



Healthy Campus Case Study



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Student Designated Contact Persons Panel (SDCPP)

Name of institution and initiative lead
University of Limerick
Dr Marie Connolly, Director of HR – EDI
Maria Healy, Sexual Harassment & Sexual Violence Prevention and Support Officer

Date and timeframe
Development of this initiative began in September 2022 and is ongoing.

What was the reach?
Access to the Student Designated Contact Persons Panel (SDCPP) is available to our entire student community.

Aims and Objectives
The SDCPP was established to act as a fully trained first point of contact for students who have experienced or are currently experiencing incidents of sexual violence and harassment (SVH). The panel consists of ten volunteer staff members from across the university who support students and signpost them to the necessary support services available both internally and externally.

The SDCPP is a confidential, non-judgemental, survivor centred resource that is there to encourage students to come forward and disclose incidents in the hopes that they seek the support needed, while also empowering them to move forward with formal reporting to the university, should they choose to do so.

Aligned frameworks, policies, or strategies
University of Limerick Action Plan Tackling Sexual Violence, Sexual Misconduct and Sexual Harassment on campus.

University of Limerick “Healthy UL” Framework.

Human Rights Equality Diversity & Inclusion Strategy | University of Limerick (ul.ie)

University of Limerick Strategic Plan 2019-2024

Safe, Respectful, Supportive and Positive – Ending Sexual Violence and Harassment in Higher Education Institutions

Project Collaborators
We engaged a number of stakeholders both internally and externally.

Internally
Consent Framework Policy Review Group
Sexual Health & Wellbeing Subgroup
UL Éist Counselling Service
UL Student Life

Externally
Rape Crisis Centre MidWest
Galway Rape Crisis Centre
Active*Consent
Dr Sharon Lambert
Clinical Supervisor

Key Learning Points

Effective Training: It is extremely important for members of the SDCPP to have comprehensive training so that they can understand trauma and respond appropriately.

Accessibility & Visibility: Ensuring that the panel is well publicised and easily accessible to those who need it in order to maximise its effectiveness.

Continuous Feedback: from both members of the panel and the students who use the resource. This is crucial to refine and improve the resource.

Collaboration with Services: The benefit of strong collaboration with support services internally, and external experts, has been vital in the development and implementation of this resource, as well as its ongoing success moving forward.

Confidentiality: Is key is in building and maintaining trust, which will encourage more students to come forward and seek support.

Empathy & Sensitivity: This is critical in all interactions to ensure students feel safe and supported.

Healthy Campus Process	Whole Campus Approach	Topic	Population Group
Create	Campus Environment (Facilities & Services)	Sexual Health & Wellbeing	
	Campus Culture & Communications		

