



Children overcoming domestic abuse (CODA)

CODA is a 12 week programme that works with the non-abusive parent and child (4-11 years) concurrently. The CODA group work programme is designed to respond to high levels of demand and prevents duplication across multi-agency partners by adopting a collaborative approach to service provision. The programme also incorporates the principle of prevention and harm reduction alongside core recovery work, and links to Domestic Abuse Act 2021.



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To provide consistency across groups, we have introduced a set of core issues that provide goals and direction, as well as accountability to the community. These are:

- Validation of the children's experiences
- Safety Planning
- Understanding abuse and reducing self-blame
- Appropriate versus inappropriate expressions of emotion

CODA adopts a collaborative approach to service provision. Providing a coordinated community programme reliant upon multi-agency collaboration can improve services to children and women experiencing domestic violence and maximise their continual safety and well-being.

Coda referral criteria:

- Child has experienced domestic abuse
- The child is aged 4-11 years – (6-8 years for first Pilot)
- The perpetrator no longer lives in the family home (contact can be in place)
- The child is not subject to a Child Protection Plan (CP)
- The mother agrees with the above and wants to seek help for her child
- Child consents to attending group.