



Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Newsletter
A monthly newsletter brought to you by the
Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Partnership

February 2017

Dear Partners

Just as we were about to send out this month's newsletter, we had a phone call that resulted in a rapid change to this introduction section. We have been advised today by the Department of Communities and Local Government that the bid we submitted for funding to improve support to domestic abuse survivors in Cambridgeshire was successful! The bid, worth £700,000, is a cross region collaboration of seven local authorities and will be a partnership across all areas. It includes all key specialist domestic abuse services, health provision and the police – both from a preventative, and enforcement angle in line with current national VAWG priorities.

The bid will work within the framework of the internationally recognised model of intervention known as the 'Community Coordinated Response' model and will be evidence-based against the relevant NICE guidance and standards (2014/15).

The key aims of the project are:

- To enable victims of domestic abuse and their children to be appropriately supported to be safe, and to cope, recover and eventually move on from the abuse they have experienced.
- To help ensure that victims and their children are able to remain in their own home where it is safe to do so.
- To provide Outreach workers to enable victims to access a range of existing services such as mental health support, sexual health and substance misuse providers, as applicable.
- To facilitate easier access to services for Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic and Refugee (BAMER) women and their children.
- To enable the Cambridgeshire refuges to support women who have 'No Recourse to Public Funds'
- To enable the four refuges to have capacity to support women to move into a property which is secure and adequately furnished for her and her children, whilst continuing to provide outreach to her and support her needs.

We are hugely excited about this new work and project planning will be starting with partners straight away. Look out for updates in future newsletters.

In other news, March is the month of International Women's Day (8th) March and the Women of the World (WOW) Festival. Whilst there is no festival in Cambridge this year, the main WOW Festival at London's Southbank Centre has a packed programme of events taking place over the weekend 10th – 12th March with highlights including:

- Guilty until proven Innocent - outlining what's not working in the UK criminal justice system for victims of sexual violence, before looking at other models in countries including Sweden and Iceland, to consider what kind of systems would serve women better.
- How do women experience crisis and survival? Hear from women who have been through alcoholism, addiction and mental illness, and have come out the other side
- Ending Violence Against Women and Girls – exploring what works and what doesn't

The 2017 programme is now on sale, with information on Day and Weekend Passes as well as one-off events with Sandi Toksvig and Gillian Anderson.

<https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/festivals-series/women-of-the-world?gclid=CIG60sn6kdICFc-87QodrJcGHg>

I hope you enjoy the newsletter and remember that you can submit articles to Amanda.warburton@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

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www.cambsdasv.org.uk



Training update

A Joint training offer for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough has now been developed – Please see our website for details of levels and training available

http://www.cambsdasv.org.uk/website/training_1/86050

Next available courses

- ❖ Domestic Abuse Risk Assessment (Level 3) – 9th May
- ❖ Introduction to Domestic Abuse (Level 2) - 28th & 29th June
- ❖ Children Experiencing Domestic Violence (Level 2) - 2nd March
- ❖ Managing Domestic Abuse in Families (Level 4) - 21st February, 13th June
To book: <http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/learntogether/social>

- ❖ Introduction to the effects of Domestic Abuse (Peterborough) 21st April 2017
<http://www.safeguardingpeterborough.org.uk/children-board/professionals/training/>

The [Safeguarding Adults Domestic Abuse course](#) is 1.5 days and attendees need to have completed the half day training on Making Safeguarding Personal before they attend.

Sample letters for claiming Legal Aid

In order to claim legal aid in a divorce or separation where domestic abuse is a factor, claimants need to provide one piece of written evidence of domestic violence. The Gov.uk website has sample letters that claimants can use with their lawyer to help get the evidence needed. There are also sample letters that can be used by people or organisations who are asked to provide evidence of domestic abuse in a legal aid case.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/sample-letters-to-get-evidence-of-domestic-violence>

Meanwhile, a letter signed by 16 police and crime commissioners tells the health secretary that some GPs are charging the fees for a document that allows victims to access legal aid.

Tony Lloyd, the Greater Manchester police and crime commissioner, said: “That victims of domestic abuse are even being asked to prove they are victims before they can access legal aid is insulting, insensitive and wholly unhelpful.

“It should not be a privilege for victims of domestic abuse to gain legal aid. There should be no further burden on victims to chase a letter to verify their claim. The government needs to scrap this fee by bringing the service under NHS funding or – better still – scrap the need for the letter entirely.”

Due to recent changes to legislation, victims of domestic abuse now have to provide a piece of evidence – such as a GP’s letter – to prove the abuse before they can access legal aid.

Not all GPs are charging for this letter, campaigners say, but some have required fees of up to £175 from victims who have endured rape, beatings or mental abuse by their partner.

The [letter](#) by police and crime commissioners also calls on Liz Truss, the justice secretary, to scrap the requirement for the letter altogether.

Cambridge Rape Crisis Centre is recruiting helpline and email support volunteers

Cambridge Rape Crisis Centre is a local charity providing specialist emotional support to survivors of sexual violence, and working to end rape and child sexual abuse. We are looking for female **helpline and email support volunteers** to provide confidential emotional support via email and/or the phone to female survivors of rape and sexual abuse of all ages and backgrounds.

We are looking for women who are:

- Empathetic, non-judgmental and good listeners
- Able to commit to volunteering for at least 18 months and a minimum of three shifts a month
- Able to maintain confidentiality and anonymity
- Open to discussing and learning about rape and sexual violence, and its impacts on women and girls

In order to volunteer, you must be:

- available to volunteer during at least one of our opening times (Wednesday 7pm-9.30pm, Thursday 7pm-9.30pm, Saturday 3pm-5.30pm and Sunday 10am-12.30pm)
- available all year round (i.e if you are a student you need to be available in the holidays)
- intending to volunteer for at least 18 months

Successful applicants will train on **Sundays 10am-4pm from 19th March to 11th June, excluding bank holiday weekends.**

We can contribute to childcare costs and reasonable travel expenses to enable women to volunteer on the helpline/email service. We especially welcome applications from BME women, disabled women and LBT (lesbian, bisexual and trans) women.

For more information contact volunteering@cambridgerapecrisis.org.uk / 01223 313551

Disrespect Nobody campaign update

The second phase of the Home Office Disrespect Nobody campaign will run from 2 February until the end of March 2017. The campaign is focussed on digital and mobile first and will also run on TV aimed at young people, such as The Brit Awards and the Big Bang Theory, on radio, Spotify, cinema and online including catch up TV, X-Box, YouTube and Snapchat. The first TV advert will run in the evening of Thursday 2 February in the Hollyoaks advertising break.

The aim of the Disrespect NoBody campaign is to prevent young people, both boys and girls aged 12 to 18 years old from becoming perpetrators and victims of abusive relationships.

For 2017 the focus of the campaign will be consent and sexting, which are both issues where many young people need more education and information. The campaign advertising directs young people to the website www.disrespectnobody.co.uk where they can get further information and signposts them to organisations who can provide support.

A range of partner support materials are available to help you use the resources with the young people that you work with and promote it within your local area. These include a teaching resource with lesson plans, posters, online adverts and social media assets. There are also materials developed specifically for LGBT young people.

Please click on the link below to download the partner brief and campaign materials.

[https://s3-eu-west-](https://s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/assets.smartcdn.co.uk/docs/Campaign_materials_for_Disrespect_NoBody_2017.pdf)

[1.amazonaws.com/assets.smartcdn.co.uk/docs/Campaign_materials_for_Disrespect_NoBody_2017.pdf](https://s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/assets.smartcdn.co.uk/docs/Campaign_materials_for_Disrespect_NoBody_2017.pdf)



Cambridgeshire Bobby Scheme Seeks Public Votes

The Cambridgeshire Bobby Scheme is urging local residents to vote for them in the Hopkins Homes Cambridgeshire Charity Vote with the hope of securing an award of up to £7,000.

The public is being asked to vote for their preferred charity from a choice of six shortlisted organisations. The three causes who receive the most votes will be presented with donations of £7,000, £2,000 or £1,000 depending on the level of support they receive.

All you have to do is between today February 6th and February 24th, click onto Hopkins Homes website to www.hopkinshomescharity.co.uk, click on Vote Now, tick The Bobby Scheme and add your postcode [to prove you live in Cambridgeshire].

The vote is a fantastic opportunity for you to support our work. We are always seeking funding to continue our service and should we be awarded the £7,000 it will make an enormous difference to helping vulnerable people – the elderly, the vulnerable, the disabled and domestic abuse victims, feel safer in their home.

PLEASE do support us and vote, and circulate to all your colleagues, friends and relations and ask them to vote for us as well.

THANK YOU

Shirley Simpson
Trust Manager
Cambridgeshire Police Shrievally Trust
The Bobby Scheme

Red Triangle Campaign against FGM

The Red Triangle Campaign aims to help eradicate Female Genital Mutilation FGM/C in a generation. 200 million women and girls have undergone female genital mutilation. Not only as a nation but as human beings we must be serious about combating this globally.

The campaign involves wearing a small downward facing red triangle to symbolise solidarity against Female Genital Mutilation. Carrying out Female Genital Mutilation for no medical reason is a deplorable crime which violates girls and women's human rights. It deprives rights to basic health, freedom and their human rights to be women. It must be stopped.

<https://www.freedomcharity.org.uk/what-we-do/red-triangle/>



Policing and Crime Bill receives Royal Assent

The Government marked a major milestone in its police reform agenda on 31 January as the Policing and Crime Bill received Royal Assent. The Policing and Crime Act 2017 will enhance the democratic accountability of police forces and fire and rescue services, improve the efficiency and effectiveness of emergency services through closer collaboration, and build public confidence in policing.

It will strengthen the protections for persons under investigation by, or who come into contact with, the police; ensure that the police and other law enforcement agencies have the powers they need to prevent, detect and investigate crime; and further safeguard children and young people from sexual exploitation.

The Act includes provisions which will:

- Increase in the maximum sentence for stalking involving fear of violence from five to ten years' imprisonment.
- Amend the Firearms Acts to better protect the public by closing loopholes that can be exploited by criminals and terrorists, and by issuing statutory guidance to ensure that the robust processes we have in place for assessing suitability to hold a firearms certificate are applied consistently.
- Improve protection for victims of forced marriage and give them more confidence to come forward by providing them with lifelong anonymity.

RCN Features Domestic Abuse

The Royal College of Nursing (RCN) magazine featured domestic abuse in its January edition, including stories from RCN members who themselves have experienced domestic abuse as well as how the industry responds to patients who are victims.

<http://edition.pagesuite-professional.co.uk/launch.aspx?eid=57950d3d-1a57-4ef6-be84-41b4dd2530ea>

Domestic abuse in pregnancy

Domestic abuse often features in television programmes and a recent episode of *Call the Midwife* had a very powerful incident of physical abuse of a pregnant woman. The episode received criticism for being shown in a pre-watershed slot and some viewers felt it was uncomfortable and difficult to see. Though the programme is based in a time when domestic abuse was handled very differently, research shows that over a third of domestic abuse starts or gets worse during pregnancy.

NICE Guidance advises Midwives should make enquiries about domestic abuse as routine
<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/PH50/chapter/1-Recommendations>

Our website has information for women who are experiencing domestic abuse during pregnancy
<http://www.cambsdasv.org.uk/website/pregnancy/266150>

New campaign to raise awareness of Sexting

A recent survey of 835 10 to 17-year-olds carried out by the Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board revealed that 31 per cent think sending an intimate photo is safe and 15 per cent still believe possessing, taking, showing and sending them is not a crime. Head of Service for the Peterborough Safeguarding Board Jo Procter said: "This survey evidences that children and young people in Peterborough are still unclear about the risks of sharing intimate personal images.

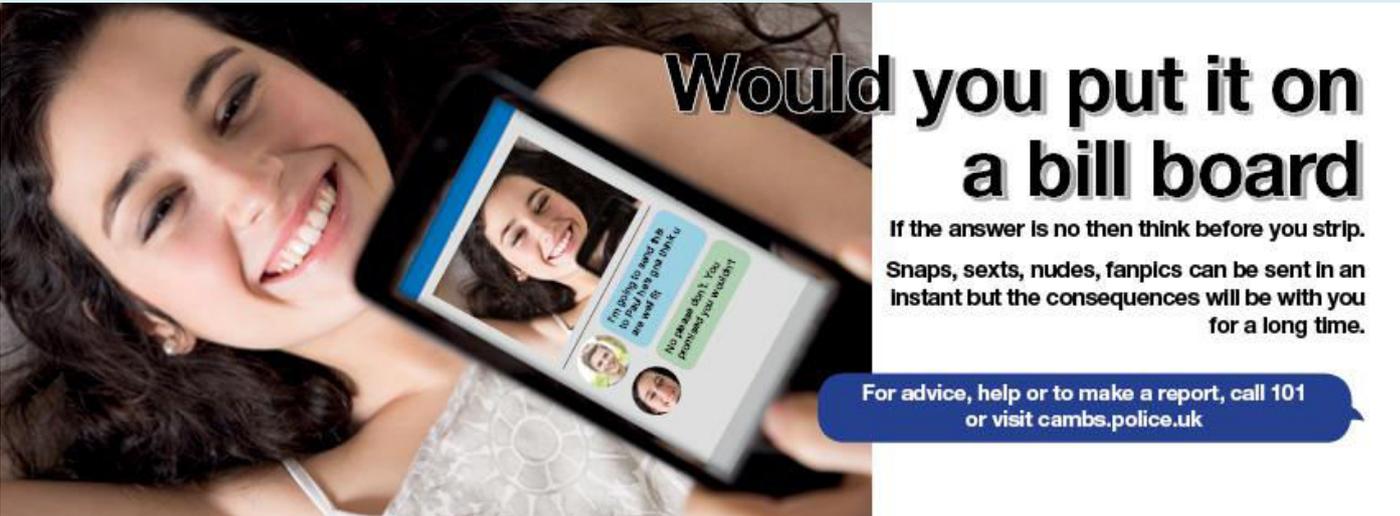
"The Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board will work with partner agencies including schools, health, voluntary services and the police to help educate both children, young people and their parents or carers about how to stay safe online." The force has created posters encouraging young people to think before they share a private image and asks whether they truly know who they're speaking to online.



Who's hiding behind those messages?

It's easy for people to lie about their age, sex or profession online.
Do you really know who you are talking to?

For advice, help or to make a report, call 101 or visit camb.police.uk



Would you put it on a bill board

If the answer is no then think before you strip.
Snaps, sexts, nudes, fanpics can be sent in an instant but the consequences will be with you for a long time.

For advice, help or to make a report, call 101 or visit camb.police.uk

Enhanced support for young victims of sexual violence

POLICE and Crime Commissioner Jason Ablewhite has today announced a new partnership with a locally-based national charity to improve the services available for young victims of sexual violence.

The Commissioner and Embrace Child Victims of Crime (CVOC) will be jointly funding a dedicated counselling post to help young victims cope and recover from their experience.

The Counsellor will be based at The Elms, Cambridgeshire's new Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC), at Hinchingsbrooke Hospital, in Huntingdon. The new facility provides a dedicated service to all victims of sexual assault, whether they want to report to police or not. It provides victims with a safe place to receive medical aftercare, forensic examinations, support, and to anonymously report sexual assaults.

Embrace Child Victims of Crime (CVOC) is the only national children's charity that is solely focussed on helping young victims of crime to recover from their ordeals, providing practical and emotional support up to the age of 18 years.

Support at The Elms is available 24/7 to anyone who has experienced sexual abuse by calling 0800 193 5434. Services at The Elms are provided by a number of partners, including Cambridge Rape Crisis, Peterborough Rape Crisis, Embrace, Peterborough Women's Aid, Victims' and Witness Hub, Cambridgeshire Constabulary and Mountain Healthcare Ltd.

The counselling service is available for all child victims (aged 8-19) of sexual violence and where required, victims of domestic abuse.

For more information about Embrace CVOC, visit www.embracecvoc.org.uk

Empowering Women Event

To celebrate International Women's Day 2017, Cambridgeshire Constabulary and The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner would like to invite you to a free event at Allia Future Business Centre, Peterborough on 8th March 2017.

Empowering Women is an opportunity for women to come together from all walks of life to celebrate their contribution to the local community, wherever they live and whatever they do.

From inspirational stories, to the latest advice on issues affecting women today, the event will be an opportunity to network, stay safe and support each other.

Guests are welcome to arrive between 4:30pm and 5pm for drinks, with speakers starting at 5pm. There will be time to network and visit information stands. Following the speakers at 7pm, refreshments and light snacks will be provided. The event ends at 8pm.

To book a place, please use the following link; <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/empowering-women-tickets-31828710530>

A full agenda can be found following the link above.

Please note, this is a women's only event.

Space Project funded for another year

The Space Project, working with women who have had their children placed in permanent care, has received funding for another year. To date, there have been 50 referrals (associated with 141 children removed at the point of referral) of which 39 were appropriate and 31 of these women have engaged with the project workers. There has been no recurrent removal of children since the launch of Space Project in December 2015.

As Space is one of the few projects working with this cohort of women in the UK, the project has received national recognition and interim findings are being presented at an event at Kings College in March.

If you have a client that you think would benefit from the Space Project, information about the project and how to make a referral is now on the County Council's website [here](#).

Below are some quotes from women who have received support from the Space Project.

“Even when things were really bad, you carried on coming to see me and sometimes you would take me out of the house to talk ‘cos it was too busy at home with loads of people there. I am more confident and now I’m seeing a counsellor for having my baby taken away.”

“I was really all over the place when you first met me. I have settled down now and you have given me more direction and order. You were very concerned about my physical and mental health, and I wasn’t really bothered about it, but went along with you to the GP’s. Good job I did!! We worked together with the nurse at GP’s to get my diabetes more stable, and I am now engaging with mental health. You put up with me when I dig my heels in and are always patiently waiting for me to get a grip and we move on.”

Partner Link Workers

Who are we? We used to be called Women Safety Officers; the name was changed because we are heading towards working with same sex victims and new partners of males or females that have been convicted of an IPV (intimate partner violence) offence. As part of their community order, suspended sentence order or as one of their licence conditions when released from prison, they are given a requirement to attend the BBR (Building Better Relationships) programme. We also work with females whose ex-partners have been referred to the BBR programme by the courts when DA has been an issue identified during child contact proceedings.

Who do we work for? We work for BENCH CRC (Community Rehabilitation Company) which is the private sector of the probation service however we still work with victims and new partners of men that are supervised by the public sector; National Probation Service. BENCH demonstrates the geography in terms of which counties it covers; they are Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire and Hertfordshire. Each county will have their own Partner Link Workers attached to the programme.

What is the Building Better Relationship Programme? What does it do, what are its aims? It is a programme for male perpetrators of domestic abuse and BENCH works together with other agencies to manage a service user's risk to a known person, public and children. There are seven groups running across Cambridgeshire, three in Huntingdon and four in Peterborough and its aim is to assist the men to achieve a better understanding of why they use violence and aggression in their intimate relationships, what are the attitudes and beliefs that underpin these behaviours. It also looks at what factors reinforce and maintain their use of these behaviours in that context so that we can reduce re-offending, promote the safety of victims, future partners and their children.

What do we do? Once a referral has been completed by the Responsible Officer (RO) who is managing the case or CAF/CASS it will be processed and allocated to the PLW that covers where the RO is based. We will attempt to make contact when it is safe to do so with the victim or new partner. The men on the programme are told that contact will be initiated however they are not told if the contact has been successful or not and this is due to safeguarding. The work that PLWs do with a client is completely confidential from the service user and we are with the client from the start to the end of the service user's order.

We will arrange to go and meet the client; it can be in their own home if it is safe to do so or in a public place. We will give them information about the programme and will keep them updated when the men reach certain points and also discuss the service user's behaviours past and present so that we are able to assist the Responsible Officer and other agencies to manage the risk that the service user poses. We use a multi agency approach so we share relevant information/concerns with the RO, facilitators of the programme, social services, IDVA's, CAF/CASS and the police. We also risk assess using the Safe Lives DASH form and if appropriate will refer to MARAC. We signpost the clients to local and national support agencies, and also do safety planning and practical support when needed.

For any more information about the programme or PLW please phone programmes team at the Bench CRC Hub: 0345 6014390