

In England 1 million children are affected by parental alcohol use

An estimated 250,000 to 350,000 children are affected by parental substance misuse



Adfam (2015)

The 2011 Munro Review of child protection found that many services (including substance misuse agencies) were too focused on adults and not enough on the children affected by adults' problems

'Parents with drug problems: How treatment helps' (2012)

Over the last 3 years, 25,000 contacts to the NSPCC helpline raised concerns of substance abuse near children

That's 1 contact every hour focusing on drugs and alcohol

NSPCC (2017)

There is evidence of parental
substance misuse in
57% of serious case reviews

'Swept under the carpet' (2010)

How I feel when mum and dad use...

“I feel ignored, embarrassed, hated and like I
am the problem”

Amy 15yrs

“I’m frightened that mummy will die lonely
and sad”

Josh 8yrs

“Sometimes when I’m with my mum I feel embarrassed”

Daniel 12yrs

“I felt sad when we weren’t allowed to see my dad, it was like he didn’t love us anymore”

Rylee 9yrs

What happens when mum and dad can't
300,000 children live with a kinship
look after me anymore...
(significant other) carer across the UK

Of these, 47% of children live with a
kinship carer due to parental drug or
alcohol use

Grandparents Plus (2013)

48% of all kinship carers are raising children who have emotional or behavioural difficulties

80% of kinship carers stated that they felt stigmatised or discriminated against for being a kinship carer

35% stated that they faced significant challenges supporting children to cope with past trauma or abuse

Grandparents Plus (2014)

“My sister would go to my mums house with the kids, say she was popping to the shops and then go missing for 3 days...it has made our 6 yr old nephew so dependant on his 8 yr old sister”

Debbie – Kinship Carer

“We feel an element of grief for the life we were going to lead, our kids are grown up...but we wanted to give them the best chance we can”

Sally and Ian – Kinship Carers

What we want to tell you...

“Things get so much better. Since I opened up to my worker I feel relieved, I don’t need to keep things a secret anymore”

Amy 15yrs

“People don’t realise I’m really close to my dad...when he’s not drinking we go on lots of trips, its like I have two dads, one who drinks and one who doesn’t”

Erica 13yrs

“It is not my fault”

Daniel 12yrs

“My mum and dad use drugs...people think it makes them bad parents but it don’t”

Leah 17yrs

“My worker helped me understand about binge drinking and the patterns of my dads drinking...she listened to me loads and now I know its ok to look after me too, I'm still working on this”

Mason 16yrs

**“Me and mummy are happy that daddy
doesn’t drink anymore, so he can look after
us and Maisie my doggy”**

Tia 7yrs

“As an mother it’s difficult, I feel my worker has supported me by just having someone to talk to, she has been brilliant”

Natalie – parent affected by sons substance use

**“I sleep in my own princess bedroom now,
my mummy has got me a dream catcher so I
don’t have any nasty dreams anymore”**

Katie 9yrs

Nationally across CGL services there are currently **12,269** adult clients on CRIIS who have children living with them

In the last 12 months CGL hidden harm services have supported **725** young people around their parents substance misuse

change, grow, live (2017)

Children of substance misusing parents show
huge amounts of resilience

Their strength is inspiring

#ourvoices

Are we listening?...