

Equally Safe Sub-Group to explore GBV Support Cards. Action note of meeting.

12.00 – 13.30, Wednesday 2 May

Shuwanna Aaron	NUS Scotland
Gareth Allen	Scottish Government
Anni Donaldson	University of Strathclyde
Fiona Drouet	#Emilytest campaign
Debbie Dyker	University of Aberdeen
Ann Gow	UCU Scotland
Susannah Lane	Universities Scotland
Alison Locke	University of Strathclyde
Lyndsay MacColl	University of the Highlands and Islands
Roseanna MacDonald	Scottish Women's Aid
Sandy MacLean	College Development Network
Vonnie Sandlan	Colleges Scotland
Boab Thomson	Universities Scotland

1. Note of the last meeting.

- In reviewing the note of the last meeting, the group recognised that some young people might not identify with terms such as 'domestic violence'. It was agreed that expression of terminology on the cards will be vitally important and work will be done to identify the most-identifiable messaging.
- Sheena Stewart advised that she dialled-in to the previous meeting and should be included on the list of attendees.
- Minutes of the last meeting were approved.

2. Reaching agreement on project objectives

- In reviewing the draft objectives for the project, the group decided that "to take a survivor-centred approach" should be moved from a secondary objective to a primary objective.
- Group agreed that the purpose of the project was to create support cards for all staff in universities and colleges, to empower them in dealing with disclosures of gender-based violence. It was also agreed that a briefing for staff, to provide a context and follow-up information, should be issued along with the support cards.
- Exploring the idea of a resource for students, the group discussed the possibility of including gender-based violence helplines on student cards. However, as student cards are easily lost, the group decided that stickers (to be featured on the back of doors in student residences) would be a more effective resource for students. Susannah Lane will

seek insight from NUS Scotland and will look to use the Think Positive brand on the stickers.

- The group agreed to include both a gender-based violence helpline and a mental health support helpline number on the stickers.
- The group advised that it would be helpful to brief staff working on national helplines to make them aware that people could potentially be calling with the full spectrum of issues.
- Roseanna McDonald to enquire with her manager about the prospect of creating a database of local support services, to be used support call workers so they can direct callers to local services.
- In the secondary objectives, the group agreed to add “in a consistent and coordinated manner” to the end of “To raise awareness of the issue of GBV within HE and FE”.
- Also, add in “and domestic abuse” after “sexual violence” in “to be consistent with the gendered analysis to sexual violence as taken by the Scottish Government” to cover the whole breadth of gender-based violence.
- Group acknowledged that it was important to consider the emotional wellbeing of staff and recognised that some disclosers may take an emotional toll. The group agreed to include follow-up support in the staff briefings.
- In defining gender-based violence, the group agreed to look to the definition used in the ESHE Toolkit. Also, the briefing for staff should contain an explanation of the gendered analysis.

3. Evaluation

- The project evaluation will consider how empowered staff feel when dealing with disclosures of gender-based violence.
- The group agreed that it was easier to measure outputs, but more difficult to measure impact. It was acknowledged that evaluation of the support cards is dependent on how institutions record disclosures and/or instances of gender-based violence.
- The idea of a microsite survey on the effectiveness of the cards was considered. The link to the site could either be on the support card itself or in the staff briefing pack.
- Group agreed to look to the Equally Safe pilot evaluation as it would be a quick win and would be more manageable. Evaluation would involve sampling in early adopter institutions. Reporting tools would ask the additional question of whether the staff member passed on the support card to the student.
- Anni Donaldson to explore whether there will be skewed results of early adopter institutions.

4. Draft text

- On the front cover, the group agreed the text should read “We are here to help if you think you are suffering from psychological, emotional, physical or sexual abuse.”
- Susannah Lane will contact Young Scot to see whether their research will help inform the development of the text.

- The group agreed that the gender-based violence and mental health helpline numbers need to be clearly differentiated from each other and that this will be achieved through the design.
- Group members agreed to remove the National Domestic Violence Helpline as this is not available for Scotland.
- Group agreed to the principle of simplicity in terms of design. Opening times of helplines should not be included on the cards (although it should be specified whether a helpline is 24 hours).
- The group discussed whether to include a helpline specifically for males on the cards, such as Respect. It was decided that this would be put to the focus group, to find out which helpline males would identify with.
- The design of the card would seek to incorporate colourings of ESHE and the #Emilytest campaign.
- The design and copy of the support cards in focus groups with various audiences (staff, students and survivors) from about mid-June.

5. Timescale

- Susannah Lane referred the group to Annex D, which is a timeline of the project and invited feedback on whether members were aware of any significant issues with the schedule as mapped out.

6. Stakeholders

- Susannah Lane asked for input to identify additional stakeholders and networks who should be linked to this project.

ENDS