

Why is this important?

The impact of parenting on children's life chances is well documented, this has been shown in studies of those in early childhood, right through to adolescence. Local authorities have an overarching responsibility for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and young people in their area, hence the need to look at parenting within a needs assessment. Lewisham has high prevalence of a number of risk factors for parents which can result in poor outcomes for children.

Key Facts and Figures

40,000

Lewisham families with dependent children



1/5

of adults in alcohol dependency treatment live with a child

4th

highest

domestic violence rate in London

Lewisham residents are **more likely** to have a long-term mental health problem than London and England average

A range of Parenting support services exist, including specific programmes around domestic violence, substance misuse and mental health

Higher than average levels of deprivation in the borough

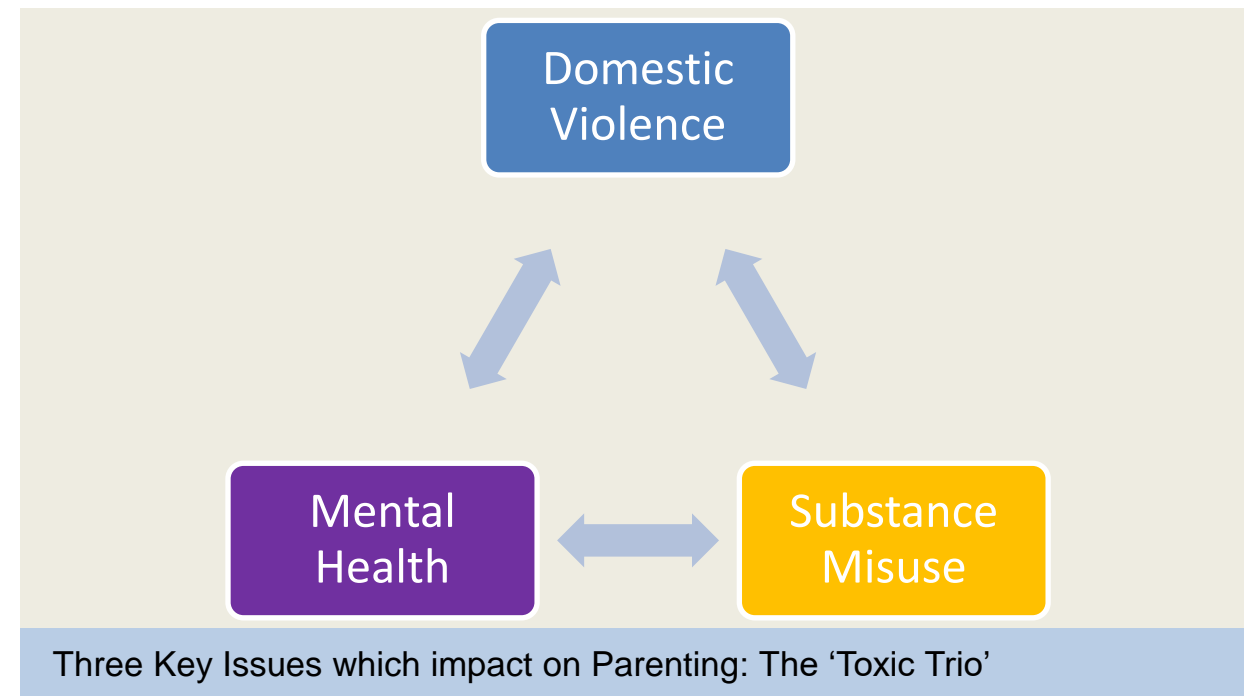


What is happening nationally?

- The Home Office **Drugs Strategy** (2017) aims to reduce illicit and harmful drug use and increase dependency recovery rates
- The Home Office also published the **Ending Violence Against Women and Girls**, includes a focus on early intervention and prevention
- The **NHS Five Year Forward View for Mental Health**, takes a strategic approach to improving mental health
- The **Troubled Families** Programme, continues to run until 2020
- The **Scotland Parenting Strategy** (2012), champions the importance of parents to society

What is happening locally?

- Overarching **Children and Young People's Plan** and **Early Help Strategy**
- The Hidden Harm Service, works with vulnerable families to ensure early entry into substance misuse treatment for parents
- Domestic Violence programmes as well as the one-stop shop Athena service
- Specialist Mental Health services from midwifery to IAPT to Parental Wellbeing
- Specific Parenting courses are also available via a number of children's centres



What needs to be done?

To improve the offer to parents:

- Making it easier for parents to find out about the available services
- Enhance the collection and monitoring of service data, including equalities monitoring, to help build a clear picture of need across the borough
- Consider how to reach more dads and parents of older children
- Build on the needs assessment through consideration of Lewisham's parenting offer in the early help review