

## The GREAT Project

**SAFER FUTURE COMMUNITIES**  
Empowering local voluntary & community partnerships

Managed by the Nottinghamshire Domestic Violence Forum (NDVF), The GREAT Project (Good Relationships are Equal And Trusting) aims to improve awareness of domestic violence in schools.

National statistics state that one in four women are likely to experience domestic violence at some point in their lives and that three children in a class of 30 are likely to be living with domestic violence.

Prior to developing The GREAT Project in 2010, NDVF had been delivering awareness work in primary schools since 2001. However, due to the sensitive nature of the subject some head teachers were reluctant to allow it to be included.

This led to NDVF creating bespoke workshops and projects for individual schools leading to an inconsistency of individual projects, pupil learning and only basic resources. NDVF also found that the best way to raise awareness of domestic violence was to take learners on a journey, which the bespoke sessions did not provide.

The GREAT Project was developed in response to these problems, through consultation with pupils and teachers, offering 4 x 2 hour interactive project sessions with year 6 pupils that raise awareness of domestic violence, improve access to support services, change attitudes to domestic violence and empower young people to aspire towards healthy relationships.

The project encourages the domestic violence sector to increase awareness and education on the issue, motivating pupils to be excited about learning about the issue, rather than scared or daunted, through interactive and engaging activities and resources that are designed to support

children gain, retain and recall information whilst acknowledging and supporting the wide range of learning styles.

The project also considers the needs of schools and teachers by aligning itself with National Curriculum and OFSTED requirements. Through its website and staff handbook, teachers and other school staff can learn more about the benefits and learning opportunities of the project and feel positive and confident that its specialist subject will be delivered in a safe and sensitive way.

The GREAT Project is funded by Nottingham Crime & Drugs Partnership, Nottingham City Children's Services Empowerment Contract and the Safer Nottinghamshire Board, which since 2011 has commissioned NDVF to deliver the project at schools throughout Nottinghamshire. Schools in Nottingham City are requested to contribute £450 toward the £1,200 running costs of the project.

Since 2010 the project, which is supported by Graham Allen MP, Chair of the Early Intervention Review, has been accessed by 994 pupils, with 90% of these stating that they now were able to identify abusive behaviour.

The GREAT Project has been evaluated by an independent evaluator who concluded that each project that led to a disclosure of domestic violence had a cost benefit of £5,600 per new disclosure.

As a result of the popularity of The GREAT Project, NDVF has now developed a licence package to enable other domestic violence sector organisations to deliver the project in their area.

For further information on the GREAT project visit [www.thegreatproject.org.uk](http://www.thegreatproject.org.uk).