

Early Help Partnership



Early Help: The Vision, The Strategy

Vision and Approach

The Vision

- Bracknell Forest is a place where children, young people and their families **feel safe, have access to high quality education and well-being services**, giving them the opportunity to live healthy and empowered lives in their community.

Our Approach

- Underpinning the vision is a co-designed, fully consulted upon, **multi-agency strategy for partners** and families across the Borough.
- The Early Help Strategy places intervention and prevention at the heart of all we do
- To utilise universal and community services recognising that Early help is not the sole responsibility of one service or organisation – **it is everyone's business**, requiring a change of approach of the Council as being a facilitator as opposed to leader of the system.



Early Help Services – Family Hubs

- 4 family hubs providing activities, support, and information to families through case work and group sessions and in partnership with key stakeholders

The hub offer is extensive and includes;

- Antenatal, tongue tie and post-natal advice, family support and parental outreach, information and guidance on breast feeding, hygiene, nutrition, and safety, promoting positive mental health and emotional well-being, speech and language support, school attendance support, support for young people and related activities, links with jobcentre plus, information and advice on childcare, domestic abuse support, parenting programmes for ages 0 – 19 years, citizens advice bureau appointments, cooking on a budget session, breakfast clubs, universal play sessions, holiday activities, children social care court contacts (family time), homestart group, TAG (Autism group), school nurse enuresis clinic, migration and refugee family play and reducing parental conflict support, imagination library and we are developing a toy library.



Early Help Services

- **Targeted Youth Service** – 1-1 Targeted work, sexual health clinics, substance misuse work, young carers, missing children’s conversations, and the youth council. Current review of the existing internal and external youth provision with regards to producing a Youth Offer and developing a Youth Strategy covering the next 3 years.
- **The Education Welfare Service** (Children Missing Education, Elective Home Education, Emotional Based School Avoidance, Child Employment and Entertainment Licencing) – EWS carry out the legal duties in respect of school non-attendance.
- **The Migration Team** – A single migration team providing consistent support and advice for all displaced people arriving in the borough.
- **Community and universal services** – partnership approach



Joint Early Help CSC

- Contacts into MASH totalled 11,958 in 2022/23, a 10.6% increase from 21/22
- Almost a quarter of all contacts were for Early Help responses. 97% of which resulted in a tier 2 service, only 3% were escalated from Early Help MASH staff to the safeguarding social workers.
- 15% of contacts made for safeguarding responses were screened as more suitable for Early Help by the MASH. 18% of safeguarding contacts converted to a referral to Children’s Social Care.
- 33% of contacts references concerns about children being at risk of abuse or neglect, 11% referenced a child having a mental health crisis, 8.5% referenced a child having a disability as their primary need and 5% of contacts identified children at risk of forms of exploitation.
- Partners and parents have given feedback that they want a more streamlined way of accessing Early Help responses for children. The threshold document has been revised and work is underway to review the use of the Early Help Assessment across the partnership.



Step-Up and Step Down

- The Early Help strategy has a clear focus upon the **early identification of children, young people and families** avoiding escalation into statutory services
- There are clear pathways to step-up and step-down with the purpose of providing support at every level to help children, young people and families overcome the challenges and difficulties they face.
- Close partnership working between Early help and social care with regular meetings to discuss families that require stepping up / down
- New role being explored to further support the effective 'step-down' of families following a Children's Social Care assessment with a focus on developing and sharing knowledge of local services, criteria, referral pathways and creative solutions for families who need help and support at an earlier stage



Referral pathways

- [Early Help referral | Bracknell Forest Council \(bracknell-forest.gov.uk\)](https://bracknell-forest.gov.uk)
- [Parenting referrals | Bracknell Forest Council \(bracknell-forest.gov.uk\)](https://bracknell-forest.gov.uk)
- [Family hubs | Bracknell Forest Council \(bracknell-forest.gov.uk\)](https://bracknell-forest.gov.uk)
- [Braccan Walk Youth Centre | Bracknell Directory \(fsd.org.uk\)](https://fsd.org.uk)
- [Early Help Education Welfare Service | Bracknell Directory \(fsd.org.uk\)](https://fsd.org.uk)
- [Emotionally Based School Avoidance Guidance for Schools.pdf](#)



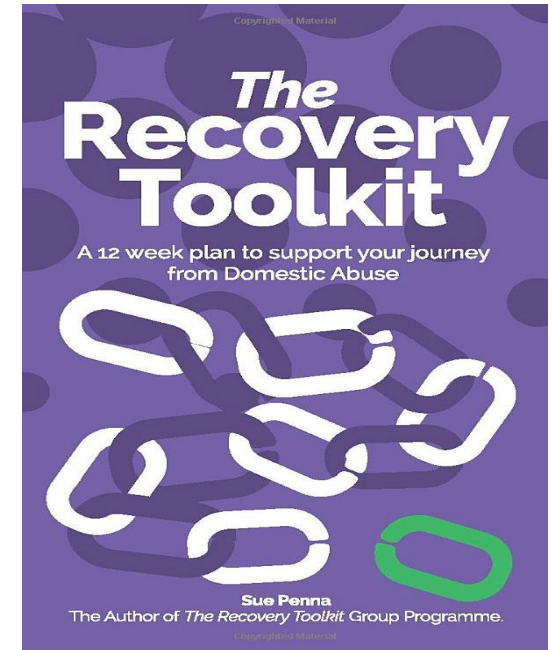
PAACEs Recovery Toolkit

- ACEs are stressful or traumatic experiences, including abuse, neglect and a range of household dysfunctions such as witnessing domestic violence or growing up with substance abuse, mental illness, parental discord or incarceration.
- Children who are routinely exposed to these chronic stress situations in their home experience a negative impact which can last well into adulthood. They are often associated with poorer outcomes for children in educational attainment, employment, involvement in crime, family breakdown and a range of health and wellbeing measures.
- The Adult PAACEs Recovery Toolkit is a 10-week programme that has been written to educate and inform individuals about the impact of ACEs on them and their children if they have them. The programme provides guidance on the protective factors that help mitigate the impact of ACEs, and practical methods for individuals developing the resilience they need for themselves and for their children if they have them.



Domestic Abuse Recovery Toolkit

- The Adult Domestic Abuse Recovery Toolkit is a 12-week groupwork programme that helps participants understand the impact of having experienced domestic abuse and aims to equip women with the knowledge they need to recover from its effects.
- It reinforces strengths, resources, coping skills and resilience to support improved health and wellbeing on a long-term basis.
- The Domestic Abuse Recovery Toolkit programme is suitable for women not currently in an abusive relationship. It's trauma-informed psycho-educational model is designed to be strengths based and skills building. The aim is that, by giving individuals knowledge, they can better understand and deal with their previous experiences.



The Freedom Programme

- The Freedom Programme is a domestic abuse programme which was created by Pat Craven and evolved from her work with perpetrators of domestic violence.
- The Freedom Programme examines the roles played by attitudes and beliefs on the actions of abusive men and the responses of victims and survivors. The aim is to help them to make sense of and understand what has happened to them, instead of the whole experience just feeling like a horrible mess.
- The Freedom Programme also describes in detail how children are affected by being exposed to this kind of abuse and very importantly how their lives are improved when the abuse is removed.

Copyrighted Material

Living with the Dominator
A book about the Freedom Programme



Pat Craven
Illustrated by Jacky Fleming

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Relationships Matter

Reducing the impact of parental conflict to improve outcomes for children.



Definition of parental conflict

All families experience conflict, it's where this conflict is:

- Intense
- Frequent
- Poorly resolved
- About the child

that it becomes an issue.

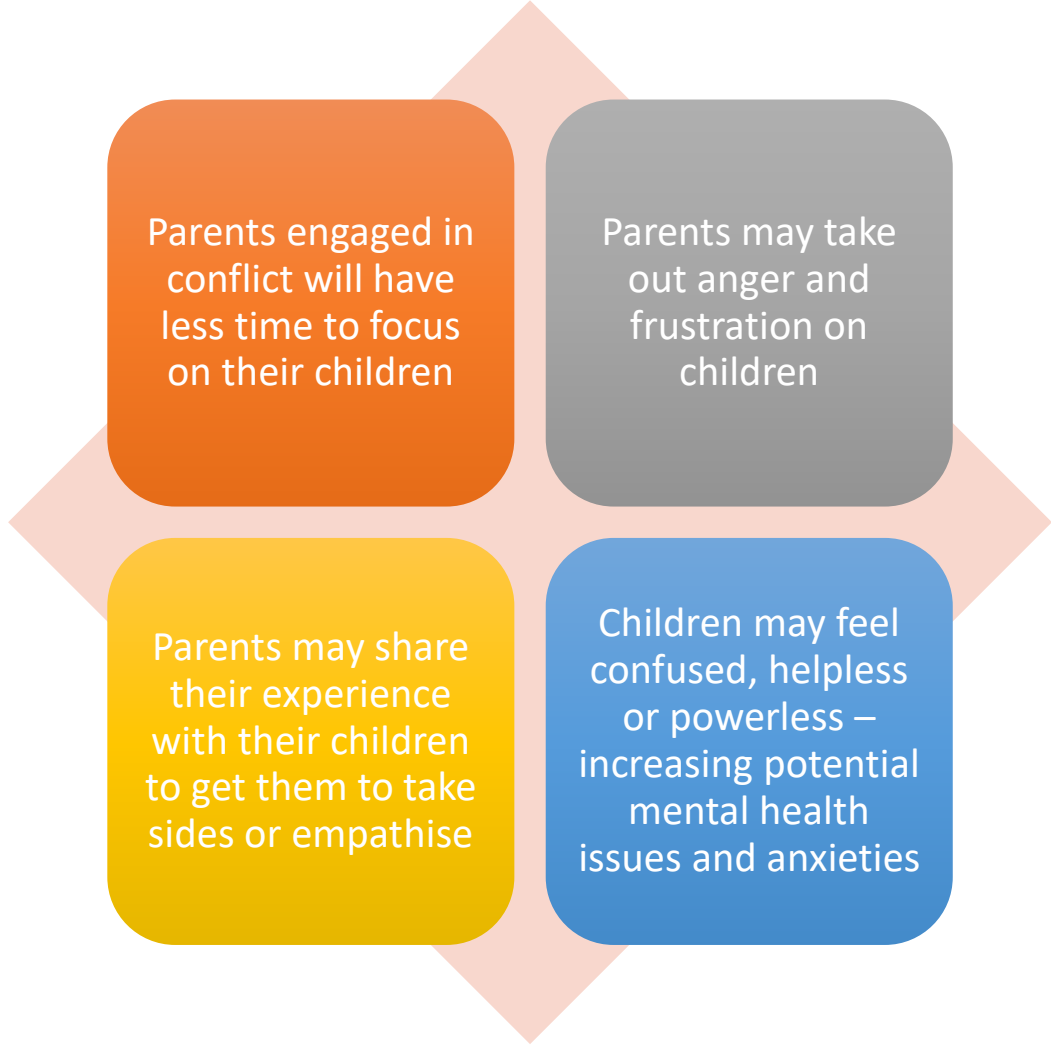


Why does RPC matter?

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



Effect of PC on parenting



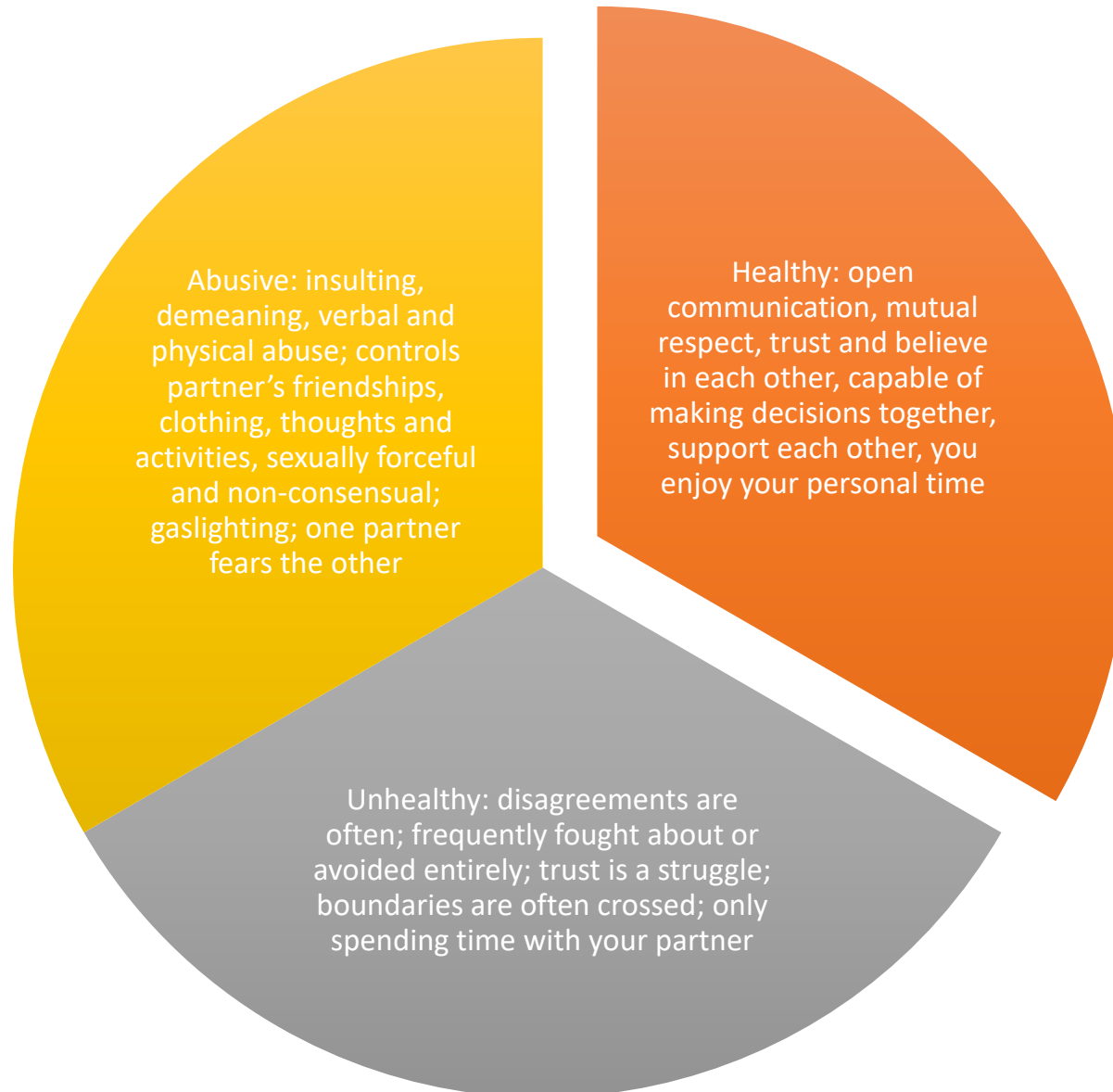
Parents engaged in conflict will have less time to focus on their children

Parents may take out anger and frustration on children

Parents may share their experience with their children to get them to take sides or empathise


Children may feel confused, helpless or powerless – increasing potential mental health issues and anxieties

Relationships




3 questions that can identify parental conflict:

1. Is the problem you are experiencing causing stress, tension or arguments between you and your partner?



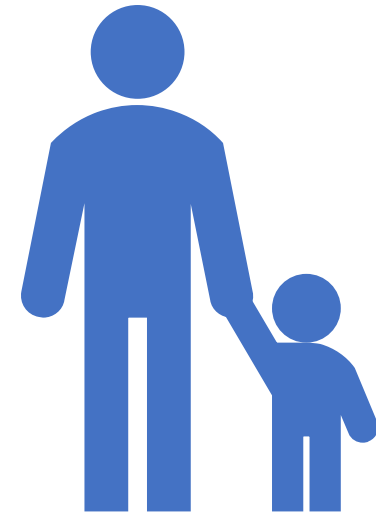
2. How often do you feel stressed, or do arguments about the problem happen?



3. Are you able to find a solution to the stress, tension or arguments that you are both happy with?

Accessing support

- Support for parents experiencing parental conflict will be voluntary.
- Parents will need to recognise the benefits of engaging with this support and making changes to their current patterns of conflict resolution.
- The support given will vary depending on the circumstances of the family – for most it will be accessed independently whereas others will work with a trained professional



3 programmes available

- Me, You & Baby Too – resource for expectant and new parents
- Arguing Better – for parents where conflict has become an issue, but they are still together
- Getting it right for children – for separated and divorced parents

All 3 programmes can be completed by the parents independently. Please make sure they use their own log ins.



[Reducing Parental Conflict programme | Bracknell Forest Council \(bracknell-forest.gov.uk\)](#)



Any questions?

