

Cheshire women's
Collaboration

Progress report



ONE IN FIVE WOMEN (22%) IN THE UK
REPORTED SOME EXPERIENCE OF SEXUAL
TOUCHING, GROPING, FLASHING, SEXUAL
ASSAULT, OR RAPE WHILE THEY WERE IN OR
AROUND SCHOOL

Women's safety



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Women's Safety

What discussions?

- Safe Space for Girls
 - Where do young people go?
 - How safe are these spaces?
 - What does a safe space look like?
- Safe travel for women and girls
 - Are there any "women friendly" taxi services in Cheshire?
 - What legislation is in place to keep women safe when in taxis?
 - What measures are in place on public transport to keep women safe?
- Safety online and in bars
 - What awareness do women (in particular 30 plus) need about online safety?
 - How do women keep themselves safe?



Women's Safety

Actions taken so far:

- We are working with "Make Space for Girls" and London School of Economics to carry out a research project on what "Safe Spaces" are and how they can be designed.
- In partnership with Motherwell Cheshire and Cheshire Police we are continuing to deliver "Ask for Angela" in bars in Crewe, Nantwich, Winsford and Tarporley.
- Working with Alpha-Omega and other security firms in Cheshire we are working towards door men and women receiving better training to respond to women in distress in bars and clubs, or better still, prevent incidents from taking place.



Women's Safety

Plans for the next 6 months

- Explore schemes to help support safe travel for women and girls.
- Continue to distribute "Ask for Angela" posters in:
 - Northwich
 - Congleton
 - Macclesfield
- Link in with Cheshire Police "Violence against Women and girls scheme" and support spreading the word to local women and agencies about the schemes supporting women in Cheshire
- Spread the news of the "Make space for girls" research to all local authorities in Cheshire
- Work toward safe spaces in sports settings (see women in gyms section)
- Work with Town Councils to get White Ribbon Accreditation



Women in Sport

What discussions?

- Visibility of Women's sports teams
- Many women and girls not knowing what sports teams are in the area
- Linking in with National Research: discussions around the high percentage of girls that drop out of sport in their teens.
- Providing support to Women's teams to recruit board members and volunteers to help support the groups to sustain with the required skills



Women in Sport

Actions taken so far:

- Researching the current curriculum that outlines teaching requirements for all genders.
- Working alongside #cheshiregirlscan campaign to promote and raise awareness of the groups in Cheshire.
- Understand the findings from research from “Women in Sport” and “This Girl Can” Campaign to see what needs to be adopted or rolled out locally.



Women in Sport

Plans for the next 6 months

- Produce a sports toolkit written by teenage girls to provide to physical education departments in Cheshire Schools.
- Link in with Town Councils to look at increasing Women and Girls activity levels through focus work.
- Link in with “Make space for girls” research when available to see if there is any link between “safe spaces” and “being active”
- Linking in with National Research that found women feel “unsafe and intimidated” in Gyms - We plan to link in with leisure / lifestyle to create a zero tolerance approach to sexual and intimidating behaviour.



ONE IN 25 MOTHERS (4%) LEFT THEIR JOBS
BECAUSE OF RISKS NOT BEING TACKLED.

Employment



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Women in the workplace, education and skills

What discussions?

- Valuing of women in the workplace, in particular zero hours contracts. Women working in what are usually classed as “unskilled” jobs are undervalued and can be viewed as invaluable in the workplace.
- The gender pay gap in Cheshire where are we compared to National figures?
- Skills gap - for women in Cheshire, what jobs are out there? What skills are required for these jobs?
- Discussions on what schemes are already out in Cheshire that support women and girls to get back into work. What do they offer? Do women know about the schemes?



Women in the workplace, education and skills

Actions taken so far:

- For this focus group more research has taken place than practical actions
- We have planned what a campaign could look like to raise awareness for “rights for women” in the workplace.
- Researched back to work schemes that support women back into work, and researched other models that could be implemented to support women and girls.



Women in the workplace, education and skills

Plans for the next 6 months

- Roll out a campaign that looks to influence employers and individuals to view their staff team differently.
- Work in partnership with Motherwell Cheshire, Chester Women's Aid and Chambers to help promote and educate women's health issues in the workplace - link with women's health group action.
- Research with Chambers the gender pay gap and skills gaps in Cheshire.



A statue for Ada

What discussions:

- Just one! There is a clear need for and Ada statue in Crewe



A statue for Ada

Actions taken so far:

- Linked in with Cheshire East and Crewe board about the need for an Ada statue. This has been positively received.
- Set up a facebook page to promote both the story and the Ada campaign.
- Identified a sculptor to work with to design Ada - this has been identified as Hazel Reeves.



A statue for Ada

Plans for the next 6 months?

- Set “A statue for Ada” up as a charity
- Recruit both a working group and trustees to continue our work
- Raise more awareness of Ada’s story.



WHAT SUPPORT DO ADULTS WANT AFTER THE PANDEMIC?

- OPPORTUNITIES TO SOCIALISE OR INTERACT WITH OTHERS (55%)
- MINDFULNESS OR MEDITATION (37%)
- INFO ABOUT WAYS TO MANAGE MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS (35%)

Mental Health



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Women's Physical and Mental Health

What discussions

Lots of discussions have taken place in this focus group which at first made it difficult to decide on the direction of the group. Initial discussions were:

- Mental health in the BAME community - is this being addressed appropriately?
- Trauma - lots of discussion around trauma not being addressed and responded to appropriately locally in response to:
 - Birth trauma
 - Sexual Health
 - Domestic abuse
- Discussions have taken place about menopause in the Cheshire area to establish a clear approach to offer women locally.
- Hidden disabilities have been a topic of many discussions, with the focus group having many lived experiences.



Women's Physical and Mental Health

Actions taken so far:

- Collating lived experiences of hidden disabilities that impact local women
- Working more closely with BAME community and local Ukrainian and Afghan women, to work together to help support both physical and mental health.
- Linking in with maternity voices and local maternity service to capture voices of women and linking to collaboration to see if we can support.



Women's Physical and Mental Health

Plans for the next 6 months

- Bring together all relevant parties to produce a menopause strategy - link in with women in workplace group.
- Work towards a strategy and approach BAME women in relation to their physical and mental health.
- Start a campaign to help people and organisations to understand and respond appropriately to hidden disabilities.

