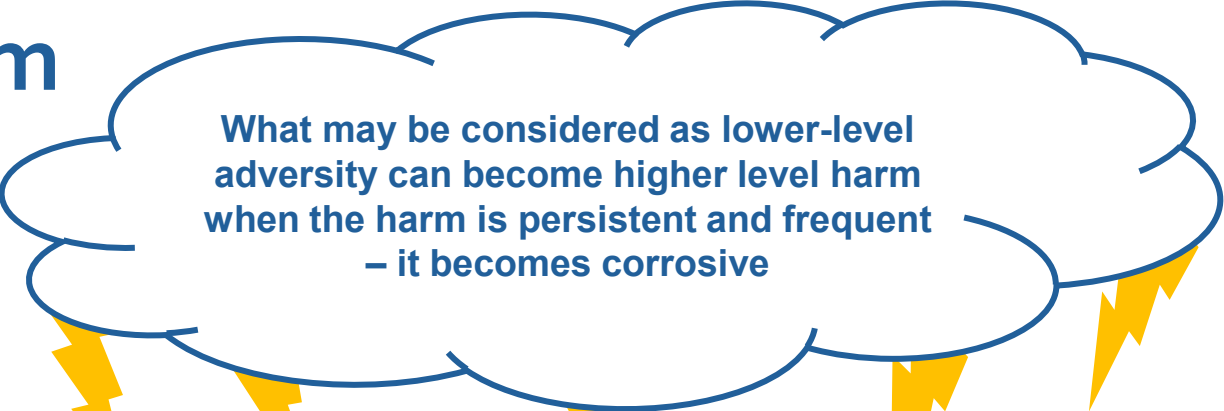
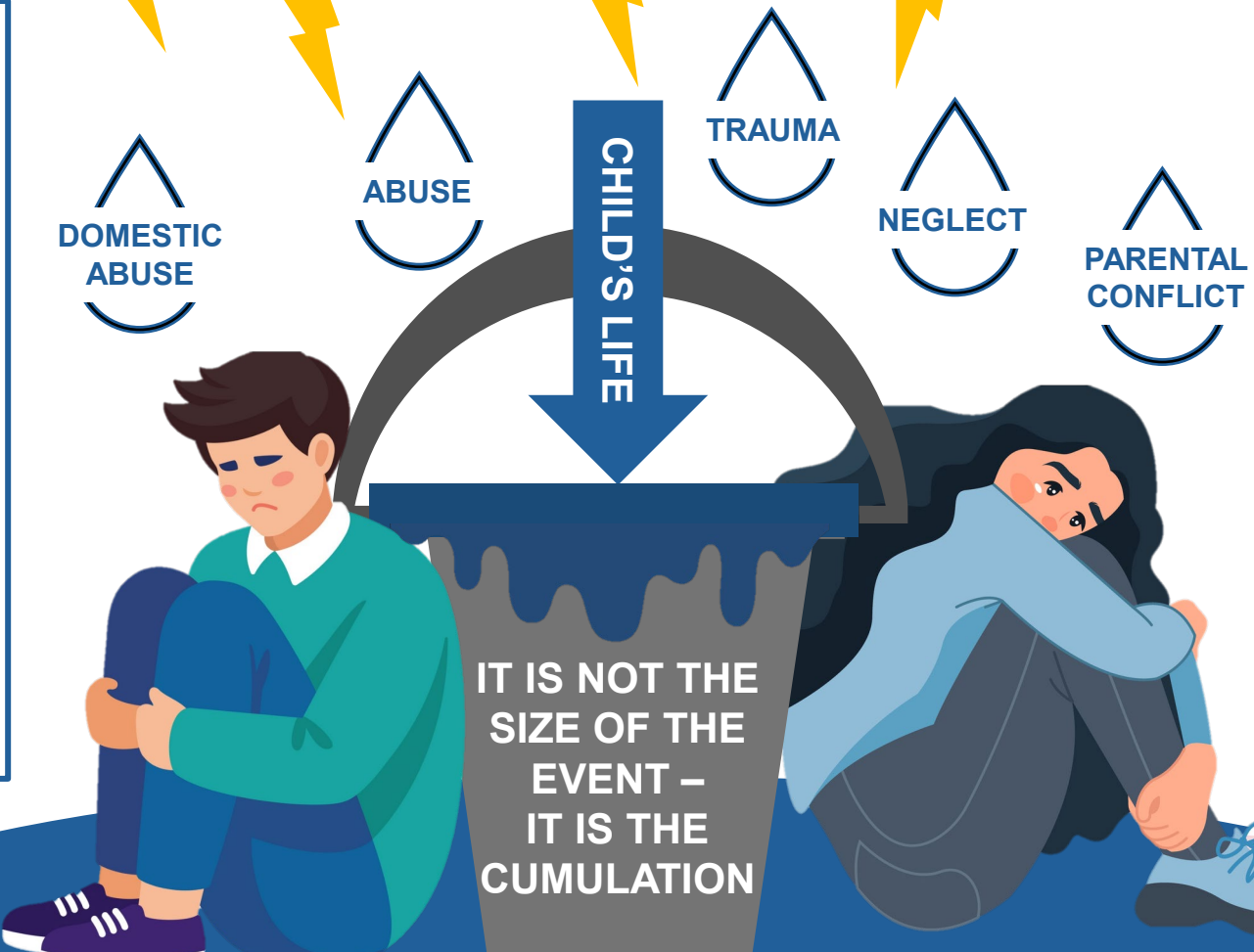


# Cumulative Harm

Cumulative harm is “the impact of patterns and circumstances in a child’s life which diminish a child’s sense of safety, stability and wellbeing” (Bromfield and Miller 2007)



- Indicators of cumulative harm in children:**
- Disruption to early brain development may mean a child finds it difficult to regulate their own behaviour or emotional reactions
  - Disturbed attachment patterns
  - Rapid behaviour regressions and shifts in emotional states
  - Aggressive behaviour against self and others
  - Anticipatory behaviour and traumatic expectations
  - Lack of awareness or regard for danger, resulting self-endangering behaviours
  - Self-hatred, self-blame and chronic feelings of ineffectiveness
  - Development delay (root cause unclear)



- Familial indicators of cumulative harm:**
- Interlinked problems or risk factors such as mental ill health, substance use problems, domestic abuse
  - Structural factors such as poverty and inadequate housing Social isolation
  - Enduring parent-oriented issues impacting on their capacity to provide their children with adequate care (such as alcohol misuse)
  - Trauma /adverse childhood experiences
  - Severe parental conflict and familial conflict within extended family.

Guidance on cumulative harm can be found here:

