

**THROUGH THEIR EYES**

# Domestic Abuse

TEACHERS' NOTES



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# THROUGH THEIR EYES

SLIDE 4 -37

## Families

This message is that there is no one kind of family.  
The group may need help with ideas about the composition and variety of families.  
Families include different genders, disabilities, faiths, racial/ ethnic origins.

We create families which create us

one dad  
two dads  
no dad  
one mum  
two mums  
no mum  
foster mum  
foster dad  
adoptive mum  
adoptive dad  
step dad  
step mum  
carer  
**Families**  
brother  
sister  
grandmother  
grandfather  
aunt  
uncle  
cousin  
niece  
nephew  
marriage  
civil partnership  
co-habiting  
co-parenting  
absent members  
divorce  
bereavement  
parent/carer in hospital  
abuse  
parent/carer in prison

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## SLIDE 38

### Words used to describe family groups

There will be students in the group for whom, the reasons why they are in a family group other than their birth family, have left them with memories of separation and loss. You will know the group. It might be helpful to everyone to remind the group of the need to be sensitive and kind in the comments they make.

Birth family: refers to parents and children who are biologically related

Extended family: this includes parents, children, grandparents, great grandparents, aunts, uncles, great-aunts, great-uncles and cousins.

Step family/Blended family: is created when one or both of the adults become a couple and care for children from their previous relationships and may also have a child together. The children may be of the same age group or have wide age differences.

Adoptive family: is where an adult(s) welcomes a child, who was born in a different family, into their family and legally adopts the children as their own.

Foster family: provides a safe, nurturing, and stable environment for children and young people who are unable to live with their birth parents. Children and young people stay with their foster carers from between a few days to a few years, depending on the circumstances.

Children's Homes: aim to make sure that they meet the needs of children who can't live with their own families. That means that as well as providing food, shelter, space for play and leisure in a caring environment, they also act as a place where children can grow and develop. The children are cared for by professional staff.

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## SLIDE 39 - 57

It is important in leading this session, that you are aware that there will be students who are experiencing/have experienced domestic abuse. Be alert to students who may find the film or the teaching ideas difficult. Share your observations with your Designated Safeguarding Lead, and consider how you might support the student to talk to a trusted adult.

### What is good about families and home

a place we belong  
where we are loved  
safe  
predictable  
we can relax  
feel happy  
parents/carers are kind and offer guidance  
where we are listened to  
siblings share the space  
time and space to play  
regular mealtimes with good food  
a comfortable place to sleep well  
appropriate clean clothes  
support for attending school  
care when we are unwell  
acceptance when we make mistakes

**Everyone needs to be safe at home:** If you or someone living with you, doesn't feel safe at home, or feels controlled, or is being made to do things they don't want to do, this is domestic abuse.

### What is domestic abuse?

Definition of domestic abuse: Any incident or pattern of behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over, who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality.

Domestic abuse: may be verbal, physical, psychological, emotional, sexual, financial, hurtful behaviours.

### What else is domestic abuse?

Honour based violence/abuse: is a violent crime or incident which may have been committed with a stated reason to protect or defend the honour of the family or community.

A forced marriage: is carried out without the consent of one or both people. This is very different from an arranged marriage, to which both people will have agreed.

Cutting/female genital mutilation: is when girls/women are cut for cultural, religious, or social reasons. It is illegal in this country.

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## SLIDE 61

### Describe Tyler and Riley's family group

The two boys, Tyler and Riley, live with their mother.

Their mother feels Riley treats Tyler very badly.

The two boys have different fathers.

Bill is Tyler's dad, he left the family a few months ago. Tyler misses his dad.

Riley is jealous of Tyler. When Bill tried to stop Riley's behaviour, things just got worse.

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## SLIDE 62

**What kind of family group is this?** It is a blended family. The boys have the same mother and each has a different father. Neither father now lives with the family. Their mother is a lone parent. Riley is 15 years old and Tyler is 7 years old.

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## SLIDE 63

### What happens at home to Tyler?

Tyler is not allowed to watch what he wants on the television,  
Riley says "I say when you have a turn, and that is not now. Stop winging."

Riley kicks him and threatens to do it again:  
"There's more where that came from, stupid brat."

Riley blames Tyler crying on his mum  
"You are always taking his side. He goes to you and you let him have his own way."

Riley brings up the family history of separation  
"I am sick of him...I am sick of you...no wonder Bill walked out...He was sick of you too."

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## SLIDE 64

### What are your thoughts about what is happening at home?

Ask the group to give their views.

Riley is nearly 16 years old. His behaviour is controlling and coercive towards Tyler. He is saying what Tyler can and can't do. He is also verbally and physically abusive to him. He is verbally abusive to his mother. He is just under the age whereby this could be said to be a domestic abuse situation. It is important to be thinking this, as mum is saying his behaviour is getting worse and there are no signs that things are likely to get better. Despite what Riley says about Tyler getting his own way, Riley's abusive behaviour means he is getting his own way.

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SLIDE 65 - 70

## Who are you concerned about and why?

### **Tyler**

He is much younger  
He isn't allowed to do what he wants  
He is being called names  
He is being hit and kicked  
His dad has left the family  
His mum doesn't seem to be able to protect him

### **Riley**

His dad is not around  
He is being verbally and physically abusive to his little brother  
He is verbally abusive to his mum  
His step father has now left the family too

### **Mum**

She has to care for the family on her own, the fathers of the boys have left the family  
She worries about Tyler being picked on by his brother  
She is trying to keep the peace and cook dinner  
She makes excuses for Riley, but she thinks he is being mean  
She wonders if the fact that Bill couldn't control Riley's behaviour is a factor in why he left  
She feels that Riley's behaviour is getting worse  
She has had a phone call from Tyler's teacher at school, telling her he has problems at school

### **Mrs Townsend**

*"I just wanted to talk to you about Tyler. He is a lovely boy and he was doing really well in class before Christmas. More recently, he has not seemed interested in class, he has been very quiet, and has fallen out with Harry, his best friend. We don't know why. He was getting changed for PE today and I noticed bruises on his arms and legs. Do you have any idea how he got these bruises?"*

### Does the family need help?:

Help the group to see that all three family members need help, this includes Riley, despite the fact that he is so abusive. If this continues, his behaviour will affect his chances to do well at school, have friends who are positive, and whether he can control himself.

### Who can help and how?:

Mum could talk to a friend/or staff at a local community hub, to get some support  
She could go to Social Care for advice and help with Riley's behaviour  
She could talk to her local Police Community Support Officer  
She could talk to Tyler's teacher and get her to refer Tyler for help

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## SLIDE 73

### Riley responds to his mum's concerns

He is hurtful when she reminds him Tyler is his brother, he says "wasn't my choice."

He becomes alert when she says the school has seen bruises on Tyler,  
and sneers when he learns mum told school that he did them on his bike,  
Tyler hasn't got a bike.

She asks him to stop hurting Tyler,  
He answers "I will..... when he stops being a whinging brat."

When she asks him again to stop hurting Tyler,  
He doesn't say he will, and he is very hurtful to her.  
He says "I am sick of this. You always put him first. You are always whinging,  
he gets it from you. That's probably why Bill left.  
Come to think of it, it is probably why my dad left too. It is all your fault."

At 9:00 pm, he grabs his rucksack and goes out of the house.  
He doesn't tell his mum where he is going and who he will be with.  
Mum reflects "they are not likely to be good mates if they are out this late."

He slams the front door, the sound worries Tyler.

### What are the risks for Riley when he goes out late in the evening?

He will meet up with others who are out late, there isn't anything to do at that time.

If they get bored, they may be tempted to take risks to liven up the evening, such as jumping around, damaging property, causing a social nuisance.

They may mix with older youths who are drinking, smoking/vaping, using drugs, and want to try these.

They may be spotted by criminals out to exploit young people into law breaking.

They will be more visible to Police patrols and more likely to be caught if they break the law.

Riley has difficulty controlling his temper, he could end up in a bad situation and make it worse.

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## SLIDE 74

### **Mum is depressed and frightened**

She worries about where Riley has gone.

She feels it is hard for him because “he doesn’t remember his dad, he left when Riley was three years old.”

She hasn’t told Riley that his dad used to hit her, she called the Police, and ended up in hospital twice, but she still she didn’t say what he had done. His dad used to steal cars, drink and do drugs. He didn’t leave the family, he is in prison

She is depressed when Riley blames her.

She is frightened when he gets angry.

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## SLIDE 75

### **Andrew a Youth Worker, talks to Mr Lewis, Riley’s Form Tutor at school**

“Thank you for taking the call. I am one of the Youth Workers at the Youth Club near the parade. We had a spot of bother last night. There are a group of boys who hang round outside the club. They don’t come into the club. They are often outside, drinking alcohol, and we think there is some drug dealing. They shout at the kids who do come to the club and some of the kids have reported being offered drugs. Well last night was worse. One of them threatened my co-worker and we had to call the Police. They scarpered when the Police came. One of our lot said that the ringleader was a boy called Riley, and he thought that he went to your school.”

#### In what ways are matters now worse for Riley?

He has been hanging out near the parade, with others who behave badly.

They don’t go to the club, which is there to help young people have something to do.

They have been seen drinking and drug taking.

They are shouting at young people who do go to the club.

They have offered the young people drugs.

The night before, one of them threatened a co-worker, so the Police were called.

Young people using the Youth club have named Riley as the ringleader.

His school has been told about all this, and will be asked for his details by the Police.

#### How will the Police view his behaviour?

The rowdy behaviour of the group may escalate into Anti Social Behaviours, if the group is causing a public nuisance.

They are too young to be drinking alcohol, it is illegal. The Police will be concerned. They will follow up how the youths got the alcohol, as it is illegal to sell alcohol to people their age.

It is illegal to be taking drugs: they are committing Unlawful Possession and Intent to supply.

They have made a threat to a Youth Club worker, which may be seen as Common Assault.

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## SLIDE 78 - 89

**Tyler hits his mum and pushes her over, then takes money from her purse.** Throughout this film we have heard mum blaming herself, and covering up/making excuses for the abusive behaviours of Riley's dad, Bill and Riley.

About Riley calling Tyler names: *"He doesn't mean it. He is just cross."*

She lies about Tyler's bruises: *"I was so worried..... who would they discuss them with?"*

When Riley worries Tyler again by slamming the front door loudly, she says:  
*"Nothing to worry about, just the wind catching the door as I was putting the bins out."*

In the past, she covered up Riley's dad's violence to her:  
*"I couldn't see how it would get better, if I told the truth."*

She has kept the truth from Riley about his dad: *"he used to love his dad."*

When she tried to talk to Riley about the phone call from Mr Lewis,  
*"I knew he would get angry,  
That is why I asked Sue if Tyler could play with Freddie."*

After he has hit and pushed her:  
*"This is all my fault.  
I shouldn't have said anything about the phone call from school.  
I should have just given him some money and let him go out."*

She plans to cover up what Riley has done,  
*"I will tell Tyler I banged my face on the cupboard door."*

Why does she do this?: She is fearful that: *"he reminds me of his dad when he is like that."*

She loves the children, is kind, and wants to do her best.  
She doesn't know what to do / who can help her.  
She doesn't know what could be done to help each of them.  
She was told when she was abused that it was her fault, and now believes it.  
She was ashamed of being a victim, and couldn't tell the Police at the time.  
She wants to protect them from the truth about her experiences of domestic abuse.  
She is frightened of Riley's anger, she fears if she does anything, it will get worse.  
She is depressed when Riley says she is to blame.

Is this helping her or Tyler or Riley?: No it isn't helping anyone. She needs:

Information about Domestic Abuse, so she recognises this is happening in her family.  
She needs to know about Women's Aid and the help they can offer.  
Tyler's school needs to know, so they can nurture him in school and help him do well.  
Riley's school needs to know so they can monitor when he misses school and get him help with his anger.  
Riley needs to know he is breaking the law and the consequences if he continues. The Police will give him clear firm advice.

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SLIDE 90 - 91

## Mum's neighbour, Sue, acts

In the discussion with the group, it is important to help students to see that mum and Riley and Tyler each need help. They are all dealing with the consequences of Riley's father being violent to mum and the departure of Tyler's dad. The family needs support.

### There were lots of things Sue could have done:

She could have invited mum round to hers, so she could ask her what happened.  
She could have offered to have Tyler round to play with her son Freddie more often.  
She could have talked about what was happening to her other neighbours.  
She could have done nothing.

### She did the bravest thing, which was to be an Upstander, and involve the Police:

Domestic Abuse is illegal, mum is a victim all over again. The Police can act.

The well-being of both boys is a Safeguarding matter, policy/practices exist for this.

Tyler needs protection.

Riley needs help to not be so controlling and angry.

The Police have a representative in the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub, (MASH).

Social Care will then be alerted.

The schools of the boys will be contacted and asked to provide in-school support.

There will be a part of the plans going forward, which will set out support for mum.

women's aid  
until women & children are safe

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