Key Findings

- People who kill children are significantly unlike the majority of neglecting carers.
- Most frequent assailants are mentally ill carers.
- Most dangerous people are men with previous convictions for violence - both those ‘within-family’ as well as ‘extra-family’.

Practice Implications for adult psychiatry

- Think ‘child protection’ when mentally ill carers have children.
- Mentally ill parents require an optimal, integrated mental health service.
- Facilitate the child’s psychosocial pressures and how they adjust to living with a mentally ill parent.
- Families should receive optimal integrated psychiatric & psychosocial care.

Practice Implications for social workers

- Always assess whether there are carers with previous convictions for violence and whether there is a parental mental health issue.
- Think child protection, psychiatric interface and need for integrated care.