

Divorce and separation now affect more than twenty million people in the UK either through their own relationships or that of their parents and as a result, contact between children and their non-resident parent has become an increasingly important issue. In families who have been affected by domestic abuse, this can be particularly problematic, given the potential safety issues for children who have previously been exposed to violence in this context. The Scottish Government has provided funding for one Scottish local authority to pilot a new 'Safe Contact Model' for families who find themselves in this situation and this paper looks at the reasons why such a model has been devised, how it works and whether it is likely to be effective. It also begins to consider the experiences of family members and practitioners who have been involved in such an assessment.