

How male perpetrators use children to control mum

Perpetrators of domestic abuse rarely put the emotional or physical needs of their children (or their partner's children) above their own and will often use children in their methods to abuse and control mum. For children growing up exposed to domestic abuse the impact and effects can be short, medium and long term and affect many aspects of their life.

Examples of how children are used

- Getting children out of bed to witness physical and or sexual attacks on their mum
- Forcing children to hit, beat, kick, spit on mum
- Giving rewards and positive affection and interaction for verbal and/or physical abuse
- Threatening to abuse or actually abusing the children if mum doesn't comply with their demands
- Insisting children are kept quiet or silent at certain times
- Criticising the woman when she is affectionate to the children
- Not allowing mum to comfort children when they are upset
- Undermining mum in front of the children
- Threatening to or actually kidnapping the children
- Constantly telling mum she is a bad mother and he will have her children taken away
- Telling children if they talk to anyone they will be taken into care
- Making fun of the mum's beliefs in front of the children
- Spending money meant for things the children need on themselves
- Use of contact visits to further intimidate, harass, threaten and control mum
- Constantly quizzing and questioning the children about mum
- Getting the children to spy on mum and report back to him
- Constantly telling mum how naughty the child/ren are; causing arguments between mum and children