

Evaluation of the Respect Young people's tool kit pilot

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The aims of the pilot evaluation

The core purpose of this evaluation is to assess what works (and what does not), with respect to:

- Making the client group of young people using or at risk of using violence against partners or family less likely to use violence and more respectful in their close relationships
- Increasing the safety and decreasing the vulnerability of those who are in family or intimate relationships these young people (in order of priority the safety of children will be paramount)

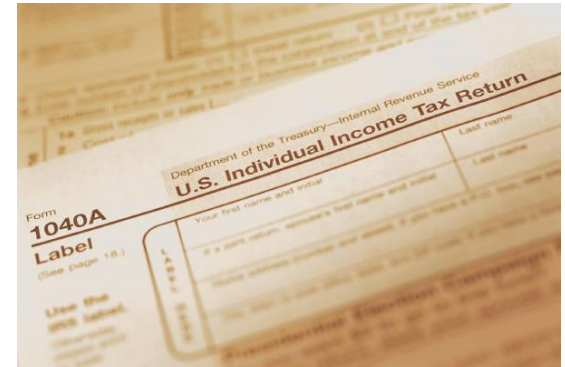
This was to include:

1. Consideration of which *materials* worked and didn't work with clear recommendations as to how to adjust the toolkit.
2. Consideration of what structures / settings and processes resulted in *successful engagement with young people using or at risk* of using violence in their close relationships (including getting referrals, assessing and motivating these clients)
3. Consideration of what interventions, structures and protocols best *increased the safety of those at risk* from these young people.

The sites were all different

1. Youth project in an inner city
2. Part of a Relate organisation, with long history of domestic violence work and work with young people
3. Domestic violence programme, part of a children's charity
4. Specialist organisation working with young people with learning difficulties
5. Specialist organisation working with adults/young people of African descent

Data collection



That's.....

- Session record forms
- Session evaluation forms for young people
- Assessment information
- Questionnaires pre- and post- programme for young people
- Questionnaires pre- and post- programme for partners/ex-partners/parents
- Interviews by phone or in person or in a small group

That was the plan anyway...

Events

Events

Events

Events

Events

What problem?

- Violence is commonplace in young people's relationships
- some US research suggests that nearly half of all young people experience this

Gender differences and similarities: the research

- similarities between male and female use of physical violence in relationships
- Differences in context, consequences and meaning of that violence
- Girls tend to suffer from more serious violence from males than vice versa
- They also report greater levels of fear
- young men with traditional gender views are more likely to perpetrate sexual violence than others.
- But some research finds little gender difference..

What causes intimate partner violence?

- Defensive/hostile masculinity
- Sense of male entitlement over women
- Peer approval of the behaviour
- Poor parenting

○ *Haggerman-White et al, 2010*

○ These are the strongest factors, from a meta analysis shown next...

What causes violence against women and children?



Factors influencing VAW&C

Haggerman-White et al, 2010

So other factors include:

- Emotional dysregulation
- Family stress
- Cognitive distortion
- Gender stereotyping
- High concentrations of poverty and social exclusion
- Failed sanctions or impunity
- Stimulus abuse, including drink, drugs and pornography
- Exposure to violence on screen

Attitudes significantly affect:

1. The perpetration of violence against women (*“I can do what I like”, “you’re showing me up”*)
2. The institutional and individual responses to violence against women and girls
3. Women and girls’ responses to violence used against them (*“it was my fault”, “I wind him up”*)

Flood and Pease, 2009

Which attitudes?

- Attitudes to violence
- Attitudes to sex
- Attitudes to relationships
- Attitudes to gender
- Attitudes to men's and women's roles
- Attitudes to peer approval

Flood and Pease, 2009

Attitudes come from and are influenced by:

- Family
- Peer groups
- Religion/political groups
- Mass media

TV drama/documentary
Pornography
News
Community education
Social marketing

And by:

- Experience
- Reflection
- Education

So how did the pilot sites change attitudes?



Back up a minute...

Young people were referred by:

- Social workers
- Schools
- Self/parent
- Refugee project
- Existing outreach work by the project

Some projects found it easy to get plenty of referrals, others struggled.

What helped the projects to get referrals?

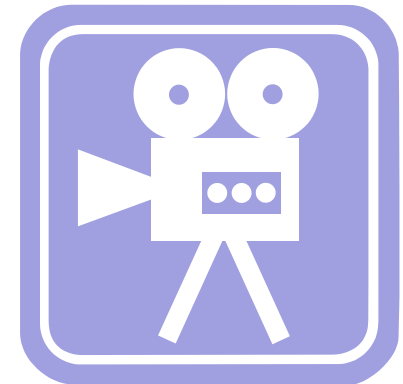
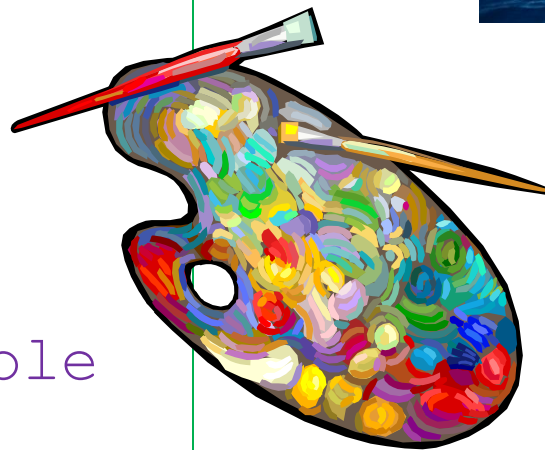
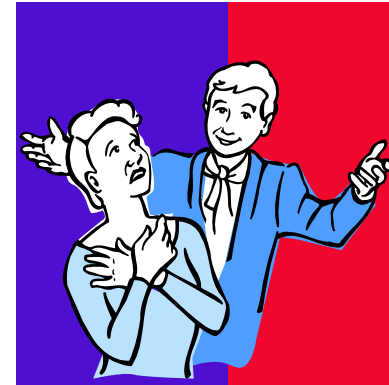
- **FINDING:** existing relationships with a local school or youth offending team helped the pilot projects to establish the work. Such relationships helped to deliver referrals, provide a site for the work to take place and in one case provided a co-facilitator for the group work.

What did the programmes do?

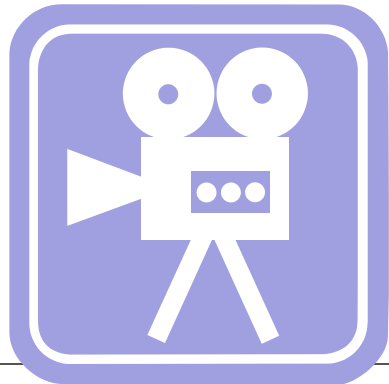
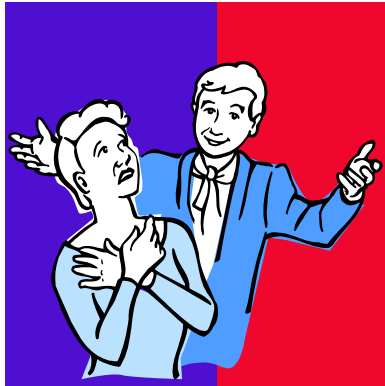
- **FINDINGS:** the toolkit was thoroughly tested in the pilot project. The five projects used almost all of the activities between them. Some were tested by each programme.
- **FINDING:** All the pilot projects used material other than the tool kit.

What went well?

- Activities on sexual abuse
- Scenarios for discussion
- Role play
- Films, particularly Spiralling
- Iceberg
- Ecograms
- Art work
- Negotiation role play



What didn't go so well?



- Scenarios for discussion
- Role play
- Spiralling
- Iceberg
- Learning to be abusive
- Learning about sex
- Chaotic and angry young people made it difficult to stick to task

What did practitioners think of the toolkit?

- *“Overall I think it’s fantastic, it’s all there”*
- *“I would have liked more time in the training spent on how we structure programmes”*
- *“the young people we are working with have very specific needs and some of the materials don’t work for them ...they may have come to this country without other family”*
- *“Some of the activities worked better when we used visual and creative methods of delivering them, particularly as some of the young people have poor reading and writing”*

How was the feedback used?

- **FINDING:** the feedback from the practitioners was invaluable for Respect Young People's project staff when they the toolkit. They incorporated many of the suggestions and took on the feedback during the revision process.

What about contact with parents or partners?

FINDING: none of the pilot projects met the target for partner/parent contact of a minimum of one person associated with each young person worked with.

Reasons included:

- lack of opportunity,
- existing support elsewhere,
- inability to make proactive contact,
- lack of experience of carrying out such work.

Did the young people change?

- **FINDING:** At least seventy nine young people had some contact with the five pilot projects in total during the period in total. Of these, **forty four completed a programme**
- **FINDING:** it appears that the majority of the young people who took part in one of the pilot programmes stopped using violence, reduced their use of threatening and aggressive behaviour to others and changed some of their attitudes about rights and roles in relationships.

What else did we learn?

- **assessment methods** varied widely
- the **toolkit provides the source materials and clear guidance** for developing and running a programme for young people using violence
- the **national practitioners' network for work with young people** helps practice
- **Sorting out life problems** helps with engagement – if they are homeless and income-less they can't come to group

Thanks!

- To the Young people's workers Kate Iwi and Julia Worms
- To the five projects and project workers
- To the young people who took part and told us about the programme in various ways
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