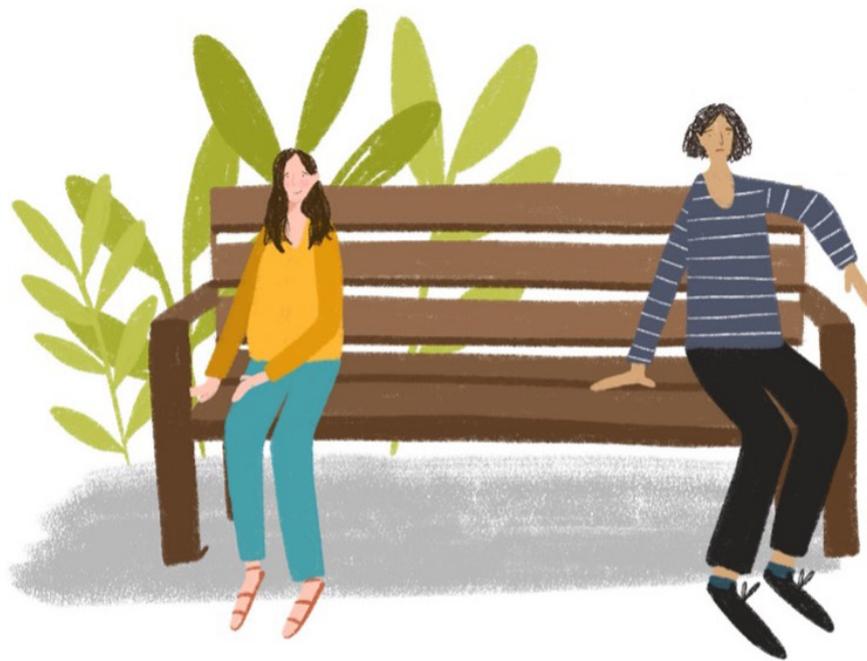




RECOGNISING THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PARENTAL CONFLICT AND DOMESTIC ABUSE



Training for frontline practitioners

Amity offers specialist training to support a wide range of multi-agency practitioners recognise the difference between domestic abuse and parental conflict. This training is available to practitioners including health, social care, education and early help.

An independent evaluation of this training was undertaken in August 2022. A group of practitioners who attended the training were asked for their feedback after they had attended Amity training.

1. Usefulness of the training content

The subject matter and training content itself is complex, however practitioners found the training useful in the way it navigated both domestic abuse and parental conflict and the relationship between the two issues in an easily digestible format.

One practitioner commented that they found the training supported them to understand the *“fine line between parental conflict and domestic abuse and how quickly parental conflict can escalate to some forms of domestic abuse when left unattended.”* Similarly, another practitioner commented that *“having the clarity between domestic abuse and parental conflict made me realise that I would work very differently depending on the situation and I would know what questions to ask now.”*

The training utilises different learning styles and practitioners found this useful. One practitioner commented *“the video clips were very useful, I can now use these in my work with both survivors and perpetrators of domestic abuse”* and another practitioner similarly commented that *“the videos shown throughout the training were very powerful”*

This same practitioner commented that they would *“use the videos when visiting families as an aid to show them how to recognise their own family dynamic.”*

The training provides opportunities for practitioners to learn from each other and share knowledge about the subject matter. One practitioner commented that they found that there was *“plenty of time for discussions with other knowledgeable professionals”* and another commented that they found the training *“well-paced and it was good to hear from other professionals”*

2. Application of skills and knowledge post training

Practitioners were asked how they would apply what they have learnt in to practice. One practitioner noted that they felt they could now *“observe more closely if parental conflict was evident and try to offer early support to prevent the situation escalating into something more serious.”*

Similarly, a practitioner noted they felt they had *“more insight in to unpicking situations and using professional curiosity”* with another commenting that they would use *“open questions to determine people’s feelings and perception of their own situation.”*

One practitioner found that the training gave them *“more confidence in having really difficult conversations with social workers regarding domestic abuse referrals which may well be parental conflict.”* Interestingly the same practitioner noted that the training *“will now support in triage of the local perpetrator programmes.”*

Within the evaluation feedback practitioners commented that they would utilise their learning with their colleagues as well as encourage other team members to attend the training. One practitioner commented *“the course was well put together, current and very informative. I have highly recommended this course to other team members.”*

In summary, practitioners felt that the course met its aims to increase knowledge and skills in the recognition of the difference between domestic abuse and parental conflict.

- 100% of the practitioners that responded stated that they would use the skills they learnt in the training course with their families.
- 100% stated that they felt they understood the subject more than they did before and
- 100% stated that they felt their colleagues would benefit from the training.