

9c WHITE RIBBON WORKING GROUP

Members include councillors and co-opted members of the public

Purpose

To promote the White Ribbon values and behaviours as a White Ribbon Town Council. White Ribbon UK was founded in 2005 and is part of a global movement to end men's violence against women.

It is a charity that works with men and boys to challenge those cultures that lead to harassment, abuse and violence. Congleton Town Council is White Ribbon Accredited which requires us to take certain actions – it is the job of this Working Group to ensure these happen.

Our Congleton White Ribbon Goal is:

'To eradicate men's violence against women and all gender-based violence and abuse'

Our White Ribbon Priorities are:

- **Strategic Leadership**- Ensuring policy and practice is compatible with the behaviours required, and creating White Ribbon Ambassadors
- **Engagement**- Training Councillors and staff initially, then reaching out more widely e.g.- through Congleton Partnership
- **Culture**- Taking action to stamp out sexism and a willingness to report and deal with inappropriate behaviours
- **Raising Awareness** - Outreach into the wider community through a broader Communications Plan, encouraging other organisations to become White Ribbon Accredited

Delegation of Functions of the Working Group

- This working group takes on tasks assigned by the Community Committee and works on awareness, engagement and leadership activities to promote White Ribbon and associated causes
- This is not a decision-making body; all solutions, ideas and funding requirements must be presented as proposals to Council Committee (usually the Community Committee), together with all relevant analysis, for the Committee to make a decision.
- All proposals taken from this Group to Committee must explain the impact on Community Safety and the financial, environmental and equality impact of the decision.

Membership, Voting and Roles

- Town Councillors, and co-opted members of the public
- All members must have made their White Ribbon Promise, registered as White Ribbon Ambassadors or Champions, and taken (or are taking) relevant training.
- Co-opted members will sign a volunteer agreement and be in post for one year, after which their agreement can be renewed if desired.
- On an as-needed basis, others may be invited to meetings, for example from the CEC Domestic Abuse team, the Police, etc.
- The Chair (and Vice-Chair if wanted) will be elected by a vote of the Working Group Town Council members only.

Activities of Working Group

9c WHITE RIBBON WORKING GROUP

Members include councillors and co-opted members of the public

1. Strategic Leadership

- 1.1 Qualify as White Ribbon Ambassadors and Champions.
- 1.2 Ensure Councillors and employees are given the opportunity to attend a White Ribbon Awareness session and make their White Ribbon Promise’.
- 1.3 Ensure that partners and providers embody the principles of behaviour required in their own policies and procedures.

2. Engagement

- 2.1 Work with schools, businesses, night-time economy and youth groups to spread the message about White Ribbon and challenging harassment and abuse
- 2.2 Present White Ribbon to other organisations interested in becoming accredited or supporter organisations, such as neighbouring Councils, PubWatch, sports clubs, etc.
- 2.3 Join in with White Ribbon events such as the CEC White Ribbon Conference and Police awareness trainings/events.

3. Culture

- 3.1 Take personal action to challenge inappropriate behaviours and engage with ongoing training to improve skills in this area.
- 3.2 Ensure that CTC Policies and practice embody the values and best practices of White Ribbon, for example by challenging sexism and negative behaviours.

4. Awareness

- 4.1 Multichannel Campaign for White Ribbon Day and the ‘16 days of activism’ each year, including the WR Flag, social media, press and outdoor. Town-centre stalls and social media awareness throughout the year.
- 4.2 Ongoing awareness-building amongst the public such as sharing data about domestic abuse and sexual violence, and messaging to encourage reporting.
- 4.3 Sharing evidence showing how changes to culture, and interventions like perpetrator programmes, can reduce these crimes.
- 4.4 Town-centre stalls throughout the year (including White Ribbon Day).
- 4.5 Social media activity throughout the year including the Congleton White Ribbon Facebook Group and sharing regional and national news of progress on domestic/sexual violence.
- 4.6 Signposting the public, especially survivors of domestic/sexual violence to services like myCWA, Refuge, Mankind and Rape Crisis.
- 4.7 Including awareness that men and boys can also be victims of domestic/sexual violence and experience particular barriers in reporting, due to the same societal prejudices and pressures regarding masculinity.

5. Reporting to Committee

- 5.1 Working Group minutes will be approved at the Community Committee and published on the Town Council Website.

9c WHITE RIBBON WORKING GROUP

Members include councillors and co-opted members of the public	
---	--

- 5.2 The Working Group chair will report activities verbally to the Community Committee and opportunities for the Council and the public to get involved will be highlighted.
- 5.3 Any decisions will be referred to the Community Committee, or another Council Committee as required.