



**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

**January 2020**

**Happy New Year to all our partners and colleagues**

**While the world is deciding whether Brexit or Mexit is more important, we're bringing you news from the world of domestic abuse and sexual violence.**

Some great news this month that Stalking Protection Orders have been introduced to protect victims of stalking and harassment – see page 7 for more information.

We also have some local good news, with Cambridge City Council achieving Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance Accreditation status – see page 9 for the full story.

February marks Sexual Violence Awareness Week from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> and we are collaborating with Cambridge and Peterborough Rape Crisis and Anglia Ruskin University to 'Light up the Dark'. Join us outside the main ARU building on East Road, Cambridge, on Tuesday 4th February from 5-8pm where we will be giving out mini torches as well as information about sexual violence support at both ARU and in the county and highlighting some myths about sexual violence too. The event will also be a celebration of Saskia Jones who was a volunteer for Cambridge Rape Crisis and was killed in the London Bridge attack before Christmas.

Looking ahead to March we are excited to be hosting the launch of the Whole Housing Approach Domestic Abuse Toolkit event. This project has been running in collaboration with Standing Together and the toolkit is the first to consider all housing tenure types and the options needed to achieve safe, stable housing. See the flyer on page 12 for the launch event on 17<sup>th</sup> March – open to all professionals.

**Julia Cullum**  
**Partnership Manager**



## **DASV Champions Dates and Survey**

Happy New Year to all our Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Champions

The dates for the remainder of 2020 are below and we've set up a short survey about the sessions so far, and plans for future ones, that should only take a few minutes to complete

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/PKBXS/>

### **April 2020 – Police and the Criminal Justice System**

City/South 9<sup>th</sup> April, 10.00 – 12.00 Arbury Community Centre, Campkin Road, Cambridge, CB4 2LD

Hunts: 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 11.30 – 13.30 (note change to usual time) Stanton House, Stanton Way, Huntingdon PE29 6XL

Fenland: 27<sup>th</sup> April, 11.00 – 13.00, March Community Centre, 34 Station Road, March, PE15 8LE

East Cambs: 28<sup>th</sup> April, 10.00-12.00, Centre 33 office, Centre E, Barton Road, Ely, CB7 4DE

Peterborough: 20<sup>th</sup> April, 10.00 – 12.00, Crosskeys Homes, Shrewsbury Avenue, Woodston, Peterborough, PE2 7BZ

### **July 2020 – Spiritual Abuse**

City/South: 7<sup>th</sup> July, 10.00 – 12.00 Arbury Community Centre, Campkin Road, Cambridge, CB4 2LD

Hunts: 9<sup>th</sup> July, 10.00 – 12.00 Stanton House, Stanton Way, Huntingdon PE29 6XL

Fenland: 13<sup>th</sup> July, 11.00 – 13.00, March Community Centre, 34 Station Road, March, PE15 8LE

East Cambs: 21<sup>st</sup> July, 10.00 – 12.00 Centre 33 office, Centre E, Barton Road, Ely, CB7 4DE

Peterborough: 20<sup>th</sup> July, 10.00 – 12.00, Crosskeys Homes, Shrewsbury Avenue, Woodston, Peterborough, PE2 7BZ

### **Oct 2020 – Substance Misuse**

Hunts: 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 10.00 – 12.00 Stanton House, Stanton Way, Huntingdon PE29 6XL

City/South: 5<sup>th</sup> October, 10.30 – 13.00 Arbury Community Centre, Campkin Road, Cambridge, CB4 2LD

Fenland: 12<sup>th</sup> October, 10.00 – 12.00, March Community Centre, 34 Station Road, March, PE15 8LE

East Cambs: 6<sup>th</sup> October, 11.00 -13.00, Centre 33 office, Centre E, Barton Road, Ely, CB7 4DE

Peterborough: 8<sup>th</sup> October, 10.00 – 12.00, Crosskeys Homes, Shrewsbury Avenue, Woodston, Peterborough, PE2 7BZ

**To book a place on the sessions, please email [dasvchampions@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:dasvchampions@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)**

## **Roma Safeguarding Workshop, Wisbech**

**Date:** Wednesday 12 February 2020

**Time:** 09:30 - 12:30

**Location:** Thomas Clarkson Academy, Corporation Road, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, PE13 2SE

**Event Fee:** Base Price - FREE

Roma Support Group are the leading national Roma expert organisation. They will be leading this workshop.

A wide range of practitioners are dealing with an increasing number of safeguarding cases which involve East European Roma families. The often complex family cases involve: homelessness, child poverty, neglect, children out of education, substance misuse etc.

This kind of workshop can make a real difference to your engagement with Roma families. Better understanding promotes confidence and better decisions. This is further augmented by having relevant case studies and practical engagement tools to hand.

### **Who should attend?**

Children's services including adoption and fostering teams, Adult social services, Family intervention and support services, Sure Start/Children's Centres, Schools, Education welfare services, Social housing, Community health services including safeguarding leads, Mental health services, Community police, Youth services including Youth Offending Services, Probation, voluntary organisations, etc.

### **What will you get out of it?**

- Consolidated knowledge of the Roma community
- An understanding of barriers experienced by Roma community members in accessing services
- An understanding of cultural differences, tradition and taboos, and the impact these have in the safeguarding context
- An understanding of key challenges when working with Roma people
- An outline action plan for working with Roma people as part of local safeguarding strategies

If you have any queries, please contact Sue Hay, Parallel Lives Roma Project Worker (e) [sue.hay@eelga.gov.uk](mailto:sue.hay@eelga.gov.uk) (m) 07920-257-964.

[Register Online](#)

## My Working Week in a refuge

A Child Support Worker working for the charity Refuge in a Cambridgeshire women's refuge recently wrote an article for The Guardian about what it's like to work in a women's refuge at Christmas.

### Monday

Mothers are often overwhelmed when they come into our refuge. My job as a child support worker is about giving families the confidence they will be safe here. Survivors of domestic abuse have had so much taken away from them, so they need to feel their life is still as regular as it can be.

Today I have a one-to-one session with an eight-year-old boy. He feels lost without his friends and is directing his anger towards his mum, so I refer him to a counselling support agency. I also meet with the mother to offer parenting support. I explain that children often need to vent their frustrations and her son is struggling to come to terms with changes he has no control over.

### Tuesday

Our refuge receives a referral from a mother in distress. Her abusive husband is constantly checking on her and she only has a short window of time where she can talk safely. She's been made to believe that she has nowhere to turn emotionally or financially, and is desperate to protect her two-year-old son.

Fortunately we have a room available, so with the support of our operations team we arrange a safe place and time to meet the family the following day. We use a code word to ensure continued safety and instruct the mother to turn off the location settings on her mobile phone.

### Wednesday

I greet the family following their 90-minute journey to the refuge. The mother is in tears and they've only been able to bring a handful of belongings. I ask what the little boy's favourite toys are and I make up his bed with dinosaur-print bedding. The mother is able to choose some clothes from our donations. She cries and apologises over and over again. With Christmas approaching, she feels so guilty that many of her son's belongings have been left behind. I understand her pain but tell her she's done the best thing for her family. They will be safe here and we will work together to make Christmas special.

### Thursday

I see a six-year-old boy in the afternoon who is very upset. He says they have been making Christmas decorations at school, but as our refuge doesn't have a chimney he's worried Santa won't be able to reach him. I reassure him that Santa will always be able to find him and spend the afternoon building a makeshift chimney from cardboard boxes and brick wallpaper. The chimney takes pride of place in the communal lounge, with twinkling lights and stockings to hang from the mantle.

Friday

I meet with a new family. The eldest son, a 12-year-old boy, stepped in to protect his mum when she was attacked by her partner. The incident has left the family shaken, but the child is relieved that he doesn't have to worry about his mother being hurt anymore.

Few of us can imagine what it's like for a young child to see their parent being abused. It disappoints me that there's so little support available to children affected by domestic abuse. More than 300 children are expected to be in our refuges this Christmas and roles like mine are scarce.

But I'm glad I can be there for families: I'm a friendly face they can always turn to. Often just talking about the people and the things they miss is enough for the time being. I feel proud of the work we do.

And on a related note, this huge pile of presents was collected by Ramsey Spinning Primary School and donated to children in refuges in the Huntingdon and Fenland area just before Christmas.



## **The Hampton Trust are now recruiting for facilitators to deliver CARA across Norfolk and Cambridgeshire.**

If you are looking for a new challenge and want to be part of delivering an innovative response to tackling domestic abuse, then this could be the role for you. This is an exciting opportunity to join The Hampton Trust and take a key role in setting up and delivering Project CARA (Cautioning and Relationship Abuse) across Norfolk and Cambridgeshire. CARA was originally developed as a partnership between The Hampton Trust, Cambridge University and Hampshire Constabulary. It targets standard & medium risk domestic abuse offenders by offering two domestic abuse awareness raising workshops as part of a conditional caution issued by the police. CARA has expanded to other areas of the UK and we are working in partnership with Norfolk and Cambridgeshire Police Forces to deliver CARA workshops across these areas. 2000 participants have already engaged in the workshops and refer to CARA as 'life changing'.

We are looking for skilled practitioners who have experience in delivering group work, a knowledge of domestic abuse issues and an aptitude and ability to engage individuals from a range of backgrounds.

Full training will be given, providing opportunities to develop and hone skills in motivational interviewing and to see the powerful impact of group work. The Hampton Trust has a strong ethos of supporting staff to develop skills and competences 'on the job'.

Workshops are delivered on a Saturday. You will be required to be available 9am-4pm on the days you are booked to deliver CARA. Delivery Sites include Norwich, Kings Lynn, Great Yarmouth, Peterborough & Cambridge. There is no requirement to be available each week, instead we are looking to recruit a pool of facilitators who will be scheduled to deliver CARA Cohorts subject to their availability and proximity to the delivery sites.

For an informal discussion, please contact Caroline Freeman on 07399 662225 or The Hampton Trust office on 02380 001061.

For further details and to apply, please visit

<https://www.hamptontrust.org.uk/job/cara-facilitators-norfolk-and-cambridgeshire/>

**Closing date:** Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020 at 12 Noon.

**Telephone Interview date:** Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February –Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2020

**Training dates:** Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> February & Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2020-Location TBC

**Please note:** You will be expected to be available for all training dates

## Highlight on local NSPCC services

Did you know that the NSPCC offer a number of services in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough?

**The Solution-Focused Model** providing support and advice to:

- children and young people aged between 7 and 18 (young people can be referred up to their 19th birthday.) Younger children may be considered, depending on the individual
- children and young people living with their parents or in care
- children in need
- children subject of child protection planning

**Respect and Protect** (Group and one-to-one programmes) for any child or young person, from any background affected by sexual exploitation. The Protect and Respect one-to-one service is for young people aged between 11-19 years

Please see leaflets on our website for more information

[https://www.cambsdasv.org.uk/website/children\\_and\\_young\\_people\\_/96818](https://www.cambsdasv.org.uk/website/children_and_young_people_/96818)

## New protection for victims of stalking

New Stalking Protection Orders (SPOs) came into force on 20<sup>th</sup> January which will allow courts in England and Wales to move quicker to ban stalkers from contacting victims or visiting their home, place of work or study. This will grant victims more time to recover from their ordeal.

In addition to banning perpetrators from approaching or contacting their victims, SPOs can also force stalkers to seek professional help.

According to the Crime Survey for England and Wales, almost one in five women over the age of 16 have experienced stalking, as well as almost one in ten men.

The Orders will usually last for a minimum of 2 years, with a breach counting as a criminal offence that can result in up to 5 years in prison.

In addition to the SPOs, courts will also be able to impose an interim SPO to provide immediate protection for victims while a decision is being made.

## Safe Lives Voices of Men and Young Boys project

Ending domestic abuse requires listening to and validating the opinions of men and young boys. Therefore, initiating conversations about relationships and abuse is integral to challenging attitudes and influences meaningful change.

During Summer 2019, Safe Lives UK conducted a program whereby over 200 young boys and men responded to a survey sharing their experiences of domestic abuse. This is associated with continual discussions surrounding male domestic abuse, which will support the on-going research and work.

The key findings are integral, the facts and findings should make us feel alarmed, as this is a very serious concern in our societies. The results should enable us to step up as organisations, professionals, and individuals.

The key findings from the programme:

Dynamics of Abuse:

- Discovered that the average length of abuse was 4 years
- Collective behaviours experienced were narrowed down to or calculatedly **made to feel small (82%)**, **being blamed for something that was not their fault (81%)**, having their memory questioned or been told that they're imagining things they believe is true **(71%)**, and **use of the environment to instil fear** – for example throwing objects or slamming doors **(68%)**

Impact of abuse:

Top 5 Impacts (all)	Yes	No
Anxiety, or continuously on edge or alert	96%	3%
Loss of confidence	94%	3%
Loneliness and/or isolation	91%	7%
Embarrassment or shame	90%	7%
Low self-esteem or worthlessness	90%	6%

- Almost two thirds **(64%)** of respondents said that the behaviours experienced lead to them **feeling suicidal** or having suicidal thoughts. A third **(33%)** had **self-harmed**.
- Over half **(54%)** were physically hurt.

Experiences of help seeking and support:

**58% did not receive help or support.** The most common reason for this were that support was **not available for male victims (48%)**, **shame** or embarrassment **(39%)** or that the person or organisation they went to **did not believe them (22%)**.

## **One in five adults in England and Wales experienced abuse before they were 16 years old**

The report by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) is taken from research that studied emotional, physical and sexual abuse from threats and belittlement to beatings and rape and includes a variety of offences or negative experiences.

The ONS estimates that 8.5 million people aged between 18 and 74 were abused or witnessed

This includes sexual abuse, such as rape and other assaults like indecent exposure; physical abuse, such as throwing objects and smacking; and emotional abuse, including behaviour that suggests a child is not loved.

The report also takes into consideration people who witnessed as children any of those forms of abuse, and estimates 10% of people aged 18-74 witnessed domestic abuse as a child. More women than men stated they had witnessed domestic abuse as a child.

Around half of adults (52%) who experienced abuse before the age of 16 years also experienced domestic abuse later in life<sup>4</sup>; this compares with the 13% of adults who experienced domestic abuse later in life but did not experience abuse before the age of 16 years.

In addition, adults with a disability were around twice as likely to have experienced any type of abuse before the age of 16 years, with 16% having witnessed domestic abuse.

The full report can be read at

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/articles/childabuseextentandnatureenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2019>

## **COUNCIL IS AWARDED BENCHMARK ACCREDITATION FOR ITS WORK TO TACKLE DOMESTIC ABUSE**

CAMBRIDGE City Council has become only the fifth local authority in the UK to be awarded the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) accreditation.

The DAHA accreditation is the national benchmark for how housing providers should respond to domestic abuse, recognising that housing providers are in a unique position to identify abuse, prevent it and provide help for people suffering its effects.

To achieve its accreditation the council has had to demonstrate how it is improving the quality of service given to those seeking housing advice, and supporting tenants, residents and council staff who may be experiencing domestic abuse. This work has included making improvements to council policies and procedures and the way in which council staff respond to disclosures of abuse, so that residents know they will receive a safe, sensitive and timely response.

As part of the accreditation process DAHA assessors visited the council to review its procedures and how it deals with cases of domestic abuse, and to interview staff. The assessors praised the council's work. This included development of a Policy for Supporting Customers Affected by Domestic Abuse, and practical guidance on managing increased risks and barriers to disclosing

domestic abuse faced by many who share characteristics protected by the Equality Act – particularly those with multiple disadvantages, or who are pregnant. In addition, the council's Personal Housing Plans, which are designed to support a person to avoid being homeless or find housing if they already are homeless, have been adapted specifically for the needs of people disclosing domestic abuse. This approach was praised as being innovative and will be incorporated in the best practice documents available to housing providers on the DAHA website. It was also recognised that the council has an excellent track record of organising external awareness raising events around domestic abuse. These include conferences, and hosted events where survivors of abuse who have approached the council could give feedback on the response they received.

Internally, awareness has been increased with additional training for council staff, and regular networking sessions are held with local partners specialising in domestic abuse. There is also a licensing requirement for taxi drivers to attend customer awareness training in safeguarding, equality and protection.

Cllr Nicky Massey, Executive Councillor for Transport and Community Safety, said: "We are very proud to receive this accreditation from the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance, but we will not be content until domestic abuse has been completely eradicated, as no one should have to suffer in this way. The DAHA accreditation is just part of the work we are doing and will continue to do alongside our partners, to protect some of the most vulnerable people in our community."

Cllr Richard Johnson, Executive Councillor for Housing, said: "As a council we do everything we can to tackle the scourge of domestic abuse, which has a huge impact on people's lives and can ultimately be a cause of people's homelessness. As Cambridge's largest provider of housing we are in a unique position to identify and tackle domestic abuse, and to then provide all the confidential help and support that people need."

Sharon Crosby, Development Manager at DAHA, said: "We are delighted to announce that the first local authority in East Anglia, and the fifth in the UK to be awarded the DAHA accreditation is Cambridge City Council.

"Cambridge was the first housing provider that committed to working towards achieving the demanding standards required by DAHA when this project began, and I would like to thank all staff that have been involved in implementing the improvements. We can see positive outcomes as a result of changes made, and look forward to working with other housing providers in Cambridgeshire to improve the housing sector's response to domestic abuse."

As well as the DAHA accreditation, the council works in a number of other ways to minimise domestic violence and to support victims locally. It works closely with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership, which aims to reduce the harm, risks and costs associated with domestic abuse and sexual violence and to prevent these crimes occurring across Cambridgeshire. Cambridge City Council is also a member of the Cambridge Community Safety Partnership which prioritises particular issues in the city related to crime, disorder, antisocial behaviour and more. Current priorities include safeguarding people against violence and exploitation, and responding to domestic violence, particularly against women and girls. The council has been accredited with White Ribbon status since 2015. White Ribbon is an international campaign to end male violence against women by working with men and boys to challenge cultures that lead to harassment, abuse and violence against women.

## **Young disabled people speak up about domestic abuse**

We Matter Too! is a project that addresses the needs of disabled young people facing domestic abuse. It has been initiated by the Ann Craft Trust.

This project identified any gaps in domestic abuse services and the level of awareness by professionals working with disabled young people.

The main objectives for this project was to improve the evidence base and highlight the needs of a group of young people who may not be often noticed, asked, heard or have the ability to share any information about the abuse that occurs behind closed doors. Therefore, the aims sustained the importance of practice development and delivery at management levels to inform policy and guidance. Additionally, pilot training had been developed to better the understanding and practice responses by professionals.

The key findings for young disabled people said they need:

- To be treated like they matter
- To have professionals who check if they have been understood
- For professionals to acknowledge it is difficult to make sense of what happens
- To understand healthy relationship choices

Overall, partnership working needs to be strengthened and the voices of young disabled men and women, need to inform service design and development, so professionals can effective support and empower individuals.

There is a wealth of valuable information identified, full report available at:

<https://www.anncrafttrust.org/research/we-matter-too/>



# Whole Housing Domestic Abuse

## Join us for the **Whole Housing Approach to Domestic Abuse Toolkit Launch**

A core need for people experiencing domestic abuse is stable housing. The Whole Housing Approach has been developed by system leaders across the housing and domestic abuse sectors and for the first time considers all housing tenure types and the options needed to achieve safe, stable housing.

### **Intended audience**

Local authorities, housing associations, professionals working in the privately owned and private rented sectors, and other professionals working on domestic abuse and/or housing.

### **Speakers include**

- A survivor on their experience of accessing safe and stable housing
- Nicole Jacobs, the UK's first Domestic Abuse Commissioner
- Expert delivery partners on their experience of implementing the Whole Housing Approach in the 3 pilot sites.

**Date:** 17th March 2020  
**Venue:** Deafblind UK Conference  
Centre, Cygnet Road,  
Peterborough, PE7 8FD

**Book your place**  
<https://tinyurl.com/yx2fummz>



daha  
Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance



Funded by Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.