



# Merseyside Police

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## Evaluation of Domestic Violence Programme for year 10 pupils, St Cuthberts Catholic Community College For Business and enterprise, St Helens

1. What year was used to pilot the Programme and what reasons were given for choosing that particular year group?
2. Were staff fully appraised of the work before the commencement of the programme.
3. Was there an on –going evaluation and what changes were made to the Programme as it evolved?
4. Where there any pupils identified who found the topic of Domestic abuse difficult?
5. What arrangements were made with these children?
6. Was the venue used for the delivery of the programme suitable?
7. How did the staff become involved in the programme?
8. How did the children react to the subject matter?
9. where there any incidents/disclosures made as a result of the programme.
10. Did the staff value the programme as a worthwhile enterprise.
11. Would St Cuthberts run a repeat programme?
12. Are there any staff willing to take on delivery of the programme in the future?
13. were any problems highlighted by the staff?
14. How were the children supported after the delivery of the Programme?

1. Year 10 pupils were chosen as they were identified as the group who were embarking on new relationships and soon to be released from school environment into the adult World. They were also not subject to the same exam pressures as year 11 pupils which was why that group were excluded from the pilot.

After the pilot it was discussed that the Programme may be equally valid for year 9 pupils to catch them prior to their engaging on their personal relationships. St Cuthberts would be happy to see the Programme used with this year group.

2. The programme was discussed and approved by the Healthy Schools co ordinator for St Helens prior to approaching St Cuthberts. There was then an indepth discussion with the Headteacher of St Cuthberts, and a follow up presentation to the Year 10 PSHE staff on the cycle of Domestic abuse and the possible effects of living with abuse.

3. The pilot was evaluated as it was delivered and started out as a six week programme. The session on the liar was dropped as six sessions proved to be too long and it was therefore reduced to five sessions.

4. Several young people were identified prior to the delivery of the programme and each child with related issues was spoken to privately on a one to one basis by DC Thomas. Child A was perhaps the most notable of these pupils and she agreed to continue with the programme after discussion with DC Thomas

5. Support and advice were offered and taken up. The work was explained prior to each session and an awareness of the issues involved during the programme. Child A responded well and took an active part in a group role play after volunteering as a participant.

6. The library was used which has a flexible seating arrangement. Is private and has TV/audio equipment readily available.

7. The staff remained present throughout the programme and assisted where possible with group work and logistics and also communication with the pupils. Due to the division of the groups into 'House systems' the staff knew the pupils well and were more likely to be aware of any particular Domestic problems with an individual ensuring that support was available if required.

It was discussed after the pilot that 'SENCO' or learning mentors who had been excluded from the sessions due to the sensitive nature of the sessions, may in fact be included to assist communication and support for children with learning difficulties who may have found some of the material challenging to read and understand.

8. The children reacted in a mature and sensible manner. They remained responsive and appeared interested and offered a valuable contribution and feedback where required. Each child was asked to complete an evaluation sheet at the end of the six week session. The response was positive. They found the topic worthwhile and informative.

9. Child A was happy to disclose her concerns to DC Thomas.

10. The staff were invited to exercise an element of choice on whether or not they wished to attend each session. The staff fed back that they enjoyed the Programme, viewed it as good Continuous Professional Development and most staff did attend every session. The programme was described by the Headteacher as excellent staff development which equipped the staff to deal with issues arising as a result of the Programme.

11. The Headteacher commented that the success of the programme gave the school confidence to engage with other outside agencies and allowed them to deliver presentations to the pupils. Since the Programme Barnardos and 'SCAMPS have also been into school delivering material on bullying and self harm etc.

12. St Cuthberts would definitely be eager to run a repeat programme and there would be staff who would undoubtedly wish to take a more active part in the delivery of the programme in the future. We would be prepared to commit to any relevant training seeing it as valuable for both teaching development and other support staff such as learning mentors.

13. There were problems highlighted with the written material in some cases and one member of staff pointed out that the 'use of the language 'was too advanced for certain pupils who were less articulate and in some cases had difficulty reading. In particular, the handout on Nelson Mandela. To overcome this difficulty The staff member read through that handout during his particular session as he had identified the problem. The handout has been re written making it easier to read and understand. It was highlighted that the inclusion of the 'SENCO' or learning mentor would address such issues as this issue in the future.

14. All pupils were given support material and helpline numbers at the conclusion of the Programme. Pastoral staff and the Headteacher were aware that there may be delayed repercussions or incidents as a result of the programme and they were prepared to deal with any that arose. However the Headteacher commented that there had been no problems arising subsequent to the Programme delivery. In fact the pupils received it with maturity and calmness.

### Future Plans

It is hoped that each school in St Helens will nominate a member of staff willing to take on responsibility for Domestic Violence awareness training. These staff could attend a training event with Pat Craven and become facilitators of the programme. This group of trained staff could then meet maybe once weekly to discuss delivery of the forthcoming session and a manual produced which would adapt the FREEDOM Programme for School delivery such as the one used by DC Thomas. The group could be guided by DC Thomas until sufficient confidence was gained to deliver the Programme without the weekly input. DC Thomas would remain available as a point of contact for staff to discuss issues or problems arising.