



Manchester

Implementing the
Safe & Together Model

Aims and Purpose:

- Introduction & Summary of the Journey So Far
- Domestic Abuse Strategy
- The Impact of Practice and the Survivor Story
- Taking a Partnership Approach: The Right Support at the Right Time
- Next steps

Strategy Aims

The aims of the Domestic Abuse Strategy are to:

1

- Prevent abuse and promote healthy relationships.

2

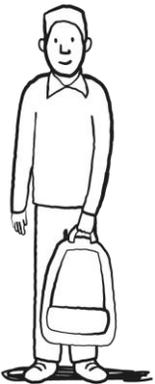
- Identify abuse and intervene as early as possible.

3

- Support Victims/ Survivors Recovery

Impact of Domestic Abuse on Young People

- Growing up in an environment where domestic violence and abuse (DVA) occurs is likely to be a traumatic and stressful negative experience.
- Feelings of blame and responsibility that negatively impact on their social development and relationships.
- Risk taking behaviours
- Adverse experiences during childhood can have long-term negative impacts on our health and wellbeing.
- This includes growing up in a household where: domestic violence, parental separation, mental illness, alcohol abuse, or drug abuse is present, or where someone has been incarcerated.



What is Safe and Together?

- ‘Moving Systems to become more Domestic Violence-informed’
- Bottom line that the domestic violence perpetrator and his behaviour (not the adult survivor and her behaviour) are the foundational source of the risk and safety concerns for the children.
- Understanding the perpetrators ‘pattern of behaviour’ – descriptive, behavioural detail of what the DA looks like in each case.
- Partnering with the Survivor – listen, empathise, focus on their strengths, identify their protective efforts, focus on perpetrators choices as the source of harm.
- Shared goal of keeping children safe and safety planning based on their experiences and strengths. Language – non-blaming language is crucial.

Blaming v non-blaming Language

- Why haven't you left? Vs Has your partner ever interfered with you trying to leave?
- How did you trigger him, what were you doing before he was violent? Vs What was he like before he became violent?
- It's your job to protect the children. You're choosing him over the children. Vs It's clear you've tried to protect the children but that he's chosen to hurt them. I'm worried that his behaviour is harming the children.

2017

*"I don't ask the questions because I'm scared of what I'll hear
and don't know what to do once I have."
- Social Worker*

Safe & Together Introduced

Briefings

*"What is the tool? I don't think worker's will have time."
- Service Manager*

Multiagency S&T Steering
Group Established

2018

2018

Individual case consultations offered

Safe & together Champions Meetings established

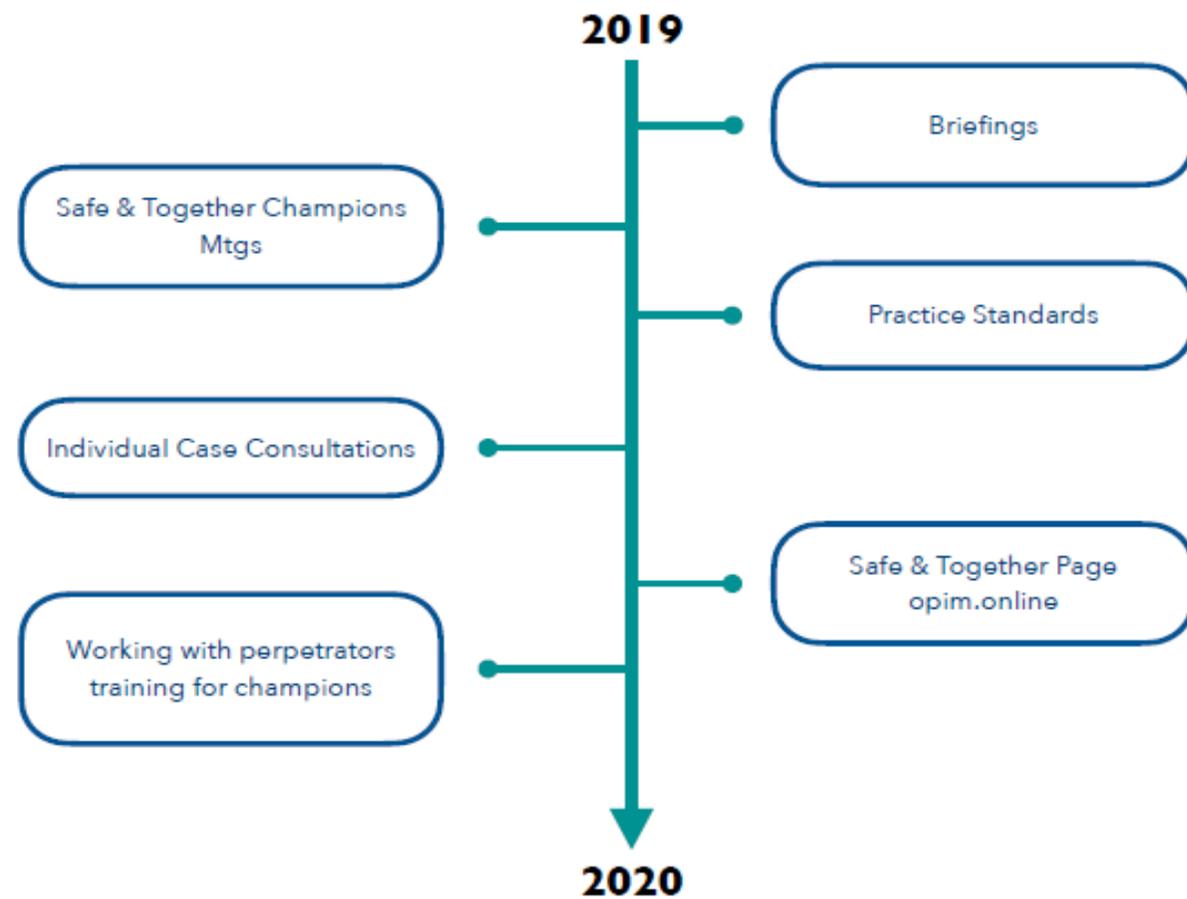
Assessment Aid

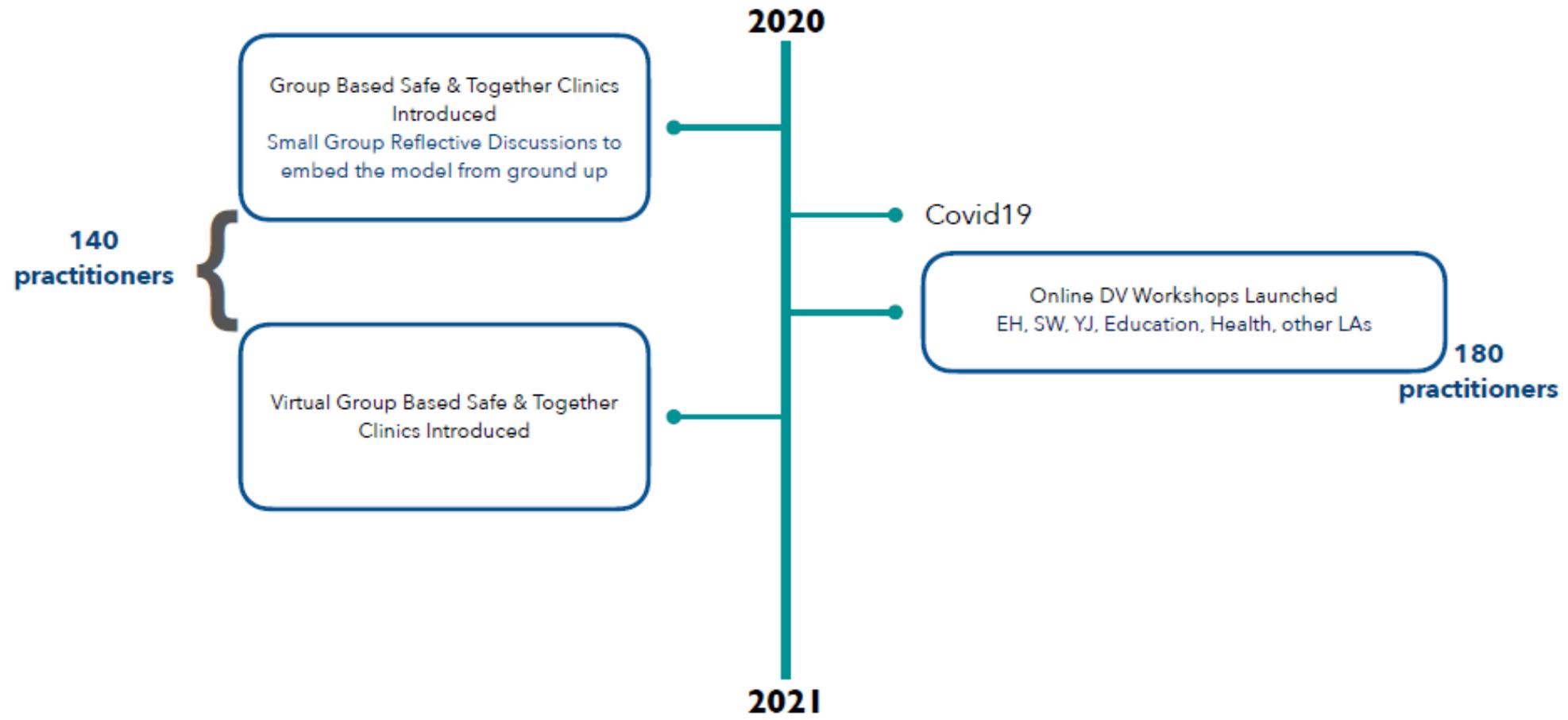
Incorporated into / across all training

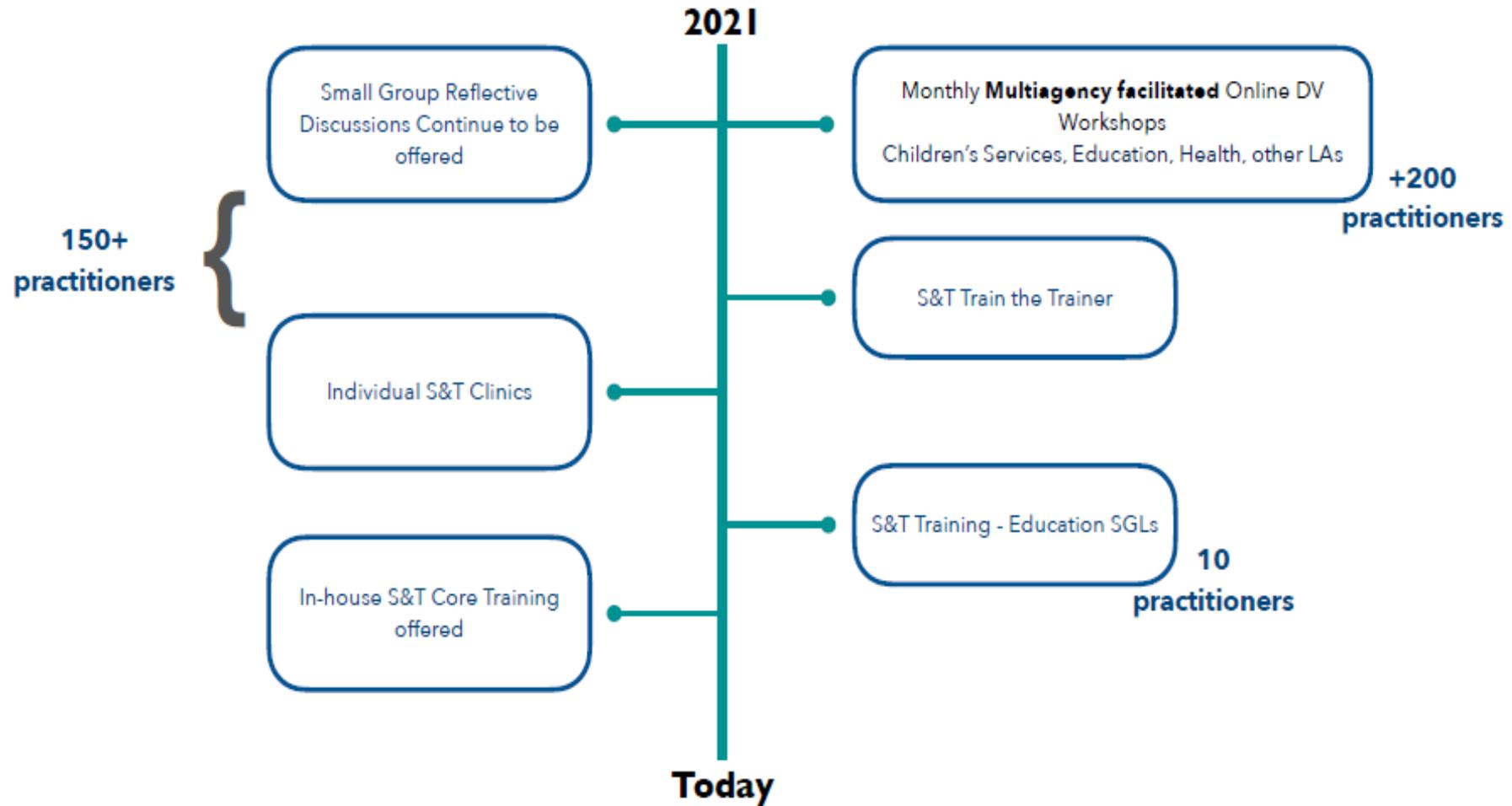
File Review Guide

2019

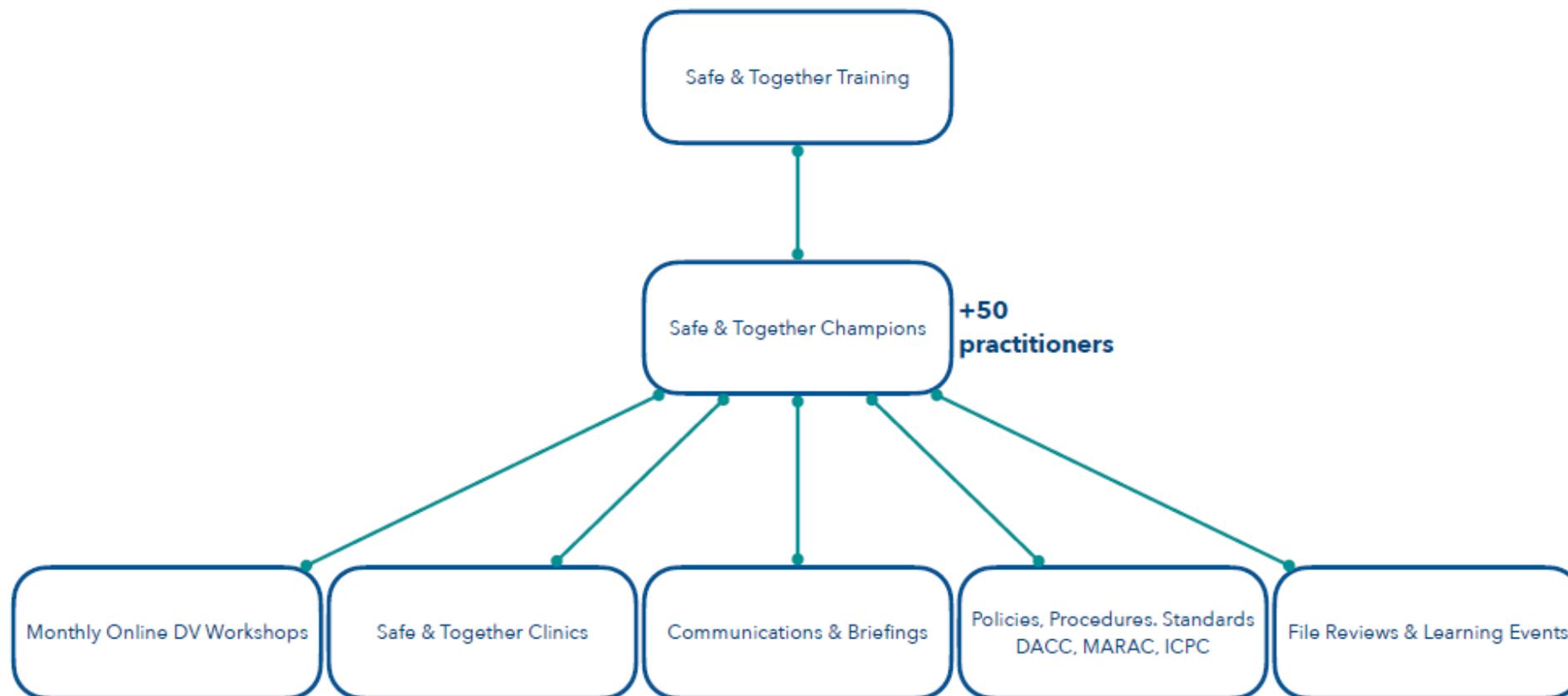








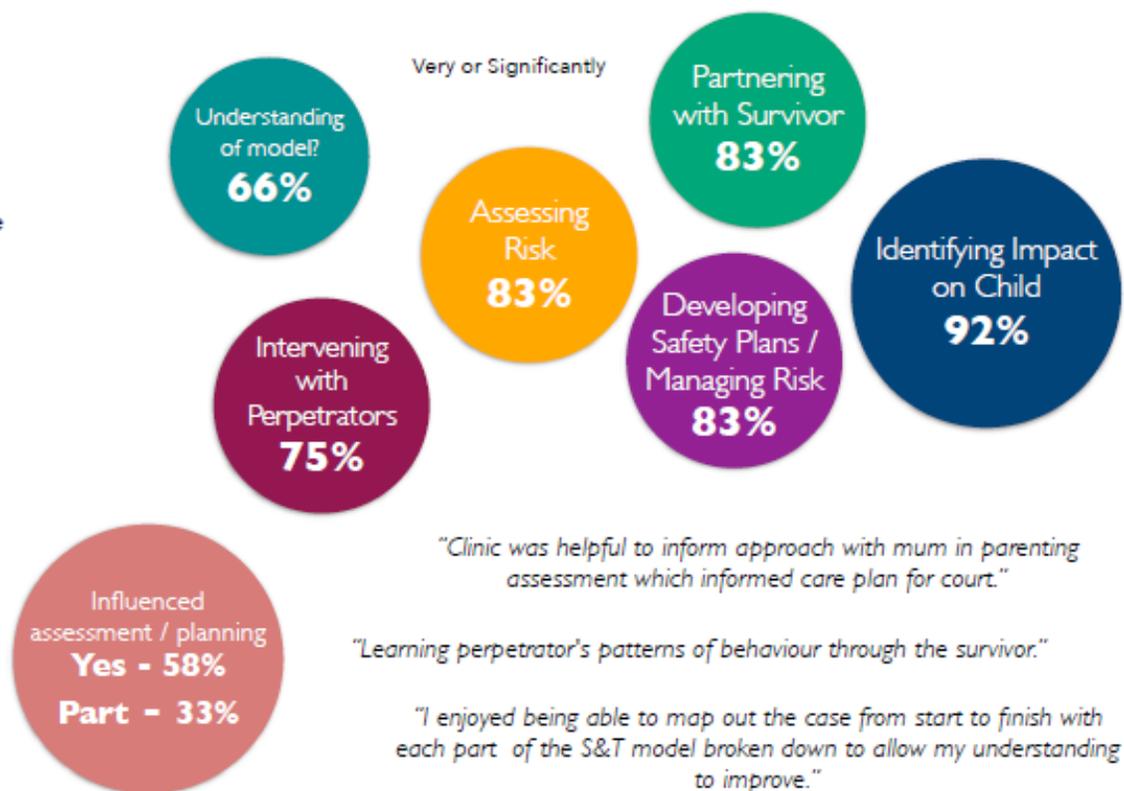
Today



What practice dilemmas are practitioners identifying when requesting a S&T clinic?



Would you say the clinics have been helpful for you in terms of...



Debbie's Story

Debbie (39) & Jim (44)

James (19) -son of Debbie, Jim is his step-dad however been involved in his life from being a baby.

Aaron(15), Anthony (13), Summer (11), Julia (10)

Debbie & Jim have been in a relationship for 18 years. James was around 2 years old when they got together. The 1st incident reported to the Police was in 2004 - Aaron was 2 months old at this time. Anthony, Summer and Julia were all born throughout the next 6 years.

Click to add text

- *In 2010 CS first became involved with the family due to Domestic Abuse concerns.*
- *Between 2010 - 2019 there were 16 incidents (which were actually reported/ escalated to the Police being called).*
- *Some of these incidents included the children being physically harmed by Jim*
- *Child In Need Planning and 1 cycle of Child Protection Planning.*

Debbie's Story....

- ***"Just don't be together, don't let him in"*** - *"Everyone would just walk away, I had no support network and no clear boundaries"*
- The vicious cycle and precipitating event that led to the start of real change.
- **Partnering with Debbie** - *"I would talk about all the things I couldn't do or haven't done - they talked to me about what I have done and can do."*
- **Holding Jim accountable and understanding his pattern of perpetrator behaviour** - *"If you're not on his side he won't cooperate - I think he hates how well I'm doing"*.
- **Then vs now** - Debbie's journey and aspirations for her and the children's future.

Our Partner's Journey ...

Training

5 members of staff have completed the 4-day S&T core training and are S&T champions.

A short introduction to the model is included in MFT Domestic Violence and Abuse Training which is offered to all staff across the trust. This training is now online and will eventually become mandatory for all staff.

An introduction is also included in mandatory Level 3 Children's safeguarding training.



What next for MFT....

- **Continue to provide introductory workshops**
- **More staff to attend 4-day training and become champions**
- **Safe & Together clinics for health staff will commence in January 2022**
- **Extra awareness, training and support from current champions for safeguarding teams in order to support practitioners working with families.**



Safe and Together @ MYJ

- Each Young Person is assessed and screened by MYJ to identify if they are a survivor of domestic violence or are in a healthy relationship. (Pre & Post court)
- Each Young Person is offered support in relation to the experiences they have sustained either through internal intervention or external intervention and support (Both Pre and Post Court).
- Each Locality Team and the Intensive Supervision and Surveillance Team have dedicated Safe and Together Champions to sign post and offer support.
- Young People's access and involvement with support is tracked by Manchester Youth Justice on Quarterly basis.
- Ongoing Clinical support Provided by consultant Social worker Stephen Brock



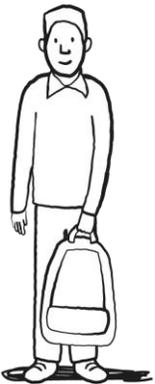
Outcomes and Impact Of S&T

View From Practitioners:

“As a youth justice officer tasked with delivering interventions this is a great resource. We have for some time had little in the way of resources to deliver to young people that have witnessed significant DV and as a result have adverse childhood experiences and are struggling with resilience and developing skills to move forward”

“...The model gives a clear outline of the benefits of its content, in that if we can enable the young people to identify at least one other adult that was their life at the time of the trauma that had tried to protect and keep them safe, then this has a significant impact on reducing their chances of going on to suffer emotionally and be drawn into other negative behaviours such as criminality and drug use.”

“...The templates of questions are user friendly and with the right facilitator can be very impacting. I used the matrix when delivering this intervention with my young person, and although it did elicit a tearful response it was interesting to see that this was likely the first time the young person had realised just how much his mother had tried to protect him and his siblings.”



Next Steps

- Impact analysis with Stirling University: *'Developing the evidence base for innovation in social care for children and families affected by domestic abuse'*
- Owning the model – distributed leadership
- Focus on strengths and building resilience.
- Prevention and early intervention.
- Continue to work at a locality level –empowered workforce.