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Welsh Government

Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence

Information and guidance for Further Education Institutions delivering educational resources

Mae'r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.
This document is also available in Welsh.



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VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN DOMESTIC ABUSE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE (WALES) ACT 2015 - EDUCATION PROGRAMME

Information for **Further Education Institutions** delivering educational resources

This information and guidance is provided to accompany the Welsh Women's Aid and AVA review of existing healthy relationships and gender-based violence, domestic abuse and sexual violence related teaching resources, commissioned by Welsh Government.

It should be used in conjunction with the Good Practice Guide - Whole Education Approach to Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence in Wales.

Introduction

Much of the information regarding working in secondary schools will be relevant for work in further education. However, it is also important to recognise that the 'extent of sexual harassment, sexual coercion, rape and domestic abuse in student populations' across the UK has been highlighted in research and crime surveys. Therefore, targeted work to address these issues and signpost to support services is vital to undertake with this age group.

A survey by the National Union of Students revealed that 37% of women and 12% of men said they had faced unwelcome sexual advances. Research has also found that female students have a greater than 1 in 3 chance of being sexually assaulted during their time at university, while new students are at risk of being inducted into a culture that openly disrespects and objectifies women. Rape, sexual coercion and domestic abuse are recognised as a significant yet preventable public health issue faced by all universities in the UK¹.

A useful approach with this age group is 'bystander intervention' which has been shown to be an effective and important prevention strategy to reduce victim blaming, increase pro-social behaviour and reduce defensiveness, as young people are targeted as bystanders and allies rather than potential perpetrators or victims. This form of prevention work also increases support skills and help-seeking behaviours.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/evidence-into-practice-tackling-domestic-violence-in-universities-and-the-workplace>



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Good Practice

The Intervention Initiative from the University of the West of England has a toolkit of resources to help further education settings to run programmes with students about domestic abuse, sexual violence and bystander interventions.

<http://www1.uwe.ac.uk/bl/research/interventioninitiative.aspx>

Resources for use in further education/colleges/Universities

Name of Resource: Safety Trust and Respect (STAR) Programme

Developed by: Welsh Women's Aid and local domestic abuse services, supported by Welsh Women's Aid Children Matter Project.

Link to resource: <http://www.welshwomensaid.org.uk/>

Aims: Encourage healthy relationships and the development of safety, trust and respect, in a safe environment (prevention, awareness and support for domestic abuse, sexual violence and violence against women).

Topics covered: The programme is flexible and can be used with small groups as well as classroom sizes. Topics include healthy and respectful relationships; domestic and sexual abuse/violence against women; gender stereotyping and equality; sexual consent; sexting; pornography and sexual exploitation; building resilience and help-seeking. The sessions are young person led and promote group discussions. The programme empowers young people to recognise early warning signs and dangers of unhealthy relationships, empowering them to make good choices.

Length: Flexible and varied; STAR young people is ideally 8 x 1 hour sessions

Delivery: Welsh Women's Aid Children Matter team – STAR trained facilitators. One and two day facilitator training is also available from Welsh Women's Aid Children Matter project, to deliver sessions and groupwork programmes.



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Name of Resource: Sexpression

Developed by: Sexpression:UK

Link to resource: <http://sexpression.org.uk/>

Aims: To empower young people to make decisions about sex and relationships by running informal and comprehensive sex and relationship sessions in the community.

Topics covered: Sex, relationships and bodily changes, STIs, safer sex and contraception, practical sex and consent, relationships and abuse, sexual orientation and gender identity (LGBT+), sex and the media

Length: One off sessions

Delivery: Delivered by trained university students. University students can also apply to become trained facilitators.

The **AVA Prevention Platform** contains a useful database of resources, activities, films and lesson plans which is searchable by age. You can search by topic and by the education category 'further education' and find more resources.

http://www.preventionplatform.co.uk/?page_id=136