

Key questions

1 Children Living In A Violent World?

Key questions from page 5.

- What is 'violence'?
- What is helpful to know about the risks of violence when working or interacting with children and young people?
- What is the prevalence of violence and abuse in the UK today?
- Is the world a more dangerous place where children experience more violence and commit more violent crime than ever before?
- Are the risks of violence to and violence by children exaggerated and does this limit children's freedom?

2 Why Are Some Children Violent?

Key questions from page 30.

- How much violence is committed by children and young people?
- What are the circumstances and characteristics of young offenders?
- How has violence in childhood been explained and understood?
- Do the roots of violent crime lie in childhood?
- Are children naturally aggressive?
- Are boys more violent than are girls?
- Is childhood aggression and offending mostly 'trivial'?
- Do most children grow out of aggressive behaviour in the same way that they might grow out of crime, or do aggressive children grow into violent adults?
- Does violence beget violence, so that children with violent parents grow into violent adults?
- To what extent do peers and gangs influence children and young people to commit crimes and acts of violence?
- Are children dangerous or are they over regulated?

3 What Causes Child Maltreatment?

Key questions from pages 55–6.

- How do we explain why parents/caregivers, who are expected to provide love and support for children, are also those who are most likely to abuse or neglect them when they are most vulnerable?
- What importance should be attached to individual characteristics of the child or perpetrator of abuse; the relationships and interactions between the child, others in their lives and the environment; and structural factors such as poverty, inequality or gender?
- Are our fears about and responses to child abuse part of the problem?

4 Consequences

Key questions from page 80.

- What does research reveal about the short-term and longer term consequences of child maltreatment?
- What does research reveal about whether some children are more vulnerable and others apparently more resilient to longer term adverse consequences?

5 Villains and Victims

Key questions from page 99.

- Why are public attitudes about young people and violence at odds with current trends?
- What part do the media play in childhood violence?

6 Behaving Badly

Key questions from page 110.

- Have policies designed to treat young offenders differently helped or hindered violence prevention?
- What impact do adult fears about danger in public spaces have on the well-being of children and young people?
- How has the commercialization and sexualization of childhood affected children and young people and their use of information technology to network and communicate?