

## Mother questions Final

### Possible Clarification questions for a mother

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*The questions below are possible prompts to assist professionals understanding the circumstances for women and children who may be experiencing domestic abuse*

Mothers are usually too afraid or uncomfortable to raise the issue of domestic violence themselves. So be prepared to ask sensitively, but directly:

- Can you tell me what's been happening?
- You seem upset, is everything all right at home?
- Are you frightened of someone / something?
- Did someone hurt you?
- Did you get those injuries by being hit?
- Are you in a relationship in which you have been physically hurt or threatened by your partner?
- Have you ever been in such a relationship?
- Do you ever feel frightened by your partner or other people at home?
- Are you (or have you ever been) in a relationship in which you felt you were badly treated? In what ways?
- Has your partner destroyed things that you care about?
- Has your partner ever threatened to harm your family? Do you believe that he would?
- What happens when you and your partner disagree?
- Has your partner ever prevented you from leaving the house, seeing friends, getting a job or continuing in education?
- Does your partner restrict your access to money or access your Child Benefit or allowances?
- Has your partner ever hit, punched, pushed, shoved or slapped you?
- Has your partner ever threatened you with a weapon?
- Does your partner use drugs or alcohol excessively? If so, how does he behave at this time?
- Do you ever feel you have to walk on eggshells around your partner?
- Have the police ever been involved?
- Have you ever been physically hurt in any way when you were pregnant?
- Has your partner ever threatened to harm the children? Or to take them away from you?