

Session 1: Early years and teenagers

Please note: Dr Ladan Hashemi's presentation, *Adverse childhood experiences and the implications for public health*, is under embargo until the paper is published in November 2023.

This slide pack will be updated then.





Safe Young Lives Vision Conference

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About SafeLives



- We are SafeLives, the UK-wide charity dedicated to ending domestic abuse, for everyone and for good



- We are independent, practical and evidence-led, with survivor voice at the heart of our thinking



- We work with organisations across the UK to transform the response to domestic abuse

We want what you want for your best friend:



- Action before someone is harmed or harms others



- Harmful behaviour identified and stopped



- Increased safety for everyone at risk



- The ability for people to live the life they want after harm has happened

Ending domestic abuse

What we do:



We put the voice of survivors at the heart of everything we do.



We focus on early intervention for the whole family, helping people become safe sooner and challenging perpetrators to change.



We test innovative projects and replicate those which work, looking for long term solutions, not quick fixes.



We combine our national data, research and expertise to help services improve and to continue to influence policy makers everywhere.



We train domestic abuse professionals and provide support and knowledge to frontline staff and commissioners.



We run change programmes in the public, private and voluntary sectors to increase understanding of domestic abuse and its impact.

Ending domestic abuse

An introduction to Safe Young Lives



Safe Young Lives is discovering and sharing what works to protect children and young people from being harmed - or harming - through domestic abuse.

Our aim is to provide well-informed support to lead and shape the professional response, using a combination of:

- The voices and views of young people
- Data and evidence
- Advocacy around best practice

Safe Young Lives was established in 2018, and a five year strategic plan sets the direction of travel – for now and in the future.

Safe Young Lives



SYL 5 YEAR STRATEGIC AIMS

Find out what works for children & young people age 11-18 to keep them safe from being harmed or harming

SafeLives is RECOGNISED AS A LEAD ORGANISATION IN YP & DA

GOALS - THE CHANGE WE WANT TO SEE:

1. YOUNG PEOPLE LEAD and CO-CREATE WHAT WORKS FOR THEM
2. YOUNG PEOPLE RECOGNISE DOMESTIC ABUSE and TOXIC RELATIONSHIPS
3. ROUTES to RISK LED, TAILORED SUPPORT & INTERVENTIONS ARE CLEAR and ACCESSIBLE to ALL YOUNG PEOPLE
4. PROFESSIONALS HAVE the KNOWLEDGE and CAPABILITIES to PROVIDE an EFFECTIVE RESPONSE
5. COLLABORATE WITH OTHERS SO WE CAN REACH YOUNG PEOPLE WHEREVER THEY ARE

Safe Young Lives 5 areas of focus for CYP aged 11-18 who are :

EXPERIENCING HARM IN THE HOME OR FAMILY

AT RISK OF CAUSING/ARE CAUSING HARM IN THE FAMILY

VICTIMS IN THEIR OWN RELATIONSHIPS

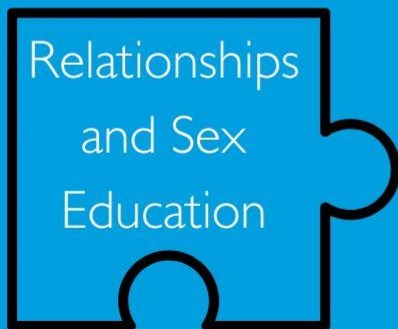
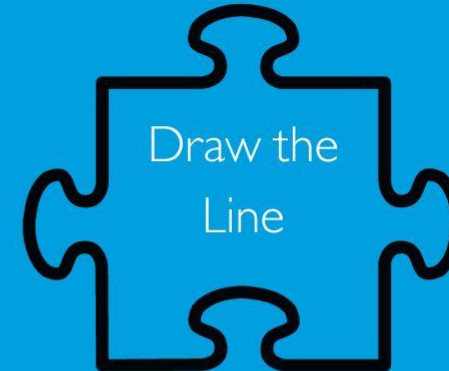
HARMING IN THEIR OWN RELATIONSHIPS

AT RISK OF CAUSING HARM OR EXPERIENCING HARM IN THEIR OWN RELATIONSHIPS

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Scottish Charity SCO48291



The projects:





Collaboration with the police to review the classification of domestic abuse to include teenagers

Dr Ruth Weir, Senior Research Fellow in Criminology

VISION Conference
21.09.2023



The VISION research is supported by the **UK Prevention Research Partnership** (Violence, Health and Society; MR-VO49879/1), a Consortium funded by the British Heart Foundation, Chief Scientist Office of the Scottish Government Health and Social Care Directorates, Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, Economic and Social Research Council, Health and Social Care Research and Development Division (Welsh Government), Medical Research Council, National Institute for Health and Care Research, Natural Environment Research Council, Public Health Agency (Northern Ireland), The Health Foundation, and Wellcome.

The views expressed are those of the researchers and not necessarily those of the UK Prevention Research Partnership or any other funder.



Background to collaboration



The problem

- The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 - new legislation that saw children who live in a home where domestic abuse takes place recognised for the first time as victims in their own right.
- But domestic abuse between adolescents was not included, unless they are over 16
- In 2013 domestic abuse legislation in England and Wales was changed to include those aged 16 and over (Home Office 2013)
- However, research from Safe Lives found that, on average, experiencing abusive behaviour from a partner begins at age 14 or 15, leaving a gap in recognition and support for those under the age of 16 (SafeLives, 2017).
- Women aged 16 to 19 years are more likely to experience domestic abuse than all other age-groups (ONS 2020).
- Despite the high prevalence of abuse for this age group, the rate of referrals into support services and multi-agency risk assessment conferences is lower than the percentage they make up of the population (SafeLives 2017).
- A real challenge for those trying to police domestic abuse.



Jayden Parkinson



17 year old female, child, pregnant, victim of domestic abuse, truant, neglected, homeless, missing

The Question?

- Should the statutory age bracket for domestic abuse legislation be reduced to 13?



How we are going to answer it!

- Formed Adolescent Domestic Abuse Working Group (ADAWG) – with membership including Thames Valley Police, Home Office, Domestic Abuse Commissioner’s Office, Safe Lives, University of Essex and VISION colleagues across many disciplines.
- Successful in gaining funding from two internal City funds – Policy Support Fund and Participatory Research Fund
- Aim to apply for much larger grant after initial research.



Aims and objectives:

- 1) Produce a **rapid evidence review** of research and data on **adolescent domestic abuse**
 - **Review question:** This review aims to understand the existing literature on young people and their experiences and exposure to domestic abuse (in **romantic relationships**, not familial), both as **victims** and as **perpetrators**.
 - Specifically, this review aims to understand: **What factors and harms** are associated with domestic abuse victimisation and/or perpetration in young people aged **≤16 years old** of **any gender**
- 2) Run a **workshop** with young people to **explore the landscape** of the domestic abuse-related experiences of young people when they were aged 13 to 16, through **direct engagement** with young people with **lived experiences** of DA
- 3) Host a **conference** on 18th April 2024 to share findings and invite others researching and working this area to share their work. **Check out the Call for Proposals** to submit an idea for a presentation: [Call for proposals: Adolescent domestic abuse - City Vision](#)

