Responding to Disclosures of Sexual Violence 2.0

UK version

Support your staff and student leaders to handle disclosures of sexual violence in line with best practice and institutional policy

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Updated to reflect a broader focus on gender-based violence, *Responding to Disclosures of Sexual Violence* features new content covering staff-to-student and peer-to-peer misconduct, and expanded coverage of image-based abuse, including how to recognise it, and how to provide support to individuals experiencing it. The overall approach of the programme has also been updated to be more trauma-informed, shifting the emphasis from reporting, to responding and providing support.

- Ensure staff are confident in responding to disclosures in line with institutional policy to avoid any mishandling that could cause harm to individuals disclosing
- Provide consistent training across different staff roles and departments
- Promote a safer university community that’s more informed for discussions about changing the culture of sexual violence at universities, and able to take practical steps towards positive cultural change
- Deliver a blended approach to learning when used alongside existing workshop initiatives
- Encourage discussion of, and attention to, the importance of considering intersectionality when receiving a disclosure and providing support

Multimedia activities - including videos, animations, and polls - promote a safer university community that’s more informed for discussions about changing the culture of sexual violence.

A ‘Hide content’ button on each screen to help learners navigate modules with potentially triggering themes.
Programme structure

3 streamlined modules of around 30 minutes each, accessible in a time and manner that is best for the Learner(s)

- Module 1: Setting the context
- Module 2: Understanding and supporting survivors
- Module 3: Steps to take when responding

The new version will offer further benefits:

- Module 3 is available in a shortened version with two screens removed, allowing a flexible approach to a complex subject, and tailoring the level of information to the learner(s)
- Updated content to reflect changes in the field including:
  - Reduced focus on reporting, with greater attention on disclosing and support
  - Staff-to-Student and Staff-to-Staff scenarios
  - Increased discussion of gender-based violence (GBV)
  - Increased consideration of disclosures from LGBT+ Individuals
Graham Towl is Professor of Forensic Psychology and former Pro Vice Chancellor (PVC) Chair of the Sexual Violence Task Force at Durham University. Prior to working at Durham, he was the Chief Psychologist at the Ministry of Justice. He is the co-author of two books on addressing sexual violence in Higher Education: Addressing Student Sexual Violence in Higher Education (2020) which he wrote with Clarissa Humphreys and Tackling Sexual Violence at Universities (2019) which he wrote with Tammi Walker.

Clarissa Humphreys is the Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Response Manager at Durham University

Drawing on expertise from organisations, student services, and subject matter experts, our expert panel has helped shape every aspect of our updated programme

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