

DOMESTIC ABUSE CAMPAIGN REPORT



PARTICIPATION TEAM

South Tyneside Council's Participation Team is here to ensure children and young people have a voice and are included in decisions that affect them.

HERE ARE SOME OF OUR MAIN ACTIVITIES:

MAGIC UMBRELLA

(Making A Great Important Change)

South Tyneside's Children in Care Council:

- Mini-MAGIC events and reference group for children aged 5-11yrs
- MAGIC 1 and MAGIC 2 groups for young people aged 12-16yrs
- Care Leavers Council for care experienced young adults aged 17yrs+

CARE LEAVER ENGAGEMENT

- Regular activities, events, and consultations for care experienced young people aged 17-25yrs

SOUTH TYNESIDE YOUNG PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT STYPP

- Weekly group for young people aged 13yrs+
- A voice for young people in the borough to influence decision makers
- Develops an annual campaign across schools
- Home to S Tyneside's national Member of Youth Parliament (MYP)

PRIMARY VOICES

- A regular series of events based on a topic important to primary school-aged children in South Tyneside

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Participation in South Tyneside



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INTRODUCTION

Every year South Tyneside Young People's Parliament (STYPP) plan and deliver a campaign based on the local results of the annual national Make Your Mark survey of young people's views. The most popular issue for young people in South Tyneside in 2021, and the topic for STYPP's latest campaign, was Domestic Abuse (DA).

Although there was some initial trepidation when the result was announced, STYPP members quickly embraced this campaign and dedicated themselves to finding out as much as they could about this sensitive and challenging topic. COVID restrictions were another factor to contend with this year; STYPP negotiated this by switching from face-to-face events to virtual borough-wide school meetings, online questionnaires, and a 'week of action' designed to be delivered within individual school settings.

THIS REPORT OUTLINES:

- How we approached the campaign
- Our DA survey and key findings
- The impact of our campaign
- Our recommendations
- Actions taken in response to our survey

Here's what Community Safety Officer, Graeme Littlewood had to say about our campaign:

"As a professional working around the issue of domestic abuse for several years now, being offered the opportunity to liaise and work directly with the members of the Youth Parliament on the campaign has proved to be invaluable.

From the outset of the project the young people involved were inspiring and very highly motivated to deliver innovative schemes of work that would be recognised but also have a real impact. Through the collective efforts of the young people the Council and partners now have an excellent benchmark understanding of delivery in schools and have developed a number of other key insights.

Moving forward, sharing information and new resources developed with our new South Tyneside Domestic Abuse Partnership Board, the young people have ensured that the work will continue to positively influence policy and practice long into the future.'



CAMPAIGN PROGRESS | JAN – NOVEMBER 2021



JANUARY - MARCH

Education and understanding

The first task at the beginning of our campaign was to educate ourselves on the topic. We did this by reaching out to local Domestic Abuse (DA) services and DA professionals for information, advice and guidance. We met with these professionals via virtual meetings to find out more about their roles in relation to domestic abuse. They also provided training sessions for us to gain a better understanding of the topic and formed a domestic abuse subgroup.

The professional we contacted also agreed to form a campaign sub-group. This was a new development for a STYPP campaign which became a fantastic resource; to inform our work, ensure all the information we circulated was current and correct, and to provide expert input to help shape our ideas. Working with the sub-group also gave us a strong link into how local services are delivered and developed, and ensured our views and opinions were also listened to and informed practice. For example, the introduction of an evaluation form to be used when Northumbria Police's Education Team are delivering workshops to assess their performance.

APRIL-MAY

Survey

To launch our campaign, we designed a survey for secondary school students, and teaching staff in both primary and secondary schools. The purpose of the survey was to find out what students and teaching staff knew about DA, if there are any gaps in their knowledge, what training they'd received, and what support they knew was available.

(See pages 7-9 for results)

JUNE

Feedback to schools

As COVID restrictions had prevented our usual campaign events, we organised a 'virtual meeting' with all our secondary schools. This meeting was used to inform young people, and schools across the borough, of the early stages of the campaign, the questionnaire and survey results, and our campaign plans. It was also a really valuable opportunity to hear from young people not involved directly in the campaign; to hear their views on the topic, their reaction to the survey results and their ideas for developing the campaign.

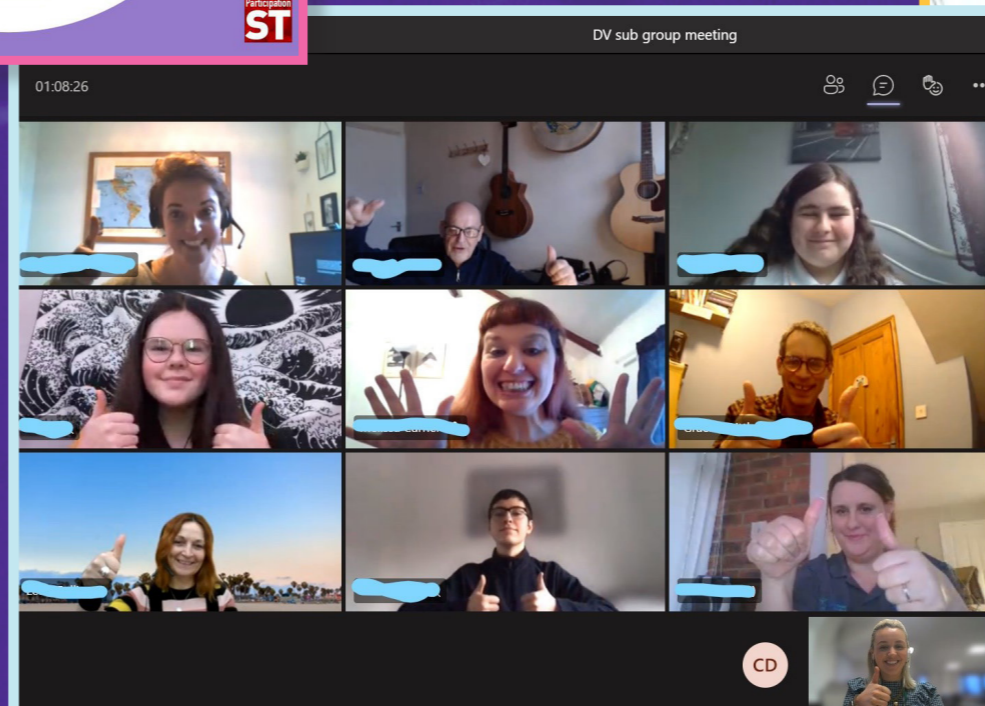
JULY-AUGUST

Campaign materials and resources

We spent the summer break meeting 'Domestic Abuse' professionals who helped us develop lesson plans designed to help schools address this topic. These included 5 x lesson plans and can be accessed via our web page <http://www.southtyneside.gov.uk/stypp>

Planning – we also spent time planning our 'Domestic Abuse Awareness Week' and designed all of the resources to support this week. This included: a 'before and after' activity, a task around exploring definitions of abuse, a 'Clue card' activity, and a Domestic Abuse debate.

Bit of fun! - Don't worry though, we did also manage to have a bit of fun! We enjoyed a Kayaking session and some delicious fish and chips on South Shields sea front at the end of the summer holidays!



CAMPAIGN PROGRESS | CONTINUED

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

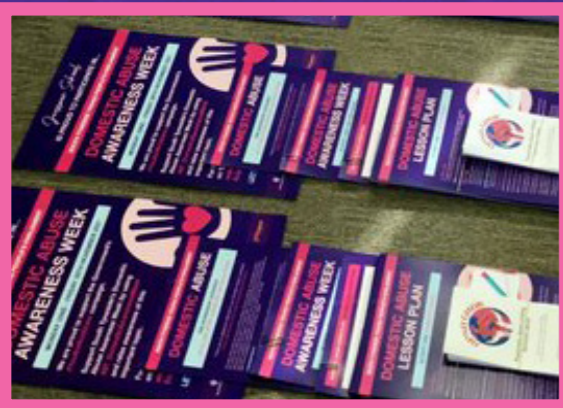
Attended the 'Domestic Abuse Partnership Board'

Wow, we attended the 'Domestic Abuse Partnership' board to tell them about our campaign and plans. They were very impressed with our work and even included our work and survey findings in the 'Domestic Abuse Strategy 2021'.

Time to register

We invited schools to join us at another 'virtual meeting' to tell them what we'd been up to and invite them to register to take part in our DA Awareness Week. We also played a little quiz, just for fun!

We were delighted to have all our secondary schools on the call and that they all signed up to be part of our awareness week.



NOVEMBER

Time to deliver

At the beginning of November all of our secondary schools received the STYPP designed resources to participate in the awareness week.

Electronic copies resources were emailed and hard copies were hand delivered.

The packs included:

- 'Let's look after ourselves and each other' document – (to be shared with students prior to taking part in any activities)
- Links to useful websites and resources - this includes
 - 5 x lesson plans written by STYPP members
- Evaluation for staff and pupils taking part in workshops
- Social media profile picture and cover image
 - Screen image – to add to school TV screens

Stypp Presents
DOMESTIC ABUSE AWARENESS WEEK

VIRTUAL DEBATE!

We organised a 'virtual debate' for representatives from all of our secondary schools to join. The students who attended came up with some fantastic arguments for the statements we provided.

Statement 1 - Domestic violence only happens between adults

"Children are also victims even if it isn't physical, emotionally they can be affected."

"It can happen whether you're a boyfriend/girlfriend or not, it doesn't have to be physical."

"Children aren't mature enough to be in a relationship and therefore don't experience domestic abuse"

Statistically 74.5% of violence is [experienced by] children, so I disagree.

Statement 2 - You shouldn't report domestic violence, you will only make things worse

"You should always report it before it gets worse, let friends / family know what is going on"

"2014 survival rate for victims of Domestic Violence was 74%, so this just shows something can be done and it should be reported."

"It's no one else's business what goes on behind closed doors"

"No matter what the circumstances, it could be someone's life. The more time you waste it could be someone's life. Be fast."



Cllr. Adam Ellison - Lead Member, Children, Young People and Families, pictured with STYPP member Victoria opening our debate

Statement 3 - It's not domestic abuse if it doesn't involve physical abuse

"It is, there are different types, physical, sexual, emotional, psychological etc."

"That statement is incorrect there are a lot of types of abuse it doesn't have to just be physical"

"Words can tarnish the thoughts of oneself. You will eventually be left feeling like you have no self-worth."

DOMESTIC ABUSE AWARENESS WEEK

Epinay School attended our 'Virtual Reality Session' delivered by Northumbria Police Education Team, supported by STYPP's newly developed resources.



Boldon and Epinay School welcomed Kerry Leask in their school to deliver workshops.

St Wilfrids R C College

- Held a bake sale with all proceeds going to South Tyneside Women's Aid.
- Sold white ribbons and wore them on the national day
- Donation drive of items for the refuge
- Assemblies focused on respect for all, with a focus on domestic abuse
- Donated teddies and dresses to the South Tyneside art installation

Donations of toys, toiletries, gifts etc as part of Domestic Abuse Awareness Week. Students also sold white ribbons and collected in donations for White Ribbons Day and held assemblies.



Harton Academy displayed our posters around school and talked about healthy relationships.

St Joseph's Catholic Academy

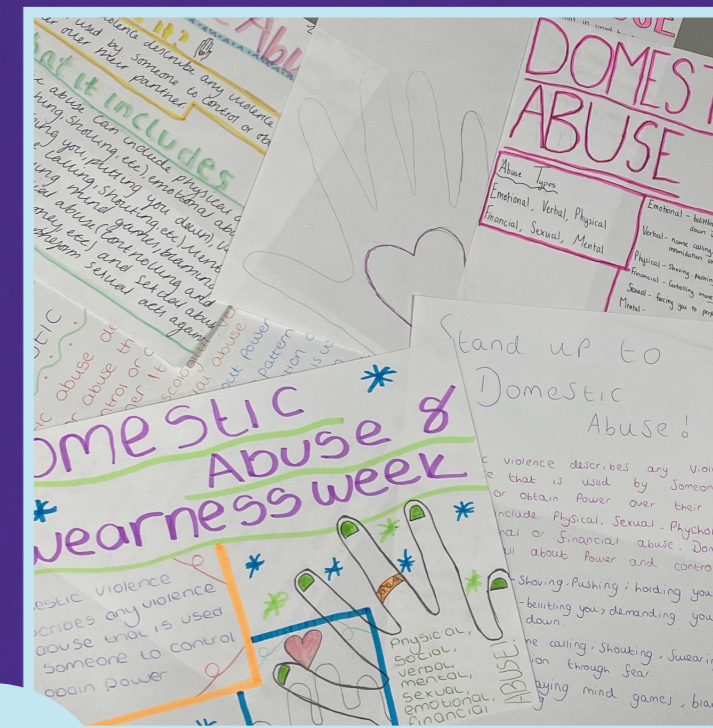
The image on the right shows some of the fantastic posters produced by the pupils at St Josephs.

"We had a great week with a whole host of activities which I think were really beneficial in raising awareness of domestic abuse.

We created an assembly and PSHE lessons which both received really positive feedback from the students. As well as promoting the campaign around school.

We are also hoping to develop some further PSHE lessons in the new year with our KS4 and KS5 students."

Teacher, St Joseph's Catholic Academy



PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

We also organised events to take place during the week for schools to sign up to, these included: -

Virtual Debate

Live from South Shields Town hall, Council Chambers delivered by South Tyneside Young People's Parliament (STYPP)

Domestic Abuse Workshop

Delivered in school by Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) – Kerry Leask, VRU Liaison Officer

Virtual Reality Session @ South Shields Town Hall

delivered by Northumbria Police, Community Engagement Team

STAFF TRAINING

South Tyneside Safeguarding Children and Adults Partnership (STSCAP) offered a 'twilight' training session for staff (in addition to their existing training programme) on Wednesday 17th November, ahead of the awareness week. This was attended by 8 professionals who received education and awareness on DA.



SURVEY RESULTS

To launch their campaign, STYPP developed and designed a survey that was circulated across all secondary school students in South Tyneside, as well as teachers from both primary and secondary school settings. The purpose of the survey was to find out what students and teaching staff knew about 'Domestic Abuse' and if there are any gaps in their knowledge, and the support available. We were so pleased with the response rate! Our survey was completed by **567** young people and **185** teaching staff (see domestic abuse survey report for full details of findings: <https://www.southtyneside.gov.uk/article/73958/Domestic-Abuse-Campaign>).

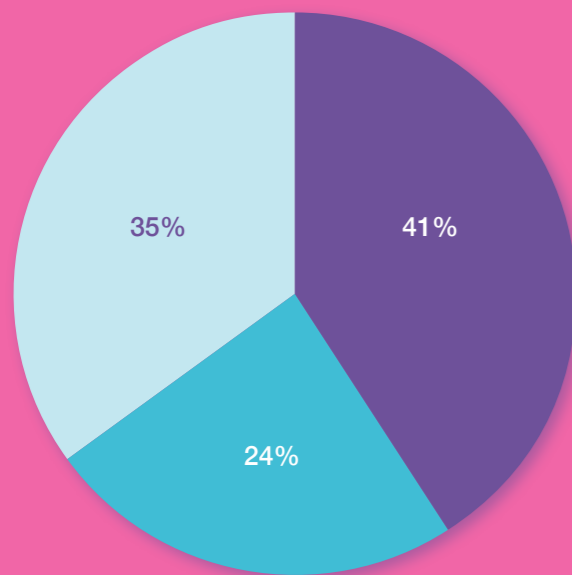
The survey covered a number of key issues relating to DA, including: basic knowledge and understanding of DA, the availability of information and training, support for young people and staff, service available to young people, and issues relating to reporting DA.

Here's just some of our results and what this told us:

Young people's results showed that only a quarter of students feel they have received enough education in domestic abuse and 41% report they haven't received any.

Action: STYPP to develop a set of lesson plans and support materials for students and staff to use as part of a 'Domestic Awareness Week'

HAVE YOU RECEIVED ENOUGH EDUCATION ON 'DA'?



- Yes, I have received enough
- Yes, but I would like to receive more
- No, I haven't received any

SURVEY RESULTS

33% of staff told us they hadn't received any training and 38% said training received was over 3 years ago. This equates to 71% of staff without up-to-date training.

Action: South Tyneside Safeguarding Children and Adults Partnership (STSCAP) will add an additional regular twilight training session onto their existing training programme and promote this across schools to boost uptake and introduce new materials that will raise awareness of the support available.

59% of young people and 49% of staff weren't aware of any support services available.

Action: STYPP members to work with 'Domestic Abuse' partners in the borough to create new materials that will raise awareness of the support available

THANK YOU



"The findings of the STYPP survey clearly show that knowledge and awareness of domestic abuse, and how to respond, can be improved. The Young People's Parliament have developed a range of actions to address awareness, knowledge gaps, information about services, local data and reporting procedures. This work is highlighted in our Domestic Abuse Strategy and will also be an integral part of our considerations and plans and responsibilities moving forward. In particular, the need for more awareness raising sessions and the development and access to relevant training for our partner agencies.

The local work on domestic abuse and the specific campaign work led by STYPP were all included in a report presented to South Tyneside Borough Council in November 2021. This report was very well received and increased awareness of our domestic abuse challenge, but also the excellent partnership underway to promote happy and healthy relationships, and prevent domestic abuse.

Thank you to the STYPP for their hard work, commitment and significant contribution."

Tom Hall | Director of Public Health & Chair of South Tyneside Domestic Abuse Partnership

SURVEY RESULTS

Is there anything that would stop you reporting domestic abuse?

Fear

“It could make things worse for them”

“If I loved that person and was too scared to say something”

“If they didn’t want me to”

“If I was badly threatened”

“Threat of loss of life”

“Danger to my life or others”

SUMMARY

This report marks the end of another successful STYPP campaign. Our young people overcame their initial trepidation around addressing such a sensitive topic to deliver a thoughtful and dynamic campaign driven by young people’s voices. STYPP were again the engine room of the campaign, but wider representation and influence was achieved through some fantastic borough-wide secondary school virtual events, and also through the expertise and enthusiasm of the sub-group of DA professional (a new addition to the STYPP approach to campaigns).

STYPP’s influence was felt across a range of agencies, including: South Tyneside Safeguarding Children and Adults Partnership (who provided additional training in response to the DA survey results), Northumbria Police (who were guided by STYPP in their promotion and delivery of DA sessions with young people), and South Tyneside Council (who have included the DA survey report in their JSNA, and supported the campaign through STYPP’s regular inclusion in their Safeguarding Board)

STYPP certainly met their aim of raising awareness of ‘Domestic Abuse’ across the population of young people in South Tyneside. One of the main legacies of the campaign is the development of a set of DA resources that were made available to all schools for the borough-wide DA Awareness Week, and are now available on the council website for anyone to use.

RECOMMENDATIONS

As a result of this campaign, we recommend the following **five key actions** to increase awareness and understanding of Domestic Abuse, to promote the support and guidance available, and to respond to the issues raised in our survey of students and staff:

1. The DA Handbook/Service Directory is updated to include a specific section that directs young people to services relevant to them.
2. ‘Domestic Abuse’ awareness week becomes an annual event delivered by secondary schools and youth groups to raise awareness and promote sources of support
3. That the domestic abuse board has a young person’s representative
4. South Tyneside Safeguarding Children and Adults Partnership (STSCAP) add regular twilight training sessions to their existing training programme and promote this across schools to boost uptake
5. All schools review their approach to ‘domestic abuse’, including their approach to awareness raising and signposting, and how it is embedded within the curriculum.

CAMPAIGN FEEDBACK

"I was able to use results from our Domestic Violence campaign during educational discussions at college. This further pushed awareness of domestic abuse statistics and allowed it to be adapted to an educational context"

STYPP member
Katie Harte aged 16

"Thank you very much, I feel confident reporting now and I know that domestic abuse does not only involve physical abuse"

Student from Epinay School



"I felt the way in which a very difficult subject was taught so sensitively was brilliant and very well targeted for our children"

Epinay teacher following their 'DA Virtual Reality' session with Northumbria Police

"The quality and breath of work has been tremendous. From free thinking sessions to delivery, the work cannot be praised enough.

By creating a survey and reaching so many people a unique set of data was gathered to help our local thinking.

By drawing up lessons plans school staff have been helped in being able to talk about domestic abuse.

Attending the Domestic Abuse Board has meant that the voices of children and young people have been instrumental in helping shape our local domestic abuse strategy."

John Lambert

Service Manager: Integrated Safeguarding Interventions Team

"I was proud to see our posters in my school as it showed awareness to domestic abuse. It was great to see our hard work payoff"

STYPP member
Lampie McDonald aged 14

"As members of South Tyneside Young Peoples Parliament, we are very proud of what we have done to raise awareness of domestic abuse. Obviously, some COVID restrictions have impacted on aspects of the campaign, but we feel we still managed to achieve our objectives. We hope students and professionals have been educated further in this important topic and our hope is the campaign has legacy with our awareness week becomes an annual event"

Statement from STYPP members

"We as students feel we learned a lot and enjoyed partaking in all opportunities, for example 2 debates that the young people's parliament ran"

St Wilfrids student

"We have adapted to using the resources provided by STYPP when presenting our Coercive Control and Child Sexual Exploitation packages with the Virtual Reality Kit.

We received great feedback from the students at Epinay School and have since had contact from the school to deliver to the entire 6th form year group.

We have had several discussions with Epinay School about various other inputs that may be available and relevant to their students and are hopeful that there will be a longstanding relationship there; one that we would not have had without the introduction through STYPP Domestic Abuse Awareness Week".

Shauna Christie; 9611 Community Engagement Officer Southern



"I have been hugely impressed by the quality of South Tyneside Young People's Parliament campaign on Domestic Abuse and the way in which young people from across South Tyneside have engaged with it.

The fact that this campaign was determined by young people from across the borough participating in the Parliaments' 'Make Your Mark' ballot is a stark reminder that people of all ages are affected by Domestic Abuse. For young people, the scars of which are often an experience that carries into adulthood.

Our Young People should be commended for their work on this and the maturity they displayed when engaging with this campaign. We have all learnt a great deal!"

Councillor Adam Ellison

South Tyneside Council
Lead Member - Children, Young People & Families | Councillor - Hebburn North Ward (Labour)

"I'm glad and proud to have helped produce this campaign and I'm pleased to see the success we have achieved and the awareness we raised"

STYPP member
Lucy Box aged 14

THANK YOU!!

We'd like to thank all South Tyneside secondary schools for supporting our campaign and raising awareness of this important topic.

Special thanks to our adult subgroup who helped guide STYPP's campaign, members included:

Graeme Littlewood (Community Safety Officer/Domestic Violence Coordinator)
Leah Collinson (Safeguarding Development Officer)
Russ Saunders (Learning and Development Adviser), Julie Robinson (Impact Family Manager)
Rajwant Kaur (Domestic Abuse Officer at Apna Ghar Minority Ethnic Women's Centre),
Charlotte Faram (Young Persons Independent Domestic Violence Advisor)
Melissa Currier (Independent Domestic Violence Advisor)
Kerry Leask (Violence Reduction Liaison Officer)
James Gordon and Shauna Christie (Community Engagement Officers) and
Christina Hardy (Public Health Practitioner)

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Don't forget to check out our socials for regular updates!

Participation Team

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