

Respect definition of Child and Adolescent to Parent Violence and Abuse – CAPVA

Respect use the term Child and Adolescent to Parent Violence and Abuse (CAPVA) to describe the dynamic where a young person (8 years –18 years) engages in abusive behaviour* towards a parent or adult carer where the abusive behaviour is harmful and repeated.

*By abusive behaviour we mean more than physical violence, but including emotional, coercive, or controlling behaviour, sexual abuse, and economic abuse.

Notes on the definition

The definition used above does not infer any specific aetiology for CAPVA and we recognise that there are a range of individual, familial, and social factors that are associated with a greater propensity for young people to engage in this behaviour. Every young person and their family need a response that is appropriate for their needs and circumstances.

We have used both 'child' and 'adolescent' in our definition to reflect the somewhat different experiences of families with children at difference ages and to recognise the need to have age appropriate responses to CAPVA.

Economic abuse in this definition includes damage to carers' property and family home – a form of abuse common to CAPVA.