Invitation to tender for an independent evaluation of Rape Crisis Scotland’s Sexual Violence Prevention Project

Introduction

Rape Crisis Scotland (RCS) is the national office for the rape crisis movement in Scotland. Our aims are to:

- challenge any prejudicial attitudes towards survivors of sexual violence;
- work with local rape crisis centres to ensure survivors are offered consistent, high quality support;
- provide a National Helpline to offer support to survivors of sexual violence across Scotland;
- assist in the development of new rape crisis provision around Scotland and provide a central information and resource service on sexual violence.

Background and context

RCS, through consultation with our member centres and with external stakeholders, identified a clear need for national support to coordinate and support prevention work with young people in Scotland. A key aspect of this coordination was the development of a national, evidence based sexual violence resource pack and evaluation framework. RCS secured funding from Lankelly Chase for a National Sexual Violence Prevention Coordinator to take forward this work. Funding was subsequently secured from the Third Sector Intervention Fund to employ eight new part-time Prevention Workers to deliver the national sexual violence resource pack with young people in schools and other educational settings. The funding for the eight new posts runs from June 2013-March 2015 and includes funding to commission an external evaluation to assess the impact of the project.

The Sexual Violence Prevention Project will be delivered by eight rape crisis centres across Scotland: Rape & Abuse Support in Aberdeen; South West Rape Crisis & Sexual Abuse Centre in Dumfries & Galloway; the Women’s Rape & Sexual Abuse Centre in Dundee; the
Rape Counselling & Resource Centre in East Ayrshire; Fife Rape & Sexual Assault Centre; Lanarkshire Rape Crisis Centre; Scottish Borders Rape Crisis Centre and the Western Isles Rape Crisis Centre.

RCS will act as the coordinating partner, holding overall responsibility for financial management and delivery against the project outcomes.

The first five months of the project (June 2013 – mid October 2013) represents lead in time to enable the new Prevention Workers to be recruited and trained in the delivery of the National Sexual Violence Prevention Pack. The implementation period for the project will be just over 17 months and will run from mid October 2013 to March 2015.

The National Sexual Violence Prevention Pack contains seven session themes: consent; defining sexual violence; gender; how we can help prevent sexual violence; impacts and supporting survivors; sexualisation and pornography; social media. Specific sessions across these seven themes have been developed for four age groups: S1-S2; S3-S4; S5-S6 and 18 to 25 year olds.

Focus of the Evaluation

RCS is contracting an external evaluator to assess the impact of the project across all eight geographical regions of delivery. The aim is to assess how and why the outcomes were achieved and the quality of the work.

The evaluation will incorporate the views of the partners, young people, teachers, workshop facilitators, and local authority officials.

The focus of the evaluation will be to a) analyse and assess impact on young people of the project b) analyse and assess how far the set outcomes of the project have been met

At the inception of the evaluation, the evaluators will work with RCS staff to ensure that the evaluation framework used by partner agencies is capable of delivering the required data to enable the aims and objectives of the project to be effectively evaluated.

Our objectives and activities

Each partner will be responsible for the delivery in their area of workshops with young people. The workshops will take place in schools and other educational settings. Partners will: deliver workshops with young people; liaise with teachers and other relevant educational staff; monitor their activities through questionnaires and other agreed monitoring tools and work in partnership with key agencies to integrate the project into existing local services and developments.

There will be a national Practitioners’ Forum meeting every 4 months during the life of the project - involving all eight project partners – to share progress and learning.
The project aims to:

1. Improve national and local strategic approaches to the prevention of sexual violence
2. Improve strategic partnerships between rape crisis centres and local agencies to foster shared approach to sexual violence prevention and support for direct interventions by centres.
3. Ensure that young people have access to a safe space and sound information to help them develop the skills to negotiate consent to sexual relationships
4. Increase the role of young people in shaping interventions in relation to sexual relationships

Key indicators for each aim have been agreed with the funder.

For the national sexual violence prevention pack, outcomes for each session theme have been developed and mapped against the curriculum for excellence.

The main purpose of the evaluation is to:

1. Assess the impact of the work, and the extent to which the project aims and outcomes have been met
2. Assess the extent to which sessions delivered with young people achieved the outcomes for that session and how far the related outcomes contained within the curriculum for excellence have been met across the scope of the project
3. Identify the lessons learnt from the work, in particular, the delivery of the model by partner organisations.
4. Identify best practice for wider dissemination
5. Influence education policy and practice at the individual school level, the authority-wide level, and, at national level.
6. Understand the key components necessary to create an evaluation framework that will ensure quality control and quality of delivery.

The evaluation will need to consider the following:

- The extent to which the model has achieved the stated aims of the project.
- The external variables that affect the project, e.g. teachers’ time; teachers’ existing feelings and perceptions about violence against women; local dynamics relevant to particular partner organisations;
- The strengths and weaknesses of the National Sexual Violence Resource Pack as a means of informing, engaging and challenging opinions of young people;
- The strengths and weaknesses of the methods used for engaging teachers and other school staff;
- The perceptions of those involved, including young people, teachers, head teachers, Local Education Authorities, workshop leaders and partner organisation staff;
- Were there any unexpected effects of the work, beneficial or otherwise?
- Policy and curriculum developments in the field of personal, social and relationship education.
**Audience**
The management and staff of Rape Crisis Scotland, key stakeholders, the funder, the Scottish Government, Education Scotland, individual secondary schools, Local Education Authorities and local multi-agency partnerships on violence against women.

**Project Management**
We are looking for individuals or agencies that:
- Have sound and proven experience and expertise in social research and evaluation methodologies
- Have experience of working within an education environment
- Have an awareness of issues that face young people in relation to violence against women and girls, and an awareness of current practice and policy
- Have proven expertise in writing in an accessible format.
- Have an understanding of presentation methods and reporting formats to maximise the engagement of decision-makers
- Have experience of evaluating programmes involving multiple organisations

**Data**
The following data will be available:
- Quantitative data for each area on the number of schools contacted, number of schools engaged, number of workshops delivered, number of young people reached
- Views from young people collated through the evaluation framework used within each workshop

In addition to the data already available, the consultant evaluator will be expected to adopt appropriate methodologies to obtain information from the key stakeholders. These are likely to include:
- Staff from the eight partner organisations and Rape Crisis Scotland
- young people directly involved in workshops
- young people indirectly involved (e.g. audience members, purposeful sample of students across the school)
- teachers
- head teachers
- Violence Against Women partnership coordinators in the area
- Local authority education departments

**Reporting**
Rape Crisis Scotland will expect the successful consultant to produce an evaluation report at the end of project that will provide details of the methodology, the findings and lessons
learned. Rape Crisis Scotland will have ownership and the copyright for the report. The final contents of the report relating to confidentiality issues will need the approval of Rape Crisis Scotland.

The consultant will also be expected to produce a brief interim report after the first eight months and fifteen months of the project implementation, with some of the findings to date, to act as a progress report on the project.

**Evaluation tender requirements**

Tenders will need to include:

1. A framework for the work including what are considered to be the key milestones and accompanying time line;
2. An exploration of the types of appropriate methodologies that could be employed in identifying impact of the programme at a national level over the duration of the project;
3. A budget for the work to include any overheads/management costs and including figures for expenses and VAT where appropriate;
4. Key personnel involved in undertaking the work – their experience and past work.
5. A list of (similar) projects evaluated by the evaluation team/organisation
6. The name and contact details of two independent referees.

**Timescale for the work**

Proposed timescale for the evaluation is as follows: over the course of the project, to be advised on particulars

Deadline for tenders: 5pm 1st July 2013
Interview short-listed tenders: Week of the 8th July 2013
Tender offered: 15th July 2013
Kick-off meeting: 29th July 2013
Initial consultation on evaluation framework: Week of the 5th August
Interim reports: June 2014 & January 2015
Discussions of initial findings: July 2014
Report completed: March 2015

**Cost**

A maximum of £20,000 (including expenses and VAT) is available for the evaluation of this project. This includes the costs of producing the report.

**Closing date**

The closing date for tenders is 5pm on the 1st July 2013.
Contact details

To submit bids, or to discuss this tender in more detail, please contact:

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