

Nowhere to turn: Lessons from families affected by Child and Adolescent to Parent Violence and Abuse (CAPVA)

Preliminary key themes and recommendations

what families told us

There is a lack of services. Parents don't know where to turn. Experiences of shame, judgement and discrimination are common. Trust in services is low and important warning signs are being missed.

"I tried to access support. There wasn't and is still not the appropriate support available."

"Nobody would listen."

"People in authority dismissed the behaviour. My parenting was blamed and then the answer was to refer to children's social care. Again, I was blamed for the abuse that was happening to me."

Professionals minimised the behaviours of the children, including when my husband's eyebrow was split open and needed stitches."

"Everyone looked at me as if to say, you are the parent, you should be controlling your child."

Recommendations

The Home Office must develop and disseminate statutory guidance on CAPVA for agencies working with children and families, including a statutory definition of CAPVA.

The Treasury must deliver dedicated funding for CAPVA services, in consultation with the voluntary sector and local by-and-for organisations.

Investment in training and support for practitioners and agencies is needed across specialist and universal services.

Watch this space

We will be launching the full report and presenting our findings at a national webinar, coming this winter. Keep an eye on Respect's social media for more information as it's announced.