

Violence against Women and Girls Prevention Pilot

By Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council and Talk Listen Change, a registered charity

A new pilot programme has been launched in Tameside to educate both boys and girls about what constitutes violence against women and girls and what its effects are.

The pilot has been commissioned by Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council and developed in partnership with safeguarding leads, commissioners, teachers, parents and young people. The pilot will take place in schools for between eight and ten weeks and is being delivered by the charity TLC: Talk, Listen Change.

The programme covers:

- Identifying and reporting sexism
- Public harassment
- Unhealthy, abusive behaviour
- Online behaviour
- Objectification of women
- Consent
- Healthy relationships

The trial began in primary schools in the 2023-2024 school year, with secondary schools in the area joining from September 2024.

The council cites research by the charity Safe Lives, which showed nearly half of boys and a third of girls aged 13 and 14 think hitting a partner is 'okay'. A separate survey by End Violence Against Women Coalition found that just under a third of girls do not feel safe from sexual harassment in school.

"My hope and optimism is events like this and the innovation we have seen today."



"The sad fact is that we've seen a shocking rise in sexism in our schools over the past few years [...] That's why this new pilot is so important. We need to be having frank, honest conversations with children that might be exposed to these attitudes and help them to understand how to build healthy relationships and how to support each other."

– John Hughes, TLC Service Manager.