

The public health approach to supporting schools in preventing peer-on-peer abuse

Background

In March 2021, the Everyone's Invited website was launched to create an online platform for sharing anonymous testimonies from survivors of sexual violence. Over 54,000 testimonies have been shared to date (January 2022). Following on from this, Ofsted carried out a rapid review of sexual peer-on-peer sexual abuse in schools. The review found that sexual harassment is so prevalent among school-aged children, that some young people see little point in reporting it. The review also highlighted that children and young people were rarely positive about the Relationship, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) they had received. This is reflected in the Health-Related Behaviour Questionnaire carried out biennially in Haringey, which found that only 59% of students in year 10 had learned about 'giving and obtaining consent', and 52% had learned about 'healthy relationships'.

Recommendations by Ofsted

Schools and college leaders should create a culture where sexual harassment and online sexual abuse is not tolerated, and where they identify issues and intervene early to better protect children and young people. To do this, schools should assume sexual harassment is happening within their setting even when it is not being reported and put in place a whole-school approach to address this. Ofsted recommended the following to keep children and young people safe in education:

- A carefully sequenced RSHE curriculum that specifically includes sexual harassment and sexual violence, and discussions around 'consent'.
- High-quality training for teachers delivering RSHE
- Compulsory thorough record keeping and routine analysis of sexual harassment and sexual violence including online to identify patterns and to intervene early
- A behavioural approach to reinforce a culture where sexual harassment and online sexual abuse is not tolerated
- Working closely with local safeguarding partners so all are aware of the range of support available to children and young people who are both victims and perpetrators
- Support for Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) such as protected time to engage with local safeguarding partners
- Training to ensure that all staff (and governors, where relevant) can:
 - Better understand the definitions of sexual harassment and sexual violence
 - Identify early signs of peer-on-peer sexual abuse
 - Consistently uphold standards in their responses to sexual harassment and online sexual abuse.

Haringey's position on sexual harassment within schools

Haringey Council has a zero tolerance for violence against women and girls (VAWG) and have pledged to do more to make Haringey welcoming and safe for the LGBT+ community. Haringey Children's Services are currently working in partnership with Haringey Education Partnership and a national expert in safeguarding and have provided schools with a contextual safeguarding audit tool to enable schools to better understand the procedures and protocols which they should have in place to tackle sexual harassment and online sexual abuse. The Haringey Safeguarding Children Partnership has committed to supporting schools to effectively work through the audit so as to ensure that their practices, processes and their support to young people is as robust as it can be.

Support from the Public Health Team

Haringey Public Health team offers support to schools on how to deliver a whole-school approach to sexual harassment and peer-on-peer abuse focusing on prevention and early intervention. We recommend that enhancement is made to existing policies and practices so that messaging within schools for early intervention will be scaffolded by a relational framework focusing on resilience and wellbeing while behaviour that could involve a criminal charge will be managed within a behaviourist framework which is likely to be more punitive in nature. The following is an overview of the various strands of support available to schools and information on how to access it.

	Support available	How to access support?	Frequency of support available
Whole-school approach	<p>Healthy Schools programme: The Healthy Schools programme provides a framework for schools to take a whole school approach to support the health and wellbeing of their students, staff and school community. The programme enables schools to reflect on current practices and policies and supports school to tackle a particular issue/area for improvement within the school.</p> <p>Anchor Approach: Provides training, tools and resources to support a whole school approach to resilience and wellbeing. It supports schools to create policy, systems and practice to work in an attachment aware, trauma informed way. It provides an accessible common language and approach that is used in education settings, children's services, health and third sector organisations so that messaging can be delivered and reinforced across sectors.</p>	<p>Email: Healthy.Schools@Haringey.gov.uk for more information.</p> <p>Please email Anchor@Haringey.gov.uk to submit a booking enquiry.</p>	<p>One-to-one support available to schools throughout the year from the Healthy Schools lead based in the Public Health team.</p> <p>Details of the Anchor Approach and wider resources are available on the Anchor webpages.</p>
Education and curriculum planning	<p>RSHE Network Meetings provide schools with guidance and support and how to implement a range of issues, such as sexual harassment, peer-on-peer abuse and consent, within the RSHE curriculum.</p> <p>Lesson plans from the Anchor Approach programme. Philosophy lessons for primary age children, initially, to develop critical thinking skills focussing on increasing understanding and long-term prevention of CSE through a resilience and wellbeing lens. They will form part of the 'Philosophy for Wellbeing' suite of lessons.</p>	<p>Email: Healthy.Schools@Haringey.gov.uk to sign up to be on the mailing list for the RSHE Networks.</p> <p>Lessons plans are under development. Email Anchor@Haringey.gov.uk for further updates.</p>	<p>Meetings are held termly with dates and times available on Haringey's RSE webpages.</p> <p>The lessons plans will be made available on the Anchor Approach webpages.</p>

	<p>Free subscription to the PSHE Association for all Haringey Schools to support with curriculum planning for Relationship, Sex and Health Education.</p> <p>Emotional Wellbeing Forum provides a space to share good practice, become informed about key national documents driving government policy</p>	<p>Each school's RSE lead have been provided with log in details. Email Healthy.Schools@Haringey.gov.uk for further information.</p> <p>Email Anchor@Haringey.gov.uk to sign up to the Forum.</p>	<p>The subscription is available until August 2022</p> <p>The multi-agency forum is held termly. Dates and times available on the Anchor Approach webpages.</p>
Training for staff	<p>Protect Our Women (POW) offers training for teachers about the different forms of violence against women and girls as part of their bespoke whole-school offer for schools.</p> <p>RSHE training slides: short training presentation for RSHE leads to use with their school colleagues. The training slides focus on sexual health and provide an overview of local data, and the issues faced by children and young people in Haringey.</p> <p>Sexual Health videos: A series of short training films for school staff to support their confidence to talk about relationships and sexual health with young people.</p> <p>Anchor Approach: Delivers core training that provides a framework for schools to promote a culture of respect for healthy relationships and a positive school environment. This provides a foundation to facilitate discussion on targeted subjects, including sessions to mitigate against the negative cultural norms driving inequality and CSE for women and girls.</p>	<p>Please email: Roisin Ross, r.ross@solacewomensaid.org Programme Lead, to sign up to the programme.</p> <p>Accessed via Haringey Council's RSE webpages</p> <p>Accessed via Haringey Council's RSE webpages</p> <p>Please email Anchor@Haringey.gov.uk to submit a booking enquiry.</p>	<p>Support available throughout the academic year but will need to be planned with the POW team.</p> <p>Available online at all times</p> <p>Available online at all times</p> <p>Details of the Anchor Approach and wider resources are available on the Anchor webpages.</p>
Support to students	<p>Protect Our Women (POW) – POW is an interactive educational training programme about preventing violence against women and girls. The 10-week POW programme is delivered as weekly one-hour sessions. POW can also develop bespoke support for schools, such as whole-school assemblies and sessions for parents. POW can deliver the full programme to up to 3 schools a term.</p>	<p>Please email: Roisin Ross, r.ross@solacewomensaid.org Programme Lead, to sign up to the programme</p>	<p>Support available throughout the academic year but will need to be planned with the POW team.</p>

	<p>POW Primary topics include family, healthy relationships, equality and human rights, consent and personal space, gender stereotypes, bullying, domestic violence and abuse, self-care strategies, feelings and emotions, online safety.</p> <p>POW Secondary topics include gender stereotypes, power, healthy relationships, domestic violence and abuse, sexual violence and consent, social media and safety, stalking and harassment, child sexual exploitation and grooming, VAWG in media, harmful practices, campaigning.</p> <p>Face Front inclusive theatre productions performed within schools. For primary schools, the production 'Whisper me happy after' focuses on domestic abuse and healthy relationships, for secondary schools 'Sex FM' focuses on consent and peer-pressure around sex, and online safety, and for special schools 'It's my move' focuses on the transition from school to adult life and helps young people to express their choices.</p> <p>School Heath Service: In secondary school, students can access specialist nurses who can provide free, confidential advice, chlamydia screening, pregnancy testing and free condoms via the CC card scheme.</p> <p>Sexual Health Clinics: Young people's sexual health drop-in Clinics which is a safe space to talk about relationship and sexual health.</p>	<p>Please email: Roisin Ross, r.ross@solacewomensaid.org Programme Lead, to sign up to the programme</p> <p>Please email: Roisin Ross, r.ross@solacewomensaid.org Programme Lead, to sign up to the programme.</p> <p>Email: Healthy.Schools@Haringey.gov.uk for more information.</p> <p>Email: whh-tr.HaringeySchoolNursing@nhs.net</p> <p>For location and opening times, see Haringey's sexual health website.</p>	<p>Support available throughout the academic year but will need to be planned with the POW team.</p> <p>Support available throughout the academic year but will need to be planned with the POW team.</p> <p>For overview of production details, please visit the Healthy Schools webpages.</p> <p>Support available throughout the year from the service.</p> <p>Support available throughout the year on Tuesdays and Thursdays 3pm to 6pm.</p>
Resources	<p>End Violence Against Women and Girls Coalition Guide for Schools The guide sets out the different forms of abuse and warning signs to look for, what good teaching in this area looks like, and how to get your whole school working towards ending abuse.</p> <p>Expect Respect Healthy Relationships Toolkit a free, downloadable toolkit from Women's Aid about healthy relationships with range of lesson plans for the age range 4-18.</p>		

[Disrespect NoBody.](#) A Home Office campaign helping young people to understand what a healthy relationship is and rethink their views of controlling behaviour, violence, abuse, sexual abuse and what consent means within their relationships.

[NSPCC Talk Pants, Haringey Campaign.](#) (The Underwear Rule) - Talk PANTS helps children understand that their body belongs to them, and they should tell someone they trust if anything makes them feel upset or worried. [Includes resources for schools and teachers.](#)



PANTS.pdf

Haringey's [VAWG webpages](#) which provides an overview of the different types of abuse and signposts to services of support.

Haringey's [RSE webpages](#) has a collection of resources and links to support curriculum development in area such as consent.



AAA1 Haringey
Safeguarding Review

Haringey audit tool

Haringey Safeguarding Children Partnership haringeyscp.org.uk