

# **Child to Parent Violence and Abuse (CPVA) Guidance and Pathway**

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## 1. Introduction

This guidance and pathway defines the joint approach to Child to Parent Violence and Abuse (CPVA) in North Tyneside. CPVA is a complex issue which requires a multi-agency response. Within North Tyneside, we aim to support parents to be free from abuse and harm, and for children to have access to support to meet their needs.

## 2. Definition

Across the Northumbria region CPVA is defined as *“Any harmful act or behaviour by a child aged 10–18yrs, whether physical, psychological, emotional or financial towards a parent/guardian or carer”*.

CPVA was previously referred to as Adolescent to Parent Violence and Abuse (APVA).

## 3. What is CPVA?

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.

Child to Parent Violence and Abuse (CPVA) is recognised nationally as an issue which relates to safeguarding both adults and children.

The Domestic Abuse Act makes reference to CPVA, stating that further work is needed to develop best practice, training and resources to improve the response to victims of adolescent to parent violence.

CPVA was the focus of the ‘Sarah’ Domestic Homicide Review in Northumberland <https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/NorthumberlandCountyCouncil/media/Child-Families/Safeguarding/Seven-Minute-Guide-Sarah-DHR.pdf>

For further information on CPVA see Appendix 3.

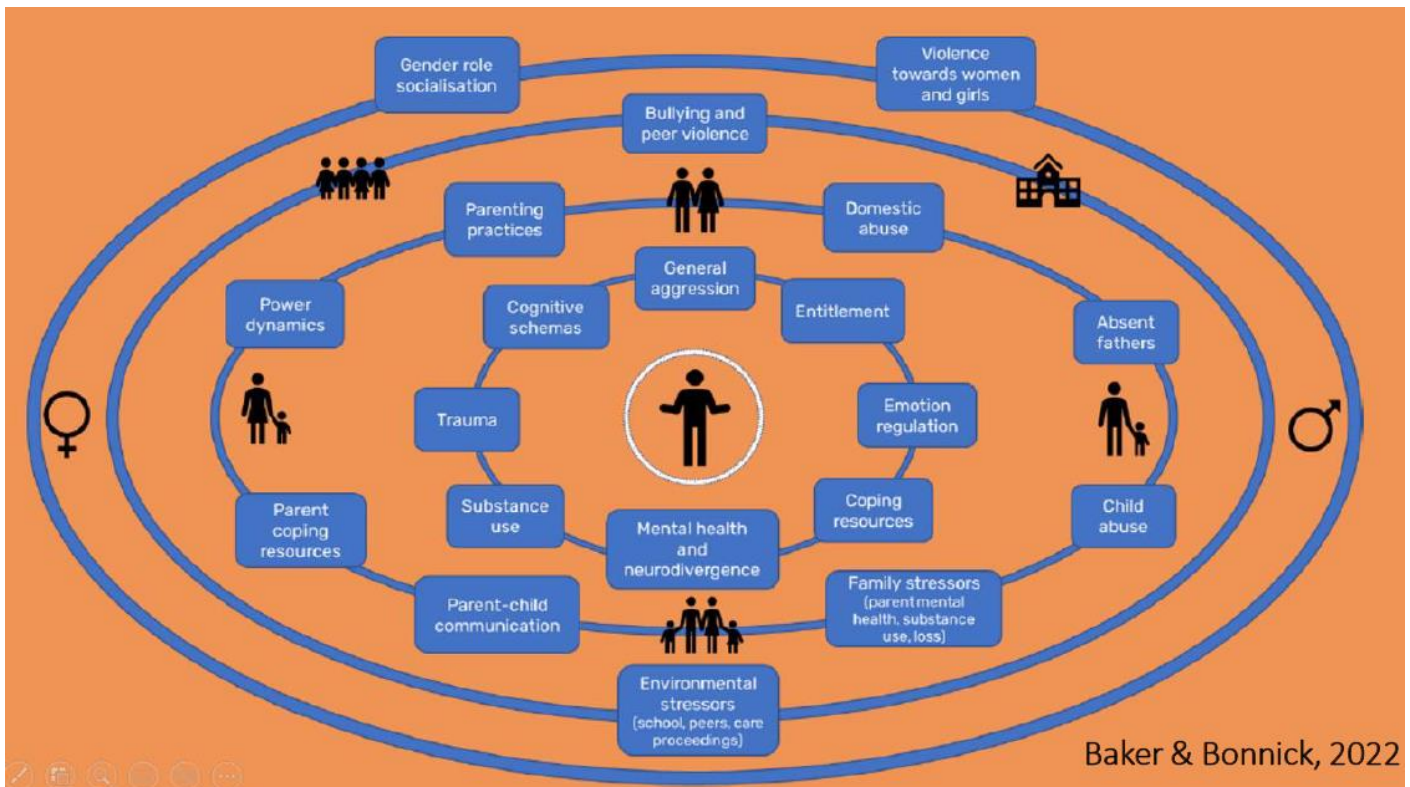
## 4. Vulnerability Factors

Work is still ongoing nationally to understand CPVA. The factors below are examples, the list is not exhaustive.

- Experience of living with domestic abuse
- Polarisation of parenting styles
- Substance misuse
- Children outside the family home
- Bereavement
- Mental health difficulties
- Behavioural problems

- Learning difficulties
- Mental health conditions
- Self harm
- Neurodiversity
- Physical disabilities
- Financial difficulties
- Entitlement
- Gangs/criminal exploitation
- Lone parenting

CPVA is a complex, the diagram below highlights the ecological factors at play. Those supporting families in relation to CPVA will need to take steps to understand all internal and external factors.



Baker & Bonnicks, 2022

**5. Indicators of CPVA**

**Child**

- Disengagement from education
- Mental health issues
- Depression
- Misusing substances
- Controlling household
- Poor coping skills
- Engaging in risk taking behaviours

**Parent**

- Depression
- Misusing substances
- Mental health issues
- Difficulties coping
- Parent is fearful of the child
- Parent has injuries
- The home environment is damaged

- Threatening to use or using knives or other weapons
- Difficulties in forming relationships
- Being missing from home
- Harming or threatening to harm animals or family pets
- Isolation
- Obsessive use of violent games or pornography
- Problematic behaviour towards peers or school staff
- Parent in financial difficulties due to spending on child
- Breakdown of relationships
- Parent anxious around the child
- Isolation

This list is intended to provide examples and is in no way exhaustive.

## 6. Abuse Types

- **Physical Abuse** – punching, spitting, hitting, throwing or breaking things, bullying/physical violence to siblings; cruelty to pets, any action/behaviour that threatens someone’s sense of well-being/safety, use of weapons
- **Emotional Abuse** – verbal abuse, humiliation, emotional/ psychological intimidation, mind games, making threats to hurt/kill themselves or run away to control parent/family, social media threats, belittling, name calling, blackmail, coercion, withholding affection
- **Financial Abuse** – intimidating parents/carers or other family members in order to get things that they want or perceive they need (or are being exploited for), including money or possessions, incurring debt that the parent/ carer is responsible for, damage to property
- **Sexual Abuse** – heightened sexualised behaviours, sexual threats, sexual harm, use of sexualised language to demean and humiliate

This list is intended to provide examples and is in no way exhaustive.

## 7. Best practice

- When responding to CPVA we need to be careful around our use of language. Avoid use of domestic abuse language e.g. victim, perpetrator.
- Be sensitive to the parents emotions, and be careful to avoid blaming language.
- In responding to CPVA, this should be supportive with the aim of avoiding criminal justice activity where possible.
- It is not about advocating that the child is ‘beyond the parent’s control’, there are many contributing factors which influence the behaviours (e.g. school, friends, TV, media, relationships within the family).
- Be aware of trauma within the adult and child.
- Reassure the parent and child – be open to conversations
- Offer support, and signpost to further support

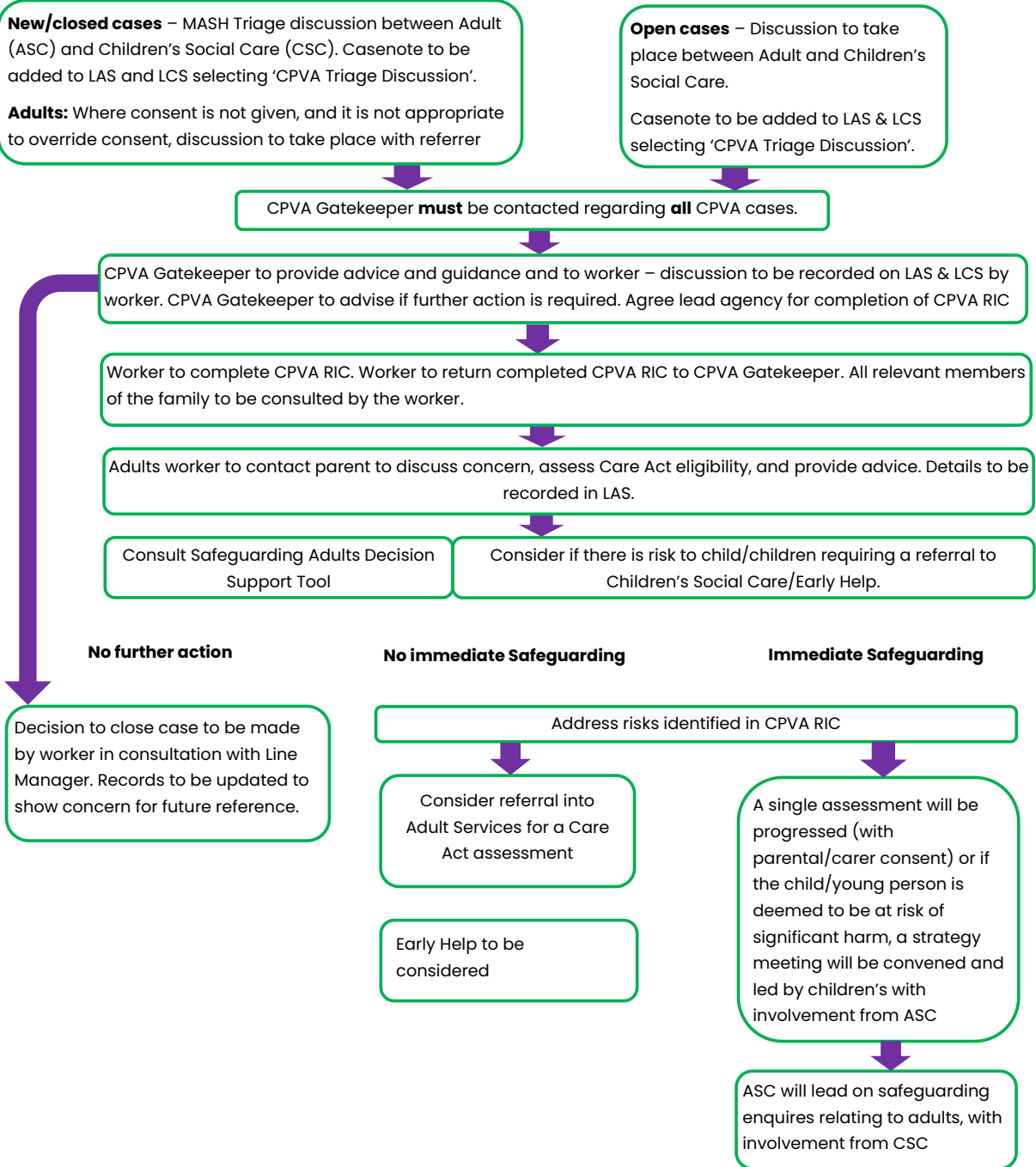
- Speak to everyone involved – they'll all have a different perspective.
- Be mindful that violence and abuse from child to parent does not end when the child turns 18. Ensure that support is in place for the parent at points of transition.

# Appendix 1. CPVA Pathway

## North Tyneside Child to Parent Violence and Abuse (CPVA)

**CPVA definition:** "Any harmful act or behaviour by a child aged 10-18yrs, whether physical, psychological, emotional or financial towards a parent/guardian or carer".

**CPVA identified** via Child Concern Notifications, (CCN), Adult Concern Notification (ACN), Request for support, by allocated worker, or via Frontdoor.



### What is safeguarding adults?

Safeguarding Adults is underpinned by The Care Act 2014. This calls for effective multi agency working to ensure that adults at risk of harm are safeguarded within our communities.

An adult at risk is defined by The Care Act 2014 as a person who:

- Has needs for care and support (whether or not the authority is meeting any of those needs)
- Is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect
- Is unable to protect themselves because of their care and support needs

For further information regarding safeguarding, visit [www.ntsab.org](http://www.ntsab.org) for adults, and [www.northyntesidescp.org.uk](http://www.northyntesidescp.org.uk) for childrens.

**Appendix 2. CPVA Risk Identification Checklist (CPVA RIC)**

**CPVA Risk Indication Checklist (CPVA RIC)**

Please read guidance below before completing this form

<b>Child/Young person's name/initials:</b>	<b>Child/Young person's ICS/EHM Number:</b>
<b>Adult/Parent's name:</b>	<b>Adult/Parent's LAS number</b>

<b>Parent/Carer – Child Relationships</b>	<b>Comments</b>
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<p><b>How would you describe your relationship with your child?</b></p> <p><i>The term parent-child relationship refers to the unique and enduring bond between a parent/caregiver and the young person//child. To understand the parent-child relationship, we must look at the ways that parents and children interact with one another physically, emotionally, and socially. Children's physical and emotional status, social and cognitive development, family dynamics discussed in Child-parent Relationship and Potential Problems should also be considered</i></p>	
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<p><b>What has been the worst behaviour you have seen, when was the first time and when was the last time? What happened?</b></p> <p><i>Power struggles and abuse can hamper the functioning of the strongest of families. When parents and children are in constant conflict the whole family suffers and needs to be considered.</i></p>	
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<p><b>Are there any triggers that result in this behaviour?</b></p> <p><i>Often, despite a parent's best efforts, problems in the parent/child relationship arise, these problems may start when a child is young or develop as the child gets older and enters different stages of development. The extent of a child's behaviour problems and continuous difficulties is a strong contributor to parenting and child stress, Consider age circumstances events or triggers.</i></p>	
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**Please tick the appropriate box that reflects the risk (please refer to guidance)**



1	<b>Have you ever felt afraid of your child?</b>
2	<b>Is the violent, abusive, aggressive behaviour happening more often?</b>
3	<b>Is the violent, abusive, aggressive behaviour getting worse?</b>
4	<b>Does your child try to control anything that you do, or display jealous behaviour towards you?</b>
5	<b>Has your child ever attempted to strangle / choke / suffocate / drown you?</b>
6	<b>Has your child ever said or displayed anything of a sexually disrespectful or derogatory nature that has made you feel uncomfortable or made you feel bad?</b> <b>Use of sexual insults, sexual behaviour, exposed to pornography.</b>
7	<b>Has your child ever used weapons or objects to hurt you?</b>
8	<b>Has your child ever threatened to kill you or someone else and you believed them?</b>
9	<b>Has your child ever mistreated an animal or family pet?</b>
10	<b>Is there anyone else in the family at risk of violence or abuse? Who is at risk? How are they at risk?</b>
11	<b>Does your child display these types of behaviours to anyone else in or outside of the family? E.g. School. Peer group, girl/boyfriend.</b>
12	<b>Has your child been involved with the Police in any way?</b>
13	<b>Has your child had problems in the past year with drugs (prescription or other), alcohol or mental health leading to difficulties in daily functioning?</b> <b>If yes, please specify which and give relevant details if known.</b>

	<p>Drugs <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Alcohol <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Mental health <input type="checkbox"/></p>
14	<b>Does your child have any problems with addictive behaviours e.g., on-line gaming, viewing pornography, social media? What are the details of these?</b>
15	<b>Has your child ever demanded money from you or tried to financially control you?</b>
16	<b>Does your child have any mental health issues, is depressed, suicidal or isolated or have a specific mental health diagnosis?</b>
17	<b>Does your child lack engagement with education, training or employment e.g. low attendance?</b>
18	<b>Does your child associate with a difficult friendship/peer groups?</b>
19	<p><b>Has your child experienced personal trauma? If yes, please specify which and give relevant details if known.</b></p> <p>Death/Bereavement <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>A looked after child <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Sexual or Physical harm <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Other <input type="checkbox"/></p>
20	<b>Has your child ever experienced or witnessed abuse between adults?</b>
21	<b>Is your child currently being exposed to adult domestic abuse?</b>
22	<b>Is your child under any threat of violence or abuse from anyone at the moment? Provide details of who from and the nature of the abuse?</b>
23	<b>Do you see yourself as vulnerable in any way, or have you any special requirements in</b>

	<b>accessing support?</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>Are you feeling low or finding your emotions hard to cope with? Do you have suicidal thoughts or ever self-harmed?</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>Do you feel isolated from your family, friends or support networks due to your situation?</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>Have you ever used drugs and/or alcohol to manage difficult situations or feelings? What is the nature of your use?</b>

### **Appendix 3: Further reading**

Home Office (2019) Transforming the Response to Domestic Abuse Consultation Response and Draft Bill

Home Office (2015) [Information guide: adolescent to parent violence and abuse \(APVA\)](#)

Sanders, R (2020) ESSS Outline: [Adolescent to parent violence and abuse](#) (APVA)

University of Oxford [Adolescent to Parent Violence](#)