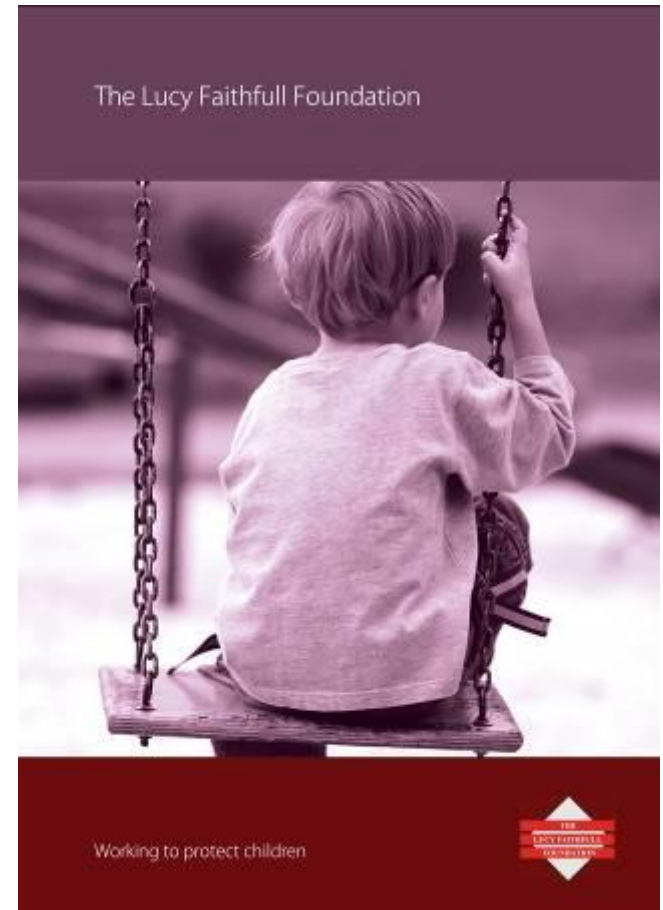




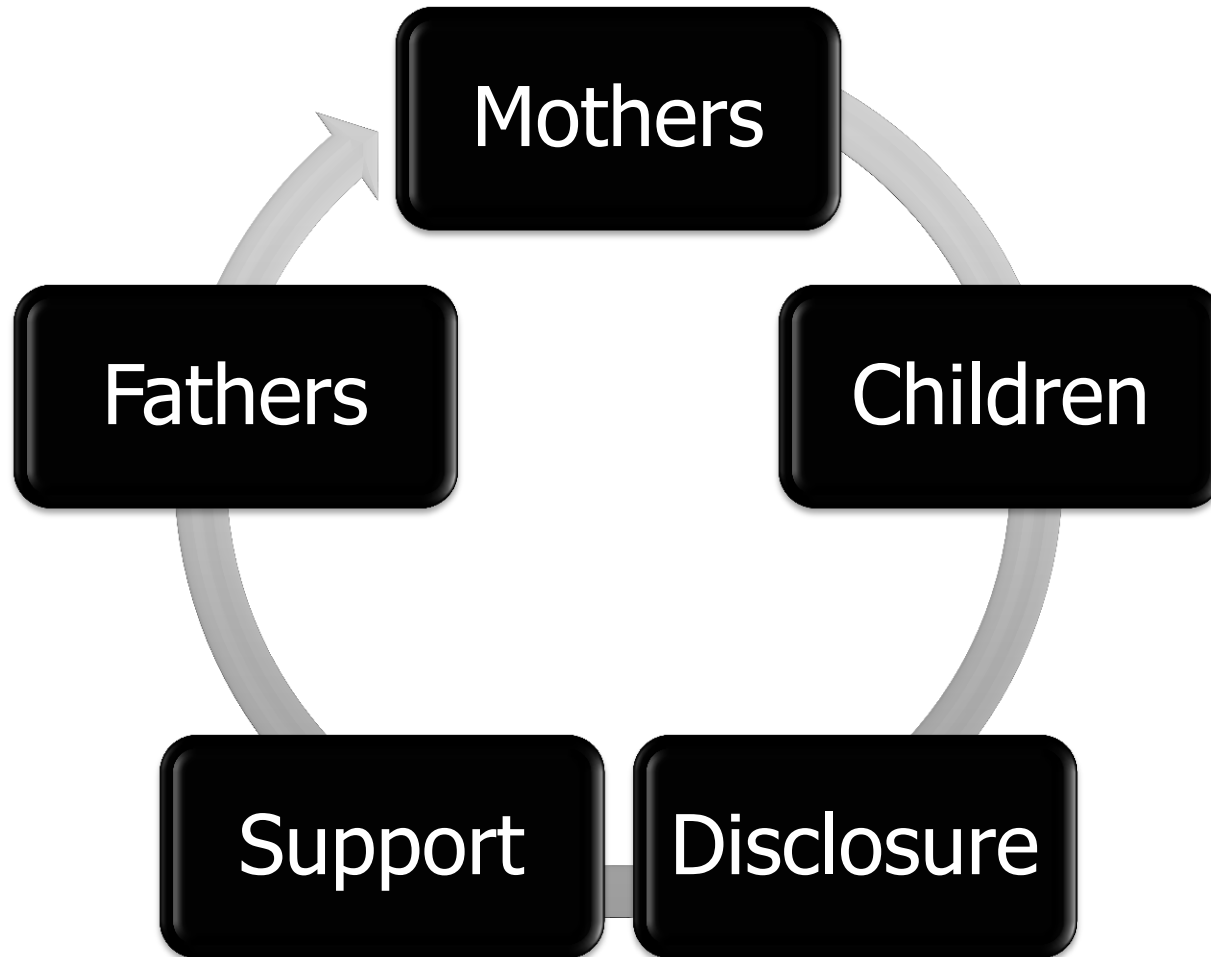
How would a child see it?

Lucy Faithfull Foundation

Lisa Thornhill



The research



The risks



The arrest

- Risk that children will be present at the point of arrest
- Timing of the arrest was important
- A risk the non offending parent will not believe the allegation
- In most cases reports about the police were positive
- The father was required to leave the family home in all except one case

Mothers

I had said to them is there any help available for me? and they all said "no! you're not the victim"

what was irritating was I would be at my desk trying to focus on doing my job and always once the girls came back from staying with his family there would always be a follow up call from social services saying we are just checking up on the arrangements

I don't think I believed him at first, and he was like, "no, you have to believe me it's true". I can't remember if I hung up on him or I said I'll ring you back I just remember being a shaking shivering mess

she [he SW] told us that this was her first ever case, she had literally just qualified ...she kind of looked at me repulsively as though I was a crazy woman for ever wanting to see him again or letting him see the children

Fathers

My biggest fear were ruining my childrens' life

social services they did a lot of breaking and a lot of damage and I'm not sitting here whingeing and saying I shouldn't have done it because I understand why they did it but what they didn't do is help.

she [the social worker] was very clearly terrified of me....very clearly terrified like properly reeling back.

The police were the easiest people to deal with actually, the social workers, except the most recent one, were just horrible... I said you can hook me up to a machine, a lie detector or whatever I have never abused my kids and I never would

it's like, you know, this guy's a monster

Long Term Impact

it worries me in terms
of the psychology of it.
I could have laid the
foundations for a
mental breakdown in
twenty years time

The impact

- Lifestyle
- Loss
- Delays
- Precautionary/inconsistent practice
- Unexplained absence of one parent
- Unable to reconcile their experiences of their parent with information about the offending
- Lack of support for the NOP
- Media attention
- Isolation
- Immediate and extended family unable to accept the risk/perceived as being unable to protect

Parents' views on disclosure

the children, they all needed the honest truth, the fact that their dad has let them down badly and I was truly, truly, sorry for what I'd done

Ultimately as things stand now, her entire life is built on a lie.

I just hope that they don't disown us

I think it's too big a secret for them never to find so it's one of those things that will eventually have to come out at some point

Disclosure – promising practice

- Planning meeting with the parents
- Assessment of the child's existing understanding of the law and sex
- Honest
- Calm
- Age appropriate
- Allowing opportunity for questions
- Clear messages about responsibility

What my dad did...

I don't feel
in danger

it's really weird because he
seems like a completely
normal person like my
relationship with him, like the
relationships I see with my
friends and their dad's is like
now it was the same

I don't really make sense
of what my dad did and I
don't think that I can. I
don't think anyone in my
position could properly
make sense of it

Resilience

absolutely amazing and unbelievable the fact that she has stood by me and loves me and with everything going on her mum dying and all this going on with me and she is still excelling at school

Resilience

- The child is able to actively participate
- The child feels listened to
- Previous experience of the parent(s)
- Education are supportive
- Information is shared in a child sensitive manner
- Father apologises and seeks help
- Counselling
- Support services
- Friendships are important
- Compassionate practice

Recommendations

- Training and guidance for intervening professionals
- Further research regarding the risk posed by parents who download IIOC
- Materials specifically for children are needed
- Further discussion and debate on whether people convicted of IIOC offences can be good parents

Advice for families and professionals

- <https://get-help.stopitnow.org.uk/>

Contact details

- Lisa Thornhill
lthornhill@lucyfaithfull.org.uk
- 07984762744
- Twitter @lisamthornhill