

Safer Futures

Children & young people

Amna Abdullatif



women's aid
until women & children are safe

Women's Aid – history



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Feminist principles and Women's Aid today

The Women's Aid National Quality Standards

1. **Safety, security and dignity** - **Women and children's rights** to life, liberty and dignity are upheld.
2. **Rights and access** - **Equal access** to their rights and entitlements ensured for all survivors & barriers to equality addressed
3. **Physical and emotional health** - Women and children's rights to **physical, sexual, reproductive and mental health** upheld, promoting long term recovery & well-being.
4. **Stability, resilience and autonomy** - Women survivors are supported to achieve long-term **stability, independence and freedom from abuse**.
5. **Children and young people** - The **rights of children and young people** to safety, education and family life are upheld.
6. **Leadership and prevention** - **Women and girls' voices** lead the development of strategic responses to violence against women and girls.
7. **Governance and Accountability** - The organisation demonstrates **women's leadership** of services for women and children and is **accountable to survivors** and communities.

Women's Aid – some key achievements

incremental gains in vital services for women attained through our lobbying

1976: First **Domestic Violence Bill** (The Domestic Violence and Matrimonial Proceedings Act) - new rights through civil protection orders (injunctions)

1977: The **Housing Act 1977** (Homeless Persons) - women and children at risk of violence acknowledged as homeless and gain the right to state help with temporary accommodation.

1987: **National Domestic Violence Helpline** established

1999: First domestic violence website in UK and **The Gold Book**, first UK-wide directory of local DV services

2004: **Domestic Violence, Crime & Victims Act** - criminal sanction for breach of non-molestation orders; new offence of "causing or allowing the death of a child or vulnerable adult"

2008: Expect Respect Educational Toolkit, a free manual for teachers & youth workers

2012: Imkaan and Women's Aid Capacity Building Partnership

2015: Introduction of **coercive control** in intimate or family relationships

2017: **Domestic Abuse landmark bill**

Children living with and experiencing domestic abuse



Domestic abuse and children

- Women's Aid estimate **160,000 children** in the UK live in homes where domestic abuse is occurring
- According to the office of national statistics, an estimated **1.3 million women experience domestic abuse**
- The NSPCC estimate **1 in 5 children** live with domestic abuse at home
- **25% of girls and 18% of boys 13-17** report to having experienced physical violence from an intimate partner
- **61.7% of women** in refuge have children under 18 with them
- 2 women per week are killed by a partner or ex partner

Safer Futures- Schools prevention programme

Expect Respect

- Reception – year 13
- 40min – 1 hour in length
- Lessons follow the same format – Active, Fun, Challenging
 - Warm up activity
 - Main lesson
 - Plenary
- Stand alone lessons
 - Resources provided
 - No IT/Technology required



Year 10

Behaviours – OK or Not?

Time: approximately 60 minutes

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this lesson:

All pupils will be able to explain why some apparently supportive behaviours can be seen as abusive in certain circumstances;

Most pupils will be able to suggest ways in which a person could access help, support and advice if they found themselves in an abusive relationship;

Some pupils will be able to explain in greater detail strategies for dealing with abusive behaviour that make the person safer.



 Holding my hand and cuddling me all the time	Putting me down, especially in public	Giving me a hug when I'm upset	Taking me out somewhere I really want to go
Telling me I'm loved	Having to do what he/she wants to avoid arguments	Phoning and texting me all the time	Telling me I look nice
Smiling at me	Ignoring me when we're out with his/her friends	Expecting me to wait in for calls	Turning up to surprise me
Helping me to choose clothes when I go shopping	Telling me I am putting on weight	Buying me a present after an argument	Making me feel really special

Challenging Online Behaviours

The changing pace of the internet and how we connect

From this



To this



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How many of these do you use?



Online Worries

1. Threatening behaviour e.g. credible death threats, stalking
2. Trolling – the trend of anonymously seeking to provoke outrage by posting insults and abuse online
3. Blackmail including revenge porn
4. Cyber bullying – writing messages with intent to cause distress or anxiety in a public place (e.g. excluding people from online groups on Facebook)
5. Grooming online – causing or encouraging a child under the age of 18 to engage in sexual activity online or meeting them in person after online contact
6. Fake profiles – only illegal if someone is trying to deceive someone for personal gain / fraud / harassment / intercepting someone else's messages / stalking
7. Hacking accounts
8. Tagging photos with defamatory or negative comments

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/414118/NSPCC_online_abuse_and_bullying_prevention_guide_3.pdf

Using online spaces, Young people can be...

- Social participants and active citizens
- Content creators, managers and distributors
- Collaborators and team players
- Explorers and learners
- Independent and build resilience
- Developing key and real world skills

<http://au.professionals.reachout.com/benefits-of-internet-and-social-media>

Love Respect- Addressing coercive control in young relationships



We believe love shouldn't feel bad, and that everyone has a right to be safe and happy

LoveRespect

www.loverespect.co.uk

a new service from
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Change That Lasts Strategy

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change that lasts

the right response to domestic abuse

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Yasmin's Journey

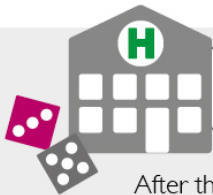
The true story of a domestic violence survivor, and what could have been

- What actually happened
- What could have happened with needs-led intervention



Yasmin has always suffered from OCD and depression. She meets her partner in 2012 and moves in soon after.

After 4 months the abuse starts when she discovers he is a heroin addict.



After the first violent instance she attends A&E.

A&E:
£113

She is discharged with painkillers.

A&E + callouts:
£102,938

A&E staff call the police, and a nurse refers her to the A&E IDVA.

IDVA:
£648

She is kept safe in hospital overnight, until she can be moved to a refuge.

overnight:
£1,779

advocacy + mental health support needed as result of abuse:
£1,660

refuge:
£9,500

The refuge helps her access mental health support.

Eventually she is referred to the local housing team.

He beats her regularly. She sees A&E every fortnight. She calls the police more than 50 times but doesn't feel supported to leave.

fare:
£13,700

After 6 months she moves into private accommodation, where she regularly sees family and friends.

rehoused:
£5,300

She is housed near the perpetrator. He regularly breaks in, until she agrees to move back in with him.

She now lives in supported housing because she can not live independently. She can not contact friends or family in case they lead him to her.

fare:
£2,018,943

After she moves back in the violence starts again, and he begins injecting her with drugs against her will.

After 5 days she makes it upstairs, setting off the upstairs alarm. He is arrested but escapes a custodial sentence.

supported housing for rest of life:
£47,323.50 per year

He tries to burn down the house with her inside. She flees and a MARAC assesses her as high-risk. Alarms are put in a new property.

MARAC:
£11,900

He breaks in and the downstairs alarm fails. He holds her hostage, repeatedly raping and injecting her.

rehoused:
£5,300
alarms:
£452

#HearMe

www.womensaid.org.uk/change

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**‘Home is where the hurt is, and
home is where we heal’**

Mona Eltahawy

change that lasts

the right response to domestic abuse



Women's Aid is the specialist voice on the needs of children and young people living with domestic abuse.

All children deserve the chance to grow up **violence free**.

The hidden survivors of domestic abuse

The needs of children and young people get overlooked when we respond to domestic violence.

Young women were more likely to have experienced partner abuse in the previous 12 months than older women.



Office for National Statistics (ONS). (2018) *Women most at risk of experiencing partner abuse in England and Wales: March 2015 to 2017*



On one day last year **over half of refuge residents were children.**

Women's Aid. (2018) *Survival and Beyond: The Domestic Abuse Report 2017*

Growing up experiencing domestic abuse causes serious long-term harm.



There is a pervading attitude that by helping a woman leave a relationship our work is done for the whole family. But what about the child? What do they need for their future safety and recovery? We have a duty to recognise and give value to children and young people as individuals who are survivors of domestic abuse.

Everyone has a responsibility to foster communities where children and young people can recover from their experiences of abuse. Every child given the right response can recover.



Ask Me

Supporting peer to peer relationships in communities that matter to children and young people. Building recognition of abuse, increasing opportunities to check things out early and creating a resilient generation.



Trusted Adult

Improving responses to abuse amongst those responsible for the care of children. Helping them to create space for children to tell their story, and to support the relationship between the non-abusive parent and their children.



VOICES

Supporting children's workers: creating dedicated resources for training, digital products, tools and leadership on best practice, and a qualification to value the expertise and work they do.

What do children and young people need?



Don't blame my mum for what happened to me.

Age appropriate resources from 0-25.



I am resilient, with the right help, I will recover.



Space to work out how I feel about what has happened to me.

Access to the same person for as long as possible - it helps me to trust.

Recognise that we are survivors too!

Change that Lasts Children and Young People

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Thank you!

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