

Abuse in Teenage Relationships

Thank you for attending thank you for attending our course. This PDF is for you for reference and to help you pass on your learning to your teams. Remember there is lots more on the [RSCP website](#), including our full training programme.

Amanda Jones, RSCP Training Manager

Home Office definition of domestic abuse

Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. This can encompass but is not limited to the following types of abuse:

- psychological
- physical
- sexual
- financial
- emotional

Controlling behaviour is: a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour.

Coercive behaviour is: an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim.

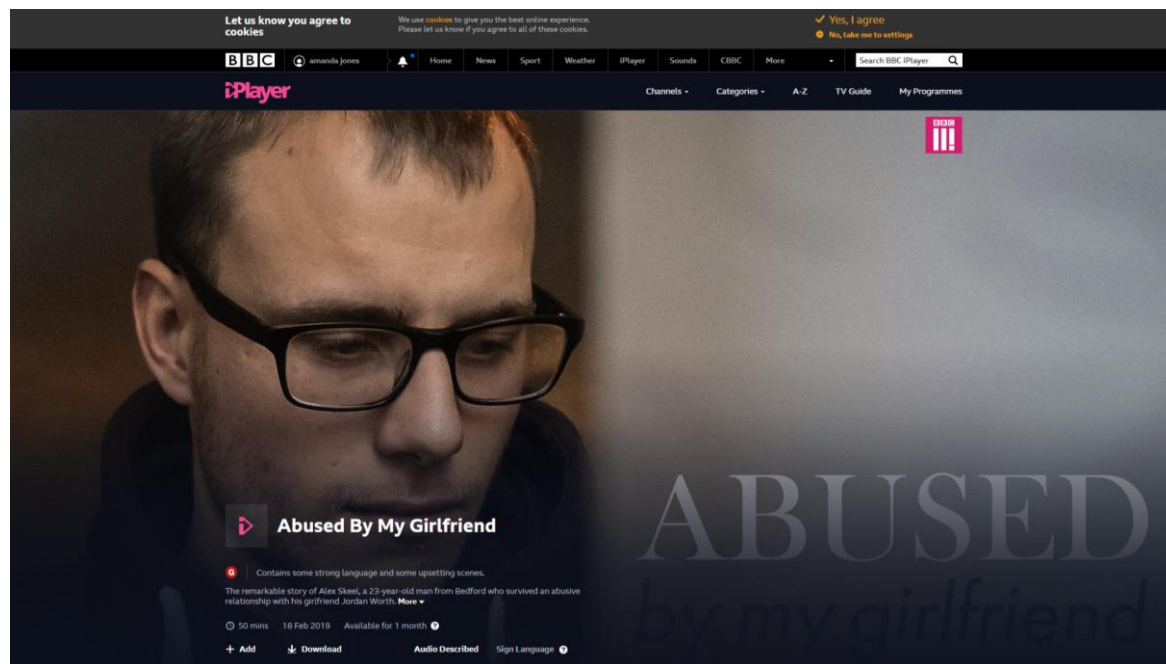
This definition, which is not a legal definition, includes so called 'honour' based violence, female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage, and is clear that victims are not confined to one gender or ethnic group.

Sally Challen said she suffered years of humiliating abuse before killing 61-year-old Richard Challen.

"You just felt an undercurrent of abuse happening but you couldn't see the abuse or the moments of it. It was a drip, drip, drip... and that's what my mother suffered behind closed doors," David, son.



Abused By My Girlfriend tells the remarkable story of Alex Skeel, a 23-year-old man from Bedford who survived an abusive relationship with his girlfriend Jordan Worth



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p070vd7h>

How this relates to the Children Act

- Under Section 31(9) of the Children Act 1989, as amended by the Adoption and Children Act 2002: **'Harm'** means ill treatment or the impairment of health or development, including, for example, impairment suffered from seeing or hearing the ill treatment of another;
- **'Development'** means physical, intellectual, emotional, social or behavioural development;
- **'Health'** means physical or mental health; and
- **'Ill treatment'** includes sexual abuse and forms of ill treatment that are not physical.

The Quiz

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xm6oSTbGIys>

Is It Love?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BYyB_FGV1GY

Spiralling

<https://vimeo.com/63750726>

Abused in Silence

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2kq1WAui3N8>

Muslim Wheel of Domestic Abuse

- Abusive relationships have complex dynamics and they are not easy to leave.
- Abuse is not always physical.
- The levels of violence and harm can be no less serious than that seen in adult domestic violence.
- Professionals need to be alert to domestic abuse, name it, and offer support to victims.

The Adolescent Brain

http://www.ted.com/talks/sarah_jayne_blakemore_the_mysterious_workings_of_the_adolescent_brain

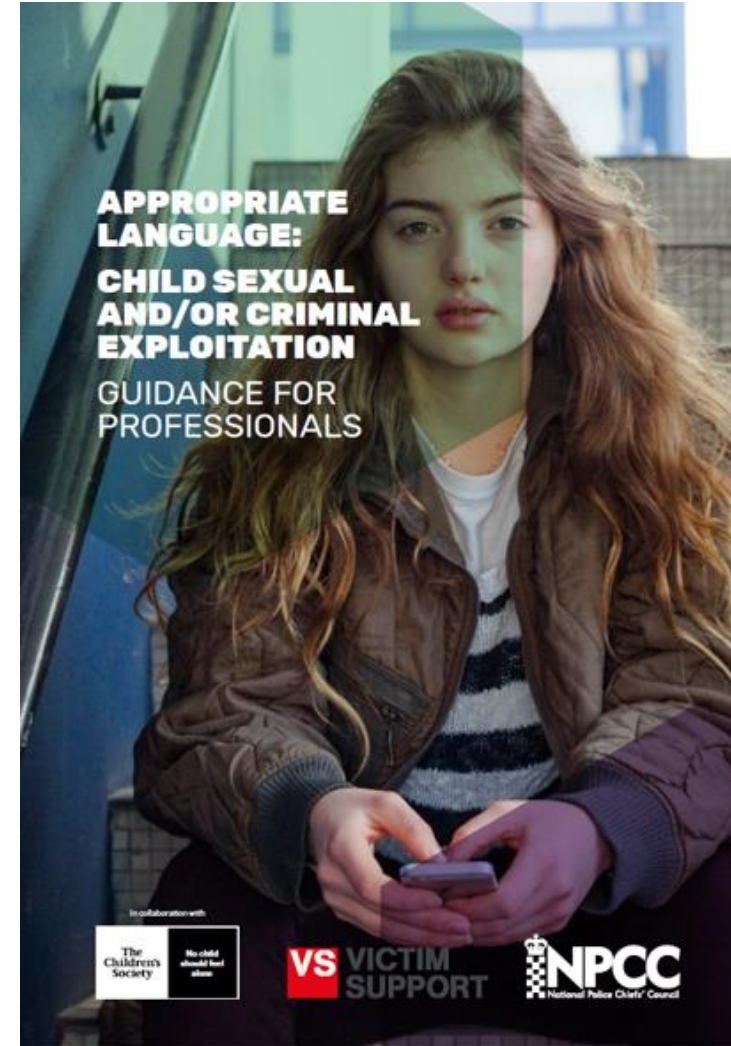
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6zVS8HIPUng>

Practice Points

- Draw on a variety of techniques that improve engagement.
- Be prepared to spend time exploring what abuse is.
- Validate the seriousness of young people's relationships.
- Communicate with a young person on their terms; be comfortable using their terminology and language when necessary.
- Offer face-to-face and new technologies communication, rather than telephone contact alone.
- Be flexible on appointment length

Language and engagement?

<https://www.csepoliceandprevention.org.uk/sites/default/files/Guidance%20App%20Language%20Toolkit.pdf>



Spot the signs

Can you answer 'Yes' about your partner?

Is willing to compromise

Lets you feel comfortable being yourself

Is able to admit to being wrong

Is not jealous or possessive

Does not try to control what you wear, where you go or what you do

Does not physically hurt you

Does not emotionally hurt you (by calling you names,
threatening you, making you feel bad)

Tries to resolve arguments and conflict by talking honestly

Enables you to feel safe being with them

Respects your feelings, your opinions and your friends

Accepts you saying no to things you don't want to do (like sex)

Accepts you changing your mind

Respects your wishes if you want to end the relationship

SafeLives

Risk Identification Checklist (RIC)

Young People's Version

AIM:

To identify known risks in domestic abuse and include specific considerations in relation to young people to inform your professional judgment. It will help you to identify suitable cases to be reviewed at a Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) and inform referrals to children's social care.

<http://safelives.org.uk/taxonomy/term/454>

An Introduction to Risk Identification

<http://www.safelives.org.uk/node/1009>

The SafeLives

Risk Identification Checklist (RIC)

Young People's Version

- Young people aged 13-17 who are experiencing relationship abuse
- Both female and male victims
- Those suffering current domestic violence and abuse, not historical abuse.
- Intimate partner abuse in heterosexual and same sex relationships.
- Extended familial abuse and honour based abuse

Murdered by my boyfriend (BBC 3)



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4-xgNuWxQOc> (for visually impaired)



- 21 year old Casey Brittle was murdered by 27 year old Sanchez Williams while her 2 year old was in the house listening.
- During their 4 year relationship Nottingham police were called on a number of occasions and they failed to intervene 11 times. Police received allegations of domestic violence and abuse against Ms Brittle between September 2008 and August 2010. Sanchez killed Casey in October 2010.
- A post-mortem examination concluded that the cause of death was multiple blunt impact injuries, predominantly to her head. There were 27 separate points of injury to her face and head.
- Sanchez Williams had an extensive criminal record and warnings on the Police National Computer for violence. He did not have any previous convictions for domestic abuse related offences.

Murder of Kelly Ann Bates



- 17 year old Kelly Anne Bates was tortured, over a 4 week period, and killed by 49 James Patterson Smith following a 3 year violent relationship. He drowned her in a bath tub.
- Smiths' was previously married. His marriage had ended after ten years in 1980 due to his violence towards his wife.
- After his divorce Smith had a succession of relationships with young women where he was violent and abusive. These included:
 - 20-year-old Tina Watson, whom he "used as a punch-bag", even subjecting her to severe beatings while she was pregnant with his child. Smith had tried to drown her during the 2 years they were together
 - 15 year old Wendy Mottershead who he tried to drown in a kitchen sink

Risk Factors:

1. Fear
2. Feeling low – we might surmise this from what she's said
3. Injury
4. Control
5. Constantly texts, contacts, follows, stalks or harasses
6. Jealousy
7. Escalation in severity
8. Escalation in frequency
9. Isolating from friends and family
10. Separation
11. Use of a knife – not on her but the presence of a weapon is threatening. It could be argued that he used the gate to inflict more injury on her.
12. Threatened suicide

Professional judgement points:

- Is the young person minimising?
- How frightened are they?
- Sadistic forms of abuse?
- Abuse not captured by RIC?
- Is diversity impacting on disclosure?
- Escalation?
- Lack of resources and wider needs?
- What is my gut feeling?

Young people and risk

- Age of both people
- Is this their first relationship
- Peer group
- Relationship with parents
- Resilience
- HBV/forced marriage
- Gangs/sexual exploitation
- Attitude to risk

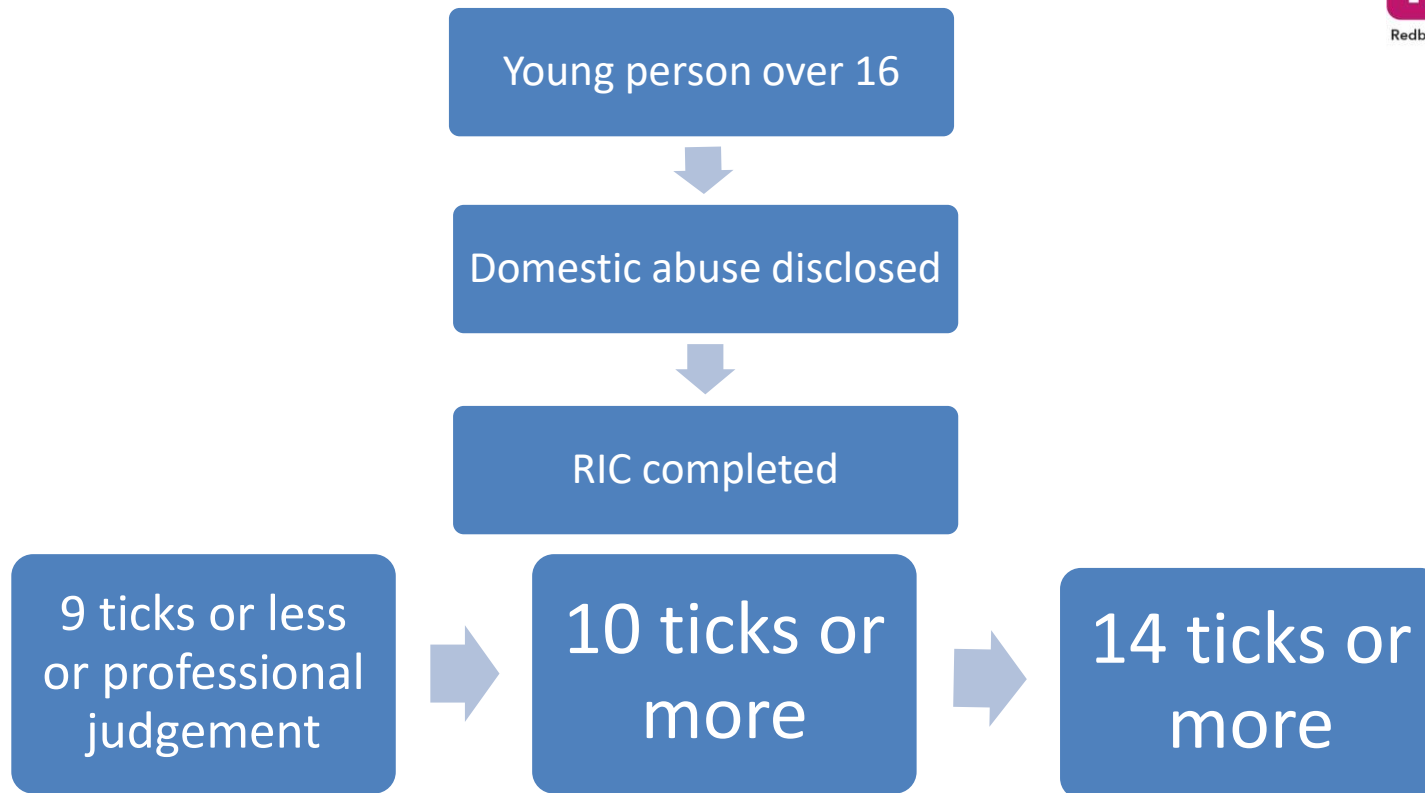
Redbridge MARAC Co-ordinator:

Karin Siebert

Tel: 020 8708 5082

Mob: 07507 833 980

karin.siebert@redbridge.gov.uk



Remember importance of professional judgment/Escalation

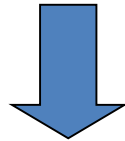
- Children's Social Care
- Domestic abuse services
- MARAC?

- Children's Social Care
- Domestic abuse services
- MARAC?

- Children's Social Care
- MARAC

What needs to be done to make a referral?

- SaferLives Risk Assessment carried out
- Completed Assessment sent to MARAC CoOrdinator



When are MARAC Meetings

- MARAC Meetings take place every 3 – weeks
- Each case is presented by either the referrer or the representative from the referrers' agency
- All attending agencies will share any relevant information relating to the victim/perpetrator that could help inform safeguarding decisions
- An action plan is agreed for each case



- Actions will be allocated to agencies and will have a named officer who will be responsible for ensuring that actions are carried out and outcomes are reported back to the MARAC CoOrdinator



Like what??????

- Referral to IGVA (for support, sign-posting, counselling services)
- Housing – (Refuge, placement out-of-borough, amendment of tenancy conditions, installation of security measures)
- Police/Probation – (Fast-track outstanding warrants, breach of licence conditions, issuing of TecSOS phones)
- Children's Services

MARAC

Roles and Information Sharing

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hXthvNFieWs>

Safety planning

- Collaborative process
- Identifying and increasing harm reduction
- Empowering young person
- Increasing resilience
- Identifying sources of support (professional and personal)
- Evidences your actions
- Prepares young person for 'worse case' scenarios



Redbridge's services include:

- Independent Gender Violence Advocates x 4 (IGVAs)
- Young Person's Advocate
- Children's Outreach Worker for 13 year olds and under
- Group work or one-to-ones; 'Wings' is weekly workshop / drop-in discussing power and control (providing clients have an IGVA)
- Volunteering, peer support



Young people and children

- **Support for female and male victims**
- **Risk assessment, safety planning**
- **One to one confidential support**
- **Refer with consent or self referral**
- **Support for young female victims**
- **Support for children and non abusing parent**

redbridgevawg@refuge.org.uk

0800 169 7759

Supporting younger women in Redbridge

Refuge's Young People's Advocate supports young women **aged 14 to 17** who have experienced or are experiencing **any form of gender based violence.**



- 1 in 3 teenage girls has experienced sexual violence from a boyfriend
- Young women who experience repeated sexual harassment are significantly more likely to attempt suicide or self harm

Contact: Juliana Barclay on 0800 169 7759 or email Juliana_Barclay@refuge.org

Resources

- www.boystomenproject.com
- Young People's DASH (Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Honour-based Violence) Risk Checklist: www.safelives.org.uk
- This is Abuse Discussion Guide:
[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/415327/Discussion_Guide -
_This is Abuse to update v7.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/415327/Discussion_Guide_-_This_is_Abuse_to_update_v7.pdf)
- Dare2Care: <http://www.dare2care.org.uk/teen-partner-abuse-sexual-bullying-and-gendered-violence-a-guide-to-resources-for-educators-and-youth-workers/>

[Thisisabuse.direct.gov.uk](https://www.thisisabuse.direct.gov.uk)

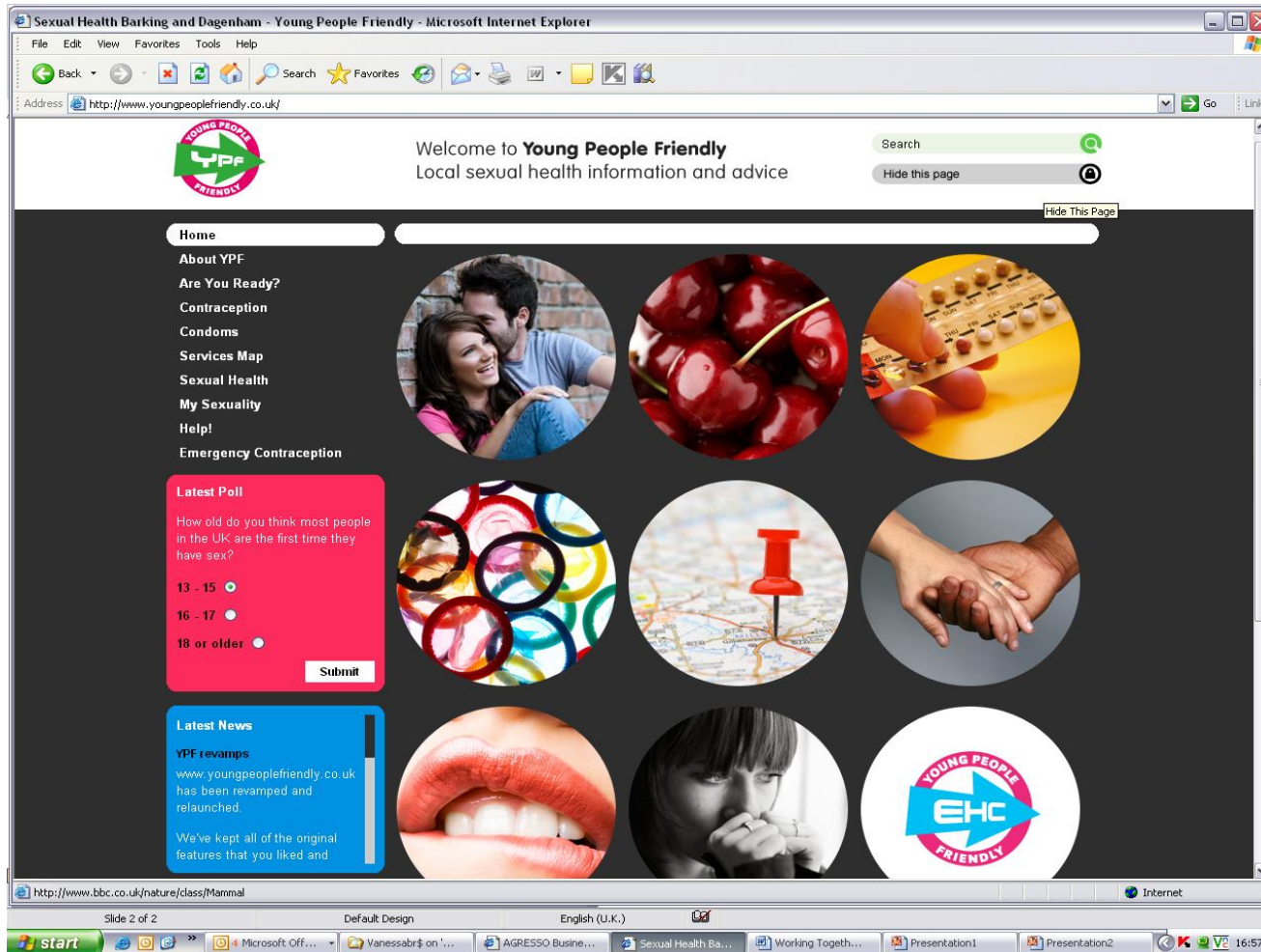
Home Office

The screenshot shows the homepage of the 'This is Abuse' website. At the top left is the logo 'This is ABUSE' with 'This is' in a blue speech bubble and 'ABUSE' in a red speech bubble. To the right is a banner that says 'SPEAK OUT AGAINST ABUSE' with a 'CLICK BELOW' button and social media icons for 'Like 1K' and 'Tweet 371'. Below this is a navigation menu with links: HOME, HAVE YOUR SAY, STOP YOURSELF, SPOT THE SIGNS, FAQ, NEED HELP?, and POLLS. The main content area features a section titled 'RECOGNISE ABUSE?' with a sub-header 'Are you a Dream Boyfriend AND A CONTROL FREAK'. Below the text is a video player showing a couple sitting on a bed, with a large orange play button overlaid. To the right of the video are three smaller video thumbnails labeled 'PARTY', 'SCHOOL', and 'TAKEAWAY'. On the far right is a large poster for 'SPOTTING THE SIGNS' with the text 'Are you a Dream Boyfriend AND A CONTROL FREAK' and 'by day' and 'by night'.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RzDr18UYO18>

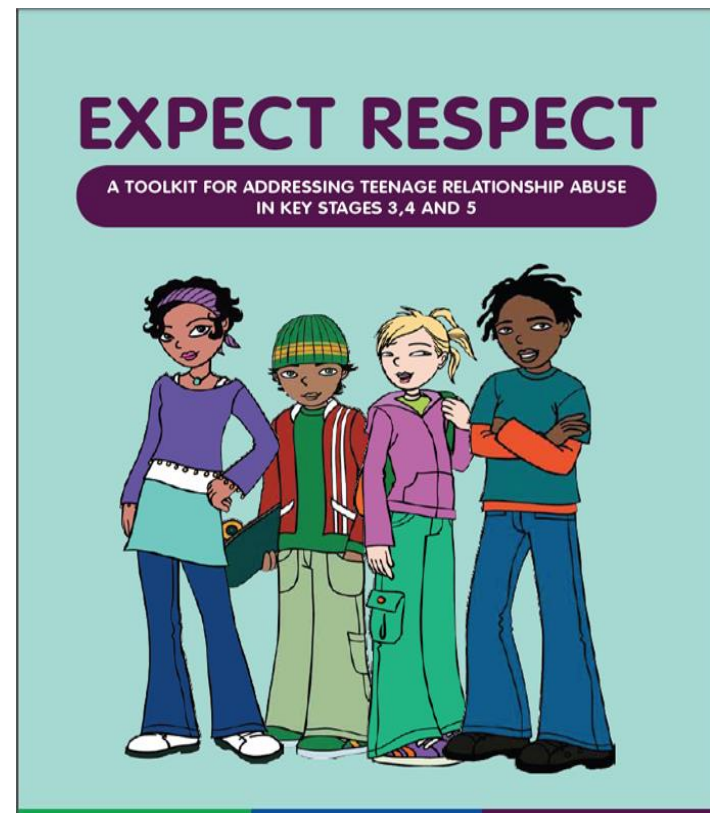
Enhancing help seeking

<http://www.youngpeoplefriendly.co.uk/>



Toolkit for Schools

- <https://www.womensaid.org.uk/what-we-do/safer-futures/expect-respect-educational-toolkit/>





Controlling Behaviour in Relationships

Talking to young people about healthy relationships

AVON
the company for women

women's aid
invisible prison
breaking free together

<https://1q7dqy2unor827bqjls0c4rn-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/Controlling-Behaviour-in-Relationships-talking-to-young-people-about-healthy-relationships.pdf>

Training Transfer / CPPD

PREVALENCE: In your staff meeting, facilitate the quiz in your pack and discuss.

SUPPORT: Ensure local support services are distributed

REFERRAL: Ensure colleagues are aware of MARAC and referral pathways

Resources:

Introduction to risk identification with young people

<http://www.safelives.org.uk/node/1009>

MARAC Roles and Information Sharing

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hXthvNFieWs>

MARAC Action Planning

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SgqiO5N5nM0>

To watch

Murdered by my boyfriend BBC

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b047zl98>

CPD - Training

Child Sexual Exploitation Briefings

Harmful Sexual Behaviours

<https://www.redbridgescp.org.uk/training-2/>