### Interview schedule

##### Violence in the relationship

* When and how did you two first meet?
* I assume that the relationship worked well at first – what do you think worked best about you two
* What issues did you argue over at ﬁrst? And later?
* When did you ﬁrst get worried about how you deal with anger?
* When did you ﬁrst lay a hand on your partner in anger?
* Tell me about some other times when you’ve gone too far? Or when you haven’t used the right methods to stand up for yourself
* What are you like these days when you are angry? At your best and at your worst? Can you give me recent examples of each?
* How do you get physical with your partner when arguing? Let’s consider a particular time - If you could see a ﬁlm of yourself during that argument, how would you look? Did you pace around, shout, bang things, break things, stand close to her when shouting etc?
* How long do arguments last? How do they end?
* How often do arguments like this happen?
* What do you feel is the worst thing you’ve done to your partner? What would your partner say is the worst thing?
* What is the most recent thing you’ve done?
* Have you ever got her to do sexual things that retrospectively you think she was uncomfortable about? How did you get her to do that?
* Tell me about your earlier relationships and in what ways they were similar and different from this.
* Have the police been called in the past? How many times?
* Any social services’ involvement?

##### Parenting

* Tell me a bit about each of your children
* What makes you proud of them?
* What things do they struggle with more than other kids their age?
* How did you hope being a parent would be?
* What’s working?
* What are the best times for you as a parent?
* What are the hardest times for you?
* How has the violence in your relationship affected your relationship with your children?
* What do you think they are aware of?
* What have you noticed about how the children are affected by the violence and abuse between the adults?
* Do you talk with your children about the violence and conﬂict in the family? What do you say? What would you want to say, if you could?
* Is there anyone else the children talk to about this? Who else is important to them?
* What do you ﬁnd hardest about each child’s behaviour? Tell me about a time when your children have misbehaved. Why do you think they act like that?
* How do you try to manage that, at your best and when you’re at your worst? What kinds of discipline do you use? What happens if this doesn’t work? Do the kids sometimes get smacked? Do you and the children’s mother agree about how to discipline them?
* Did they see the violence? (If he says they were not in same room, ask where they were in the house.)
* How do you think seeing the violence affected the kids? If they weren’t in the room, how would they have felt listening to what went on? Or seeing the after-effects? (Ask if there was damaged property, injuries to their mother. Would the children have seen this?)
* What do you think the effect of growing up seeing dad hit/insult/shout at mum is on the children?

##### Childhood

* What were things like between your parents or carers?
* Did you see or hear violence between them when you were a child?
* What was it like if they argued and fought?
* Did you ever get hurt yourself?
* Some people talk about being neglected or treated roughly as a child.
* Did anything like this happen to you?
* Who do you think was to blame for the violence?
* Did they ever get help?

##### Returning to own relationship and taking action

So you’ve been together X years and you’ve gone from (ﬁrst bullying behaviour) to (worst bullying behaviour). If the violence and abuse continued to escalate in the same manner, where would your relationship be another X years down the line?

* How do you want to be as a partner and father? Is it different from how you’ve been? In what way?
* How do you feel about coming in for (X sessions) with me (or elsewhere)? Do you feel able to commit to this?
* Have you tried doing a course before (on any subject)? If you didn’t ﬁnish it or go regularly why was that?
* Have you ever said you’ll change or won’t do it again? Did you keep your word? What got in the way?