Social Work Online Team Training (SWOTT) toolkit

Restorative Practice and Restorative Conversations

CASE STUDY: CHILDREN & FAMILIES

- Read the case scenario below.
- Referring to The Social Discipline Window on the next page and think about how you can aim for a high support high challenge approach in this situation.
- Read through the suggested questions for restorative conversations on page 2 and 3 .
- Think about how you might prepare to use these questions in your next visit.

Case Scenario

Meena (24 years old) and Dean (23 years old) live together with their child Sam (three years old) and Meena's child from a previous relationship Jo (five years old). Both Meena and Dean have experienced difficult childhoods. Meena was subject to a child protection plan as a child under the category neglect that was centred on her mother's substance misuse difficulties. Dean was exposed to domestic violence and abuse (DVA) in his parents' relationship and had multiple moves with his mother and siblings as a child, to flee DVA. You have been working with the family due to concerns about DVA. The children are subject to a child protection plan under the category of emotional abuse.

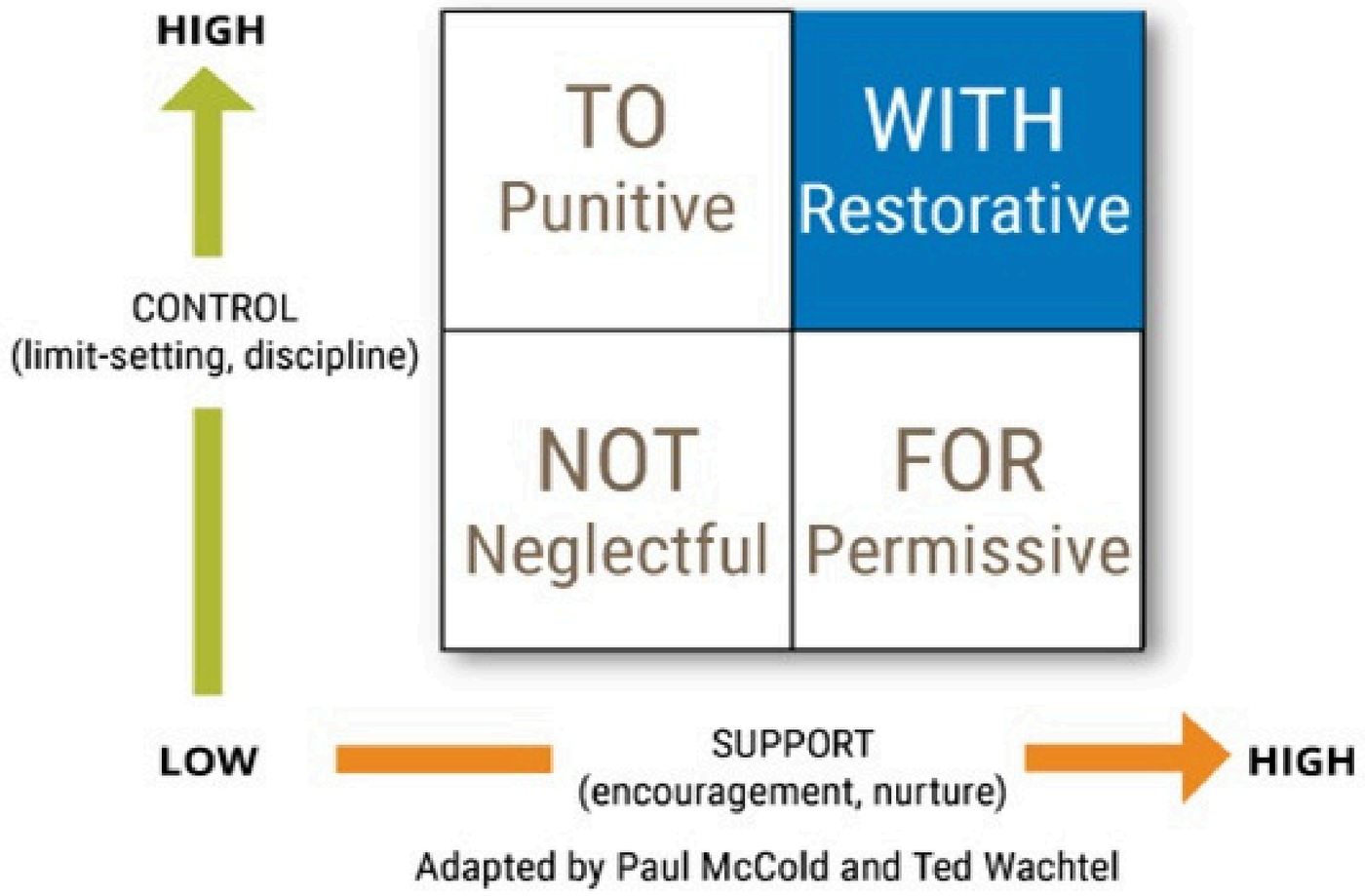
The plan is centred on DVA in Meena and Dean's relationship and the children's exposure to this. You have been working with the family for four months and have met all members of the family. You receive a phone call from Meena telling you that Dean has "lost it again" and punched a hole in the wall two nights ago. She tells you that he's calmed down now and she feels upset and fed up. Meena and Dean have previously acknowledged that they have had "rows and fights" and that the situation can escalate during and after Dean has been drinking. Dean has acknowledged that he "gets so stressed" and loses his temper. He has hurt Meena before and caused damage to the property. Meena has told you that although last week was "a good week", things have got worse since Dean was in a fight with someone at the weekend which resulted in Dean having his nose broken. You have arranged to visit when the children will be at nursery and school. You are not sure if Meena and Dean will be home together when you visit.

At the end of the discussion take 5 minutes to complete the critical reflection survey and get a certificate of completion.

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Suggested Questions

Preparation

- *How do you think a restorative conversation (RC) will be helpful in this situation?*
- *What are your thoughts and feelings about using a RC in this situation?*
- *What do you need to do to prepare yourself the individual/ family for this?*
- *Will you meet with individual family members - separately or together - why?*
- *How can you involve the family to plan for RC? (You could ask individuals their thoughts on this)*
- *Sometimes there's no time to plan and you have to think on your feet. The RC below can help to understand and gather the thoughts and feelings of those involved.*

What Happened?

- *Tell me about what happened -What happened first, next, last?*
- *Tell me about why you think this happened*
- *Has this happened before? Does this feel similar to how it has happened before? What was different this time?*

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Who has been affected? How did this make people feel?

- *How do you feel about what happened?*
- *Who else do you think has been affected by what happened?*
- *How do you think they've been affected?*
- *How were you feeling before, during, and after this happened?*
- *How do you think the children feel about this?*
- *How do you think the children are affected by this? How are they now?*

What do you need to feel safe?

- *How do you think this situation could be made safer? For you? For the children?*
- *How do you think you could feel safer as a family?*
- *What do you need to feel safer as a family?*
- *What support/ resources do you have right now to feel safe?*
- *What other support and resources do you need to feel safe?*

What do you need for the situation to be made better? How can the situation be repaired?

- *How do you want the situation to be sorted out for you?*
- *What changes need to happen to repair the situation/harm now? In the future?*
- *What steps need to be taken to repair the harm caused?*
- *What steps do you need others to take to repair the harm?*
- *What support do you need to take these steps?*
- *What support / resources do you have right now?*
- *What other support and resources do you need?*
- *How will you know that the situation is better for you? For the children? As a family?*

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