

NHS Cheshire and Merseyside ICB and Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse

Domestic Abuse and Sexual Safety Programme

Co-located Domestic Abuse and Sexual Safety Coordinator

July 2025 – July 2026

Overview of the Project

Commissioned by Cheshire and Merseyside ICB in partnership with STADA, the DASS Project ran for twelve months to strengthen how the health system in Cheshire and Merseyside identifies, responds to and supports colleagues affected by domestic abuse and sexual misconduct

47	100%	6	90%
DASS Allies established as a network across the Cheshire and Merseyside ICS	of DASS Allies agreed the training improved their understanding of sexual misconduct	partner organisations across the ICS, including PCNs, Trusts and the ICB	of DASS Allies found the Community of Practice useful and informative

92%	+56%	92%	+50%
of Allies agreed the DASS Coordinator was valuable to the project	rise in DASS Allies' confidence in responding to sexual misconduct disclosure	of Allies had a positive, supportive experience engaging with STADA	increase in DASS Allies awareness of safeguarding policies and procedures

Why this work matters

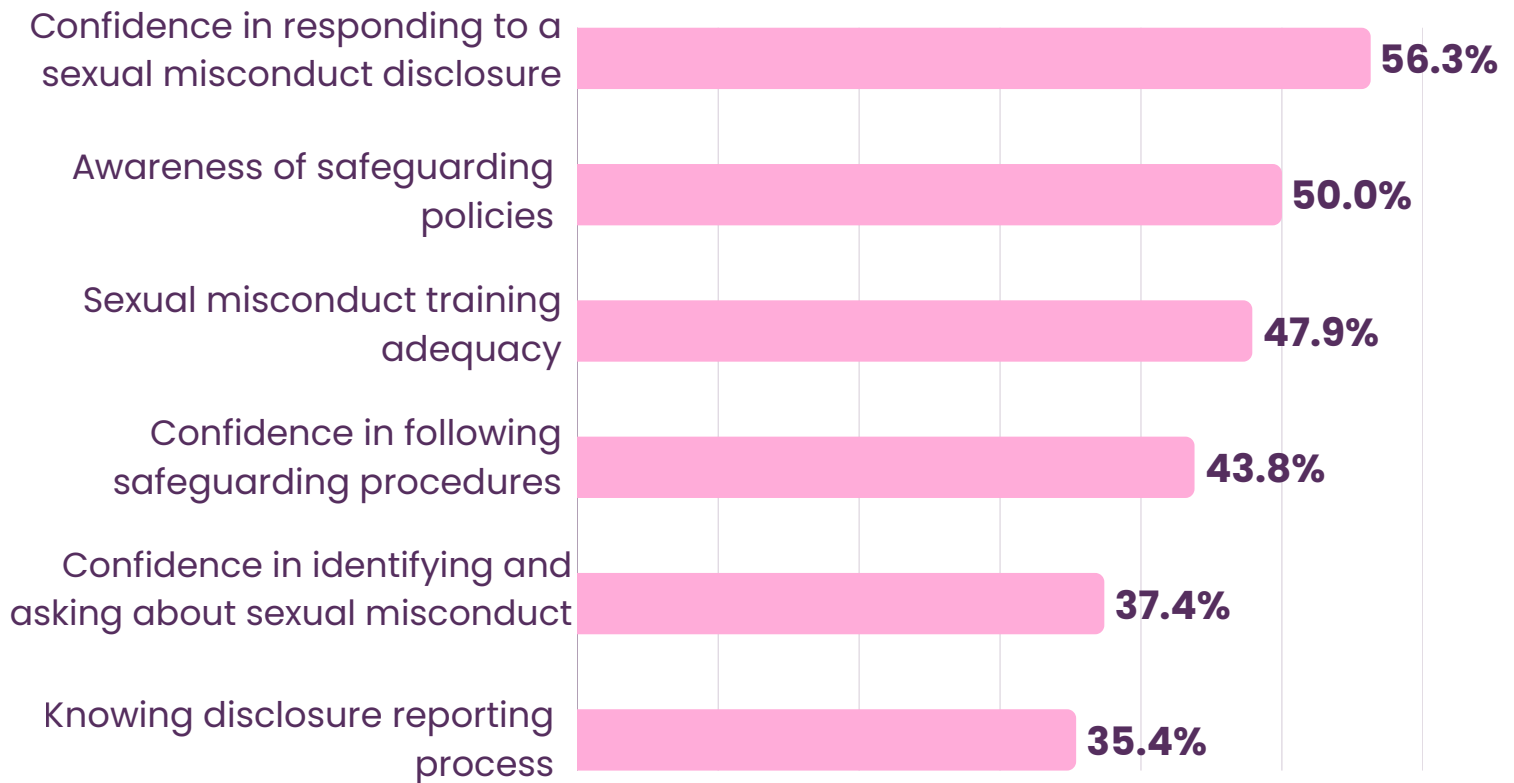
3.8m	56%	1 in 12	52%
adults in England and Wales affected by domestic abuse in the year to March 2025	of NHS staff report being affected by domestic abuse, currently or in the past	NHS staff faced unwanted sexual conduct from patients or the public in 2024	of Cheshire and Merseyside ICB staff feel safe to speak up about concerns

The DASS project work mapped clearly onto STADA's Coordinated Community Response Framework

Survivor Voice Allies with lived experience championing colleagues	Intersectionality Embedded into training and Community of Practice	Shared Objective 47 Allies across ICS, 6 partner organisations, ICB Project Leads, one commitment
Structure & Governance Steering Group and 3 Subgroups	Strategy & Leadership Endorsement from senior leadership	Specialist Services STADA-led coordination, specialist service directory and local services at Community of Practice
Representation Safeguarding, HR, clinical and frontline voices	Resources DASS Allies handbook, disclosure forms, reporting pathways	Coordination Co-located DASS Coordinator
Training Bespoke sexual misconduct training	Data Qualitative and quantitative evidence gathered across project	Policies & Processes Domestic abuse policy reviewed, policy metric developed, best practice policy template

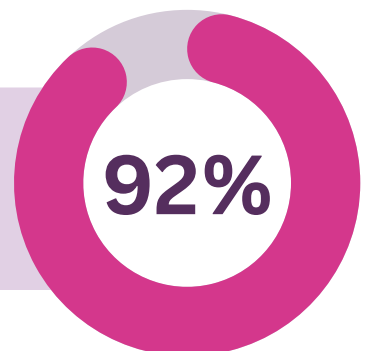
DASS Allies Impact and Evaluation

DASS Allies were surveyed at the start and end of the project. The largest increases in were shown in the areas the project targeted: sexual misconduct and safeguarding reporting pathways.



92% agreed that the DASS Coordinator role had been valuable to the project and to supporting the Allies.

92% agreed they had a positive, supportive experience engaging with Standing Together throughout the project.



Ultimate Goal:

The eradication of sexual misconduct in the workplace and full staff confidence in reporting and support for domestic abuse

Future Recommendations for Sustainability

- Develop an ongoing DASS strategy, with clear objectives, governance arrangements, success measures and reporting requirements
- Mergers among partner organisations meant adaptations to new systems mid-project
- Identify ongoing leadership and governance ownership to ensure continuation of the DASS agenda
- Monitor uptake of staff mandatory awareness training and invest in advanced or specialist training in response to data collection and analysis

"I became a DASS Ally because these themes can touch anyone, and no-one should face them alone. Allies play an essential role in offering compassionate, non-judgemental support and helping people find the right pathways for them."

-DASS Ally

Thank you to our partners

NHS Cheshire and Merseyside ICB

The Safeguarding and HR/People Teams