

**Equally Safe in Further and Higher Education: Note of Sub-Group meeting
regarding Fresher's Week and parallel colleges arrangements held on
Thursday, 12 April 2018 at 10:30 am in Victoria Quay, Edinburgh**

Present: Gareth Allen, Saira Kapasi (telephone), Alan Monaghan (telephone) (Mr Ewing's Private Secretary (this meeting only)) and Steven Paxton (Scottish Government), Susannah Lane (Universities Scotland), Jo Zawadzka (Zero Tolerance), Kathryn Dawson (Rape Crisis Scotland), Ann Gow (Universities and Colleges Union), Mrs Fiona Drouet, Suzanne Marshall (College Development Network), Jenny Lees and Shuwana Aaron (NUS Scotland), Vic Valentine (Equality Network) and Jill Stevenson (AMOSSHE)

Apologies: Anni Donaldson (University of Strathclyde) and Brandi Lee (LGBT Youth Scotland).

Background and Purpose of the Sub-Group

1. Gareth Allen described the background to the Equally Safe in Further and Higher Education work, including the establishment of the Working Group. He explained that the Minister for Further Education, Higher Education and Science had requested that the Working Group consider what could be done around Fresher's Week in relation to Equally Safe. This work would also align with another piece of work being taken forward by a Sub-Group around Support Cards led by Universities Scotland.

The Current Campaigns Landscape

2. NUS Scotland explained that they had had organised some activities around the 16 Days of Action in December last year. They had created a Toolkit for Student Associations, posters, and support cards for students. A range of numbers had been printed on the back of the cards which had been developed in association with LGBTI and BME Groups. The key was to 'get into the mind' of a young person as they left school and went into University/College. It was important to address the myth of self-blame. The NUS Campaign had gone to all NUS Scotland affiliates including colleges.

3. Other work is going at the University of Stirling ('#IsThisOk?'), which has included bystander training and getting people to challenge perceived social norms; at Glasgow Caledonian University, with an emphasis on prevention; at St Andrew's University (Stand Together); at Edinburgh University ('No one asks for it') (but this had been discontinued in favour of joint working between Edinburgh, Edinburgh Napier and Queen Margaret Universities); and at UWS ('Standing Safe'). Reference was also made to the 'I just froze' and 'This is Not an Invitation to Rape me' by Rape Crisis Scotland. Rape Crisis Scotland was also made reference to an EU funded project called 'It Stops Now' (<http://itstopsnow.org/>) from which a number of lessons could be learned. Scotland is one of partners including Ludwig Maximilians University, Munich, the National Women's Council of Ireland, the Women's Issues Information Centre, Lithuania and the Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies, Cyprus.

There is much that can be learned and built on from these campaigns.

Key Messages

4. The key message should be around prevention. Attention should also be given to the use of language and learning from the evaluation of the current campaigns. It would, therefore, be important to involve students themselves in this. It was appreciated that HE and FE institutions are moving at different speeds on this, and there was merit in weaving activities into curriculum activities and the Intranet was a powerful tool in getting the message over.

5. Key campaign messages would need to align with the Toolkit and its resources, as this contains guidance on campaigns. Colleges, like universities are in different stages of development regarding activities to tackle GBV. Anne Gow highlighted that thought should also be given to the experiences of overseas students and their awareness of the Abusive Behaviour and Sexual Harm (Scotland) Act 2016. (<https://beta.gov.scot/news/penalties-for-sharing-intimate-images/>)

6. There should also be a key message around by standing, and creating a community where people look after each other. Messages also need to challenge attitudes.

7. Jo Zawadzka suggested that campaigns would also need to be linked to the work around Scottish Government's Pregnancy and Parenthood in Young People Strategy (<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0049/00495068.pdf>). Steven advised that he and Gareth would be meeting with Felicity Sung, Scottish Government on linkages between the Equally Safe and the Pregnancy and Parenthood in Young People Strategy. Jo further advised that she would be able to offer an article in the Sunday Herald as a promotional vehicle.

National or Local Sign Posting

9. The Sub-Group felt that, at the moment, the campaign should be national, as a person phoning a national help line will always get an answer. Campaigns require infrastructure to support them, being in place – this may not be the case across all institutions at this point.

10. Saira Kapasi suggested that there could scope to plan a future campaign around the work the Scottish Government will be doing around the new Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act 2018. Universities, could, perhaps, be invited to design their own campaign. This would likely take place around February and March 2019 but planning had already started for this. Universities and colleges could contribute to this with a possible award ceremony for the winning designs. They could focus on looking at domestic abuse within an HE and FE setting. Using competitions had also been effective in the college sector. City of Glasgow College, for example, holds an annual competition every June and there are also opportunities for getting the message into the curriculum.

11. Vic Valentine advised that the script around the LGBTI experience of GBV was different. Oftentimes it is at university or college that young people are coming

out. He would be happy to make comment on proposed campaigns and associated materials.

Conclusions and Way Ahead

12. There is a need to bring together learning, which will inform campaigns and action for the future. This could be as part of a series of regional seminars for higher and further education institutions and their partners. These could have a practical focus looking at learning from current campaigns and the Toolkit, as a basis for planning campaigns and action for the future. Consideration could also be given to how information on Equally Safe might be included as part of the Registration/Enrolment process.

Action: It was agreed that Steven and Gareth will develop an outline paper on this for submission and consideration by the next meeting of the Sub-Group.