



SESSION 7

Appeal for Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) & borderline capacity



Marie Oldham
Mother of FASD sufferers



frenkel
topping
GROUP

Focused on **LIFE** after
life-changing events

The following presentation contains an image which you may find distressing.

Children and adults with FASD Are they being valued?

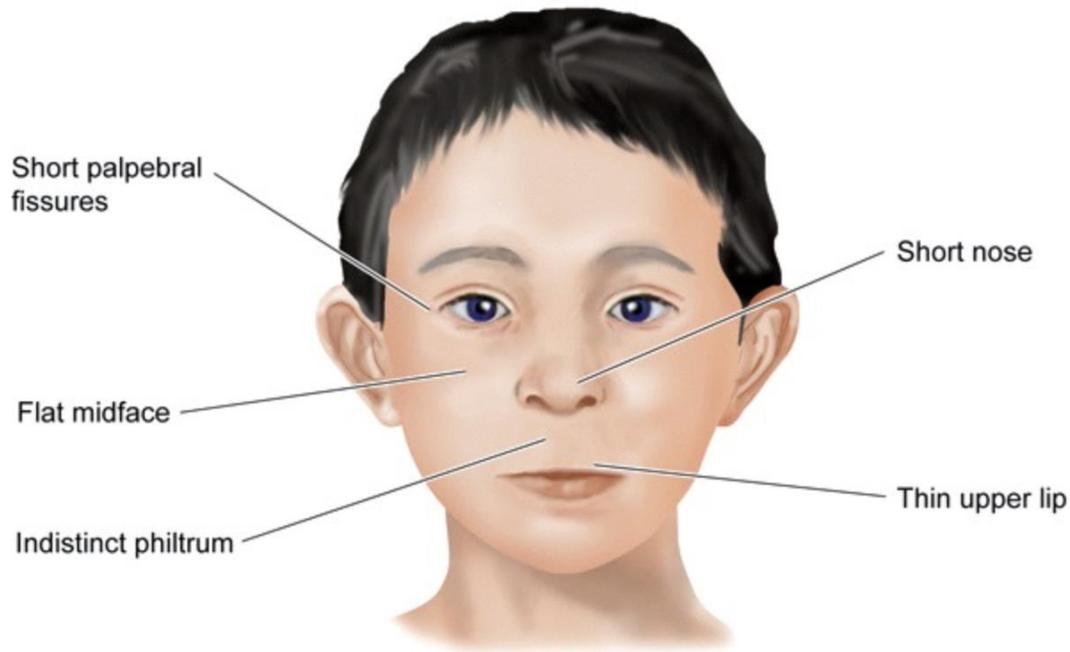
Marie Oldham

“Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder describes the permanent impacts on the brain and body of individuals prenatally exposed to alcohol during pregnancy, resulting in a spectrum of physical, neurological, emotional and behavioural regulation characteristics”

Daniel's secret brain damage

Recent meta analysis estimates a global FASD prevalence of 7.7 per 1,000 population and a UK prevalence of 32.4 per 1,000 population*

Some studies estimate a prevalence of 63% in children submitted for adoption **



The adoption myth

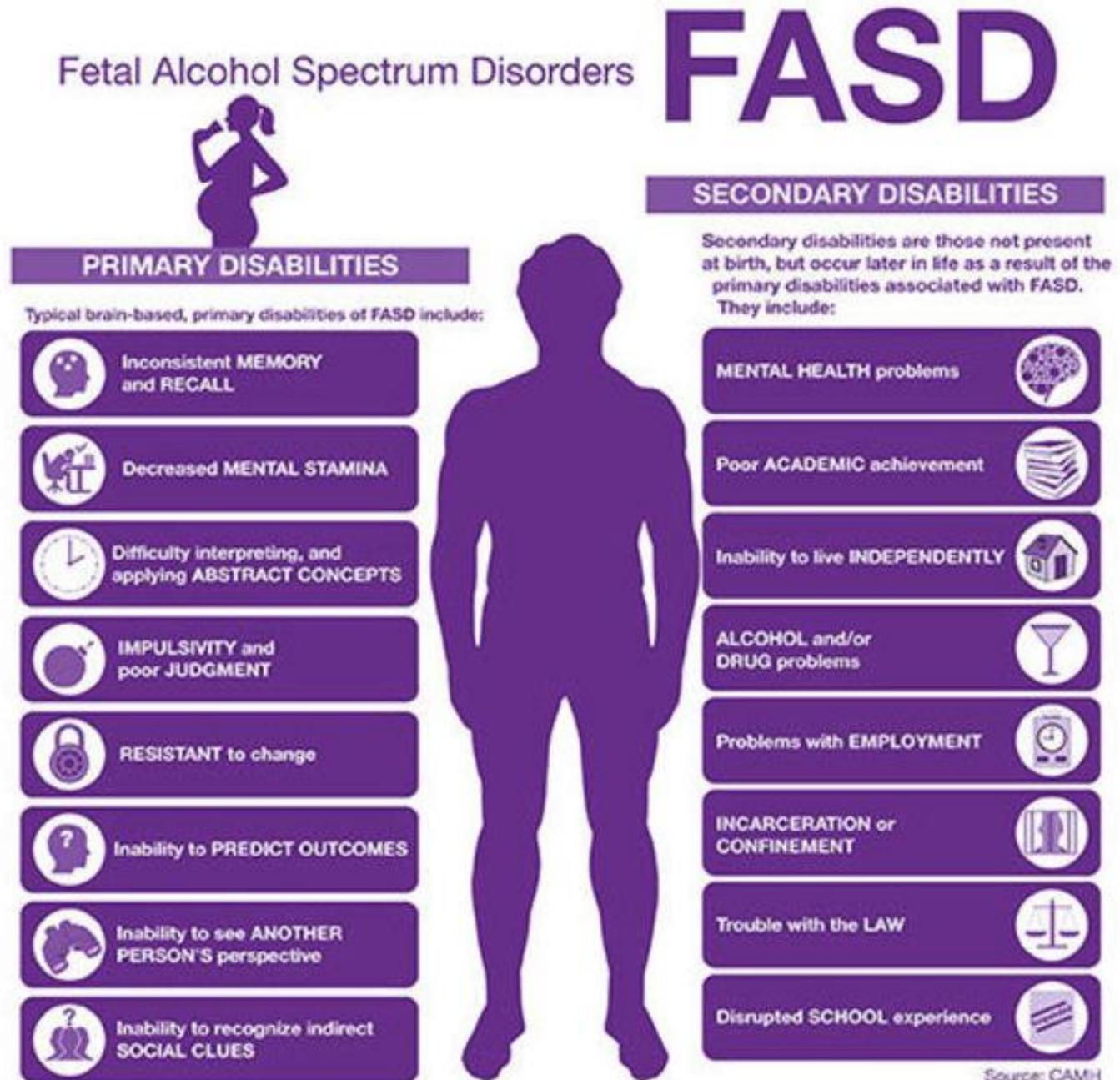
2,950 children adopted in the UK, Y/E Mar 2022

82,170 in the care system



The Reality of FASD

- Educationally isolated
- Socially isolated
- Fragmented families
- Risk taking
- Socially vulnerable
- Lack of capacity
- Substance use



FASD and the CJS

Individuals with FASD are 19 times more likely to be involved with the criminal justice system when compared to those without FASD*

52% of children in care have a criminal conviction by age 24**

18% of them were under 16**

92% of children in care who enter custody have special education needs**

Regular criminal activity often leads to a return to care - often under DoLs or within Secure Units

*University of Salford **ONS & Children's Commissioner



FASD and Mental Health

Low Self esteem

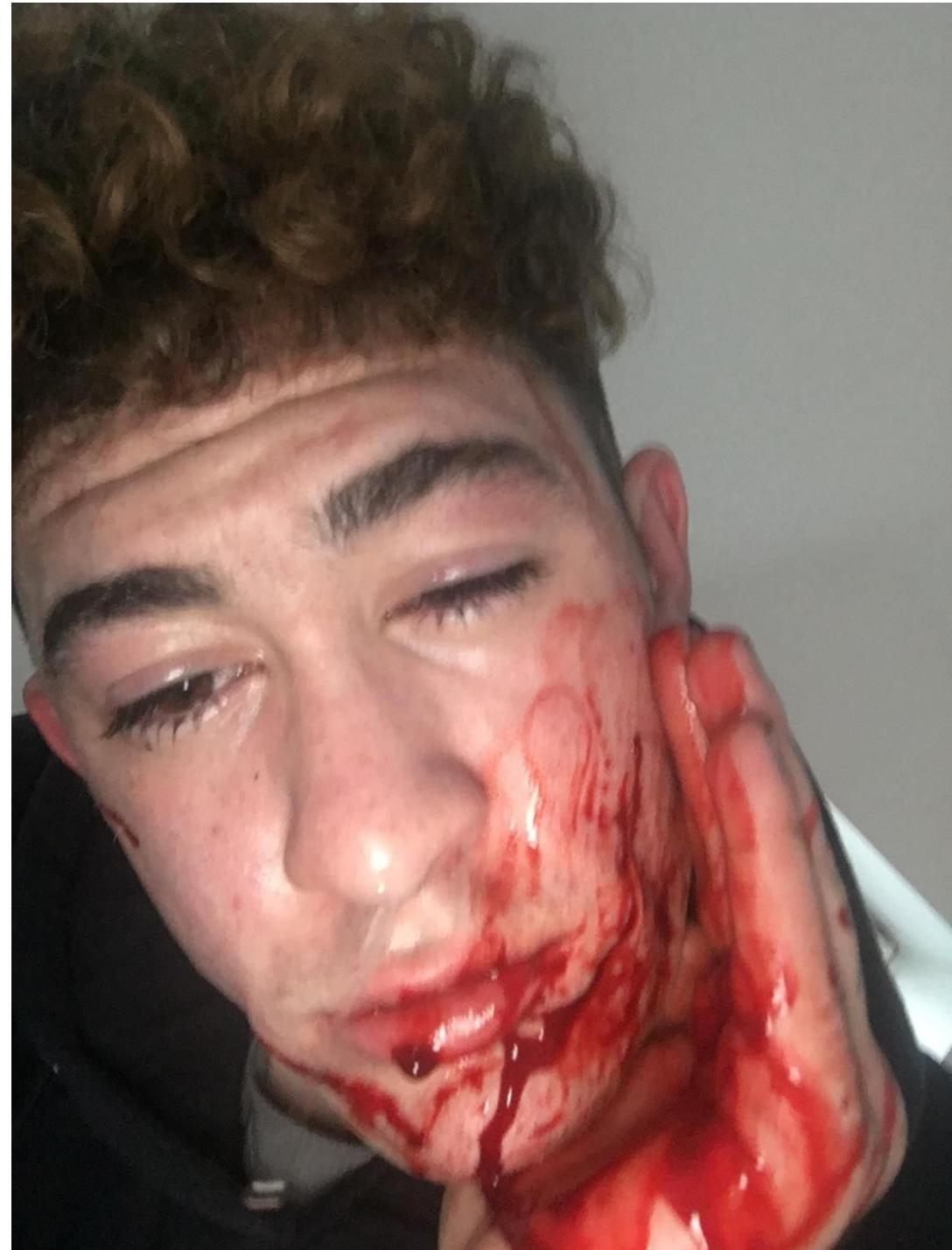
Frustration

Unemployment

Family breakdown

Lack of capacity

Difficulty accessing services



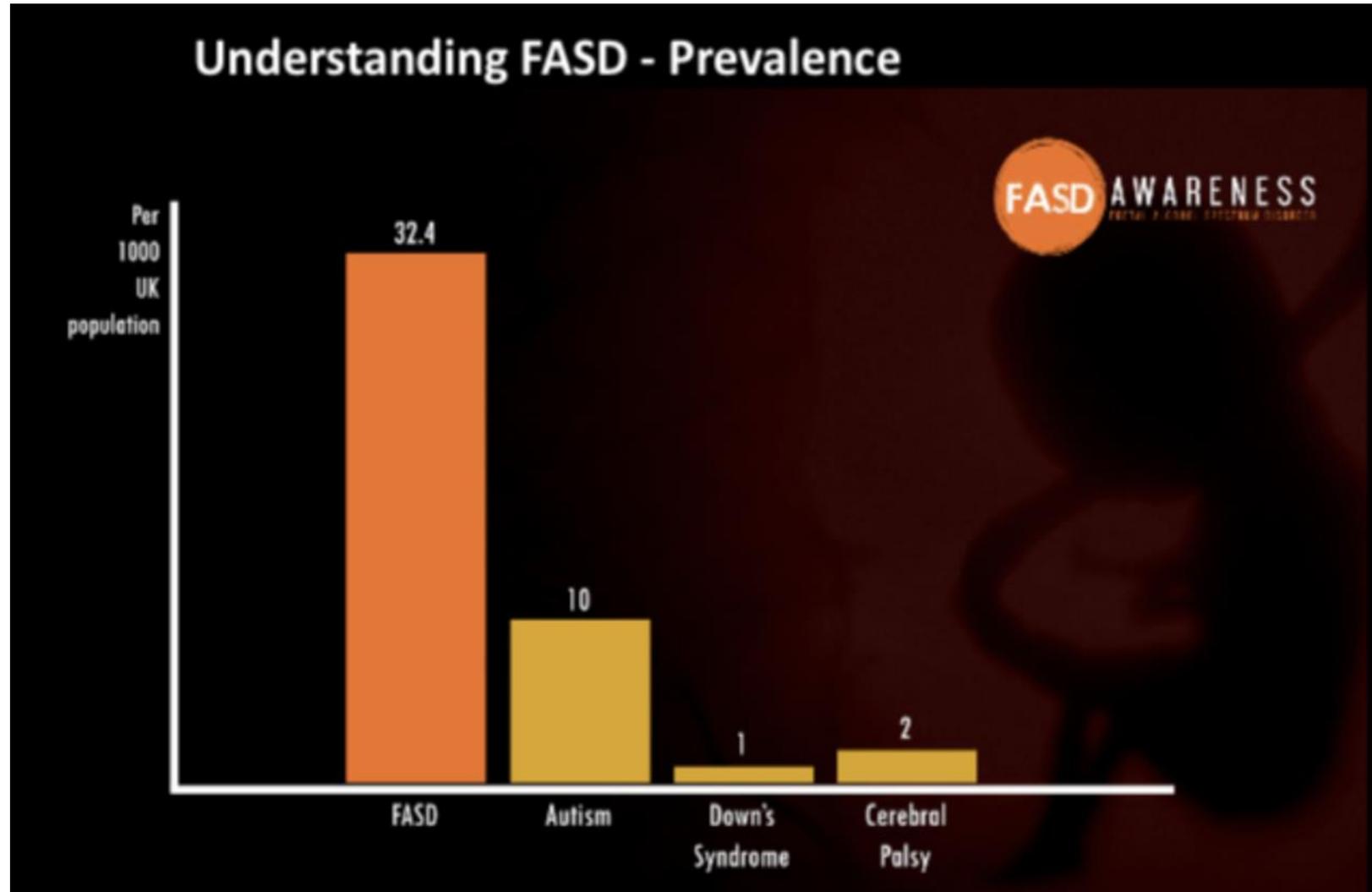
Daniel's plea

Recognition

Education

Awareness

Early intervention



Earlier this week, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) released new [findings](#) on the educational background of children in care who have interacted with the criminal justice system. The data shows concerning trends for young LAC. More than half (52%) of children in care had a criminal conviction by age 24 compared to 13% of children who had not been in care. Though this metric includes minor offences such as speeding and graffiti, it is shocking that so many children in care have interacted with the justice system at such a young age.

Children in care appear to enter the justice system earlier than children who have not been in care. On average, children in care who received a custodial sentence first did so in the year they turned 18, whereas, for non-LAC, this was in the year they turned 20. Moreover, of the children in care who received a custodial sentence, 18% were under 16 when they were imprisoned for the first time, this is 4.5 times higher than for those who have never been in care (4%).

Children in care who were in custody also had lower attainment at Key Stage 4 than those who did not interact with the criminal justice system. To put this in context, around 1 in 6 (16%) children in care who did not interact with the criminal justice system passed five GCSEs including English and maths. This compares to the 1 in 50 (2%) pass rate of children in care who received a custodial sentence.

Moreover, of the children in care in custody, 9 in 10 (92%) had Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), such as behavioural and emotional disorders and dyslexia. They were also more likely to have been excluded or suspended from school, with 1 in 5 (18%) having previously been excluded and 4 in 5 (81%) suspended.

Tragically care leavers make up 7% of the deaths of young people aged 18-21 despite only comprising 1% of the population for this age group. [\[2\]](#)