

DAPP Motivational Session # 2

What is abuse

Aims

- Understanding of behaviours which constitute violence and abuse
- Agreement that violence and abuse is never acceptable

Timing

1 hour/45 minutes

Resources

Pen and paper

Exercise

For this session you are going to use a hypothetical family to explore abusive behaviours without needing to speak directly about the perpetrator's own abusive behaviours.

Ask him to draw a simple picture of a family similar to the one he is in and which you are working with. Ask him to give names, ages and genders to the family members.



Scene 1

For this ensure that you use the names that the father has given to the family members throughout. You can draw a simple short comic strip to support the father's understanding of the stories.

Follow this link for an explanation of comic strip conversations:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1sgCf95mLi0GrUAz-K5crIfEQDSIEp38P2XdD4skoovw/edit?usp=sharing>

Mum is getting the two children's dinner ready and they are sitting at the table ready. Father comes in.
Mum, 'glad your home, I need to leave soon. Dinner is all ready'.
Dad looks at mum but doesn't say anything for a moment.
Mum 'you alright?'.
Dad 'what do you look like?' and laughs
Mum 'what?'
Dad 'where are you going anyway?'
Mum 'pregnancy movement class'
Dad laughs again and directs his comment to one of the children 'that's coz she's eating for three at the moment', while doing this holds mum by the hips, laughs and gives her a kiss on the cheek.
Mum pulls away, looking uncomfortable 'what you always do this make me feel silly for wanting to try anything new'
Dad 'love don't get in a fuss about it I'm just having a laugh'
Mum 'I just want an opportunity to meet some new mums, feel like i don't have any support'
Dad, looking annoyed 'what aren't we enough!'

Following reading out the scene explore what was happening in it

Is Dad's behaviour OK? Was he abusive? Was he wrong?

How might the dad see his behaviour?

What is he gaining from using this behaviour? What does he lose?

What might the children learn from dad's behaviour?

Do you think that a social worker would be concerned about dad's behaviour?

What might he have done differently?

Scene 2

Mum and Dad are seating in the front room watching telly.

Mum 'I need some money for tomorrow, can I get the bank card'.

Dad 'Why what you done with what you already had? Don't I already give you enough?'

Mum 'Well the children eat so much, I'm always having to buy more food. I had to get bits so we are ready for the baby'.

Dad 'Oh so I bet you wasted it on outfits that their going to look cute in rather that what they actually need and what about the money that you have spent on getting your hair done'.

Mum 'It was just one treat. I just need some money to pay for the kids school trip next week'

Dad 'I'm just a bloody cash machine round here. Tell me how much and I will bring the cash for you so I know what your spending'.

Dad 'I can't watch this crap any longer' picks up on the remote.

Mum 'fuck off' and goes to grab the remote. Dad grabs her arm holds it tight stopping her getting it.

Following reading out the scene explore what was happening in it

Is Dad's behaviour OK? Was he abusive? Was he violent? Was he wrong?

How might the dad see his behaviour?

What is he gaining from using this behaviour? What does he lose?

What might the children learn from dad's behaviour?

Do you think that social worker would be concerned about dad's behaviour?

What might he have done differently?

Scene 3

Dad comes home late one evening
Mum 'where have you been? I wish you would let me know when your not coming home'
Dad 'I go out one fucking time, all I get from you is grief'.
Mum 'Did you bring the milk and the money?'
Dad 'Why didn't you get off your fat arse, get it yourself, why do I need to do everything'.
Mum 'You think I don't do anything all day looking after our children and the baby is due in 2 months'.
Dad 'Oh that's a fucking joke have you seen the state of this place. I bet the kids went to bed late again and also been late to school this week. So that fucking social worker will be coming snooping around again'.
Mum 'Well we know who's fault it is they're involved'.
Dad moves into mum's space, grits his teeth 'Yeah if you hadn't of fucking called the police'
Mum goes to try and push him out of the way to get away.
Dad pushes her up against the wall, putting his hand round her neck 'Don't fucking push me or you'll regret it'.
Mum spits in his face
Dad headbutts her
Dad 'I'm not fucking staying here for you to call police again'

Dad leaves. Police arrive 15 minutes later as the neighbours had called them

Following reading out the scene explore what was happening in it

Is Dad's behaviour OK? What might he have done differently?

How might the dad see his behaviour?

What is he gaining from using this behaviour? What does he lose?

What might the children learn from dad's behaviour?

Do you think that social worker would be concerned about dad's behaviour?

What might he have done differently?

Things to consider

During the discussion the father you are working with may want to keep coming back to the mother's behaviour. Keep redirecting the focus back on to the father's behaviour, that we are thinking about this from his perspective. The dad in the scenario can only change his own behaviour, he can not change his partners, therefore we want to focus on his choices.

Key messages

- That violence and abuse is never acceptable, no one deserved to be subjected to violence and abuse
- That we are responsible for our behaviour no matter the other person's behaviour
- Through changing behaviour they may lose power and control of their partners but can gain equality, intimacy and a sense of greater control of their own behaviour.