When examining the implications of childhood sexual abuse, Whitfield (2003) makes associations with future victimisation including domestic violence for females. This could be due to the damage abuse does to self-esteem (Browne & Finkerlahor, 1986) meaning girls do not see themselves as worthy of someone who treats them well. Briere (1992) found a link to depression in sexually abused adolescents, which Sutherland (1996) argues correlates with the high number of abuse victims he identified with sleep difficulties. Again, substance abuse continues to be a result (Putnam, 2003) and this continues to endanger young people’s physical and mental wellbeing.

Neglect is often forgotten as a form of abuse but its implications are as serious nonetheless. Egeland and Sroufe (1991) determined children who experience early neglect are at a higher risk for attachment problems. In the Minnesota Mother-Child Project 57% of emotionally neglected children went from a secure to an anxious attachment in 6 months. It has also been established neglectful parenting can cause cognitive problems (Perry & Pollar, 1997) which is further supported by Kaplan et al.’s (1999) identification of language problems. Perry (2002) continued his research and noted aggression as a result of a neglected childhood. All of these are serious consequences as it damages the ability to form relationships and chances of academic success.

Emotional abuse is more difficult to identify, but the effects are not. Erickson & Egeland (1996) claim emotionally abused students suffer academically and lack the same social skills as their peers, which is further supported by Glaser (2002), who claims hostility and rejection can result in negative social interaction by the child with others. He goes on to link emotional abuse with suicidal behaviour, however this was in the most extreme cases. Relating back to the effects of neglect, Thompson and Carde (1995) further recognised cognitive problems in emotionally abused children too.

To conclude, all forms of abuse have short and long term effects on the survivor. Research indicates cognitive difficulties and social troubles as a common result for all types, but the danger is that it can go further including suicidal behaviour, poor self-esteem and substance abuse, all of which further damaging a young person’s physical and mental health.