

Board game tackles domestic violence



A West Midlands housing association is launching a new board game that raises awareness of domestic violence and abuse amongst care and support service agencies and school children.

“Picking up the Pieces” has been designed and developed by Ashrammoseley, part of the Accord Group. Aimed at young people and community members aged 14 and above, it is an imaginative and interactive game that explores the issues of domestic violence and abuse, its impact on families and communities and the support services available.

The game, which Accord believes to be the first of its kind in the UK, works by players spinning an arrow to select a card that relates to a form of domestic violence or abuse. Players then have to find linking cards, which explores and generates discussion about stereotypes, myths, facts and available support services and agencies. The game is fully interactive, as some of the cards involve watching or listening to a case study, or taking part in a discussion workshop. The case study on forced marriage was produced by the Home Office and Accord is grateful for their support to use it as part of the game.

“Picking up the Pieces” complements the additional services including training and awareness raising workshops - that Ashrammoseley offers to families and communities affected by domestic violence. Sahdaish Pall, Care & Support Locality Manager at the Accord Group, explained: “having worked in the field of domestic violence support for the past 15 years it has become evident that it is not enough to only be training service users, adult victims, stakeholders and practitioners. We also need to work with young people, to encourage them to challenge stereotypes and perceptions around domestic violence and abuse.

During adolescence young people go through the process of learning about relationships and creating the knowledge based upon which their future relationships will be built. It is therefore an important and influential stage in life that understandably will have impacts on their behaviour as adults so increasing the knowledge of young people around domestic violence and abuse is essential to aid intervention and prevention moving forward.
