

Practical Strategies for Coping with Child-to-Parent Violence: The Non Violent Resistance Programme in Practice

Eileen Lauster, Alan Quinn, John Brosnahan and Declan Coogan*

Summary: Child-to-parent violence (CPV) is an emerging problem coming more frequently to the attention of practitioners in a wide variety of settings. This paper describes the ways in which the Probation Service and Le Chéile in the Limerick Young Persons' Probation region implemented the Non Violent Resistance (NVR) programme as a response to CPV. The goal of the programme is to address the parents' expressed needs to reduce the violent and controlling behaviour of their children in the home. Parents needed a programme that gave practical strategies for coping with CPV violence. We describe how the practitioners in Limerick came to find the NVR programme and how they adapted the programme based on the parents' feedback from a previous parenting programme and during the NVR programme. We reflect on whether the goal of practical strategies for coping with CPV was reached by the programme end, and suggest how this approach could be useful in future practice. Throughout the paper the authors share quotes from parents who attended the NVR programme in Limerick.

Keywords: Children, child-to-parent violence, Non Violent Resistance Programme, collaborative and strengths-based practice, social support, Probation Service, Young Persons' Probation, Le Chéile, social work, evidence based practice, Limerick, restorative justice, domestic violence.

* Eileen Lauster is Assistant Research Fellow, Responding to Child to Parent Violence (RCPV) Project, School of Political Science and Sociology, UNESCO Centre for Child and Family Research, National University of Ireland Galway (email: eileen.lauster@nuigalway.ie). Alan Quinn is Mentoring Programme Co-Ordinator, Le Chéile (email: alan@lecheile.ie). John Brosnahan is Senior Probation Officer, Young Person Probation, Limerick (email: jmbrosnahan@probation.ie). Declan Coogan is Lead – RCPV Project in Ireland and Lecturer, MA in Social Work Programme, School of Political Science and Sociology, Research Fellow UNESCO Child & Family Research Centre, National University of Ireland Galway (email: declanp.coogan@nuigalway.ie).