



Sarah Riding  
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Re: Paul Stewart:

Paul came to the University of Salford 20TH March 2019 to talk to first year Social Work students about both his experiences of abuse and of wider implications in respect of Safeguarding I had heard speak before and was impressed by his passion, eloquence and understanding. As the Programme Leader for the Social Work Programme at Salford I am passionate that students have the opportunity to really understand what we teach in practice, teaching about abuse and the law in relation to this has a certain impact but often students and practitioners are left with little awareness of the complexity and the wider implications in respect of the impact on families and indeed for the child as they become an adult, and of our wider responsibilities in respect of safeguarding Paul consulted about the nature of the topic in a very professional way and gave a health warning prior to his session. The session itself was absolutely superb, Paul delivered a stunning and informative session, during which he used his own story to illustrate the way children are groomed and the wider family also groomed, he demonstrated the impact not only on the child but into their adult life and on their own families. Paul supports his session with theory that helps students and professionals to understand the complex dynamics whilst ensuring the very human element of the impact of abuse is understood.

The session clearly impacted on students and their knowledge and understanding, following the session I received numerous emails commenting on how good the session was and how it had changed the understanding and awareness, the following are some of the student comments I received:

“Thank you so much for organising this felt absolutely privileged to hear Pauls story first hand - I had followed their stories when they unfolded. Made me more determined to be the best social worker I can be but also a mum”

“Thank you for organising today, it was absolutely amazing and has had a huge impact that I’m sure will last throughout my career and life.”

“Thank you for organising today it really has made an impact and is really amazing the work Paul does and how he talks to people about his experiences.”

I would have no hesitation in recommending Paul come and speak and work with organisations and individuals who work with children and young people.