



Community Action Sub-group achievements 2020

Introduction and background

The Community Action sub-group were able to meet just 2 times face to face before the country went in to lockdown. During these sessions young people began discussing topics of interest, thinking about what campaigns they would like to focus on in 2020.

The group decided the areas they would focus on included: Environment, Domestic Abuse and Crime.

However, once in lockdown there were some restrictions around what the group could actively work on. As a result the group shifted their focus. With the issue of domestic abuse being so much more in the spotlight during lockdown, the group felt it was essential they focus on educating other young people about the signs of domestic abuse and where to get support.

Domestic Abuse Commission

In March 2020, Amelia Grant, Domestic Abuse Commission Engagement Officer, attended a virtual session to discuss young people's views in relation to domestic abuse. This came about after the annual young people's health survey in schools highlighted that 26% of young people (in Year 10) felt that it was an acceptable behaviour to hit a partner.

Amelia and the group explored reasons why young people might feel that physical abuse is acceptable and how can these young people's perceptions be changed. The young people discussed family experiences, entrenched behaviour and the part that some cultures play in the normalising of domestic abuse.



Domestic Abuse training

In September, the Forum participated in training with Amelia Grant exploring the different types of domestic abuse, what the signs and symptoms are and how to stay safe in a relationship. Young people engaged well with the training and gained a wealth of information. This upskilled the young people and enabled them to have conversations with their peers and share what they had learnt.

Domestic Abuse poster campaign

As lockdown began and conversations in the sub-group focussed on domestic abuse and the harrowing reports people were hearing through the media, young people recognised the impact this would be having on other young people and felt that it was important to raise awareness and educate their peers.

Following some very mature discussions, young people decided to create a series of posters they felt would be age appropriate and share their important message. The young people designed these 3 posters themselves, in an effort to educate other young people as well as signpost them to help and support.



They met with Jules Rogers, Early Intervention Officer from Refuge, to share their poster designs, she approved of their efforts. The group decided to send these to all secondary schools and request that they be e-mailed to all students e-mail accounts.



The Posters were shared in a Council tweet on White Ribbon Day:



They have also been shared with schools in a regular newsletter, encouraging Head Teachers to display the posters or share them with students and their families in the most appropriate way.