

Key messages:

- Using domestic abuse language 'victim' and 'perpetrator' is not helpful
- Police and parents do not want to criminalise these young people
- The safeguarding of both children and adults must be considered
- If there is current adult-to adult domestic abuse in the household, this must be addressed before work on CPVA can start
- CPVA Briefing and Toolkit training is available via ncc.learningpool.com for children's workforce.
- Adult services should contact socialcaretraining@nhct.nhs.uk for CPVA training information.

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What is CPVA?

There is currently no legal definition, but Northumbria Police define it as "any harmful act or behaviour by a child aged 10-18 yrs, whether physical, psychological, emotional or financial, towards a parent/guardian or carer". CPVA may present as a single violent incident, but is more likely to be a pattern of behaviour including damage to person or property, threats, stealing from the parent, humiliation or verbal abuse. As with adult-to-adult domestic abuse, CPVA includes controlling or coercive behaviour.

CPVA is more than being a 'stropky teenager'

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And here in Northumberland:

CPVA is particularly relevant in Northumberland because of our Domestic Homicide Review, 'Sarah'. This focused on the death of a mother who was stabbed by her 16 year old son who had significant learning and mental health difficulties. CPVA is an NSSP priority and regional guidance is available [here](#)



Child to Parent Violence and Abuse

Targeted Work

Children's Social Care has staff trained in 2 different specialist evidence-based interventions:

- RESPECT programme which involves work with parent and child separately and together
- Non-Violent Restraint (NVR) which is focused work with the parent only

Workers trained in both of these approaches also provide advice and support to universal services supporting parents and children experiencing CPVA

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Identifying and Referral

Northumbria Police label CPVA via Child Concern Notifications when they are called to domestic abuse incidents (using the 10-18 age criteria). Children's Social Care record CPVA on relevant referrals and use the [CPVA Pathway to consider the safety of the child and the adult](#), as the situation may meet the threshold for adult safeguarding. The CPVA Gatekeeper in MASH will identify next steps based on a CPVA screening tool and risk indicator checklist. Referrals should be made via One Call (01670 534600)

Some Possible Signs and Indicators

- Physical violence
- Damage to property
- Abusive to siblings
- Humiliation / belittling
- Theft from parent/family
- Threats to use weapons
- Obsessive use of violent games
- Disengagement from education / school refusal
- Parent fearful of child
- Substance Misuse
- Self harm / suicidal tendencies

Family Context

CPVA has no single explanation and can occur in any family. However there are some vulnerability factors:

- History of domestic violence and abuse
- Polarisation of parenting styles
- Attachment difficulties
- Bereavement
- Mental health difficulties including conduct disorders or neuro-developmental disorders
- Learning difficulties

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