**From Boys to Men Research Study**

- The From Boys to Men Project explores why some young men become perpetrators of domestic abuse.
- It seeks also to establish what more could be done to reduce the number of young men who become perpetrators.

The study has involved three phases:
2. Thirteen focus groups with young people (aged 13-19).
3. Life history interviews with 30 young men (aged 16-20) who have experienced domestic violence as victims, perpetrators and/or witnesses.

**Phase I: Background and Aims**

Three quarters of domestic abuse incidents occur when children are in the house (Solomon and Fraser, 2009) and 17.5% of 11-17 year olds and 26% of 18-24 year olds have witnessed physical violence abuse at home (Radford et al., 2011).

There has been increasing recognition that the problem of domestic abuse affects young people as much as it does adults – yet we still know far less about abuse in young people’s relationships. A recent survey of young people in the UK, aged 13-17, suggests quite high levels of victimisation and perpetration of abuse in teenage relationships (Barter et al., 2009).

We also know that teenagers are more likely to turn to peers than adults for help (Ocampo et al., 2007).

Our research set out to explore how common the experience of violence is among younger teenagers – those aged 13-14. We aimed to answer the following questions:

1. What are the rates of domestic abuse among young teenagers – those aged 13-14 years?
2. What is the nature of the abuse at this age - is there any overlap between being a victim, witnessing abuse at home and perpetrating it against a partner?
3. What percentage of young people would seek help from an adult if it happened to them?
4. In what ways do gender and experiences of abuse impact on the willingness to seek help?

**Results – Experiences**

83% of young people had been in a dating relationship

45% of pupils had been victims of at least one type of abuse
- Emotional abuse/controling behaviours: 38%
- Physical abuse: 17%
- Sexual abuse: 14%

25% of pupils perpetrated at least one type of abuse
- Emotional abuse/controling behaviours: 20%
- Physical abuse: 7%
- Sexual abuse: 4%

34% of all pupils witnessed at least one type of abuse.
- Emotional abuse/controling behaviours: 27%
- Physical abuse: 19%

**Gender Differences**
- Girls were more likely than boys to experience sexual victimisation (but not other types of victimisation).
- Girls were as likely as boys to perpetrate domestic abuse.
- Girls were more likely to witness abuse in adult relationships than boys.

**Associations Between Victimisation, Perpetration and Witnessing**
- 51.2% of victims also admitted to having been abusive.
- 92.3% of perpetrators reported that they had been victimised.
- 67% of witnesses abuse had also been a victim in their own relationships.
- Witnesses were also more likely to report having perpetrated it (42% compared to 15% of non-witnesses).

**Results – Help-seeking**

More likely to seek help from an adult in relation to witnessing abuse than abuse in their own relationship.

**Abuse in their own relationships**

Boys, victims, female perpetrators and those who had witnessed abuse at home were less likely to seek help if they experienced abuse in their own relationship.

**Witnessing Abuse**

Girls who had witnessed abuse were less likely to seek help that girls who had not if they witnessed abuse at home.

**Conclusions and Implications**

- 52.5% of participants had at least one experience of domestic abuse (victimisation, perpetration or witnessing).
- Abuse in relationships starts much earlier than previously recognised.
- Few ‘pure’ perpetrators – many were victims and had witnessed abuse.