

Child & Adolescent to Parent Violence and Abuse (CAPVA)

What is it and how can we stop it?



Foundation for Social Welfare Services
Here for you

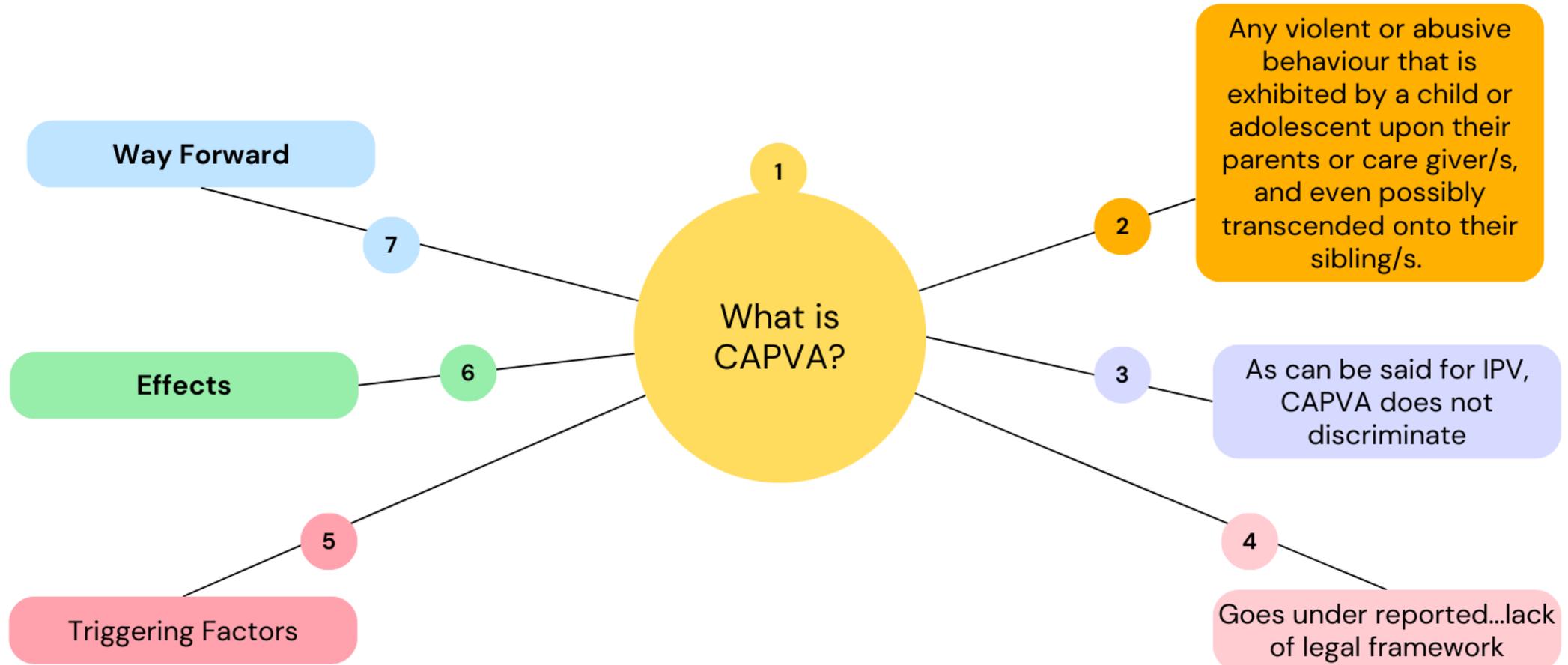
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Quiz time!

What is Child & Adolescent
to Parent Violence and
Abuse (CAPVA)?

Kicking-off...



Trigger

An event, person or situation which "triggers" someone's anger.



Negative Thoughts

Irrational, negative thoughts which occur following the trigger.



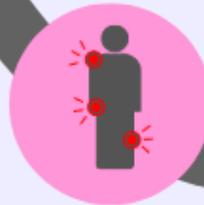
Emotional Response

The emotions which follow the trigger and negative thoughts



Physical Response

The way in which the body automatically begins to respond to anger.



Behavioural Response

The way in which an individual reacts based upon the thoughts, feelings, and physical responses.



Anger Cycle





MALTA





Introduction to the Domestic Violence Services

Victim Services

- Domestic Violence Unit
- Domestic Violence Risk Assessment Service
- Ghabex Emergency Shelter

STOP! The Violence and Abuse

- Perpetrator Support Services
 - Domestic Abuse Intervention Programme
 - Domestic Abuse Support Group
 - Women Who Use Force
- Child to Parent Violence Service

CPV Statistics – Malta



miro

CPV Yearly Statistics

This bar graph represents the number of consultations and referrals that were made since the beginning of the service, back in 2017.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Malta has seen a rise in cases of CPV being brought forward. This number continues to increase each year, as up until 25th November 2022 we have well exceeded the number of cases seen in 2021.

This year, the Foundation for Social Welfare Services dedicated its 16 Days of Activism conference launch towards Child-to-Parent Violence.

16 Days of Activism Foundation Launch (25th November -)

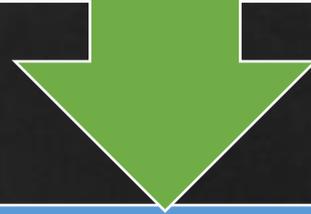


SEEK HELP! STOP CHILD - TO - PARENT VIOLENCE



A Multi-Disciplinary Approach

Both parents and young persons are supported systematically through different services and regular professionals' meetings.



Case conferences are also held in order to avoid repetition of work, to liaise with all services involved and to mutually agree on a way forward.

Method of referrals

Internal

DVU

Youth In Focus

Child Protection Services

Professionals from different services request a case consultation meeting where information is gathered on the client and family's situation.

Direct meeting with carers is then organised.

If criteria for CPV service is met, sessions with client begin

External

Parents / Carers

Education Professionals

Police

Other Professionals

Parents/ carers make direct contact with our service

Referrals are sent in directly from professionals

Case consultations are organised if needed

Intake session held

Assessment

The first session is usually held between the CPV worker, another professional, and the parent/s.
During this session, information is gathered pertaining to;

Interpersonal
family processes
and dynamics

Family History

Trajectory of
abuse

Impact of abuse

Previous
interventions

Other Presenting
problems



Once the eligibility criteria is met, subsequent meetings are then held on a one-to-one bases with the service user.

Child to Parent/Carer Abuse: Traffic Lights Screening Tool (TLST)

Green Behaviours: Score 0

Child/young person never frightens parent/carers	
Child/young person does not illustrate inappropriate anger	
All family members feel safe	
Child/young person demonstrates positive attitude towards parent/carers	
Child/young person has a clear understanding of the unacceptability of abuse	
There is no history of domestic violence or abuse in the family home & there are positive role models of healthy relationships	
Positive home environment focused on support	
Positive peers and friendships	
Child/young person positively engages with school, education or employment	
Child/young person's development is age appropriate	
Young person is happy and settled. No emotional wellbeing concerns.	
No identified issues around substance misuse	
No history of inappropriate sexually harmful behaviour by child/young person towards other	
No identified issues around the use of pornography	
No concerns around child sexual exploitation	
No episodes of being 'missing from home'	
No issues surrounding the use of social media	
No identified issues around the use of violent games	
No concerns around anti-social behaviour or criminal behaviour	
No concerns around the use of weapons	
No concerns around gang involvement	
Child/young person has good support network	
Child/young person does not need professional support	
GREEN Behaviour Score:	
Green/low:- Number of green behaviours	

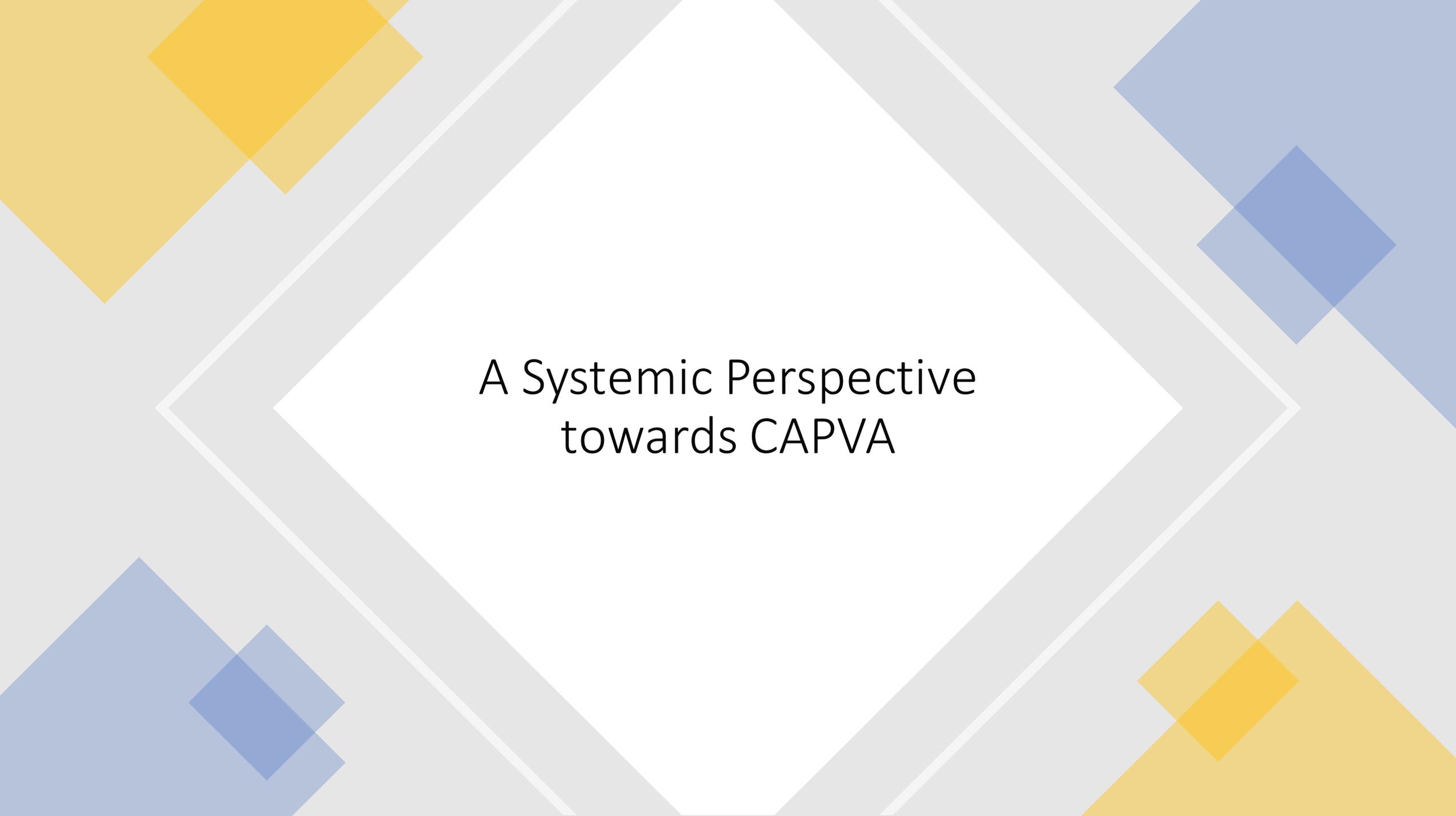
Amber behaviours: Score 10

Child/young person sometimes frightens parent/carers	
Child/young person can sometimes illustrate inappropriate anger	
Some family members feel unsafe on occasions	
Child/young person sometimes demonstrates negative attitudes towards parent/carers	
Child/young person has some understanding and knowledge of abusive behaviour	
Some examples of problematic and concerning behaviours and some examples of healthy relationships	
Some positive element of support within the home environment	
Some examples of negative influence from peers and friends. Child/young person is at risk of becoming angry and/or of being bullied	
There is sporadic or limited engagement with school, education or employment	
Child/young person's development is slightly impaired	
Young person has some indicators of low mood and self-harm	
Evidence that the young person is misusing substances on a frequent basis	
Some display of sexually harmful behaviour by child/young person towards others	
Some identified issues around the use of pornography	
Some concerns around child sexual exploitations	
Some episodes of being 'missing from home'	
Some issues around the use of social media	
Some identified issues around the use of violent games	
Some concerns around anti-social behaviour or criminal behaviour	
Some concerns around the use of weapons	
Some concerns around gang involvement	
Child/young person has some support	
Child/young person has some links with professional services	
AMBER Behaviour Score:	
Amber/medium:-Number of amber behaviours	

Red Behaviours: Score 20

Child/young person significantly and frequently frightens parent/carers	
Child/young person frequently illustrates inappropriate anger	
Some or all family members feel unsafe and fearful on a daily basis	
Child/young person demonstrates victim blaming attitudes justifying violent and abusive behaviour	
Lack of knowledge and understanding of what abuse looks like	
Key family members are abusive and violent. Examples of abusive and violent behaviours that are a cause of concern, evidence of the misuse of power and control other individuals within the household	
Lack of support in the home environment	
Association with peers and friends who display anti-social, harmful, abusive and offending behaviour. Evidence of bullying behaviour.	
There is not engagement in school, education and employment (NEET)	
Child/young person's development is delayed	
Evidence that the young person has mental health issues, self-harm or suicidal tendencies	
Evidence that the young person is misusing substances on a daily basis	
Display of heightened sexualised behaviours by child/young person towards others	
Evidence of obsessive and inappropriate use of pornography	
Significant concerns around child sexual exploitation	
Frequent episodes of being 'missing from home'	
Significant issues around the use of social media	
Evidence of obsessive and inappropriate use of violent games	
Significant concerns around anti-social behaviour or criminal behaviour	
Significant concerns around the use of weapons	
Significant concerns around gang involvement	
Child/young person is socially isolated and has no support	
Child/young person refuses or avoids professional support	
RED Behaviour Score:	
Red/high:- Number of red behaviours	

The Various Approaches



A Systemic Perspective
towards CAPVA

Systemic Interventions

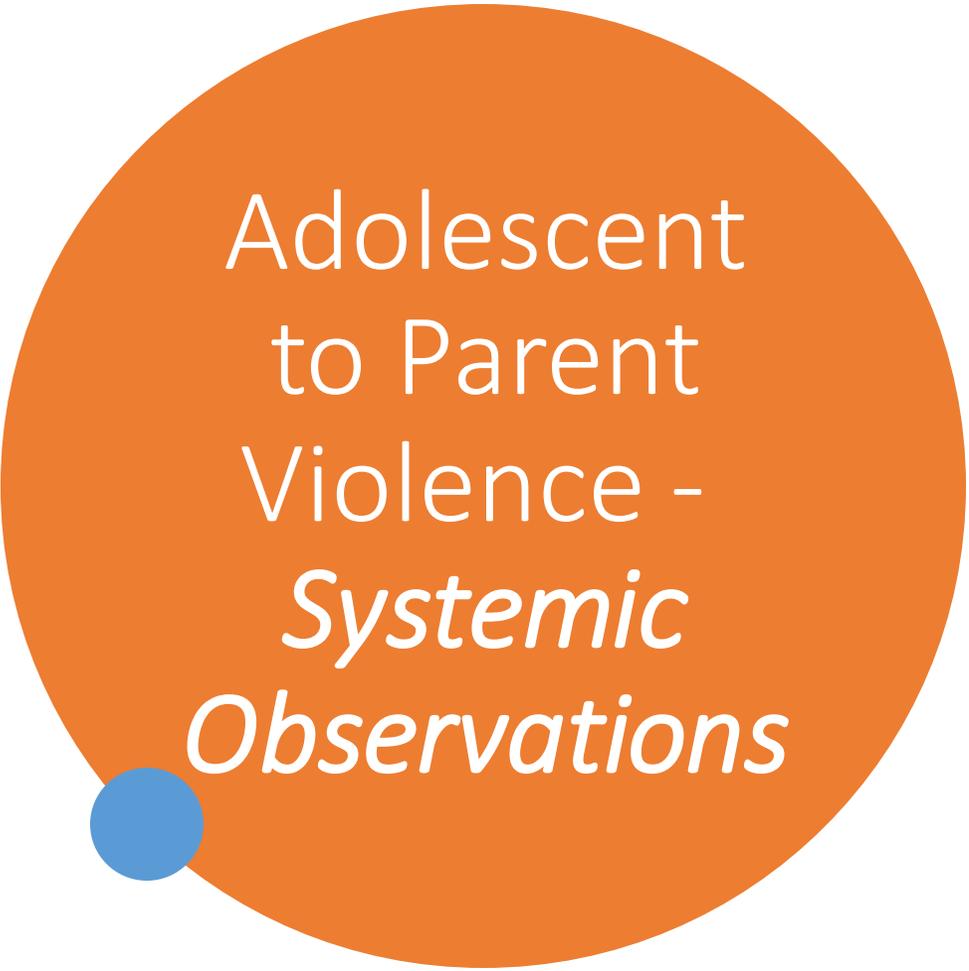
- It is helpful to not only look at the violent behaviour but also to look at **relationships** which the adolescents find supportive and ones where there is no violence despite the presence of disagreements, what in narrative therapy is called 'exceptions' (White & Epston, 1990). Such relationships provide great opportunities for change and are sources of hope.

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- Systemic Approach to Adolescent to Parent Violence

- When abuse happens in the context of family relationships, the person suffering the violence might minimise, accommodate and perhaps forgive the abuser in the context of the love that they have for them.
- This contradiction of **love** and **abuse** makes it difficult to reconcile for both the family members and for the professionals working with them.
- At the same time, as practitioners, it is important that we are cognizant of the different forms of violence that can be present in a family and that we keep giving space to the different voices and to the unique experiences of violence and love of the different family members.
- In addition, the **dichotomy of abuser/abused** may become blurred and embracing an integrative theoretical framework as practitioners becomes important to navigate the complexity of violence in families.

(Sammut Scerri et al., 2017)



Adolescent to Parent Violence - *Systemic Observations*

- Systemic therapists have seen an increase in the number of adolescent to parent violence in their practice – a new phenomenon? (Sammut Scerri et al., 2017).
- Parent violence taking place within the context of a wider context of family violence – mutually influencing rather than a linear or cause and effect (Daly & Wade, 2016).

Adolescent to Parent Violence – *Professional Dilemmas*

- "Whilst we believe that young persons must be held responsible for their abusive behaviour, the boundaries between who is the victim and the perpetrator can be unclear, especially in the context of multiple forms of violence in the same family" (UK Home Office, 2015).
- Mutual violence as a conflict resolution strategy (Sammut Scerri, 2015).
- Parent being the legally responsible adult for the adolescent despite the power dynamic present that seems to be overturned.

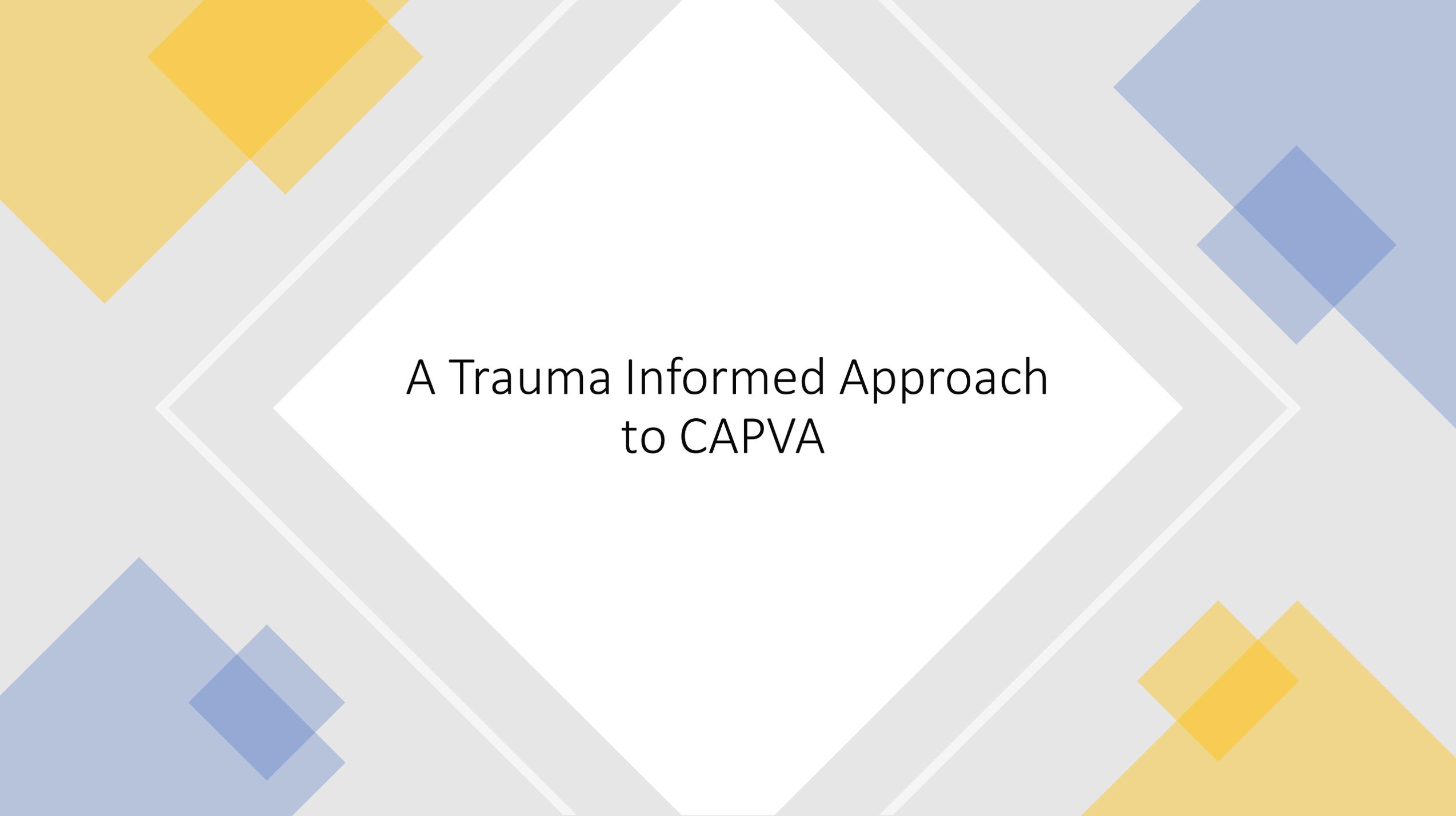
Adolescent to Parent Violence - *Systemic Observations*

- Witnessing interparental violence might increase the likelihood of adolescent to parent violence (McCloskey & Lichter, 2003).
- Parent to youth abuse might also co-occur with adolescent to parent abuse (Boxer et al., 2009).
- More likely to happen in lone parent families headed by mothers, and where parents are facing significant stressors (Kennair & Mellor, 2007).

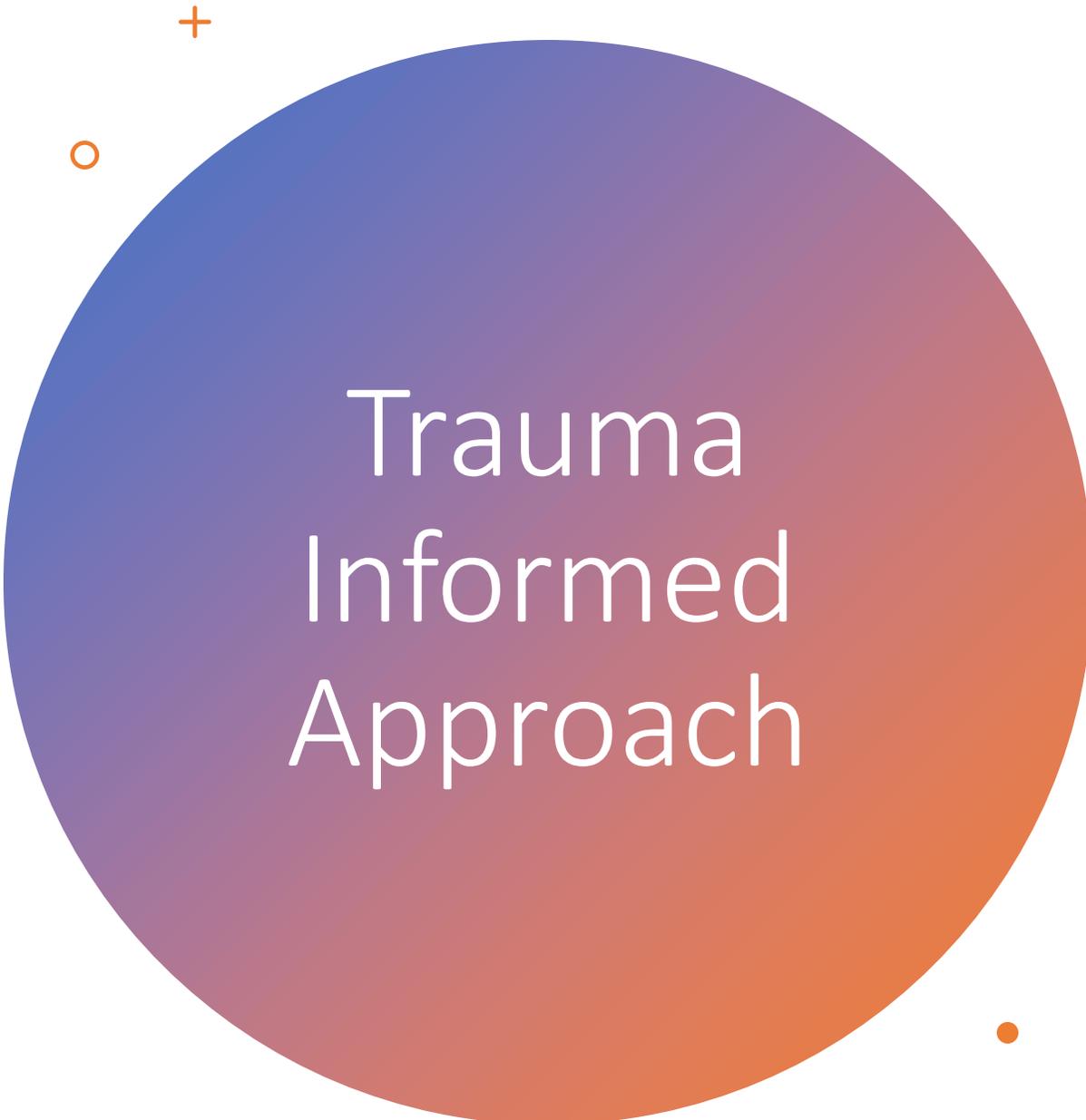
Way Forward

- The impact of such behaviour on all members of the family is constantly assessed and brought to light.
- The young person is supported by CPV until the situation at home is more contained and both the young person and parents/guardians report less risk.
- Both CPV worker and professionals supporting the parents/guardians jointly agree on a way forward. Sometimes, services which can support the young person individually further is identified and explored.
- The need for further work to consolidate the family relationships is often identified and encouraged. In such cases referrals are carried out mostly within our own Foundation.





A Trauma Informed Approach
to CAPVA



Trauma Informed Approach

Trauma-Informed Practice is a strengths-based framework grounded in an understanding of and responsiveness to the impact of trauma. It emphasises physical, psychological, and emotional safety for everyone, and creates opportunities for survivors to rebuild a sense of control and empowerment.



Stress Responses



POSITIVE
Brief increases in heart rate,
mild elevations in stress hormone levels.

TOLERABLE
Serious, temporary stress responses,
buffered by supportive relationships.

TOXIC
Prolonged activation of stress
response systems in the absence
of protective relationships.

Turning Theory into Practice



Over 90% of youths in touch with our services have experienced at least one serious trauma in their lives and all have been through adverse childhood experiences (Attard, 2022)

Therefore, it is crucial, as practitioners in the field, to ask ourselves "What happened to them to be acting this way?"

Thank you for your
attention!



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