



**Cambridgeshire
& Peterborough**
Domestic Abuse & Sexual
Violence Partnership

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

November 2020

Hi All!

We are writing this to you in “Lockdown 2”.

Please remember, all our domestic abuse and sexual violence specialist services are operational, and as well as there for victim/survivors, they are also on hand to be able to give advice to professionals. It is important to us that as professionals, you have access to advice and guidance and how you can help those you are working with.

25th November is the International Day for the Eradication of Violence Against Women, and marks the beginning of 16 days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence. “White Ribbon Day” this year is more important than ever, with significant increases in reporting of violence, harassment and abuse during the coronavirus pandemic. It is vital that we work together to prevent violence and make sure our communities and homes are safe for everyone. Please help us by sharing any relevant posts on social media, having conversations about gender based violence, and reminding your colleagues where support and help is available. Share this newsletter far and wide!

We are becoming more aware of victims of Domestic Abuse who have taken their own lives. Working with the Suicide Prevention Group, all of our specialist frontline staff will receive training funded by Public Health for specialist training. We will be increasing awareness of suicide and what you may be able to do in our upcoming DA Champions sessions in January. Email Amanda.warburton@cambridgeshire.gov.uk, if you are interested in becoming a champion.

We appreciate every single of you who are working to improve the lives those suffering domestic abuse and sexual violence, both directly and indirectly in your roles.

Vickie Crompton & Julia Cullum
DASV Partnership Managers



What would he say if you asked if he was safe at home?



**Pets are often harmed or even killed by domestic abusers
Many victims will stay with their abuser to protect their pet**

For more information visit www.cambsdasv.org.uk



Pets are part of the family, but this means they can also be unheard victims of domestic abuse.

Research from Dog's Trust in 2019 shows that, 89% of professionals working in domestic abuse who responded to a survey said they knew of cases where a pet has also been abused and 49% knew of cases where a pet had been killed.

Indeed, many victims will not leave their abuser as they are too scared about what harm the abuser will do to their pet. This fear is exploited by the abuser to keep their victim under their control – 'If you leave I will kill your dog' is a very effective way of making someone too frightened to leave.

This control can also manifest in other ways such as displaying jealousy about how much the victim cares about the pet, restricting access to food and veterinary care (either physically or by financial abuse), or as a way to turn children against the victim ('Your Mum made me give the dog away')

Those of us with pets will know they can often be a great comfort in times of distress and many people offload their worries to their beloved furry friend, safe in the knowledge that they won't tell anyone or answer back. But domestic abusers can view this closeness as another opportunity to exert their power and control over the victim and the household. In cases of domestic homicide where a pet is also killed, the public are often more horrified by the death of the pet than the human victim.

Fleeing to a refuge with a pet in tow is not really an option – so how can victims get help to keep their pets safe? Dog's Trust run the Freedom Project in various locations across the UK and are launching a scheme in Cambridgeshire in January 2021. The project uses volunteer foster carers to look after the animals in their own home until the owner is able to take them back (this could be once they have moved house or made the current property more secure).

Sarah Rowe, Freedom Project Coordinator for East Anglia at Dogs Trust said:

"Alongside suffering physical abuse, we know that dogs are also often used by perpetrators as a means to coerce and control their partners. This is incredibly frightening for survivors and can range from perpetrators stopping their partner from accessing vet care for their dogs or spending money on dog food, through to repeatedly threatening to harm, kill or 'get rid' of their dogs.

"As many refuges are unable to accept pets, survivors are understandably concerned about their dog's safety when they need to escape. Therefore we have recently expanded our Freedom Project into East Anglia and we urgently need the animal loving public of Cambridgeshire to come forward to volunteer as foster carers. We are looking for volunteers who are at home during the day and have some experience caring for dogs"

If you think you can help or would like more information on the service, you can visit

www.dogstrustfreedomproject.org.uk, call 0808 196 6240, or you can apply online via this link:

<https://www.moretodogtrust.org.uk/volunteer>.

Domestic Abuse Champions

The Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Champions Network is an opportunity to become involved in Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence related issues and be the link between your organisation and the work of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership. Champions will promote discussion and best practice around the issue of domestic abuse and sexual violence affecting users of the service, help address local barriers and identify improvements and provide support to peers when working with adults, children and young people and families affected by domestic abuse or sexual violence.

Quarterly Networking events will be held in each district, which will include bitesize training in a range of specialisms. In January we will have CPSL MIND coming to talk about suicide prevention, and a presentation about Private Rented Housing and its impact on DA from Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse.

These will be held on MS Teams:

11th Jan – 11am-12.30pm,

13th Jan – 1pm-2.30pm

21st Jan – 1pm-2.30pm

Online Support Hub for those Supporting Others

<https://avaproject.org.uk/covid-19-resources>

The focus of this resource hub is on supporting yourself when supporting others (especially in the areas of DASV). Covid-18 has led to increasing pressure on the sector and those who work in it.

Looking after yourself is more important than ever. This is especially true if you are a survivor yourself. AVA have created this resource hub with information, toolkits, guidance and advice around supporting survivors during Covid-19, and managing your own wellbeing at the same time.

Facebook Live Surgery

Cambridgeshire Constabulary are leading on monthly Facebook Surgery on topics of domestic abuse, whereby Facebook users can ask questions. A multi agency “behind the scenes” panel respond to ensure a collaborative response.

The next event is on **Friday 27th November, 5.50pm-7pm, with the focus being Domestic Abuse and Child Abuse.**

Court Arrangements During Lockdown

Please find an update regarding the arrangements under the second lockdown. The Victim Services website will be kept up to date with court arrangements.

- **Mags and Crown Courts remain open.** This will be kept under review as the 2nd lockdown comes into force and as the 2nd wave of the pandemic develops. The position at the moment is very much business as usual.
- Anyone involved in a court case is **classed as key workers**, this includes parties and witnesses. This should also provide them access to priority Covid testing to ensure that cases are not delayed.
- There is a need to **keep the footfall within courts to an absolute minimum** and virtual platforms will continue to be used, where appropriate, to help this. However the Courts are asking victims/witnesses to be asked to **keep supporters to an absolute minimum**. It is appreciated that this needs to be balanced, dependant on the victim/witness needs.
- **The Witness Service** is remaining in court -subject to their volunteers being risk assessed. Again this will be kept under review.
- The need for social distancing, additional cleaning, wearing masks within the court building etc will be being reinforced across the Board to ensure that the court estates remain Covid secure.

The Lord Chief Justice and Senior President of Tribunals: new COVID-19 restrictions for England said yesterday: "It is vital for the well-being of the country that the administration of justice continues to operate. The legal profession, **the parties**, jurors, **witnesses**, judges, magistrates and court staff are **all key workers**, vital to the continued running of the courts and tribunals in this proposed period of renewed significant restrictions. Our experience since March has left us much better prepared. HMCTS will continue to follow and implement public health advice to reduce risk."

Innovate & Cultivate Fund

The aim of the fund is to support initiatives that strengthen our communities and reduce pressure on County Council services, thereby giving a return on investment. Council services that are inviting applications are adult social care and children's services.

The fund is open to voluntary, community and social enterprise sector organisations based in and outside of Cambridgeshire, and public sector organisations in Cambridgeshire. Please note that projects serving Peterborough residents are not eligible.

The 1st February funding round is for 'Cultivate' grant applications (£2,000-£15,000) for projects that build community support networks for vulnerable people.

Pre-application advice

We strongly advise organisations to seek pre-application advice on their project ideas before submitting an application. Bookings are now open for telephone advice appointments on Thursday 10th December between 9:30am-12:00pm and 1:00pm – 3:00pm. These 15 minute 1-1 appointments must be pre-booked and are available on a first come first served basis. Please [book here](#).

Cultivate Project Ideas

Do you want to do something for your community but need some inspiration to start a project? We've developed application guidance for 3 new Cultivate project ideas - **Mobile Warden Schemes, Community Youth Worker and Digital Inclusion Projects** – that can help people to remain independent and active within their community, encourage volunteering and complement more costly Council services. We also continue to invite applications for **Timebanks, Good Neighbour Schemes, Dementia-Friendly Communities and Men's Sheds**. You can find guidance on how to apply for a start-up grant for each of these projects [here](#).

Applications and further information about fund priorities and criteria may be found on the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation (CCF) [website](#).

Young People's IDVA

We would like to inform you that from Monday 9th November we have a new addition to the Cambs and Peterborough IDVA Team- Poppy Bullen will be our new Young Persons IDVA working alongside our existing YP IDVA Danielle Barr. Please bear with us as Poppy settles in to her induction period.

The role of the YP IDVA is to work with young people aged 13-19 years, who are experiencing abuse in their own intimate relationship by a partner or ex- partner (in addition, young people aged up to up to 25 years who have been looked after children or they are diagnosed with a learning, mental or physical disability).

A referral requires victim consent, verbal or otherwise.

Danielle will cover the unitary council areas of:

- Cambridge City,
- South Cambridgeshire and
- Huntingdonshire.

Poppy will cover:

- Peterborough City
- Fenland
- East Cambridgeshire.

Contact details for both YP IDVA's are:

Danielle.barr@cambridgeshire.gov.uk -work mobile 07442 043 073

Poppy.bullen@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Any questions, please contact Julia.cullum@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Department for Work & Pensions

Touchbase is produced quarterly by DWP and is available on GOV.UK providing news and articles from across government for advisers, employers and organisations that help people find jobs. During the current Coronavirus Pandemic, it is being emailed on a weekly basis with the latest roundup of announcements to anyone who has subscribed. These editions are not being published on the [Touchbase website](#) at the moment. Anyone can sign up to receive these updates - to sign up [click on this link](#) and enter your details.

Touchbase is being produced weekly and is being circulated to subscribers every Friday. Although these provide a roundup of announcements and are useful for organisations they will not be published on GOV.UK  [Coronavirus Special - 23 October 2020](#)

Professionals Adult Safeguarding Survey

This is a completely anonymous survey that should only take 10 to 15 minutes to complete. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Adult's Partnership Board would like to give you the opportunity to share your thoughts and experiences surrounding your work in the field of adult safeguarding. From the information that you give us, by answering this short survey, we hope to find out; not only 'what adult safeguarding means' to you as a professional, but also what your experiences are of working with adults at risk and their families.

The completion of the survey is completely anonymous and the findings will only be used, by the Adult Safeguarding Partnership Board, to look at identifying; what we (professionals) know about adult safeguarding, any gaps in understanding and training needs, where to aim future resources for safeguarding awareness events and to help to further inform the self-assessment tool (currently being completed by safeguarding leads within each agency to highlight areas of strength and areas of development for adult safeguarding duties and responsibilities).

Once all of the data has been analysed there will be briefings for professionals on what we have found and discussion within the Adult Safeguarding Partnership Board Groups as to how to take any recommendations forward.

The survey monkey link can be found here <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KJZR3B3> and the survey will be open until *Monday 1 February 2021*

For Baby's Sake

Two families supported by For Baby's Sake generously agreed to speak to a journalist with great support from their practitioners. Their personal stories are compelling and the piece below also explains in words and numbers how the programme works with particularly vulnerable families and how it is empowering them to break intergenerational cycles of traumatic adversity and create different futures for themselves and their babies.

Here's a link to the article: <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2020/oct/28/i-needed-fix-myself-kids-breaking-cycle-domestic-abuse>

Can you help make Christmas special for children affected by serious crimes?

Embrace Child Victims Of Crime (Embrace CVOC) has launched its annual Dear Santa campaign to make Christmas magical for hundreds of children whose lives have been torn apart by serious crime.

Dear Santa aims to ensure children who have suffered trauma through physical, sexual or emotional abuse or neglect, have witnessed violence in their home or who have lost a parent or close family member through homicide get a gift they really wish for from Santa this Christmas.

But Embrace CVOC really needs your help. Do you know a family whose children deserve to go on Santa's very special Christmas list this year?

Anne Campbell, chief executive of Embrace CVOC, said: "We need the help of serving police officers and those who work for other statutory agencies and charities to identify those children and families who would benefit from a present from Santa this Christmas. "We are helping Santa write a very special Christmas list for children who have suffered terrible trauma as a result of sexual abuse or exploitation, violence, neglect, or who have lost their mum, dad, brother, sister or close family member through homicide.

They will then receive a gift under the tree that they'll really treasure this year. "You will know and work with children who have had a terribly traumatic time and would really benefit from our Christmas appeal.

Just five minutes of your time could make all the difference to these families this Christmas. "We treat all information in the strictest confidence and in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

"Those children who go on our list get to choose a gift up to the value of £30 that they'd really like to receive from Santa this year and the public get to buy those gifts knowing they are making a real difference to children's lives."

Embrace CVOC needs your referrals as soon as possible. To find out more about the Dear Santa campaign visit

<https://embracecvoc.org.uk/dear-santa/>

SWAN Project – Fenland

Swan project aims to work with women who have suffered domestic violence and we are working with Refuge outreach and the refuge to support these ladies to attend.

We will be providing Yoga with chat sessions after and confidence building courses.

The yoga is due to start next month and the courses in the new year, for more details please contact Lauren Bremner, Health and Active Lifestyle Officer – lbremner@fenland.gov.uk

Survey for professionals: Developing an app for children who have experienced domestic abuse

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/7ZRPPL7>

AVA (Against Violence & Abuse) are looking to develop an app for children who have experienced domestic abuse – please complete the above survey.