

INFORMATION SHEET



Domestic Abuse and Children's Rights?

THE VOICE

The VOICE Service is committed to ensuring Children & Young People (CYP) know their rights and they will be encouraged to have their say. Rights" are things every CYP should have or be able to do. These rights are listed in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

As you grow, you have more responsibility to make choices and exercise your rights. CEA will focus on your rights in relation to safety and protection. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) says:

Article 3 Best Interests: All adults should do what is best for you. When adults make decisions, they should think about how their decisions will affect children.

Article 12 Children's Views: You have the right to give your opinion, and for adults to listen and take it seriously

Article 13 Be Informed: You have the right to find out things and share what you think with others, by talking, drawing, writing or in any other way unless it harms or offends other people.

Article 19: You have the right to be protected from being hurt and mistreated, in body or mind.

Article 20: You have the right to special care and help if you cannot live with your parents.

Article 21: You have the right to care and protection if you are adopted or in foster care.

Article 22: You have the right to special protection and

Article 34: You have the right to be free from sexual abuse.

Article 36: You have the right to protection from any kind of exploitation (being taken advantage of).

Article 37: No one is allowed to punish you in a cruel or harmful way.

Article 42: You have the right to know your rights! Adults should know about these rights and help you learn about them, too.

continued...



continued



Services for Children and Young People (CYP)

FAQ's

What referrals would the CYP service not accept?

We always try to help where we can and have an excellent team of trained and competent staff and volunteers so if in doubt ask us and we'll see what we can do. If we can't help we will try to find services that can.

Will you take a referral without the client's permission?

We need parental consent from non-abusive parent to commence work with children and to plan support tailored to individual. CYP aged 13+ can self refer

What happens when we receive the referral?

The CYP service will meet with the parent / carer and / or referrer to conduct initial interview and assessment paperwork. This helps us to learn about the child's experiences and how they have been impacted which allows us to provide the right support. We will discuss support options with you and let you know when support will start. We also involve CYP in this plan and they will be able to participate as part of our introduction and getting to know you sessions.

Where will support take place?

We will usually meet children in schools. This is usually a familiar and safe environment but if for any reason this is not suitable we can consider other options. The priority is that CYP are comfortable in our meetings.

CEA staff in Adults Stage 1 Team and CYP Team completed Core Training in the Safe & Together Approach in Nov 2017:



According to Humphreys and colleagues (2018, p:277) 'the Safe and Together approach to child welfare provides a robust foundation upon which practitioners from statutory and non-statutory backgrounds can work collaboratively and reach consensus about how best to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children living with domestic family violence.'

Our initial paperwork was adapted in 2017 to gather information about perpetrator patterns of abuse and coercive control and highlight the impact on children and family functioning. We support children and their non-abusive parent, regardless of gender.

The model is based on three key principles: **Keeping Children Safe & Together** with their non-abusive parent, ensuring safety, healing from trauma, stability, and nurturance. CEA supports and shares these principles

Safelives Children's Insights Data (2015-17): 23% of CYP exposed to DV are also demonstrating harmful behaviour themselves. In 61 % of these cases abuse is directed toward their mother. Our work takes a gendered approach to highlight these findings and statistics and support the mother and child relationship to recover from Domestic Abuse and reduce harmful and abusive behaviour. We support CYP to develop coping strategies to deal with big and difficult feelings and to find healthier and more effective ways of expressing these.

Our trauma informed approach also supports the gendered approach as we are educating CYP about how their experiences and influences have impacted on feelings and behaviour.