**Healthy Relationship Advisory Forum (HRAF) 2023/24**

**What is the HRAF?**

This forum is an opportunity to discuss concerns around the potential development of a child’s behaviour becoming abusive. It could also be behaviour that is already showing abusive traits within a child / young person’s relationships. The behaviour can be physical, sexual, emotional, or coercive and can be directed towards a ‘partner’, friend, or family member. The forum will be made up of several professionals from non-statutory services who may be able to advise, signpost of offer direct support in extreme cases.

**Why have this forum?**

Domestic abuse and sexual violence (DASV) within a home, impacts on a child or young person who is now seen as a victim in their own right, (Domestic Abuse Act 2021). It is not uncommon for young people who do not receive the support needed, to become perpetrators in their own relationships. Adults may be discussed at MARAC, referred to FJC to work with an IDVA and safety planning completed but there is currently nothing that is equivalent for our young people. Croydon are always exploring opportunities to be preventative rather than reactive, and this forum has been set up for a trial period, to attempt to disrupt the abusive cycle of learnt behaviour and support our children and young people in developing healthier relationships.

**Who is it for?**

This forum is for schools,

* working with our children and young people daily
* where a young person has disclosed that they are in an unhealthy relationship
* who have identified potential behaviour which could develop to become abusive
* who have identified actual behaviour that is abusive
* whom a parent has disclosed child on parent abuse
* primary (most likely UKS2), secondary, post 16 and specialist provisions.

**What is the aim?**

The aim is for range of non-statutory professionals to support the school in exploring the origins of the behaviour, what has already been done to intervene and what else could be tried to change the young person’s pathway to achieve more positive relationship outcomes.

**What *could* the support look like?**

The forum aims to provide support in a variety of ways and will be case dependent. The possibilities are

* Advice on developing the school relationships curriculum
* Additional strategies/resources to try with the child or young person
* Signposting to Croydon based or wider services
* Advice on direct work that school can complete individually with the child or young person
* Referral to MARAC (if close to adult age)
* Advice to refer to MASH and/or police

**How can I refer a child/young person?**

All referrals are consent based as those being discussed are children. Therefore, the parent MUST consent to their child/young person being discussed. There is a parent leaflet which explains what the forum is for and can be used to aid your discussion with the parent.

Below is a referral template to be completed with as much detail as possible. We are keen for the child/young person’s to be included within the referral as this helps assess how they see their behaviour and may assist in the support/advice pathway.

In addition to the referral, it is helpful to complete the SafeLives DASH Risk assessment checklist (age 13-18) or the checklist provided below for children and young people U13.

Both the referral and checklist will be triaged, and you will receive an invite to attend the forum for further discussion and support.

**What if I cannot gain consent?**

If you are unable to gain consent to discuss the child/young person, it is worth exploring why with the parent as they may have a misunderstanding of what it is for. Using the leaflet will help them understand that this forum is early intervention based and does not include statutory services such as social care or Police.

In some circumstances, we may be able to discuss an anonymised case but this will limit the advice and support that can be offered.

It may be that there are wider safeguarding concerns that need exploring via children's social care.

**Healthy Relationship Advisory Forum Referral**

*Please complete with as much detail around the current concerns linked to actual or potential abusive behaviour, whether it is child-on-child or child to adult. Please specific how the behaviour presents itself, what has been tried and the impact of any interventions.* ***PLEASE NOTE*** *referrals without consent from parents will not be discussed.*

Please return completed referrals to schoolsafeguardingconcerns@croydon.gov.uk

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name | DOB | School | Consent – Y / N |
| Is there a SEND need and/or diagnosis? | Y / N | If yes, please give details |  |
| Current concerns |
| How does the Young Person present at home and within the local community? What concerns do parents have? |
| Behavioural History |
| Family history including involvement with social care, police, any history of DASV in the family |
| Young person’s view |
| Parent Voice. |
| Interventions tried and referrals already completed – what were they, who were they targeted at (child only or family) and what impact have you seen? |
| What are the current risks? |
| What are you requesting from the forum? |

Referrer signature…………………………………………………………………………. Date……………………………………..

Parental Consent…………………………………………………………………………… Date……………………………………..

By submitting this referral, you agree to attend the forum, to present and discuss the concerning behaviour and agree next steps. You agree to implement, where possible, recommendations and provide a review in 3-6 months.

The forum will be attended by a small panel of non-statutory professionals who will offer advice on how to access support for the young person and their family.