

What is REPROVIDE?

We know that often men are worried about the impact of their abusive behaviour on their families or expartners, but that it can be difficult to get help to stop behaving this way.

We also know that although there is limited evidence to suggest that group domestic violence prevention programmes work, there is not enough evidence to make sure that local councils will fund these programmes.

We want to test these programmes, so we can see if they really do help men and improve safety for their partners, ex-partners, and for children.

Who is eligible to take part in the study?

We want to recruit men who are:

- Aged 21 or over;
- Who are worried that their own behaviour in relationships with women might be violent or abusive;
- Who can understand English well enough to take part in a group programme

If you don't meet these criteria, but would like to help us in this study, we still would like to talk to you about how best to support men in stopping abusive behaviour.

Who is organising and funding the study?

The Department of Health is funding this study through the National Institute for Health Research. The research is carried out by a team of researchers who are based at the University of Bristol.

Is this study well-designed and ethical?

An independent group, a Research Ethics Committee which included healthcare professionals and lay members, assessed whether the study sufficiently protects participant's safety, rights, wellbeing and dignity. This study has been approved by South Central – Hampshire B Research Ethics Committee.

Our partners in the research include:



REPROVIDE

School for Social & Community Medicine
University of Bristol, 39 Whatley Road,
Bristol, BS8 2PS

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/primaryhealthcare/researchthemes/reprovide/about/group-intervention-for-men/>



Are you concerned about your behaviour in your relationships with women?



For more information about a study on Group Domestic Violence Prevention Programmes, email: reprovide-men@bristol.ac.uk or call or text 07976 225 462



What does the study involve?

Because this is a test for whether domestic violence prevention programmes work, men joining the study will be randomly allocated to two groups.

Half will join a programme run by Splitz, a leading provider of domestic abuse support services. This will involve attending a weekly group session for approximately 6 months. Groups will run on a Wednesday or Thursday evening from 6pm-8.30pm in central Bristol.

The remaining men will continue as normal and will not be offered additional support, but will still be asked to complete questionnaires. The groups will be decided randomly – as in the toss of a coin.

Both groups will be equally valuable in helping us to assess whether domestic violence prevention programmes help men and improve safety for their partners, ex-partners, and for children.

Would others call your behaviour abusive?

Abuse in a relationship can involve a pattern of behaviours, including:

- Physically hurting or threatening to hurt your partner
- Pushing or shoving your partner
- Frightening or intimidating your partner
- Jealous behaviour and checking upon your partner
- Controlling or pressuring them into doing what you want, not what they want
- Calling your partner names, humiliating them or swearing at them
- Punching walls, or throwing things, or damaging property
- Insisting on sex, when you know your partner doesn't want to
- Restraining your partner or stopping them from going out
- Upsetting or scaring your children
- Hurting or threatening to harm pets to make your partner or children do what you want

Abusive behaviour has an impact on the health and wellbeing of those who experience the abuse, and also on those who carry out the abuse.

What happens if I want to take part in the study?

If you get in touch with us, one of our researchers will explain the study to you and send you more information to help you make up your mind.

You will then be asked to come to a meeting with the researcher and a co-ordinator from Splitz and you will be asked some questions to assess your suitability for the programme.

If you are suitable and still want to take part, you'll be asked to complete a questionnaire. At the end of the meeting, you will be randomly allocated to either attend the group programme or to continue as normal.

Whichever group you are in, you will be asked to complete questionnaires at regular intervals over a 9-month period. Gift vouchers will be given as a thank you for each completed questionnaire.

