Safeguarding
Current Awareness Bulletin
June 2019

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Title: A qualitative study exploring school nurses' experiences of safeguarding adolescents.

Citation: British Journal of School Nursing; May 2019; vol. 14 (no. 4); p. 169-176
Author(s): Littler, Nadine

Objective: An integral aspect of the school nurse's role is in safeguarding; therefore, they are uniquely placed to identify and assess adolescent's health and wellbeing. The aim of this study is to explore school nurses' experiences of safeguarding adolescence.

Methods: A qualitative phenomenological study was undertaken with participants recruited from five NHS trusts across England, involving semi-structured telephone interviews, which were analysed and managed with the ATLASi software using a grounded theory approach.

Findings: Four categories were identified in the study, one was related to education, and three were related to the school nursing role. These include targeted interventions, encountering increased numbers of safeguarding risks (such as child sexual exploitation and mental health in practice), and identifying safeguarding supervision and teamwork as key factors of support within their role.

Conclusions: This study has provided an insight into the school nurses' role in safeguarding adolescents; however, further research still needs to be undertaken on this multifaceted area of practice.

Title: An Evaluation of an Inter-Disciplinary Training Programme for Professionals to Support Children and Their Families Who Have Been Sexually Abused Online.

Citation: British Journal of Social Work; Apr 2019; vol. 49 (no. 3); p. 577-594
Author(s): Bond, Emma; Dogaru, Cristian

Abstract: The psychological consequences of child sexual abuse on children's mental health and emotional well-being are well documented, and the importance of safeguarding training for professionals working with children and young people unequivocal. Effective support for children who have been sexually abused online is essential to enable them to progress towards recovery. Yet many professionals feel they lack knowledge and understanding of how best to work with children who have been sexually abused online. This study therefore evaluates the outcomes of a short inter-professional training course designed to develop professionals' competence and confidence when responding to the needs of children and their families after online sexual abuse. Participants (n = 114) were recruited on a voluntary basis from a range of professional backgrounds, including some teaching and social work students in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The questionnaire collected both quantitative and qualitative data. There were consistent, statistically significant improvements in the professionals' views on their knowledge of the subject, their ability to assess online risk and their confidence levels after completing the training course. The feedback from the participants suggested that the learning tools adopted in the training were highly appropriate and that the inter-professional delivery was a key aspect to the positive learning experience. This study suggests that multidisciplinary training, combined with real-life case studies, can be highly effective in improving knowledge and understanding of online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (CSEA), thereby improving professionals' confidence in supporting
Title: An Exploration of the Needs of Men Experiencing Domestic Abuse: An Interpretive Phenomenological Analysis.

Citation: Partner Abuse; Apr 2019; vol. 10 (no. 2); p. 243-261

Author(s): Wallace, Sarah; Wallace, Carolyn; Kenkre, Joyce; Brayford, Jo; Borja, Simon

Abstract: This study determines the needs of men experiencing domestic abuse from an intimate partner. In-depth interviews with 6 men who sought support are analyzed using interpretive phenomenological analysis (IPA). Four master themes (interpreted as needs) are identified from analysis, "recognition" (of male victims and the impact), "safety," "accepting domestic abuse," and "rebuilding." A need for recognition is identified as the dominant theme influencing the capacity for the 3 remaining needs to be met. Domestic abuse is generally understood to be a gendered, heteronormative experience. Abused men are not acknowledged as "typical" victims. The lack of recognition prevented participants from accepting and recognizing their victimization resulting in delayed help-seeking and prolonged abuse. A joint commitment is required from policy and practice to raise the profile of abused men, challenge wider society's prevailing norms, and embed equal status for all victims.

Title: Service Provider Difficulties in Operationalizing Coercive Control.

Citation: Violence against women; May 2019; vol. 25 (no. 6); p. 635-653

Author(s): Brennan, Iain R; Burton, Victoria; Gormally, Sinéad; O'Leary, Nicola

Abstract: We examined perspectives of social workers, police officers, and specialist domestic abuse practitioners about their perceived ability and organizational readiness to respond effectively to incidents of coercive and controlling behavior. Interviews revealed intervention and risk assessment strategies structured around an outdated, maladaptive concept of domestic abuse as an unambiguous and violent event and frontline services that lacked appreciation of the power dynamics inherent in controlling relationships. The analysis demonstrates how lack of definitional clarity around nonphysical domestic abuse can increase the use of discretion by frontline services and, by extension, increase the discounting of coercive control by pressured frontline officers.

Title: Mirror Mirror on the Wall, Which Is the Most Convincing of Them All? Exploring Anti-Domestic Violence Posters.

Citation: Journal of interpersonal violence; May 2019; vol. 34 (no. 9); p. 1755-1771

Author(s): Shortland, Neil D; Palasinski, Marek

Abstract: Although domestic abuse of women by men has received significant media, police, and research attention, domestic violence directed toward men has been marginalized across the board and is still rarely treated seriously. The purpose of this research, then, is to examine and compare different anti-domestic violence messages in which the abuser's gender is not always
clear. In Study 1, 200 U.K. participants (100 females and 100 males, aged 18-67, M = 28.98, SD = 9.613) evaluated posters that varied across three levels; in that the subject (male or female) was depicted as being silenced, bruised, or experiencing live abuse. The results showed that the posters featuring female victims were all rated as more effective than posters showing male victims. In Study 2, 140 different U.K. participants (95 females; 45 males) aged 18 to 59 (M = 27.27, SD = 10.662) evaluated the cartoon facial images of Disney characters who had been altered to look like victims of violence and real-life corresponding photos of human models. The results showed that the realistic posters were found to be more believable, emotional, and effective than the cartoons. The implications of such perceptions are discussed.

Sources Used:
The following databases are used in the creation of this bulletin: Amed, British Nursing Index, Cinahl & Medline.

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