Parenting, Relationship Conflict and Substance Misuse: Issues in Research and Intervention Implementation.

OVERVIEW

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Range of Projects Linked to IPV

- Parenting for men convicted of IPV offences
- Roles of alcohol in IPV: for victim/survivors and offenders
- Football and IPV (cultural/sub-cultural issues)
- Managing risk in Schedule 1 offenders (cross over IPV and SO)
- Evaluating the White Ribbon Campaign in Scotland
- Parenting Interventions for Young offenders
Child Abuse & IPV links

• Child Abuse and DV co-occur: significant risk to children
• Continuing tension child protection v. victim advocates:
  – prefer safety or child over re-victimisation of mother?
  – Victim blaming; failure to protect?
• Parental access rights? Or rights of children to (safe) contact with parents?
• Substance misuse (perpetrator and victim/survivor) an aggravating factor
• It does not end when women leave...
  – Stalking
  – Increase in risk of homicide
  – Serial offenders....risk to new families.......
Alcohol and IPV

• Home Office research on domestic violence offenders (n = 336) showed 73% had used alcohol prior to the offence, with 48% seen as ‘alcohol dependent’ (Gilchrist 2003). 19% of sample showed history of drug misuse – heavy drinking - linked to more serious injury

• Disinhibition is not enough: the most significant determinant of behaviour after drinking is not the physiological effect of the alcohol itself, but the expectation that individuals place on the drinking experience

• Deviancy disavowal – creating a period of time – out while drinking that permits an individual to engage in deviant behaviour without being viewed as a deviant

“Conflict is not a universal result of alcohol’s effects on cognition which suggests its disinhibiting properties are insufficient as an explanation for conflict” (Galvani 2004)
IPV/alcohol/children : Complex cases

- Complex Families
  - current IPV, poor coping, substance misuse, socially deprived
  - Multiple issues re alcohol use by offender and victim, poor parenting
- Additional needs:
  - housing, meaningful activity, economic and social resources
- Limited resilience and strengths
- Need linked services,
  - sequencing of interventions, highest risk first, treatment interfering behaviours first?
  - Dangers of treatment overload, pathologising individuals/excusing societal norms
Number of Children present at IPV offences

• 107,120 children in residence within data set of 220,847
  – 49% of cases
• Children present 38% of time
• When the children there and aware
  – 60% of cases the perpetrator had been drinking
  – 26% of cases victim had been drinking
• Repeat cases: 56% victim repeat and offender repeat
• 19% of incidents involving spouses children present
  22% involving ex-spouses children present
Over 50% of IPV in our area (reported to police) occurs in the areas of greatest deprivation

Social toxicity?
Overview of Projects

• Why do parenting in families with DV (and how?)
  – What do we know?
• what we are learning from individual projects about complex situations
  – Scotia
  – Alba

• End with where we might go.......and how you could help..........................
The Scotia Project:
Roles of Alcohol in Domestic Abuse

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Domestic Abuse in a Scottish Context

Scottish Government Definition

— Domestic abuse (as gender-based abuse), can be perpetrated by partners or ex-partners and can include physical abuse (assault and physical attack involving a range of behaviour), sexual abuse (acts which degrade and humiliate women and are perpetrated against their will, including rape) and mental and emotional abuse (such as threats, verbal abuse, racial abuse, withholding money and other types of controlling behaviour such as isolation from family or friends).

(Scottish Executive, 2010)
Domestic Abuse in a Scottish Context

Focus of Strathclyde Police

"By having a more focused overview of the problem, we will be able to specifically tackle those repeat offenders who cause misery to their families. It sends out a very clear message. Domestic abuse in all its forms is totally unacceptable and perpetrators of such acts of violence and abuse will be held accountable for their behaviour."

Chief Constable Steve House (2009)

Scottish Women’s Aid

‘Children are often a key reason for the parent being abused not leaving, as well as eventually being a key reason for leaving…complex and risky nature of decision to leave’

(Pain, 2012)
Scotland’s Relationship with Alcohol
Scotland’s Relationship with Alcohol

Cirrhosis Deaths: 1950-2000
(Leon & McCambridge, 2006)
Scotland’s Relationship with Alcohol

Figure 2
Liver Cirrhosis. Age standardised mortality rates, males and females 15 to 74 years
NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde and the Rest of Scotland directly standardised to Western
European population (Source: 1991 WHOSIS)

NHS (2011)
Alcohol-Related Violence

Relationship related to shared factors:

• Social disadvantage
• Deviant peer relations
• Heavy drinkers 3x more likely to be violent than light drinkers
• Alcohol intoxication shown to temporally precede violence

Alcohol implicated in over 50% violent incidents

• Stranger assaults – 58%
• Domestic violence – 37%

BUT! – Domestic Violence = Coercive Control
The Scotia Project - Aims

To investigate, from both victim and perpetrator perspectives, patterns, beliefs, and attitudes around alcohol and IPV, and how alcohol may impact on coercive control within IPV relationships.

To explore the role of alcohol-related expectancies among those experiencing IPV, with a view to understanding how this may vary with socio-economic status.

To establish the extent to which existent policies and programmes relating to IPV are working for victims and perpetrators of IPV, and how we might incorporate problematic alcohol use into these.

To gain insight into the utility of alcohol minimum pricing and outlet density measures, as experienced by victims and perpetrators of IPV.
The Scotia Project – Roles of Alcohol in Domestic Abuse

Background – Alcohol Research Council

• Masculinities – Gendered attribution of relationship roles
• Levels of Identity – Social / National / Familial
• Parenting and vicious circle of domestic abuse

Ethical / Access Issues

Methods

Stage 1 – Police Data

(Almost 1/4million cases 2004-2012)

Stage 2 – Questionnaires and Interview

(Victims and Perpetrators)
The Scotia Project Stage 1 - Scottish Police Data

Emerging Findings:

- 220,847 cases of DA between 2004-2012
- Victim gender – 82.5% Female / 16.7% Male
- Mean age victim = 33.81yrs
- Perpetrator gender = 82.1% Male / 16.6% Female
- Mean age perpetrator = 35.31yrs
- Locus of event = 87.1% in a home (i.e. domestic setting).
- Incidents clustered around midnight and at weekends.
- *Alcohol-related in 59% cases…
The Scotia Project Stage 1 – Presence of Alcohol

Alcohol Involved

- Perpetrator: 61.40%
- Victim: 36.40%
- Both: 25.80%
The Scotia Project Stage 1 - Weapons and Alcohol

- No Weapon: 37.3%
- Firearm: 28.1%
- Knife: 0.7%
- Sharp Inst.: 0.2%
- Blunt Inst.: 0.2%
- Physical Inst.: 0.4%
- Multiple: 0.8%

Alcohol vs. No Alcohol:
- No Alcohol: 17.9%
- Alcohol: 7.9%
The Scotia Project Stage 1 – Children Present

Children Present at Incident

- **No Children**: 59
- **Child in Other Room Aware**: 6.8
- **Child in Other Room Unaware**: 14
- **Child Present in Room**: 4.5
- **Not Known**: 3.2
The Scotia Project Stage 2 - Methods

AUDIT (The Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test)

CTS2 (The Revised Conflict Tactics Scale)

ARAQ (The Alcohol Related Aggression Questionnaire)

Interview schedule (Original)

Database entries for the previous 3-yr period and questionnaires will provide quantification of problematic alcohol use, severity of experiences around domestic violence, and level of links between alcohol and violence. Interviews will explore social constructions of alcohol use and domestic violence, and subjective personal experiences of the co-morbidity of alcohol and IPV.
The Scotia Project Stage 2 - Participants

**Convicted** – Critical experiences of alcohol and/or IPV. Recruit through prisons (Caledonian Programme)/shelters (Women’s Aid)/victim services (ASSIST).

**Conflicted** – Pre-critical experiences of alcohol and/or IPV. Recruit through Relate/poster and social media campaign.

**Content** – Non-critical experiences of alcohol and/or IPV. Recruit through poster and social media campaign/snowball sampling of general population/football sample.

Questionnaires, N=40. Interviews, N=10. FOR EACH GROUP

Thus – N = 120 (Questionnaires) / N= 30 (Interviews)
The Scotia Project Stage 2 – Victims and Perpetrators

Multi-agency work:

• Strathclyde Police
• Scottish Prison Service
• Women’s Aid
• ASSIST
• Couples’ Counselling
• Football Clubs
The Scotia Project - Call for Collaboration

Need to establish cross-cultural comparison of DA / Alcohol experiences…

- AUDIT (Not used with this group before)
- CTS-2 (Required for comparability of research findings)
- ARAQ
- Interview Schedule

Can assist with Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) etc
Barriers to Research

• Funding
• Establishing the right contacts
• Accessing appropriate groups of participants
• Safety
• Ethics
• Time
• Data Protection
• Dissemination & Responsibility
‘Positive and empathetic responses from informal social networks (friends, families and neighbours) and service providers are vital to those experiencing abuse: they make a significant difference to the capacity to resist and escape abuse. Wider social recognition of the nature of domestic abuse and the role of fear has an important role in informing these responses.’

(Pain, 2012)

Triple P Criminal Justice – The Alba Project (GCU)

Triple P Sport as useful intervention?
COVAID Treatment Programme – (Control of Violence for Angry Impulsive Drinkers)

- Cognitive Behavioural Intervention
- Targets cognitions, emotions, behaviour around intoxication
- Aggression explained by ‘interaction of provocations, cognitive appraisals, physiological arousal, and learned behavioural responses.
- Alcohol as a risk factor for violence that can be changed.

(Bowes, McMurrnan, Williams, Siriol & Zammit, 2012)
Implementing Change

‘One Billion Rising’ – Violence Against Women
Summary

• The Scotia Project may attract controversy given that alcohol can be used as an excuse for intimate partner violence

• Addiction/Medical models not useful in this context

• It may be helpful to view alcohol as a co-morbid risky behaviour around domestic violence

• Children exposed to neglect and abuse in DV situations also likely to learn poor coping skills, risky health behaviours, and damaging messages around gender roles and violence

• Implementing change around DV and alcohol is not straightforward, complex families require complex solutions
References


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House, S. (2009). Police launch task force to tackle domestic abuse. Daily Record,
http://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/police-launch-task-force-to-tackle-10157866


THE ALBA PROJECT
Parenting for High Risk and Vulnerable Groups

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Research background: data from perpetrators, partners and children

• Study 1
  – 336 adult perpetrators referred for DV intervention post conviction (psychometrics, file review and interview)
  – And from 42 women partners of perpetrators identified via women’s support workers, not refuge sample (psychometrics and interview)
Data from Partners Study 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abuse/incidence</th>
<th>Antisocial/narcissistic</th>
<th>Borderline/emotion volatile</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Economic abuse</td>
<td>No – more jealousy wife working with men</td>
<td>Very controlling money</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N = 20 (53%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emotional Abuse</td>
<td>Very</td>
<td>Only at time of assault</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N = 25 (66%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male privilege</td>
<td>No housework, expects gratitude</td>
<td>When helpful – to control partner e.g. shop not let her out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N = 23 (61%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Isolation</td>
<td>Not unless affects him (e.g. childcare)</td>
<td>Stops partner going out, friends, family,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N = 27 (71%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coercion/threats</td>
<td>Threat/try suicide</td>
<td>Threats to kill kids, family, smash property</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N = 21 (55%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimising</td>
<td>Blame, deny</td>
<td>Apologise,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N = 30 (79%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intimidation</td>
<td>Looks smash property, children</td>
<td>Limited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N = 12 (32%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Using Children</td>
<td>Direct use of children to hurt partner</td>
<td>Argue, emotional abuse irrespective of children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N = 12 (32%)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Study 2

• Children sample, N= 18 (ages 6-13)
  – All children were receiving counselling/support having experienced domestic violence in their family

• Adult sample, N = 33 (ages 26 - 87)
  – Abused sample had accessed help from range of settings, health, housing, education, counselling, refuges

• 18 of 20 abused women were no longer living with their partners
• All women had been criticised, often, for their parenting skills
• Majority of the children were no longer living with the abuser, most were still living with their mothers, but with social services involvement
• The children reported range of abuses and clear messages about how they saw their families
Study 2: Children’s Drawings

Ethan,
“A cat 'cos they are intelligent and don’t get eaten by other animals

Chains sees the panther but all alike except dad 'cos he is finer and uglier.”

Father not with family now.
Child suggested to do out this exercise as I transcribed by writing his words down for some of the questions.
Study 2: Children’s Drawings

Jennifer, aged 9
Dad would be an ant so he couldn’t pick on us everyone else would be tortoises so they would be around for a long time
Study 2: Children’s Drawings

Jamie aged 11
“Like an eagle so I could fly away”
Did not like loud noises from downstairs

Noise from downstairs
Mum
Stepdad

Play lego
Me
Jordan
Study 2: Children’s Drawings

David, aged 7
“Cat ‘cos they can run fast”
The children said, I........

- watched my dad breaking mum’s arm ...then we had to go to the hospital and mum lied [about what had happened] (Girl aged 10)
- was a ‘punch bag’ for my Dad ...when he couldn’t hit Mum. Dad said it was her fault (Boy aged 13)
- hit my mum too....cos my Dad told me to (Boy aged 13)
- watched my Dad try to kill my mum ...we had to move and we have police protection now (Girl aged 12)
The women said, he told me........

– ‘I ... was a crap parent ... I deserved the beatings...’ (Clare, 29)

– I did not know how to care for our son who is disabled... broken my fingers tried to break my arm’ (Julie)

– I don’t know how to look after my child because I am disabled... controlled when me and my child were allowed to go to the toilet, wash...(Les, 33)

– I was ugly and stupid because I can’t speak English... I don’t know how to look after my son... he is not the father of our son (Begum, 24)
What they wanted
What children wanted

- I want my Mum to sort it out. I talk to my brother but he’s too small to help (Ethan, 7, lives with mum, sister and little brother)
- I want someone to tell Ruben off and I don’t like having to move when Ruben gets bad (David, 7, lives with mum and Ruben)
- ‘Police should send him away...I can’t go out at play times in case my Dad comes’ (Jennifer, 9, lives with Mum and sisters)
- ‘Friendships group where people would have to be my friend and someone to help us stay at home (different town) (Stacey, 8, lives with Mum and sister, in new town, bullied at new school)
- Now big Chris is gone I talk to my Mum...I want to be listened to (Jon, aged 8, lives with mum and sisters and brothers)
What The Children Wanted

• People to listen to them and believe them
  – their teachers, their families, counsellors, the police, other children
• People to intervene,
  – but also to stay at home with their mums and siblings
• People to be there to help them
  – regular support in their normal lives
  – proactive support – people predicting what they need
Rationale for the Study

- Links between child abuse and domestic abuse, despite the lack of interventions that targets both
- Domestic abuse is one of the key concerns around child protection
- Dropout rate in domestic abuse is higher than other programs in terms of offending behaviour
- There are some positive domestic abuse programmes in the United States and Norway – results suggest very positive effects
- One of the motivators for perpetrators is to maintain their contact as parents
- Implementing Triple P program with perpetrators of domestic abuse that have been accused of domestic violence (Domestic Abuse court) would be essential and would expect very positive outcomes for children and also for adults (perpetrators and victims).
The Alba Study

Aims:
- Increase positive parenting skills among fathers who are perpetrators of domestic abuse
- Increase motivation to address relationship skills
- Decrease coercive and abusive interactions with their partner and child(ren).

Objectives

Post-intervention
- Improved parental regulation of negative emotions
- Lower levels of domestic violence
- Less resistance to addressing domestic abuse
- Reduced levels of re-offending
Project

- N = 120 (60 control vs 60 intervention)
- Target population: offenders on license for DA; who have children aged 3-9 yrs old
- Male offenders will receive Pathways Triple P intervention
- Victims, current partners, and primary carers will receive a self-directed delivery Triple P level 4 and additional support (e.g. Women’s Aid, ASSIST,...)
- Assessment at pre, post and 6 month follow-up for both control and intervention group
Study

Randomised Control Trial

- Group 1: Delayed Intervention
- Group 2: Intervention group (Group and Pathways Triple P)

Objectives

- Pre post and FUP change on psychometrics (clinically significant change) and on police call out (behavioural measures)
- *Identify quality of life in the partner group – pre and post assessments*
- *Children’s workers/ Semi-structured questionnaires - post-intervention - changes in child(ren)’s behaviour*
- *Interviews/Focus groups with partners – examine personal experiences and views of the project (socially significant change)*
Stages

- Initial project planning, Funding (Nov 2010)
- Contact with key agencies,
- Ethics preparation and submission, 3 stages
- Multi-agency work, Safety Planning, ISPs, MOUs
- Vulnerable Persons Data set, initial analysis
- Baseline assessments
- Recruitment
- x2 Screening stages
- Identification of potential respondents
- Practitioner Triple P training
- Randomisation
- Partner-Group contact, support, material
- Intervention
- Post-intervention assessments; partner-group assessments
- Follow-up assessments
Practitioners Views Following the Triple P training

Delivery of the Alba Project

- x12 Criminal Justice Social Workers
- x3 ASSIST workers
- x3 Women’s Aid workers

Key Learning Points: Positives vs. Tensions

- Agencies which do not normally work together found benefit in doing so regarding own service delivery
- Practitioners found that training enhanced their work simply by spending time together
- Tensions over safety concerns for victims – manipulation of programme
- Tensions over Alba Project on top of practitioners’ current work loads
Key Challenges

- Managing risk
  - Memorandum of Understanding
  - Safety managed by Strathclyde Police, ASSIST (women’s advocacy service).

- Prevent misuse of Triple P
  - Recognise external motivations to engage (e.g. programme manipulation)
  - Comprehensive, consistent partner-group support
  - Not an alternative, but addition to, DA intervention
  - Information Sharing Protocols

- Time management
  - Complexity of project-set up; impact on time prediction; accounting for practitioners’ already overloaded work commitments;
What has changed

- More focus on securing responses from women and children re: impact/effectiveness

- More directly involved in managing risk: clearer that this is on an individual basis, very sophisticated and nuanced understanding to manage safety, and changing risk effectively

- Our operational group will meet once per month following our local MARAC,

- No ability to test whether addressing less confrontational issues (e.g. parenting) v. difficult (adult abuse) helps engagement/lowers attrition.....too much uncertainty about risk for this pilot

- Our group members screened 3 times before they can engage...what does this say about effectiveness overall?
Further Challenges

- Need to explain to women to prevent misuse.....why is your opinion the most important, but only if you want to give it....
- ......and how we are not saying you are a bad mum......
- Need to change working practice to secure safety
- Need to explain to children to prevent fear as a result of changes in Dad.........anyone got a leaflet explaining Triple P to children?
- Multiple levels of negotiation of access....and of cooperation, access at the top…but resistance with workers
- A challenge to GCU to host the groups....moving to action research
- A need to deal with the various issues affecting families........whilst Matt says it is not enough to look at areas of social deprivation...
Key Learning Points

- Values very important
  - Reduce risk in men?
  - Increase quality of life in women?
  - Make children safer?

- Shared working hugely beneficial
  - Ongoing challenges re different initial focus of practitioners
  - Need to recognise still parent even if separated……..children’s wishes - Dad to be nice!!!!
  - Some people do not believe abusive men should have any access to children far less be encouraged to parent them

- Difficult to separate out programme v structure when looking at impact………………Co-ordinated community response (anyone remember Duluth??)
Where now.....?

- Interest in cross cultural data collection re: roles of alcohol and IPV?
- Parenting in complex cases
- How separate out the impact of the programme from the structure ...and does it matter?
- Need to also address IPV....and mental health?
- Need to explain to the children.....
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