

18 June 2013**Agenda Item: 9****REPORT OF DIRECTOR
POLICY PLANNING AND CORPORATE SERVICES****HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE****Purpose of the Report**

1. To outline the importance of Healthy Relationships Education in the current climate and progress made to date in Nottinghamshire.
2. To seek approval for funding of £35,000 to be granted to Nottinghamshire Domestic Violence Forum (NDVF) for continuation of this work in the academic year ahead.

Information and Advice

3. Using data from the disclosure evidence in the Crime Survey England and Wales 2011¹ which shows that 10% of adult females experience domestic abuse in any one year, it is likely that every class of 30 children will contain an average of 3 young people living with domestic abuse. These children will be experiencing a range of confused feelings about themselves and their families, and about gender, relationships, and sexuality.
4. Research by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) in 2009² with 1,353 young people aged 13-16 in mainstream school and again in 2011³ with disadvantaged teenagers aged 13-18, revealed that physical, emotional and sexual violence are common in teenage relationships and that girls from disadvantaged backgrounds are disproportionately affected. Boys from disadvantaged backgrounds had similar experiences to the mainstream boys' sample. The results showed the following experiences in intimate relationships:

Mainstream sample girls	Mainstream sample boys	Girls from disadvantaged backgrounds
25% physical violence	18% physical violence	50% physical violence
31% sexual violence	16% sexual violence	50% sexual violence
47% emotional abuse	30% emotional abuse	66% emotional abuse

The girls most at risk in both samples have boyfriends two or more years older or have lived with domestic violence in their families. The internet has provided new ways to bully

¹ ONS Focus on Violent Crime and Sexual Offences 2011/12

² NSPCC Partner Exploitation and Violence in Teenage Intimate Relationships

³ NSPCC Standing On My Own Two Feet

and humiliate young people anonymously and we know this is common in our school population.

5. We know from our schools that teachers are reluctant to discuss these matters in the classroom and require considerable specialist support to do so. Healthy Relationships Education programmes provide a unique opportunity for children and young people to learn about respect and fairness in relationships as well as sources of help and support for victims of violence and abuse. OFSTED published a report in 2012 recommending greater focus on Healthy Relationships including discussion of consent and sexual bullying.

“Lack of age-appropriate sex and relationships education may leave young people vulnerable to inappropriate sexual behaviours and sexual exploitation, particularly if they are not taught the appropriate language, or have not developed the confidence to describe unwanted behaviours, or do not know who to go to for help”⁴

6. In the two years 2011-13 Healthy Relationships Education was delivered by NDVF in Nottinghamshire Primary Schools, supported by funding from the Safer Nottinghamshire Board. This project is called GREAT (Good Relationships are Equal and Trusting) and covered 20 schools in all the County Districts except Rushcliffe, teaching a total of 508 children aged 9-11. The project evaluation showed good results from both teachers and pupils. For example teachers identified that students had higher self esteem, a better understanding of gender equality, and improved relationships with one another. The students showed a marked change in their views about violence in relationships: at the start 37% thought violence was justified, this changed to 21% after the course finished and was 20% a month later. They also scored well in their knowledge of places to seek help, and their understanding of gender stereotyping.
7. As part of the Healthy Relationships Programme there are opportunities for individual disclosure and related support. In the 2011-13 programme, 43 pupils disclosed individual concerns about abuse to themselves or other family members to the support team, and were offered further sessions to help them come to terms with their experiences.
8. Healthy Relationships Education is part of a broad strategy to prevent domestic and sexual violence happening in our communities. By the time people reach adulthood much of their self identity is fixed including their gender identity and this may include a set of excuses to justify abuse in relationships. The Home Office, OFSTED, the Dept of Health, and the Safer Nottinghamshire Board all identify early intervention as the best approach to prevention and a key component of the national and local strategic approach to ending Violence against Women and Girls⁵.
9. The funding of £35,000 would be targeted at schools in high crime areas and matched wherever possible by a 50% contribution from Community Safety Partnerships. Schools outside the Partnership Plus Areas will be expected to contribute from their own funds 50% of costs. Due to the recent evidence of growing sexual exploitation, teenage partner

⁴ Not yet good enough: personal, social, health and economic education in schools – OFSTED 2012

⁵ See Home Office website “Call and end to Violence against Women and Girls”

abuse and internet or “cyber” abuse involving 11-16 year olds, the focus this time will be on our secondary schools, with a smaller number of projects in Primary schools. The following table is a guide to what will be achieved.

Proposed Scope Healthy Relationships Education Nottinghamshire 2013-15

<u>Programme Type</u>	<u>Number of primary schools</u>	<u>Number of secondary schools</u>	<u>Cost per school</u>	<u>Full cost</u>
GREAT PROJECT Programme in Primary School. Comprises 4 sessions to each of two yr 5/6 classes	12		2393	28716
Programme in Secondary school to train teachers to deliver Healthy Relationships education to yr 7 – in addition to other programmes if possible		6	571	3426
Whole School Approach in Secondary School Media Campaign year 8 four class entry		10	1834	18340
Whole School Approach in Secondary School Personal Space project year 9 four class entry		8	1053	8424
Whole School Approach in Secondary School Geography project year 8 four class entry		8	1369	10952
Total	12	32		69858
Cost with 50% match funding	12	32		34929

Other Options Considered

10. The option of commissioning school nurses to deliver Healthy Relationships Education has been considered within Public Health. At the present time there is no capacity to achieve this, however there is scope for including schools nurses in any delivery to school staff.
11. The option of delivering Healthy Relationships Education through the Healthy Schools Initiative has also been explored. This is a much reduced programme as compared to previous years and participation is now voluntary for schools. The programme relies solely on input from within schools, so has very limited take-up for specialist areas such as this one. This is evidenced by the fact that only 4 schools in the county out of 338 are attempting the Sex and Relationships Healthy Schools module this year.

The Safer Nottinghamshire Board plans to identify sustainable funding for preventative early intervention work in the future. However, partners are not aware of any source of finance for this work during the coming year other than those identified in this report.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

13. Providing matched funding of 50% at this stage would enable the project to take place in academic year 2013/14 and would provide time for more sustainable funding to be identified for future years.
14. The importance of the project is underlined by the national research which is described in the early part of the report.

Statutory and Policy Implications

15. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, the public sector equality duty, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

16. There is currently an underspend of £20,000 from the Home Office Private Space Funding Initiative from 2012/13, which is ring-fenced for domestic violence work. If £15,000 is allocated from the Community Safety budget for 2013/14, the required £35,000 (50% matched funding) would be available to enable the project to take place.

Equalities Implications

17. Healthy Relationships Education provides learning on gender equality for both boys and girls

Crime and Disorder Implications

18. Healthy Relationships Education contributes to crime reduction through education

RECOMMENDATION/S

It is recommended that:

- i) £15,000 from the Community Safety Budget 2013-14, and £20,000 from the Home Office Private Space Funding underspend 2011-12, are allocated to support Healthy Relationships Education in Nottinghamshire in the academic year 2013-14

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Constitutional Comments ([LM 30/05/13])

19. The Community Safety Committee has delegated authority within the Constitution to approve the recommendations in the report.

Financial Comments ([SEM 04/06/13])

20. The financial implications are set out in the report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

21. None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

22. All