digital developments it must be grounded on ethical design principles.

Originality/value: This desk-based review collates the current national and international policy and research literature whilst focusing on digital developments which support those affected by domestic abuse.

Title: Is self-neglect a safeguarding concern? An ethical dilemma.

Citation: British Journal of Nursing; Sep 2021; vol. 30 (no. 16); p. 948-948

Author(s): Molyneux

Abstract: The article focuses on self-neglect and hoarding often go hand in hand it is a complex situation and can have a negative impact on a person's health and wellbeing and with strongly held beliefs and ideas that affect the way in which they behave and hoard items. Topics include the condition often leaves health professionals in a dilemma, and the right to make unwise decisions and the self-neglect is a public health issue, it impacts the health and wellbeing of the person and the wider community.

**Title: Safeguarding Children and Young People Online: A Guide for Practitioners
Claudia Megele with Peter Buzzi.**

Citation: British Journal of Social Work; Sep 2021; vol. 51 (no. 6); p. 2269-2271

Author(s): Norman

Title: Health apps popular with teens and young adults, may not protect confidentiality.

Citation: Brown University Child & Adolescent Psychopharmacology Update; Sep 2021; vol. 23 (no. 9); p. 8-8

Author(s):

Abstract: A recent report on behavioral health apps, especially addiction apps, shows that these popular software applications on young people's phones do not necessarily safeguard privacy.

Title: Improving engagement with services to prevent Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy (SUDI) in families with children at risk of significant harm: A systematic review of evidence.

Citation: Child: Care, Health & Development; Sep 2021; vol. 47 (no. 5); p. 713-731

Author(s): Garstang ; Watson, Debbie; Pease, Anna; Ellis, Catherine; Blair, Peter S.; Fleming, Peter

Abstract: This paper reports part of a wider systematic review commissioned by the English National Safeguarding Panel on Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy (SUDI). The wider review covered three areas: interventions to improve safer sleep practices in high-risk families, interventions to improve engagement with services and decision making by parents at high risk of SUDI about infant sleep environments. Here, we report the qualitative and quantitative studies reviewed under the engagement strand. Parental engagement is understood to be a multidimensional task for health and social care professionals comprising attitudinal, relational and behavioural components. Following a PROSPERO registered systematic review synthesizing the three strands outlined, 28 papers were found to be relevant in the review of interventions to improve engagement with services in families with children at risk of significant harm through abuse or neglect. No studies were found that

specifically focused on engagement of families at high risk for SUDI, so these wider engagement studies were included. The different types of intervention reported in the included studies are described under two broad themes: Enablers (including parental motivation and working with families) and Barriers. Given the focus in the studies on interventions that support parental engagement, the Enablers theme is more extensive than the Barriers reported although all studies noted well-understood barriers. The evidence underpinning these interventions and approaches are reviewed in this paper. We conclude that effective engagement is facilitated by experienced professionals given time to develop supportive non-judgemental relationships with families in their homes, working long-term, linking with communities and other services. While these conclusions have been drawn from wider studies aimed at reducing child maltreatment, we emphasize lessons to be drawn for SUDI prevention work with families with children at risk of significant harm.

Title: Intergenerational Associations between Parents' and Children's Adverse Childhood Experience Scores.

Citation: Children; Sep 2021; vol. 8 (no. 9); p. 1-14

Author(s): Schickedanz ; Escarce, José J.; Halfon, Neal; Sastry, Narayan; Chung, Paul J.

Objective: Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) are stressful childhood events associated with behavioral, mental, and physical illness. Parent experiences of adversity may indicate a child's adversity risk, but little evidence exists on intergenerational links between parents' and children's ACEs. This study examines these intergenerational ACE associations, as well as parent factors that mediate them.

Methods: The Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID) 2013 Main Interview and the linked PSID Childhood Retrospective Circumstances Study collected parent and child ACE information. Parent scores on the Aggravation in Parenting Scale, Parent Disagreement Scale, and the Kessler-6 Scale of Emotional Distress were linked through the PSID 1997, 2002, and 2014 PSID Childhood Development Supplements. Multivariate linear and multinomial logistic regression models estimated adjusted associations between parent and child ACE scores.

Results: Among 2205 parent-child dyads, children of parents with four or more ACEs had 3.25-fold (23.1% [95% CI 15.9–30.4] versus 7.1% [4.4–9.8], p-value 0.001) higher risk of experiencing four or more ACEs themselves, compared to children of parents without ACEs. Parent aggravation, disagreement, and emotional distress were partial mediators. Conclusions: Parents with higher ACE scores are far more likely to have children with higher ACEs. Addressing parenting stress, aggravation, and discord may interrupt intergenerational adversity cycles.

Title: Treating attention problems in children exposed to intimate partner violence: Evaluating the Preschool Kids' Club.

Citation: Children & Youth Services Review; Sep 2021; vol. 128

Author(s): Clark ; Galano, Maria M.; Grogan-Kaylor, Andrew C.; Stein, Sara F.; Graham-Bermann, Sandra A.

Abstract: Childhood exposure to intimate partner violence (IPV) increases risk for symptoms of inattention and hyperactivity, and yet no known evaluations of interventions for IPV-exposed children have demonstrated effectiveness in treating their attention problems.

This study examined the utility of the Preschool Kids' Club (PKC), a treatment program tailored to the needs of preschool-aged children whose mothers had experienced IPV, in reducing children's attention problems during this critical developmental period. Participants (N = 120) were preschool-aged children who, with their mothers, participated in an eight-year randomized controlled trial (RCT) of the PKC. Longitudinal multi-level modeling was used to evaluate the main effect of intervention participation on children's attention problems, as well as moderating effects of IPV exposure and maternal depression. Although there was no main effect of intervention participation, children's outcomes were moderated by IPV exposure. Specifically, among children exposed to high levels of IPV, symptoms of inattention and hyperactivity were significantly lower for intervention participants than children in the control group one year post-intervention. These improvements were not sustained in the eight-year follow-up. Results provide support for the use of trauma-specific interventions for children exhibiting attention problems following exposure to high levels of IPV. However, more comprehensive and long-term treatment may be necessary to promote enduring change.

Title: NHS Safeguarding Kept Vulnerable Safe During Pandemic.

Citation: Community Practitioner; Sep 2021; vol. 94 (no. 5); p. 10-10

Author(s):

Title: Social workers' risk assessment in child protection: the problem of disagreement and a lack of a precise language about risk.

Citation: European Journal of Social Work; Sep 2021; vol. 24 (no. 5); p. 802-814

Author(s): Ejrnæs ; Moesby-Jensen, Cecilie K.

Abstract: Social workers make risk assessments in accordance with their obligation to safeguard and protect children against neglect and abuse. To prevent serious problems, it is necessary to make assessments about the likelihood that social problems emerge in the first place. We investigated 57 Danish social workers' risk assessments. We used the vignette methodology, setting up a fictitious case and asking respondents to assess two children's risk of suffering problems in connection with the suicide of their father. We focused on the respondents' assessments of the magnitude of risk and on how they referred, in their own words, to the protective and risk factors they particularly noticed. There were three results of note. (1) The social workers' assessments of risk were very divergent. This was the case whether they expressed the magnitude of risk in words or as a percentage. (2) There was no close correspondence between risk assessments expressed in words and as a percentage. Social workers lacked words to communicate the magnitude of risk adequately. (3) There were no significant differences in approach to the assessment of children's risk between social workers who rated the risk as high, medium or low. All were attentive to both protective and risk factors.

Title: Effects of a Brief Parenting Intervention In Shelters For Mothers And Their Children Experiencing Homelessness.

Citation: Journal of Child & Family Studies; Sep 2021; vol. 30 (no. 9); p. 2097-2107

Author(s): Armstrong ; Owens, Caitlyn R.; Haskett, Mary E.

Abstract: This study was designed to examine the effectiveness of an evidence-based parenting program—Triple P Positive Parenting Program—in shelter settings for families experiencing homelessness. The intervention has not previously been evaluated in a shelter setting, where there is a critical need for evidence-based parenting programs. Using a within-group pre- and post-intervention with 3-month follow-up design, 39 mothers residing in a shelter with a child ages 2–6 years participated. Results of this preliminary study showed positive effects of Triple P Discussion Groups. There were significant improvements in mother-reported parenting practices and child behavior across time, but no change in child maltreatment risk as measured by the Brief Child Abuse Potential Inventory. Mothers rated satisfaction with the program high immediately after the group and again three weeks later. Results showed Triple P Discussion Groups are acceptable and have some positive effects for this vulnerable population in need of parenting support. We discuss implications of findings, limitations of the study (including a 33% attrition rate), and recommendations for further study. Highlights: Evaluated Triple P Discussion Groups delivered in shelters for homeless families. Parenting improved; child problem behaviors reduced; no effects on abuse risk. Mothers were highly satisfied with all aspects of the intervention.

Title: Building knowledge for policy and practice based on service user and carer experiences: A case study of Scottish adult safeguarding research.

Citation: Journal of Social Work; Sep 2021; vol. 21 (no. 5); p. 1182-1202

Author(s): Sherwood-Johnson ; Mackay, Kathryn

Abstract: This article presents Scottish adult safeguarding as a case study to illuminate some challenges of building knowledge for policy and practice based on service user and carer voices. It draws on five of our own research projects that have evaluated implementation of Scottish adult safeguarding legislation and/or asked more exploratory questions about risk, safety and support. Findings: We show how practical and ethical issues limited our more evaluative lines of inquiry. We then show how increasingly participative approaches led to studies that were more accessible and that connected more deeply with service users' and carers' lives, but that also faced greater challenges in the translation of their findings back into the policy and/or practice environment. Applications: We conclude with an argument for ongoing dialogue between policy-makers, professionals, service users and carers, researchers, educators and students about knowledge, its different forms and sources, its generation and its use.

Title: 'Analysing a parent's capacity to change: towards a model for child protection social workers'.

Citation: Journal of Social Work Practice; Sep 2021; vol. 35 (no. 3); p. 231-244

Author(s): Houston ; Swords, Calvin

Abstract: In cases where child protection concerns are evident, a central query within inter-professional, safeguarding assessments, centres on the parents' capacity to change to enhance their child's lived experience. Social workers, as key professionals co-ordinating such assessments, require analytical tools and models to enable them and others to reach a considered judgement on this pressing, complex aspect of case inquiry. This article describes one such model. The model builds on the C-Change Approach which reviews the change process from a mainly cognitive-behavioural perspective. While recognising the

strengths of this contribution to child protection assessment, the authors have extended it by examining change from a psycho-dynamic orientation. This orientation takes account, not only of the intra-psychic dynamics within the individual, but also the relational forces at work between people. Lastly, the authors consider how this extended model can be utilised to analyse and facilitate desired changes in parenting practices. Here, they draw on the helpful notion of a force-field analysis: a conceptual representation of the dynamics of change within a social situation.

Title: Abuse at home.

Citation: Mayo Clinic Health Letter; Sep 2021; vol. 39 (no. 9); p. 7-7

Author(s):

Abstract: The article provides insights on recognizing abuse and leaving an abuser. Topics discussed include the role of financial changes and isolation during the COVID-19 pandemic in the worsening problem of domestic abuse, common behaviors of abusers such as insulting the victim and preventing a person from leaving the house, and the need for victims who are considering leaving an abuser to call a domestic violence hotline for advice due to the danger involved in such decisions.

Title: Nurses fear proposed changes to NMC standards could put children at risk.

Citation: Nursing in Practice: The Journal for Today's Primary Care Nurse; Sep 2021 (no. 120); p. 6-6

Author(s):

Title: "Not an Either/or Situation": The Minimization of Violence against Women In United Kingdom "Domestic Abuse" Policy.

Citation: Violence against Women; Sep 2021; vol. 27 (no. 11); p. 1823-1839

Author(s): Aldridge

Abstract: Proposed new legislation in England and Wales on domestic violence and abuse—the "Domestic Abuse Bill"—is underpinned by changes to criminal law, specifically the introduction of coercive and controlling behavior as set out in the Serious Crime Act 2015. The new Bill commits the British government to four main objectives with, it is claimed, prevention and protection at their heart. What is notable, however, is the rubric shift from "violence" to "abuse" in the proposed new legislation and its subscription to a gender symmetry paradigm that suggests a "watering down" of the government's response to gendered violence.

Title: The Nature, Patterns and Consequences of Technology-Facilitated Domestic Abuse: A Scoping Review.

Citation: Trauma, violence & abuse; Sep 2021 ; p. 15248380211046752

Author(s): Afrouz, Rojan

Abstract: Women are increasingly at risk of gender-based violence through technology and digital tools. Some digital devices and apps such as GPS location tracking, spyware, mobile phones and social media platforms have become new tools for perpetrators to monitor, harass and abuse victims. However, the nature and impacts of technology on intimate partner violence (IPV) have remained perplexing and ambiguous. Hence, this scoping review was conducted to explore the nature, patterns and consequences of technology-facilitated domestic abuse (TFDA). All journal articles and grey literature exploring the TFDA phenomenon, its nature and impacts on victims and services providers were scanned, and twenty-two papers were included in this scoping review. Overall, findings showed that digital devices, online applications and social media accounts facilitated IPV and exacerbated the consequences of abuse. Yet, many victims and frontline workers found understanding the nature and impacts of TFDA difficult. They faced many challenges addressing this form of abuse. Thus, several strategies are needed to adequately tackle TFDA, including conducting further research on the issue, developing appropriate policy and addressing gender inequality in the online environment.

Title: Police referrals for domestic abuse before and during the first COVID-19 lockdown: An analysis of routine data from one specialist service in South Wales.

Citation: Journal of public health (Oxford, England); Sep 2021

Author(s): Moore, Graham; Buckley, Kelly; Howarth, Emma; Burn, Anne-Marie; Copeland, Lauren; Evans, Rhiannon; Ware, Lisa

Abstract: COVID-19 lockdown measures may have led to more, and increasingly severe, domestic abuse. This study examines police referrals to a specialist domestic abuse service in Wales, UK before and during the first lockdown.

Methods: Routine data relating to 2292 police referrals for female adult victim-survivors from December 2019 until July 2020 were analysed and presented in the form of descriptive statistics to monitor changes in referral rates and the profile of those referrals.

Results: There was little increase in the overall volume of police referrals during lockdown, but the proportion assessed as high risk increased, and children became the primary source of third-party referrals, with a higher proportion of reports made by other third parties as restrictions eased. Police reports for cases of Child/Adolescent to Parent Violence (C/APV) occurred almost exclusively during lockdown.

Conclusions: The increase in risk level despite less clear increase in volume may suggest unmet need, with victims less likely to seek help during lockdown other than for more severe instances. Increased reports by children suggest increased exposure of children to domestic abuse during school closure. Unmet need for women and children may have been made visible to services, and

Title: Dementia, Sexuality, and the Law: The Case for Advance Decisions on Intimacy.

Citation: The Gerontologist; Sep 2021; vol. 61 (no. 7); p. 1001-1007

Author(s): Sorinmade, Oluwatoyin; Ruck Keene, Alex; Peisah, Carmelle

Abstract: Some individuals develop dementia and the invariable consequence of dementia is a decline in cognition and level of functioning. Despite the effects of this illness, people with dementia still seek intimacy and companionship as part of their expression of basic

human instincts and have the right to equal enjoyment of relationships and privacy for such. At the same time, they have the right to be safeguarded against abuse. The law in England and Wales, in common with the majority, if not all, jurisdictions around the world is clear on the requirement for contemporaneous consent to sexual activity, thereby creating unmet needs for people with dementia who no longer have the capacity to consent to intimacy/sexuality. This creates an impetus to find ways to empower individuals with dementia to enjoy intimacy in a safe and lawful way and enable them to live well despite dementia. This article proposes an instrument known as the Advance Decision on Intimacy, in pursuit of the concept of precedent autonomy, to empower individuals to make decisions about how they would wish to express their sexuality at a material time in future when they would have lost the capacity to consent to such acts. While the article is framed by reference to English law, the principles are of wider relevance.

Title: Tele-Case Work Consultation to Woman Survivor of Domestic Violence during COVID 19 Pandemic.

Citation: Indian journal of psychological medicine; Sep 2021; vol. 43 (no. 5); p. 446-450

Author(s): Vranda, Mysore Narasimha

Abstract: The COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown to mitigate the spread of the COVID-19 have resulted in social isolation, reduced social support system, and increased domestic violence (DV) cases against women and children. The governments and NGOs have taken several measures to prevent DV by starting helpline, WhatsApp numbers, and counselling services during the lockdown to safeguard the women. This paper describes a case scenario of how we offered tele-case work consultation during the lockdown period due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the procedure adopted, and preventive measures followed while providing a tailor-made psychosocial intervention to a DV survivor. It also discusses the strengths and challenges while offering tele-consultation and possible steps to overcome the technological barriers to mental health professionals.