



Taking a partnership approach to addressing teenage relationship abuse

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What did participatory research on teenage relationship abuse look like?

- Three place-based roundtables in 2025 in Gloucestershire, Northumbria and Oxford
- Recruited through local partnership networks
- Between 60 and 100 local practitioners, parents and those with lived experience at each event
- Overview presentation of national work and research, followed by group discussions
- Discussion on what is working well, what are the challenges, what would good practice look like





What did participatory research allow us to do in this context?

- Understand current systems response to teenage relationship abuse at the local level, across systems but also different sectoral responses
- Bring together those across systems to discuss this issue together and to forge new partnerships and working groups to take the work forward locally
- Give time to thinking about how we should respond together and what a redesigned system would look like
- See how practice is similar or varies across different geographical areas
- Moving from a top-down approach to empowering local partnerships to take ownership at the local level



What we achieved

- New local working groups on teenage relationship abuse
- Collective enthusiasm for driving change
- New perspectives from the local level that can shape future policy and practice
- Support for future research



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Gloucestershire Teenage Relationship Abuse Working Group



Multi-Agency Group established with a key focus on:

- Defining the problem
 - Local working definition and scope
 - Scale of the problem in Gloucestershire and opportunities for improving this understanding
- System mapping
 - Case identification
 - Journey of a case through a service (dip sampling)
 - Safeguarding and referral routes
 - Intra-agency working
- Review of service provision
 - Gaps
 - Opportunities to develop commissioned approaches
 - Funding arrangements
- Supporting current research

Overall aim to eventually have an agreed and operational approach that considers identification, risk assessment, referral pathways and training



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Developing the local action plan



A young person aged 14 is in a relationship with a 15 year old.

The 14 year old has disclosed to a trusted adult that their relationship is controlling and physically abusive. They disclose:

- *Their location being monitored
- *Constant messaging and anger when they do not reply immediately
- *Being told what to wear and who they can and can't speak to
- *Having been hit once, with threats of further harm

In an ideal world, what would we want agency responses to look like in this case?

Considering:

- Single agency responses
- Multi-agency responses
- Specialist services required for the victim
- Interventions required with the perpetrator
- Any differing responses based on risk

Are any of these things achievable within our current systems?

What would we need to make this a reality?

Are there any innovative practices we could develop should funding be made available?



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Areas identified for future action



Multi-Agency Case Management	Training/Guidance	Police Response	Children's Social Care
-YP MARAC	-Increase understanding of TRA amongst professionals	-Develop a tag to identify cases	-Specialist TRA lead to be identified
-YP MATAAC	-Mandate training	-Explore if Victims hub can extend its remit to TRA	- Develop a tag to identify cases
(can the current MARAC/MATAAC take TRA cases?)	-Training in YP DASH (until more suitable tool is available)	-Dedicated role in MASH	-Role of early help?
-Clear approach to identifying which agencies need to be involved	-Improve awareness of services	-Agree clear approach between education and enforcement (when police should intervene)	-Consistent completion of eco maps and Teenage DASH assessments
-Clear information sharing/collaboration	-Promotion of services/clear pathways with streamlined signposting	-Explore extension of Raneem's Law to TRA following pilot	-Resource sharing with parents and use of evidence-based tools
-Ensure a YP focused response	-Guidance for agencies		-Increased curiosity, promoting service provision
-Identify a lead professional	-Safety Centre (education piece for professionals)		-CSC & EH provide group work to young people to bridge the gap in a lack of service provision
-Clear pathway for all professionals: identification/risk assessment/referral/ safeguarding/support etc	-Engaging positive male role models		
Working with Young People	Working with Parents/Families	School Responses	Other
-Youth programmes/engagement/mentoring schemes	-Parent support services	-Whole school approach	-Single front door for DA and TRA
-STREET: lower age range, consider role in MASH	-Whole family support	-Explore role of school nurses	-Unified approach to risk assessment/management
-Be informed by the voices of YP	-Increase parents' knowledge / role they can play in safeguarding and support	-Consistent input in schools for both YP and teachers	-Central place for information
-Trauma informed approaches	-Increase knowledge of social media	-Role of bystander/upstander input	-Ensure countywide buy in at exec level to drive commitment/resources to progress work
-Risk assessment: understand wider risk, beyond TRA, considering family risk		-Specialist TRA workers in schools	-Consider co-production
-Support for harmful behaviours / behaviour change		-Work to understand what school want/need	-Awareness of specialist service (STREET)
-Long term counselling provision		-Healthy relationships education starting a young age with skilled pastoral workers providing group work and 1-2-1s.	