

Freshers Week report!

I was expecting freshers week to be really busy, really stressful, and really tiring (and maybe a little bit fun). It turned out to be really really busy, a bit stressful in parts, very tiring, but also really exciting and inspiring.

I spent Monday "tidying up" things I've planned for the next few weeks and desperately trying to find speakers for some things. I also did the welcome lecture for the nursing school which was really good (as they now all know who I am, and liked the video – nurses tend to have a lot of problems, and often come to the advice centre). Also helped make a welcome banner and though I'm not sure whether this ever went up next year's exec can use it.

Tuesday I spent mostly on the women's/riveters' freshers' stall chatting to people and getting them to sign up. Some people were excellent and had seen us on the website and wanted to join. Others challenged whether 1 in 4 women were really victims of domestic violence, and 167 women were really raped every day, and suggested that wearing mini skirts is provocation, as well as being generally a bit offensive. It was a day of extremes. Also did another welcome lecture. Went home and wrote a debate piece for Student Direct about beauty pageants and gave a statement about the VC of Birmingham saying curvy students were a perk of the job.

Wednesday morning was spent on the stall again. Also had some case work. I showed Thelma and Louise in the afternoon (along with the cake I'd baked the night before) but spent the duration of the film back at the stall. Afterwards we discussed the issues raised which, although there were only about 15 of us, was a really positive experience.

Thursday I went to day's training in London called Abortion: Decisions and Dilemmas which was possibly the best training day I've been on. Before I went I felt alright about giving people support in making decisions but now I feel really confident that I could support someone in making a decision that they would feel confident in without being directive. I also feel that I could successfully pass on this training and have been given a good task for improving services in Manchester.

Friday is now, and so I'm doing this. I'm also typing up all the people who signed up to the Riveters, replying to a load of emails, calling back everyone who left messages, and making a banner for rant week. Also going to follow up some case work and if I get time write reports from the Domestic Abuse training I went to and the Choices one.

Phew, an exciting week all round!