**MEDICS AGAINST VIOLENCE - SCOTTISH VIOLENCE REDUCTION UNIT**

ASC (Ask Support Care) programme

Medics against Violence and the [Scottish Violence Reduction Unit](http://www.actiononviolence.org.uk/) are partners in the ASC (Ask Support Care) programme funded by the Scottish Government. The remit of this programme is to deliver both direct training and train the trainers courses on domestic abuse widely across health and social care, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and to other professionals who may have contact with those experiencing abuse and be in a position to offer support.

As part of this we also train healthcare students. We believe that if students understand early on that there is an expectation that their role extends beyond their core clinical practice they are more likely to take on these additional roles and duties. We deliver direct training to students, giving them the basic skills to support their patients and allow them to build on these skills as they enter the workforce and become more experienced.

We have trained dental students at the University of Glasgow for the past 5 years and medical students at the University of Glasgow for the past 4 years. Over the past two years we have delivered training to pharmacy students at the University of Strathclyde. They joined with the dental students from the University of Glasgow for these training sessions. We trained approximately 160 pharmacy students (80 per year), 400 dental students (80 per year) and 1000 medical students (240 per year).

ASC course aims:

* To raise students' awareness and understanding of domestic abuse
* To help students understand their roles in prevention
* to provide a brief overview of the tools they can use to support those suffering domestic abuse

ASC learning outcomes.

At the end of the session students should:

* feel confident to discuss domestic abuse with patients
* have a good understanding of the term as it applies to intimate partner relationships
* understand the AVDR (Ask, Validate, Document, Refer) process how that fits into their future spheres of practice
* understand the role they can play in domestic abuse prevention and support

The 3 hour session covers

* The bystander approach
* Gender-based violence
* Domestic abuse- including
	+ types of abuse
	+ who is affected
	+ prevalence
	+ costs
	+ health consequences
	+ harm to children,
* Adverse Childhood Experiences
	+ Why it was important for them to be involved
* AVDR Supporting organisations for signposting

Feedback from students:

'it opened my eyes as to how it is more than just physical abuse'
'I now feel a little more confident if I had to speak to someone about domestic violence'
'will potentially allow us to make a real difference to peoples' lives',

**Contact**:

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