



edinburgh rape crisis centre
supporting survivors of sexual violence

Background Information: Sexual Violence Prevention Worker

Edinburgh Rape Crisis Centre

Established in 1978 Edinburgh Rape Crisis Centre (ERCC) is a unique support, advocacy and information service for women, non-binary people, members of the trans community and young people aged 12 and over in Edinburgh, East and Midlothian who have experienced sexual violence, including rape, sexual assault and childhood sexual abuse.

Our charitable objectives are to reduce the distress and suffering of people affected by sexual violence through the provision of support and information, and to increase awareness of sexual violence and its impacts within the wider community. To deliver these objectives, we provide a range of trauma-informed support services for survivors of sexual violence, including short-term and longer-term support, advocacy, outreach, and group support. In addition we deliver training for a broad range of stakeholders, and run a sexual violence prevention project across Edinburgh, East and Midlothian and West Lothian which works with young people towards preventing sexual violence.

National prevention programme

This post is part of the national prevention programme which is delivered by Rape Crisis centres around Scotland and coordinated by Rape Crisis Scotland using a shared resource pack and evaluation framework. The main focus of the posts is on delivering high quality education to young people in schools and youth settings on consent and healthy sexual relationships, and prevention workers also have a role in supporting young people to take a lead in tackling sexual violence, and in working closely with local partners to develop strategic approaches to sexual violence prevention. Regular training opportunities and a practitioners' forum are provided as part of the programme. More information and the report from an external evaluation can be found at <https://www.rapecrisisscotland.org.uk/prevention-work/>.

The programme was established in 2013 with funding from the Scottish Government's Children, Young People and Families Early Intervention Fund, and expanded in 2018 through the Scottish Government's Violence Against Women and Girls Fund to cover additional local authority areas in connection with the

government's *Equally Safe* implementation plan. The programme is currently operating in 29 local authority areas.

The outcomes for the posts are as follows:

1. National and local strategic approaches to sexual violence prevention are more consistent and more effective.
2. Strategic partnerships between rape crisis centres and local agencies are strengthened, promoting shared approaches to sexual violence and support for direct interventions by centres.
3. Young people have increased knowledge and more positive attitudes towards sexual relationships, and less tolerance of violence.
4. Young people have a greater role in shaping interventions in relation to sexual relationships.

The post is currently funded by the Scottish Government Violence against Women and Girls Fund until 31st March 2020; however we are confident of continued funding as the programme is well established and a key part of national strategic work to tackle Violence against Women and Girls.