

Introducing the Parenting Role Interview

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Aim of session

- Introducing the Parenting Role Interview (PRI)
a new assessment tool suitable for
practitioner use in children and family services
- Examples from practice use (Elaine Rose)
- Discussion of case studies (Catherine Jacobs)
- General discussion

What is the PRI?

- A face-to-face interview assessment of parenting capacity which questions the parent about:
 - Difficulties involving all children in the household
 - Concern about such difficulties
 - Positive & negative interaction with children
 - Felt competence & incompetence in care and control of children
 - Estimated competence & incompetence in parenting
 - Degree of insight into parenting competence
 - Overall scale of good, insufficient positive, poor or very poor parenting.

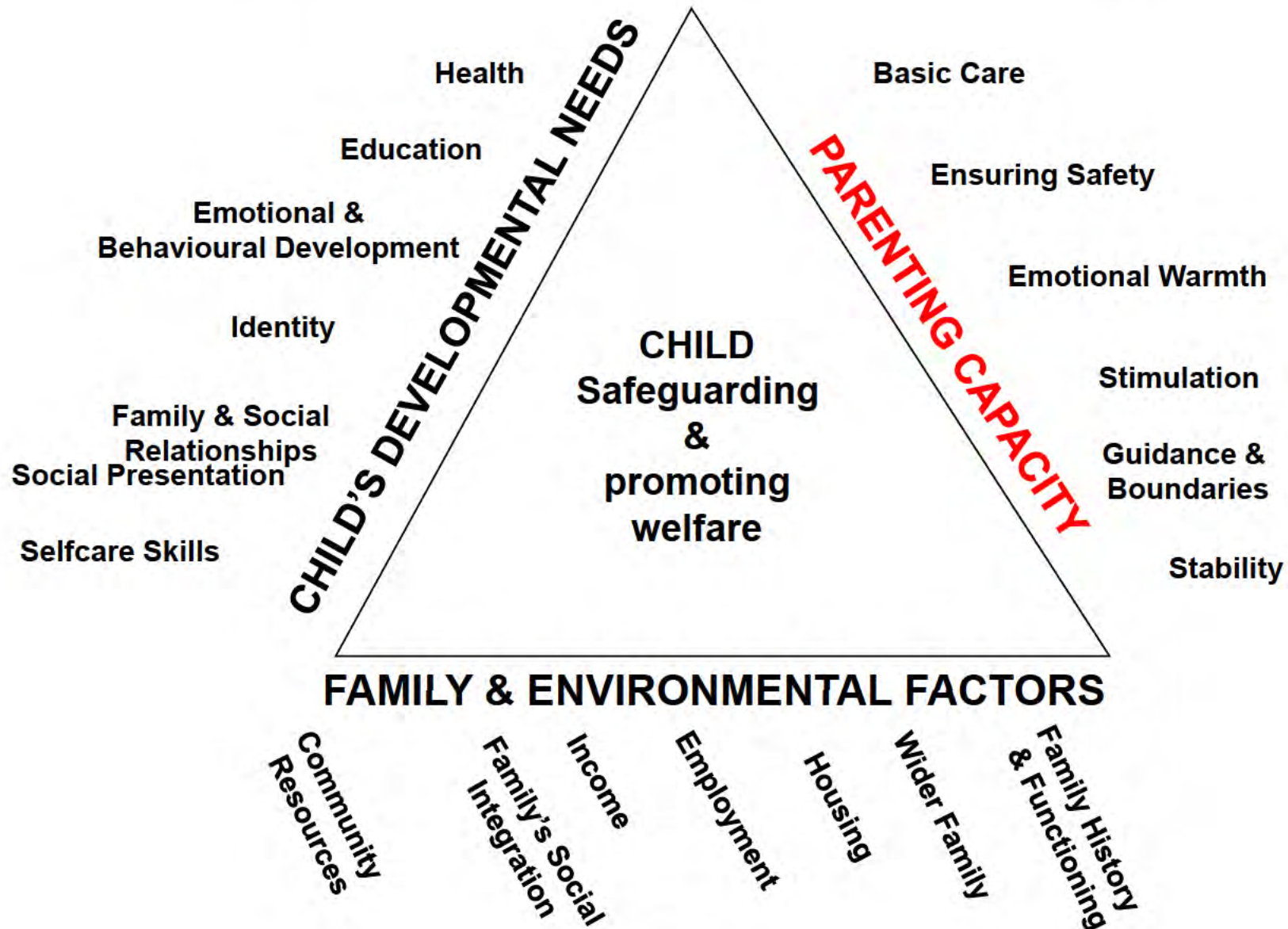
What does the PRI tell me?

- The parents perception of their parenting skill and commitment. Both positive and negative aspects to reflect risk and resilience.
- The practitioner estimate of the parents competence and incompetence based on comments made (and other observed evidence).
- The overall rating will identify whether parents need more support for parenting, or whether other assessment needed to establish more problematic parenting in relation to child protection.
- It can be used more than once to monitor change in parenting competence.

Will it detail aspects of neglect or abuse?

- No – the interview does not set out to be ‘investigative’ or ‘forensic’ to establish neglect/abuse for child protection.
- However it encourages the parent to talk openly about their parenting; asks them how they see the situation with their children and their parenting; and asks for details of basic interaction, care and control aspects day to day.
- An estimate is made on the basis of their description which tells the practitioner how realistic their view is – and how insightful they are about their children, the difficulties with their children and their parenting.
- It can indicate to some extent how hostile or helpless the parenting is.

Assessment Framework Model (2000)



The PRI is not used alone

Other evidence-based assessment tools to gather data

Child and Family Training:

- ☐ Family Pack of Questionnaires and Scales
- ☐ Home Inventory
- ☐ Family Assessment
- ☐ In My Shoes

Kingston University scales:

- ☐ Attachment Style Interview (ASI)
- ☐ The Childhood Experience of Care and Abuse (CECA) scales for analysing case data
- ☐ The Parental Role Interview (PRI)

More details of the PRI

- Take around 30-40 minutes to administer and 60-90 minutes to rate and code.
- Interview is audio-recorded and key comments written on scoring schedules to justify rating score.
- Training is 2 day (one involving feedback for pilot interview)
- Training enables reliable scoring of the interview.

How is the PRI used?

- Pilot work with RBK Kingston child Safeguarding shows it can be used on Child in Need cases, both before or after direct work with parents. It has also been used as part of a Core Assessment.
- Its use by independent social workers shows it contributes effectively to reports on parental competence for children left with 'safe' parent after abuse & for contact issues.
- It can be used in adoption or fostering services after placement.
- It complements the Attachment Style Interview (ASI) which looks at the parents' individual relating style. Insecure styles are associated with incompetent parenting. This gives an indication of the sources of the anger or hostility in parenting.

How do parents respond?

- Parents seem happy with the interview.
- The questions asked are straight forward and transparent.
- The PRI ask for the parents own view of themselves the interview encourages full expression of their views on parenting.
- It gets inside the parents own mind in terms of how they see themselves.
- This can make it easier to undertake direct work with the parent.
- We can see if the parent sees themselves objectively or is not and whether they have insight.

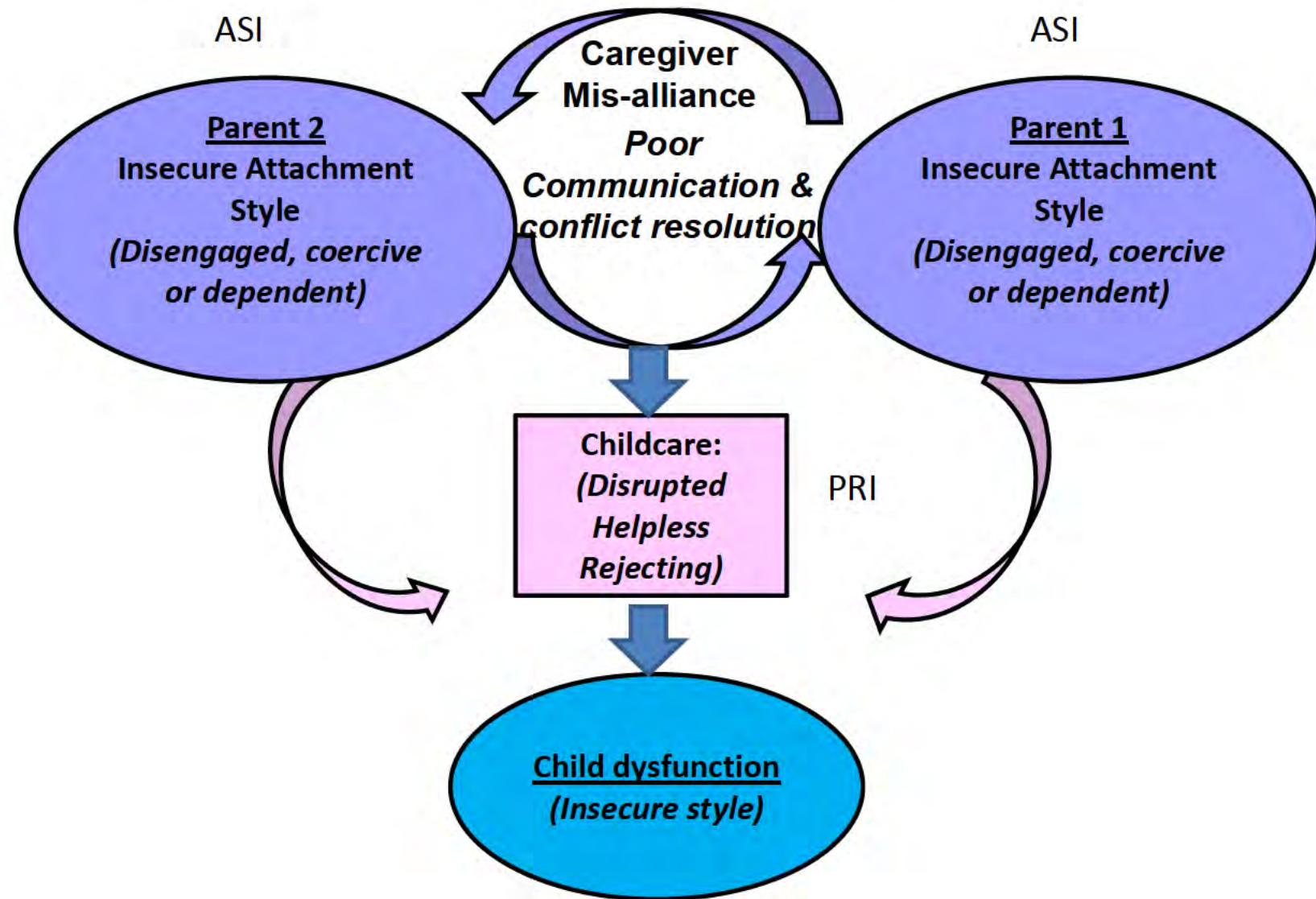
What is 'good enough' parenting?

- Providing adequate care and control
- Positive interaction (not hostile)
- Responsible, authoritative style (not helpless)
- Sensitive attunement to child's capabilities and developmental tasks to encourage healthy development
- Strong attachment bond to develop Secure relating style.

Ecological factors in determining parenting A process model (J. Belsky)

- Parenting is multiply determined
- Characteristics of parent, child and social context all have impact
- Developmental history & attachment style shape parenting of both parents *indirectly* by influencing broader context.

An attachment and systemic approach



What does the research say?

- We studied parenting in high risk London mothers for an MRC research study. We also studied their children who were older adolescents/young adults.
- Estimated incompetence in parenting was associated with the young people's independent account of the mother's neglect or physical abuse during their childhood.

Bifulco, A, Moran P Jacobs C & Bunn A (2009) Problem partners and parenting: Exploring linkages with maternal insecure attachment style and her neglect/abuse of children. Attachment & Human Development, 11, 69-85.

The London intergenerational study 1995-2000

- 146 mothers had been studied over 5 years to examine their vulnerability to depression. All had problems in close relationships and/or low self-esteem and/or childhood neglect/abuse. Around 45% developed depression. All given life history interviews including PRI.
- All had a child interviewed independently – now adolescent or young adult. Given life history interviews.

Life history Measures – Mother and offspring interview

MOTHERS

- Parenting (Parental Role Interview)
 - competence in parenting role (retrospectively)
- Partner history:
 - adversity in partner relationships & partner disorder/behaviour problem
- Attachment Style Interview (ASI)
 - Any Insecure attachment style
- Clinical interview
 - Recurrent major depression during adult lifetime

OFFSPRING

- Childhood Experience of Care and Abuse (CECA).
 - Scales of maternal neglect, antipathy or physical abuse under age 17
- Clinical interview

Parenting in/competence (PRI)

- Coping with the demands of motherhood (all children) when they were growing up.
 - Whether giving enough time and attention; whether patient or irritable;
 - whether viewed self as good mother; better or worse than own mother.
 - Whether able to discipline effectively and cope with practical tasks of motherhood.
 - Whether able to provide good care day-to-day.
 - Whether could take responsibility; feel in control.
 - Whether had positive or negative quality of interaction

Partner difficulties measured (previous and current)

- Difficulties – includes marital discord, lack of emotional and financial support, partner difficulties around work or health. Only those chronic included
- Partner problem behaviour – psychiatric disorder, antisocial, criminal behaviour or violence

Correlations with incompetent parenting

Mother's estimated incompetent parenting
(41% of sample)

Kendall's tau-b / Prevalence in sample	
Mothers' severe and chronic marital/partner difficulty (59%)	.10 (ns)
Partner's problem behaviour (47%)	.25 **
Mother's insecure attachment style (52%)	.26 **

** p<0.01 level

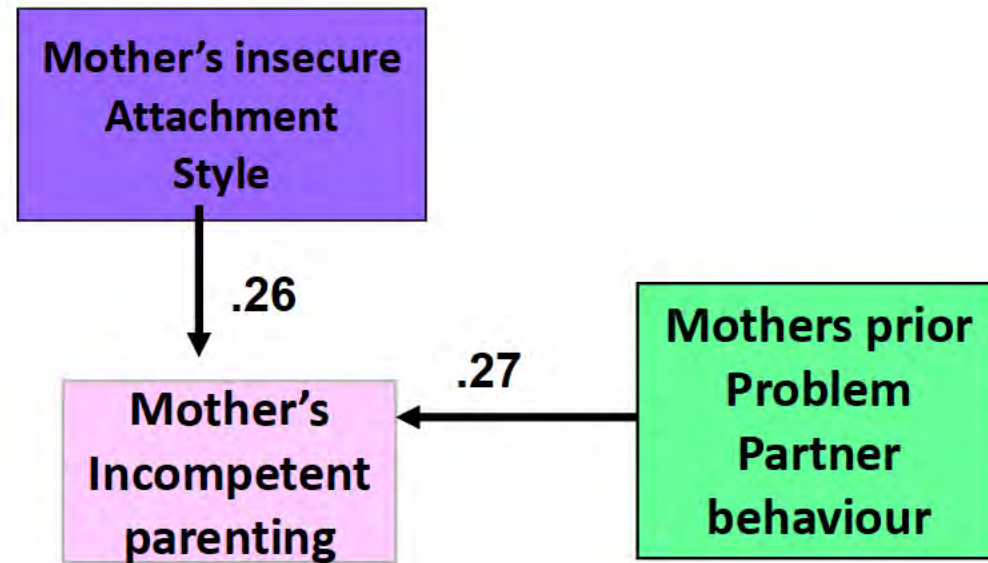
Predictors of mothers incompetent parenting (logistic regression)

Independent variable	O-R	Wald	Df	p
Partners' problem behaviour	3.03	8.40	1	.004
Severe and chronic marital difficulties	1.57	1.21	1	NS
Insecure attachment style	2.81	7.79	1	.005
Chronic or recurrent depression	1.60	1.35	1	NS

Best model: partner problem behaviour & insecure attachment style

Goodness of fit 64.4%

Influences on mother's incompetent parenting (Path analysis)



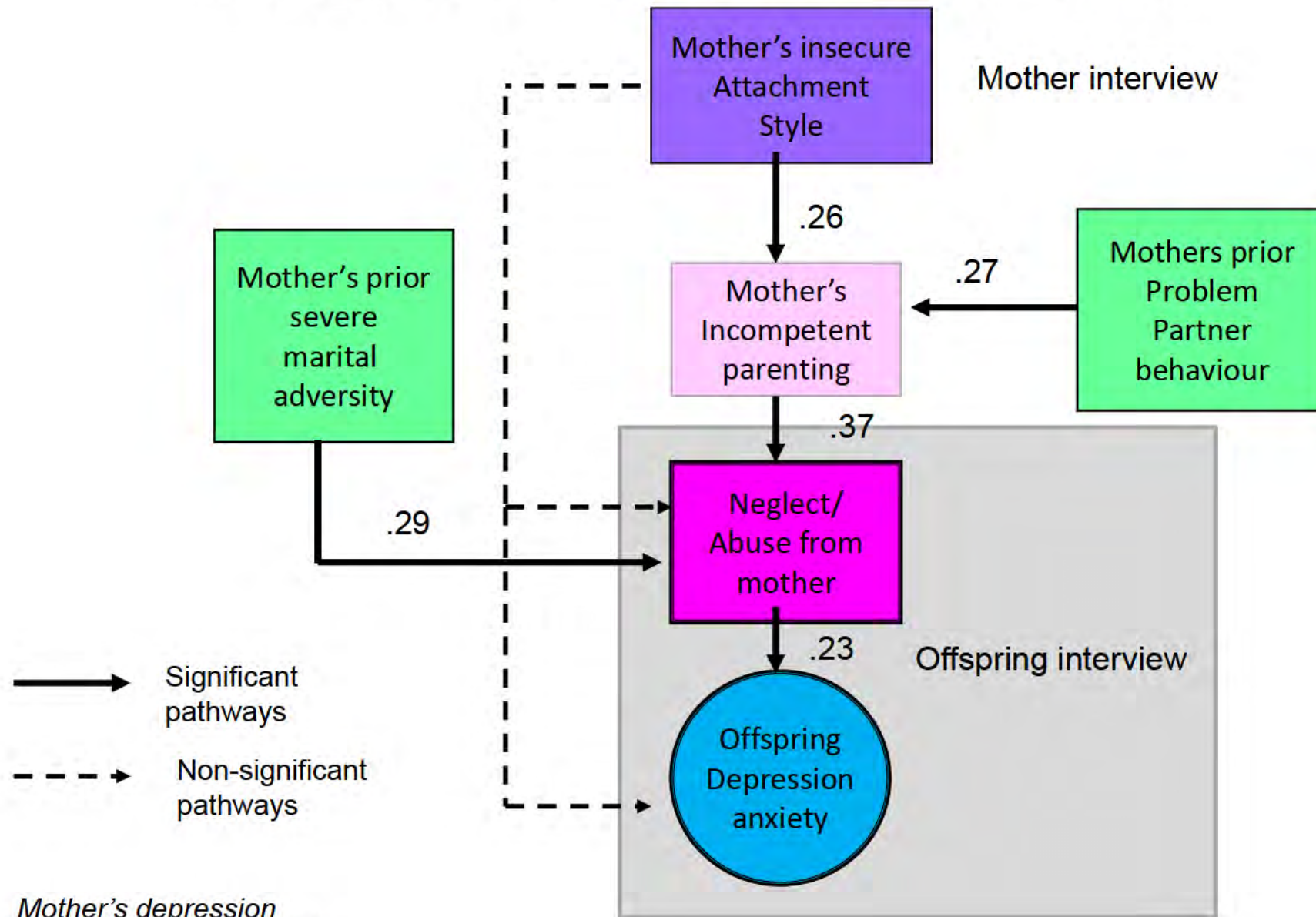
← Significant pathways

Predictors of offspring maternal neglect/abuse (logistic regression)

Independent variable	O-R	Wald	Df	p
Mothers' estimated incompetent parenting	4.19	10.04	1	0.002
Partners' problem behaviour	2.37	3.49	1	NS (.06)
Severe and chronic marital difficulties	2.83	4.18	1	0.04
Mothers' insecure attachment style	0.79	0.27	1	NS
Chronic or recurrent depression	1.35	0.42	1	NS

Best model: mothers' estimated incompetent parenting & severe marital difficulties
Goodness of fit 78.8%

Intergenerational transmission of risk



*Mother's depression
did not add to the model*

Discrepancy – underestimates her incompetence

- She felt she had been a very good parent, particularly compared to her own. Any difficulties she attributed to the children themselves; the neighbourhood in which she lived; their genetic inheritance.
- However, there was evidence of her high hostility to the children, and her extreme lack of sensitivity. She seemed unaware of good parenting practice apart from material care.
- In the daughter's interview she described high levels of antipathy and physical abuse.

Under or over-estimating incompetence

- For some parents there is a discrepancy between how they **rate themselves** as parents and the **practitioner** judgement based on factual information.
- Some parents fail to see their own limitations. Their parenting is estimated as more problematic than they recognise. Often this is accompanied by blame of others including the children. (19% in research study)
- Some parents are overly self-critical and lacking in confidence. Their parenting behaviour seems better than they way they see it. (8% in research study)

Comparing mothers 'felt' and 'estimated' incompetent parenting

% with offspring report of maternal neglect, antipathy of physical abuse**

Incompetent parenting*	Felt incompetence	Estimated incompetence
High (1 or 2)	30% (13/44)	45% (27/60)
Low (3 or 4)	26% (26/102)	14% (12/80)
p<	NS	0.001

* Mothers interview ** offspring interview

Example of parenting incompetence

- 40 year old mother with 5 children. Married at 16, first partner was violent and alcoholic, had affairs with other women, left her short of money for housekeeping. Has difficulties with her two older children (psychological disorder; criminality; run away).
- When asked about negative interaction she said: *I did scream at the children and I did get very angry if they had been out late ...I shouted at them. My daughter would reduce herself to tears because she couldn't cope with being screamed at and then she would say sorry...With my son when I see him I'll scream at him.*
- (What does it mean to be a good mother?) *I feel that to be a good mother you have to put a hot meal on the table everyday. I do that. But then my daughter just refuses to eat (she has eating disorder). I never had anyone make me hot meals when I was little. It's a problem with teenagers today they don't appreciate things. I don't think my daughter has anything to complain about in her upbringing. If she hadn't run away, she wouldn't have got into trouble. Its her own fault really. I don't see what else I could have done.*
- *My daughter's eating problems did get to me sometimes , but I think that's her genetic inheritance from my sister. There's nothing I could have done.*

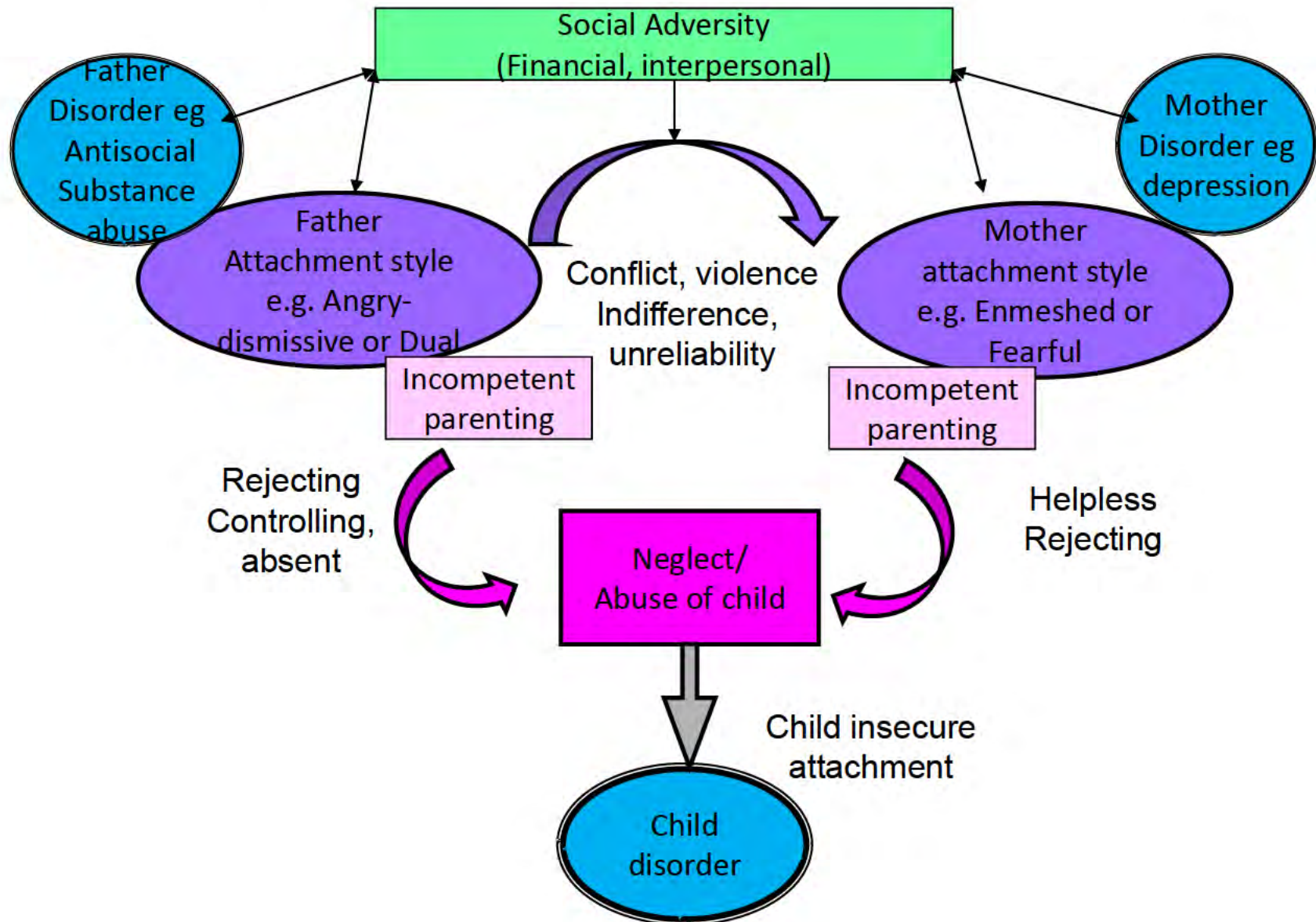
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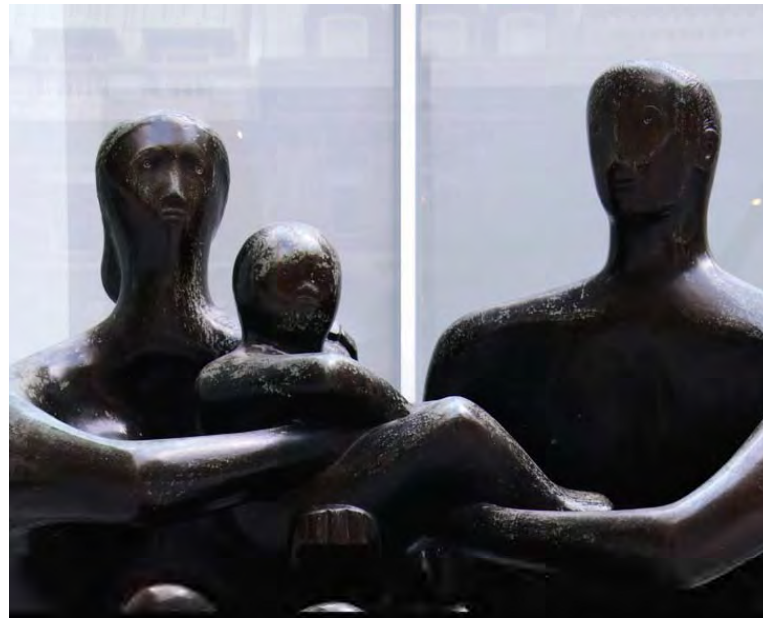
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What about fathers?

- Our research study was only about mothers, but relationship with partner and partners' behaviour was critical for both *her* parenting and child's neglect/abuse experience.
- The PRI can be used equally well on fathers.
- Assessments of both can give a more systemic account of parenting in a two-parent household.

Parenting in a systemic context





UNDERSTANDING ADULT ATTACHMENT IN FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS

RESEARCH, ASSESSMENT AND INTERVENTION

ANTONIA BIFULCO AND GERALDINE THOMAS





Any Questions?