

Merseyside Youth Association's

Mentors in Violence Prevention

"It's important to teach people who don't really know much about why their behaviour is wrong, they need to know why it's wrong about things like abuse, maybe they've been brought up in that way, so they are just used to it, but they need to know it's not right."

Mentor, Merseyside School.



Empowering young people to play an active role in safely preventing violence



EMILY SPURRELL
MERSEYSIDE POLICE
& CRIME COMMISSIONER

What is MVP?



Emily Spurrell, Merseyside Police and Crime Commissioner with a group of MVP mentors

Merseyside Youth Association's Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) is a peer education programme.

Funded by the Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership, it provides young people with the language and framework to explore and challenge the attitudes, beliefs and cultural norms that underpin gender-based violence, bullying and other forms of abuse while building resilience and promoting positive mental health.

By supporting schools to adopt a 'whole school' approach to early intervention and prevention of bullying, harassment and risky behaviours, the programme empowers pupils to identify and communicate concerns with peers and school staff.

Each school is allocated a school development officer from Merseyside Youth Association (MYA) to oversee, support and deliver aspects of programme implementation.

In addition, schools are also provided with trauma-informed wrap-around support to complement the programme.

Using the programme, pupils and staff have identified an improved ethos within the school and reduced barriers between older and younger pupils. Mentors and staff identify a positive impact on mentors' confidence and the enhancement of a range of skills such as leadership, teamwork and presentation skills.

(Source: LJMU Evaluation of the Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) Programme across Merseyside)

How MVP works



Through interactive scenarios and group discussions, the programme is delivered by trained student peers under the supervision of trained school staff.

The student mentors lead their peers (typically from a younger year group) in discussions around realistic scenarios covering a range of abusive behaviours they might witness as bystanders.

A list of several actions that an active bystander might consider taking in the situation is then presented and discussed as a group.

In line with the programme's emphasis on gender as a root cause of sexual violence, many of the scenarios focus on the stereotypes of women and how our culture can reinforce this.

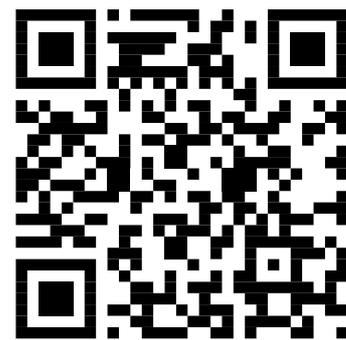


Five Core Components of MVP

1. Exploring Violence Through a Gendered Lens.
2. Developing Leadership.
3. Using a Bystander Approach.
4. Exploring the Scope of Violent Behaviour.
5. Challenging Victim Blaming.

If you're interested in MVP, please join almost 500 mentors and 2,220 mentees from 40 secondary schools across Merseyside who have already benefited from this programme over the last two years.

Visit educationmvp.co.uk, where you can read evaluation reports, watch films explaining the programme, see media content created by mentors and hear from staff and young people from schools that have taken part in MVP.



"MVP teaches you life skills on mental health and violence. It enlightens you on the effects that cause and prevent violence. For example, gender lenses, victim blaming, bystanding, abuse, violence and leadership. Overall, we are confident in showing people what leads up to violent actions and what changes we can make to stop them."

Mentor, Merseyside School.

