

Global 16 Days Gender Based Violence Campaign – Understanding How Technology Is Used To Perpetuate Domestic Violence, 26th November 2024

Background

The **Global 16 Days Campaign** is an international campaign to challenge violence against women and girls. The campaign runs every year from 25th November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, to 10 December, Human Rights Day.

In respect of this campaign, a training session was organised by Fermanagh and Omagh Police and Community Safety Partnership, Western Domestic and Sexual Violence Partnership and Western Digital Safeguarding Steering Group. The aim of the session was to understand more as to how technology which is constantly changing and evolving and can be very helpful to survivors of domestic abuse, can also be used by abusers to stalk, harass, threaten, coerce, monitor or track victims and survivors.

Steven McNeill (SHSCT) highlight some of these areas to assist practitioners understand how it is being used and what can be done to prevent it and make victims safer.



Coercive control
through electronic devices

Technological advancements can be misused for stalking harassment, monitoring and tracking victims & survivors.

This event will...

- Focus on these issues.
- Explore strategies to enhance victim safety.

Register

Tuesday 26 November

Mellon Country Inn 9.30 am – 1.00 pm

Paula.Kee@westerntrust.hscni.net

This event will be facilitated by Steve McNeill, SEHSCT

Logos at the bottom: ITAL, RSP, Western Health and Social Care Trust, HSC, South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust.

How much did we do?

Attendees

42 Attended

5 Community Background

37 Statutory Background

Range of Organisation Represented

Family Nurse Partnership / Health Visiting

PSNI / PCSP

Sure Start / Women's Aid

WHSCT & NHSCT Health Improvement

Include Youth

NI Consumer Council

How well did we do it?

- 100% attendees who completed the evaluation considered that the session had been beneficial to them in terms of their job role.
- 100% attendees who completed the evaluation considered that the session had enhanced their understanding.
- 100% attendees who completed the evaluation considered that the session would be useful for others within their organisation.
- 85% attendees reported learning how to update their own personal online safety, particularly on Facebook.

Is anyone better off?

- 100% of attendees reported that their understanding had been enhanced and they would consider changing elements of their working practice taking into consideration what they had learnt. In particular they felt more confident in identifying the different types of control and prepared to make further enquires by asking more probing questions for potential control.
- Shared Peer Learning - Participants shared that they would be bringing back learning to own Teams
- Increased awareness of the work of Fermanagh and Omagh Police and Community Safety Partnership, Western Domestic and Sexual Violence Partnership and Western Digital Safeguarding Steering Group.

Recommendations moving forward

- Further discussion as to how the message goes forward of the risk from the perpetrator to the victim during stalking incidents and the need for joint planning and organisational sharing of information if the victim is choosing to leave the situation or challenge offender.
- Further discussion as to how the message goes forward that the threat of sharing online sexual images is a crime.



Is anyone better off?

Feedback From Participants

Excellent facilitation. Spyware available. The videos I will show to my young people to have good discussion with

The lack of privacy we potentially have

The use of technology in coercive control is very widespread.

Revenge porn should be renamed. "Image based sexual abuse"

Our primary focus at the Financial Services Consumer Council is financial inclusion, economic abuse and illegal lending. There are areas of the control that has similarities with how illegal lenders work. It is beneficial to increase awareness which may help to inform future research. When doing outreach with vulnerable groups being mindful of the signs of harassment is important to know how to identify/how to raise the subject.

I will put this in the domestic and sexual abuse training I deliver

It is all so important to improve our practice

Use within safeguarding training and other training programmes. Also share with team members

I will make considerations when I complete assessments how what I have learned could impact on my clients.

Make clients more aware of dangers of technology and be better at recognising coercive control

I will bring this knowledge in to my day to day work as a Health Visitor