

10 Top Tips For Professionals Working With Male Carers

- 1. Research theories of masculinity to try and understand the motivations of men involved in a case. For example, some men will resort to absence, violence or demanding their rights when they feel vulnerable, afraid or confused.**
- 2. Men are often more powerfully motivated by the desire to be a good father than by the effect of their behaviour on women. A good starting point for engagement is to ask them, "What does it mean to be a good father?"**
- 3. If a man is considered violent do home visits in pairs, with one worker questioning the father while the other focuses on the mother. Or invite the man to the office to be interviewed.**
- 4. If a man is considered a risk to his own children, provide support to help him try and change. If there are not enough perpetrator programmes in the area, give feedback to commissioners.**
- 5. Do not demand a mother be solely responsible for protecting her children. This reinforces the impression that a father is not responsible for his children.**
- 6. Solution-focused therapy, concentrating on strengths and showing how a man can influence a child's development, tends to be a more successful approach with men.**
- 7. Try and get the father's details for every initial assessment you do and interview the father for every core assessment done.**
- 8. Although men are more likely to threaten social workers, it is in fact women who are most likely to attack.**
- 9. Men are perceptive of expectations of them. If a social worker has low expectations they will endeavour to live down to them.**
- 10. Men need clear information. Research shows that often they do not see a defined role for themselves in plans and will assume "parent" actually means "mother".**