

Institution: Liverpool Hope University		
Unit of Assessment: 20 Social Work and Social Policy		
Title of case study: Children and Coercive Control: Improving Knowledge and Responses		
Period when the underpinning research was undertaken: 01/08/2014–31/09/2019		
Details of staff conducting the underpinning research from the submitting unit:		
Name(s): Dr Emma Katz	Role(s) (e.g. job title): Senior Lecturer in Childhood and Youth	Period(s) employed by submitting HEI: 01/10/2013–present
Period when the claimed impact occurred: 01/01/2015–31/12/2020		
Is this case study continued from a case study submitted in 2014? N		
<p>1. Summary of the impact</p> <p>This research on children and coercive control has influenced legislation, and has impacted policy-makers and public services internationally and nationally.</p> <p>It has:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Directly helped to strengthen the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018. 2. Internationally contributed to policy change and to the improvement of professional services for domestic abuse victims in the Australian State of Victoria. 3. Significantly enhanced knowledge and training packages for social workers and other practitioners, informed guidance for CAFCASS Cymru workers, and contributed to children's perspectives being included in statutory Domestic Homicide Reviews. 4. Directly informed the 2018 'Escape the Control' public awareness raising campaign in the Liverpool City Region. 		
<p>2. Underpinning research</p> <p>Introduction</p> <p>Katz's research is internationally award-winning (Article [1], see section 3) and is at the vanguard of work on child victims/survivors of coercive control. Based on qualitative interviews with children and mothers, it directly investigated how such children are affected by the continual monitoring, isolation, and deprivation of resources inherent to coercive control. In doing so, Katz's research was the first to apply the new coercive control model (see below) to children who live with parental domestic abuse.</p> <p>Policy/Research Context</p> <p>Throughout the last decade, understandings of domestic abuse have moved from an old model – domestic abuse as violent incidents – towards a new model – domestic abuse as a pattern of coercive and controlling behaviour. The new coercive control model is advantageous because it better encapsulates what domestic abuse perpetrators actually do: use multiple tactics to monitor, constrain, isolate, belittle, confuse, frighten and, ultimately, entrap victims.</p> <p>This new model was recognised in law and policy in England and Wales when coercive and controlling behaviour was criminalised by s.76 of the Serious Crime Act 2015.</p> <p>Findings</p> <p>Articles [1] and [4] reported that children were profoundly harmed by the actions of coercive control perpetrators. Perpetrators' regimes of control made children live constrained, isolated lives, and</p>		

could leave children with little access to sources of support (mothers, grandparents, school friends etc.) and lacking essentials such as food and heating.

Articles [2] and [3] also highlighted how domestic abuse can weaken the relationship between children and their victim/survivor parent (usually the child's mother). Article [2] emphasised that services should work to repair this harm by strengthening mother–child relationships at the point where mothers and children have separated from perpetrators. By gaining stronger relationships with each other, children and mothers can assist each other to recover from domestic abuse.

A unique finding featured in article [2] was that, not only can mothers support children to recover, *children* can use positive, age-appropriate strategies to help *mothers* to recover. Katz found that children could be skilled at increasing mothers' confidence and encouraging mothers' efforts to rebuild their lives.

Key Recommendations

Articles [1] and [4] recommended that, by applying the coercive control model to children, policy-makers and practitioners could better align policies and practices with children's lived experiences and support needs.

Articles [2] and [3] recommended that public sector services and charities should invest in strengthening the mother–child relationships of mothers and children who have separated from perpetrators.

Conclusion

Katz's research focuses on perpetrators' regimes of control, illuminating the ways in which domestic abuse as a pattern of coercive and controlling behaviour is experienced in children's lives. Advocating for the new coercive control model to be applied to children, and for investment in mother-child relationship supports, the research highlights how these regimes harm children and weaken mother–child relationships, yet also how children have agentic capacities to resist coercive control and contribute to building new lives as survivors of domestic abuse. Through its impacts on policy and practice, this research contributes towards a wider social paradigm shift in how domestic abuse is understood.

3. References to the research

[1] Katz, E. (2016) 'Beyond the Physical Incident Model: How Children Living with Domestic Violence are Harmed by and Resist Regimes of Coercive Control'. *Child Abuse Review*, vol. 25, no. 1, pp. 46–59. doi:10.1002/car.2422

[2] Katz, E. (2015) 'Recovery-Promoters: Ways that Mothers and Children Support One Another's Recoveries from Domestic Violence'. *British Journal of Social Work*, vol. 45, sup. 1, pp. i153–i169. doi:10.1093/bjsw/bcv091

[3] Katz, E. (2019) 'Coercive Control, Domestic Violence and a Five-Factor Framework: Five Factors that Influence Closeness, Distance and Strain in Mother–Child Relationships'. *Violence Against Women*, vol. 25, no. 15, pp. 1829–1853. doi:10.1177/1077801218824998

[4] Katz, E., Nikupeteri, A., and Laitinen, M. (2020) 'When Coercive Control Continues to Harm Children: Post-Separation Fathering, Stalking, and Domestic Violence'. *Child Abuse Review*, vol. 29, no. 4, pp. 310–324. doi:10.1002/car.2611

Evidence of quality

All articles are published in journals with rigorous peer review processes.

Additionally, article [1] was:

- Awarded the Wiley Prize for best paper published in *Child Abuse Review* 2015–2018 (First Prize).
- Awarded Women Against Violence Europe (WAVE)'s Corinna Seith Prize for best publication in English or German in 2016.
- The 5th most cited article in *Child Abuse Review*, and has had approximately 12,500 downloads to date.
- Cited in three policy documents:
 - (1) Pathways to harm, pathways to protection: A triennial analysis of serious case reviews, 2011 to 2014 (2016)
 - (2) Fathers who use violence: Options for safe practice where there is ongoing contact with children (2017)
 - (3) Domestic abuse and private law children cases: A literature review (2020)

4. Details of the impact

Article [1] influenced legislation, playing a key role in Scottish Women's Aid successfully lobbying for the Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018 to recognise the harm domestic abuse causes to children. [1]'s findings on the impacts of coercive control on children influenced s.5 of the Act. The outcome was that the involvement of a child was made an aggravating factor in the offence, enabling greater robustness in sentencing perpetrators. According to the CEO of Scottish Women's Aid (SWA):

'SWA relies heavily on research... to underpin and demonstrate the need for policy change. Katz's work... has provided that evidence numerous times over the last 5 years... [Throughout a] long, sustained, and hard-fought set of negotiations with officials [over the 2018 Act]... Katz's research was referenced every step of the way.' [A]

In Victoria, Australia, article [2] helped inform policy change and sustainable improvements to the delivery of professional services for domestic abuse victims. [2]'s finding that mothers and children with strong mother–child relationships can be 'recovery-promoters' for each other was cited in the 2016 Victoria Royal Commission on Family Violence Report and Recommendations. As directed by the Commission's findings, mother–child strengthening interventions occurred at several sites in Victoria, benefiting 500+ families as of April 2019. [2] was described as *'helpful in providing evidence to support this policy direction'* [B]. Furthermore, in 2019, the re-tendering process for these interventions stipulated that all programmes should have the ability to address mother–child issues, further embedding the impact's sustainability.

Since 2016, article [1] has 'contributed significantly' [C] to improved professional awareness in the UK about the impacts and support needs for children experiencing coercive control. [1] was cited in the 2016 Triennial Analysis of Serious Case Reviews, a Government publication receiving attention from 15,000 people in 2016/17. The lead author stated that the Triennial Analysis *'highlighted the need to move away from incident-based models of intervention, drawing on [Katz's] research to inform this'* [C].

Katz herself gives regular training on coercive control to UK professionals. Evaluations of this training have shown that professionals' average self-rated understanding of coercive control on a scale of 1–10 increases from 6.1 pre-training to 8.8 post-training [D].

Article [1] has been used in training and guidance on coercive control for CAF/CASS Cymru [E]. According to the Head of Operations, CAF/CASS Cymru [F]: *'Emma's research influenced Cafcass Cymru's decision to emphasise the issue of coercive control in our 2019 Domestic Abuse*

Practice Guidance. Article [1] is extensively cited in that Guidance. CAF/CASS Cymru also appointed Katz in 2019 to deliver training based on [1] and [4] to 90 of its staff, including Family Court Advisors [F]. Attendees at this training reported that it increased their knowledge of how to protect children from coercive control-perpetrating parents [F].

The former Director of AVA, now an independent consultant, has incorporated article [1] into training and talks and utilises [1] in Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs).

The consultant used [1] in training provided to 250 police officers and 200 social workers, and also integrated [1] into training offered by the charity Welsh Women's Aid to 1,200 professionals.

Katz's research enhanced the consultant's national work on statutory DHRs, which identify how future deaths can be prevented. Article [1] directly influenced the consultant to include children as participants and to advocate for the inclusion of their perspectives [G]. Impacting on approximately 200 DHRs since 2015, this inclusion has:

'Allowed children to contribute to the process of making something positive result from their terrible experience of losing a parent.' [G]

The consultant has also used Katz's research to *'expand and deepen'* what she communicates to professionals, politicians and publics. According to the consultant, [1] increased her *'confidence'* to lobby for the criminalisation of coercive control in Britain and Ireland, and contributed to a *'much improved'* incidence of referrals to Children's Social Care by police she has trained [G]. The consultant's inclusion of [1] in her public speeches is also linked to a *'notable increase'* in survivors of childhood domestic abuse approaching her after her speeches to tell their stories [G]. She surmises that [1] has:

'Given these survivors a language with which to articulate their experiences and... speak their truths.' [G]

In 2018, due to the increased local profile of Katz's research (following LHU's investment in a local knowledge-exchange workshop), Katz provided consultancy on the Liverpool City Region's 'Escape the Control' campaign [H]. 'Escape the Control' raised community awareness about coercive control via a range of media, reaching almost half a million people. Giving *'real depth to the approach used in the campaign'* from its inception [H], Katz's work was extensively quoted within campaign materials. The campaign enhanced peoples' abilities to make informed decisions about controlling relationships and helped to build public awareness that controlling relationship behaviour is unacceptable as it undermines well-being and violates human rights.

5. Sources to corroborate the impact

[A] Factual statement from CEO of Scottish Women's Aid

[B] Factual statement from Head of Department of Social Work, University of Melbourne and Co-Chair of Melbourne Research Alliance to End Violence Against Women and their Children

[C] Factual statement from Co-Editor of *Child Abuse Review*, and Emeritus Professor of Child Health, University of Warwick

[D] Evaluation sheets completed by professionals who attended Katz's coercive control training

[E] CAF/CASS Cymru Domestic Abuse Practice Guidance 2019

[F] Factual statement from Head of Operations, CAF/CASS Cymru

[G] Factual statement from former Director of AVA (Against Violence and Abuse), now an independent violence against women Consultant

[H] Factual statement from Director of Social Marketing Partners Ltd