



1. What do I need to know?

Conflict refers to shouting, aggressive arguments, being disrespectful and ignoring problems or a partner. **If parental conflict is frequent, intense, and poorly resolved, it can have a significant negative impact on a child's wellbeing.**

Conflict can affect children in all types of parental/family relationships, including separated/divorced parents, step parents, guardians, foster and adoptive parents, same-sex couples.

Domestic abuse is defined as any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse **between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexual orientation.** The abuse can encompass, but is not limited to:

(a) physical or sexual abuse; (b) violent or threatening behaviour; (c) controlling or coercive behaviour; (d) economic abuse; (e) psychological, emotional or other abuse. For further details: **Domestic Abuse Act 2021 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)**

2. Background

Parental conflict and domestic abuse are distinct from one another and require different assessments/ intervention techniques.

It is important, that as a workforce we are able to accurately differentiate between the two and we are being curious about ALL relationships that have an impact on a child.

3. What is the impact on the child?

The effects of parental conflict and domestic abuse are similar and can be harmful to children's mental health and their longer-term life chances. This can include difficulties with: **emotional & social development, forming healthy adult relationships and making academic progress.**

Children are victims of domestic abuse if they- **a) see/ hear, or experience the effects of abuse, and b) are related to victim or perpetrator.**

4. Information

Reducing Parental Conflict (RPC) is a national programme funded by the DWP and aimed at reducing conflict in families below the threshold of DA. [Reducing Parental Conflict - GOV.UK \(\[www.gov.uk\]\(http://www.gov.uk\)\)](http://Reducing Parental Conflict - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk))

Why should we care about parental conflict?

[Reducing parental conflict: why it matters to children and why it matters to services - YouTube](#)

East Riding's **PODAS** offer lots of support, including the **Caring Dads programme**, aimed at fathers who acknowledge the need to change towards partner (or ex partner) and children. For more info: [Prevention of domestic abuse service \(PODAS\) \(\[eastriding.gov.uk\]\(http://eastriding.gov.uk\)\)](#)

5. What can I do?

-Use For Baby's Sake Relationship Spectrum to help you distinguish between parental conflict & DA [FBS 1017 Parental-Relationships-spectrum-V4.pdf \(forbabysake.org.uk\)](#)

-Be curious, what is really going on?

-Actively listen and use motivational interviewing techniques.

-Use signs of safety principles - strengths, worries, scaling.

-Don't assume you know everything, explore **both** parties thoughts and feelings.

-Do not try to give advice.

-Avoid taking sides.

-If DA is suspected or disclosed DO NOT undertake any conflict resolution or similar work as it could put a DA victim at further risk.

-A DASH should be completed in all cases where DA is suspected or disclosed with consent and a referral made with consent to DVAP and MARAC if DASH scoring is 14 or more.

6. Next steps

Useful information for **further learning**

Relationships Matter website (re-launch coming soon): [Home - Relationship Matters](#)

RPC Workforce Training—COMING SOON

East Riding Domestic Abuse:

www.eastriding.gov.uk/domesticabuse

[East Riding Domestic Abuse Strategy 2020_2023.pdf \(\[eastriding.org.uk\]\(http://eastriding.org.uk\)\)](#)

ERSCP website: [Home \(\[erscp.co.uk\]\(http://erscp.co.uk\)\)](#)