



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

**September 2017**

Dear Partners

Changes in the Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Partnership Team

This is a note to let you know that Simon Kerss, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership Manager will be leaving his post at the County Council at the end of October. Simon is leaving us to take up a new and exciting role at Anglia Ruskin University as a Lecturer in Criminology.

Si has worked with many partners over the years in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, both locally, regionally and nationally, making a very significant contribution to our work on domestic abuse and sexual violence on all those fronts. We shall miss all his huge expertise, and the energy and passion with which he has continued to champion the issues, for both victims and perpetrators.

He has made it very clear that he doesn't want any kind of leaving 'do' but I am sure you will find your own ways to wish him well in the next stage of his career.

Vickie Crompton has worked with Si for many years and I shall be working with her and partners to determine the immediate and longer term arrangements and resources needed to deliver on this critical area of work for us across the Partnership.

Do please let me know if you have any questions.

**Sarah Ferguson**

**Assistant Director Housing, Communities and Youth**

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## Training update

Please see our website for details of levels and training available in the joint training offer for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough [http://www.cambsdasv.org.uk/website/training\\_1/86050](http://www.cambsdasv.org.uk/website/training_1/86050)

### Next available courses

- ❖ Domestic Abuse Risk Assessment (Level 3) – 22<sup>nd</sup> November
- ❖ Domestic Abuse Typologies, 19<sup>th</sup> October
- ❖ Introduction to Domestic Abuse (Level 2) - 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> October
- ❖ Engaging with Perpetrators of Domestic Abuse (Level 4) 6<sup>th</sup> November

To book: <https://www.cambslearntogether.co.uk/social-care-development-1/learning-and-development-children/-s/learning-and-development-childrens/>

Cambridgeshire LSCB courses can be booked via: <http://www.cambslscb.co.uk>

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.

Against Violence and Abuse (AVA) have a number of courses coming up. There is a charge for these courses <https://avaproject.org.uk/events/>

## Enhanced services for young people

ARE YOU working with a young person aged 13 to 19 (or 24 with additional needs) affected by domestic abuse or sexual violence who might benefit from one to one counselling support?

Thanks to a successful bid to the Home Office a locally-based national charity Embrace (Child Victims of Crime) is offering free trauma-focused CBT counselling for young people in partnership with Ormiston Families and the county's Youth Offending Service.

The counselling is available to both young people who have been victims or witnessed domestic abuse or sexual violence; and those who may be showing low-level perpetration type behaviours.

It can be delivered at locations across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough through a framework of checked and accredited counsellors.

Have a young person who you think would benefit? Contact Catherine Hardy [cat@embracecvoc.org.uk](mailto:cat@embracecvoc.org.uk) who is located at the county's new Sexual Assault Referral Centre. For low-level perpetration behaviours contact [kate.higgs@ormistonfamilies.org.uk](mailto:kate.higgs@ormistonfamilies.org.uk)

The young person must be safe from the offender and willing to engage.

## Tough Love evaluation

Tough Love, a 30 minute drama about unhealthy teenage relationships from social enterprise Alter Ego, was delivered to Cambridgeshire secondary schools during the 2016/17 academic year. The decision to deliver it was made following evaluation of Chelsea's Choice in 2016, when young people expressed an interest in learning more about healthy and unhealthy relationships

Tough Love toured Hunts; South Cambs, Cambridge City and East Cambs in spring 2017. Fenland Community Safety Partnership funded and organised a repeat tour of Chelsea's Choice in September 2016. The 2017 tour comprised 45 performances and was seen by approximately 5800 young people and 330 adults

The project was funded by grants from Community Safety Partnerships and financial contributions from educational settings. This funded the costs of the theatre company. Delivery of the project was supported by Area Partnership members

Recall of the play after 3 months was high. Young people recalled the story; key themes and messages. 60% of respondents said there was an opportunity to talk about the issues raised after the show but this was not equal across settings. In 4 schools 48% or more said there was no follow up and in one school this was 68%

Representatives from local organisations that young people could talk to participated in post-show discussions at 22 performances. Hosts felt this was beneficial and encouraged young people to seek help but delivery needs to be adapted in future to suit specific needs of SEND audiences.

The directory of help and support that accompanied the show was shared widely and requested by organisations not hosting a performance.

The messages young people took from the play were:

- Talk to someone if you are uncomfortable about a relationship or are in a difficult relationship – it is never too late to get out
- Know the early signs of an unhealthy relationship and seek help and/or get out
- Get to know and to trust potential partners before you have a relationships with them

Young people want to know more about:

- How to spot or prevent an unhealthy relationship
- How to develop the skills to deal with or avoid unhealthy relationships
- What to do if they are worried about a relationship - their own or a friend's
- Other situations than the younger girl older boy scenario shown in the play

Young people and adults thought Tough Love was a powerful way to present a sensitive topic. It encouraged discussion and encouraged some young people to take action regarding their own or a friend's relationship. Whilst the content was good some respondents thought the presentation was too static (a monologue); too predictable and repeating a scenario that is used too often. Hosts who had used both Tough Love and Chelsea's Choice liked both plays but the content of Tough Love was, overall, seen as more relevant to local young people.

Fewer young people took away the 'stranger danger' message that was common after Chelsea's Choice. Only 3 respondents referred to avoiding 'strangers'.

Discussions are ongoing around work with schools in 2017-18.

## **University of Cambridge improves the prevention and support for students subjected to sexual misconduct**

The University of Cambridge has been working with a number of external stakeholders to improve the training, support and reporting options available to students who have been subjected to harassment or sexual misconduct. The DASV Partnership have been a key advisor for this work which includes:

- A training programme for University staff delivered in partnership with the Cambridge Rape Crisis Centre on responding to student disclosures of sexual assault and/or rape;
- Bystander intervention programmes for students being delivered from October 2017 to student leaders and sports teams and an online course for all students;
- The creation of a specialist advisor role for students who have been subjected to sexual assault or rape;
- An anonymous reporting tool for students, staff and visitors of the University who experience any kind of harassment or sexual misconduct.

These new initiatives are in addition to the consent workshops that the Students' Union runs for first year students and the procedures available to students for reporting harassment and sexual misconduct in order for action to be taken.

The University continues to work closely with Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Partnership, particularly with the Cambridgeshire Constabulary and Cambridge Rape Crisis Centre.

### **Tickets available for Smack That (a conversation)**

*Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October, 7.30pm, The Junction*

**Beverly is having a party and you are one of her guests. There are games, drinks, shared conversation, energetic dance and heartbreaking moments as she bravely gives a raw and honest account of surviving an abusive relationship.**

Each member of the all-female cast, a close-knit group of non-performers and dance artists, fearlessly takes on the persona of Beverly to convey turbulent, real experiences. The unusual setting creates a safe space for them to reveal the challenges they have faced and celebrate their endurance with the audience. Faith's work with a support group at charity Safer Places underpins this show, which seeks to raise social consciousness around domestic abuse by supporting women to openly talk about it.

*This show discusses themes of an adult nature, sexual violence and domestic abuse. Suitable for ages 16+*

Tickets cost £12.50 [Buy Tickets](#)

**Cambridge and Peterborough  
Rape Crisis Partnership**

**ISVA Referral Process  
[www.caprccp.org.uk](http://www.caprccp.org.uk)**

1. Once a completed online referral form has been received a confirmation email will be sent to the referring agency and the referral passed to the ISVA Navigator.
2. The ISVA Navigator will make contact with the client within two working days in order to schedule a needs assessment. The initial conversation will ensure:
  - a. They are aware the referral has been made
  - b. They do want support from our service
  - c. If they are unsure, the service will be explained and more information will be sent via post, and followed up with a call within two weeks
3. If a client does not answer calls, a voicemail will be left, a text and/or email sent. This will be dependent on what their preferred method of communication is, and whether we have a mobile number and email address. For clients that do not answer three times in a row they will be removed from the waiting list and notified by a voicemail and email/letter through the post. The letter will also state that if they need support from us, to get in contact with us as we will be happy to support them.
4. For clients that decline support, they will be sent a letter encouraging them to get in contact if they want support from us at any stage in the future.
5. For those that do want support – a needs assessment will be scheduled in the form of a guided conversation at a time that best suits the client.
6. Client is sent an Information Pack by ISVA Navigator which includes details of the ISVA they have been allocated, a Self Help guide/friends and family guide, information on CAPRCP services, From Report to Court booklet any other information as discussed in the needs assessment.

**Cambridge & Peterborough Rape Crisis Partnership contacts**

Information and Referrals Coordinator – Jenny Taylor – 01733 225937 – [admin@prccg.org.uk](mailto:admin@prccg.org.uk)  
ISVA Navigator – Cheryl Hollis – Office: 01223 313551 - Mobile: 07434 511 285 –  
[isva@cambridgerapecrisis.org.uk](mailto:isva@cambridgerapecrisis.org.uk)

## About KidsOut

KidsOut is a registered charity (number 1075789) based in Leighton Buzzard whose aim is to give fun and happiness to disadvantaged children in the UK. The Charity was founded following an initiative by Littlewoods in Liverpool in 1989 where they organized a day out for disabled children and then linked up with Rotary Clubs across the UK to make the Annual Day Out happen nationwide. In order to extend this experience, the charity KidsOut was set up in 1999. KidsOut gives disadvantaged children positive experiences to support them in becoming future members of our society and workforce.

Our projects currently support children who have experienced domestic violence, children with disabilities, children with terminal illnesses, children with English as an additional language, children struggling academically and those not in education, employment or training. KidsOut delivers 5 services – all making a real difference to the lives of disadvantaged children.

**Toy Box Service** - delivery of a box of fun and educational toys to children who have escaped domestic violence. Each year, over 8,000 of the 19,000 children who flee to a women's refuge will be relocated to a new home in an unfamiliar area and KidsOut provides them with a box of brand new toys to help bring stability and fun into their lives when they need it most. We work with every WAFE refuge in the UK. Last year we packed and sent out a record number over 1500 toy boxes.



**Fun Days** - Days out for disadvantaged children throughout the year, particularly for children who have experienced domestic violence. We have built on the work that we do with refuges in the Toy Box Service by offering children affected by domestic violence the chance to glimpse a brighter future and create happy memories. This year over 20,000 children have experienced a day of fun with KidsOut.



Contact Head of Children Services, Sandra Doherty at 01525243216 or 07934535437 or email Sandra at [Sandra.Doherty@kidsout.org.uk](mailto:Sandra.Doherty@kidsout.org.uk)

**We only accept referrals from professionals**

## Break 4 Change programme launches

Break4Change is designed for families where children are abusive or violent towards parents or carers. The programme consists of two groups running in parallel: one for parents/carers, and the other for young people. The programme runs for 10 weeks, one evening per week.

The parents' sessions provide a space for them to reflect on their approaches to parenting, to understand the scale of the abuse in the family and the effect on them, the child who is abusive and other siblings. The sessions also build in peer support and a chance to share experiences with other parents thus breaking the patterns of isolation and shame.

The young people's sessions are structured to combine a therapeutic / educational part followed by a creative part. The creative sessions use lyric writing, rapping and other media to embed progress, deepen reflection and develop empathy.

Film is used to enable dialogue and learning between the parents and young people who are working in separate groups. The film process captures the views of both young people and parents about the violence and abuse experienced or used, and explores how this affects the relationships that each has on one another.

The ten session programme for parents and young people is designed to:

- create belief in the possibility of change and stop or substantially reduce the abuse
- help young people learn to manage their frustration in a non-abusive manner
- enable better listening, communication skills and sense of responsibility to enable more mutually respectful behaviour in young people
- clarify boundaries of what is acceptable and unacceptable behaviour
- increase parents' sense of well-being and reduce their isolation
- assist parents to hold the young person accountable for his/her violence while maintaining the relationship
- examine strategies for creating meaningful and practical consequences for unacceptable behaviour
- enhance parents' skills in listening, communicating, conflict avoidance, resolution and negotiation
- reinforce progress and provide a forum for emotional support while parents attempt to become more assertive parents.

Break4Change works with all types of family structures, including young people and parents from many backgrounds, abilities, cultures, classes, ages, sexual orientations, religions and ethnicity. The programme is open to referrals from district teams, YOS, social care and other agencies where there is an identified professional to provide community support.

For more info contact [Matthew.pink@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Matthew.pink@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)  
[Jacqueline.harmitt@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Jacqueline.harmitt@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

## **CPS makes commitment to male victims of sexual and domestic abuse**

The Crown Prosecution Service has published its first ever public statement recognising the needs and experiences of male victims of offences including rape, domestic abuse, harassment, stalking and child sexual abuse.

Many male victims of these crimes never come forward to report them to the police. This can be for a variety of reasons, including fear that their masculinity may appear to be diminished if they report domestic abuse or that homophobic assumptions will be made around their sexuality if they are raped by a man.

The CPS has always been committed to securing justice for all victims, both male and female, and applies policies fairly and equally. It has worked with groups which represent the interests of male victims to explore the issues they face in relation to these offences.

The new [CPS public statement](#) sets out:

- Plans to give prosecutors more information, to help them better understand the experiences of male victims and the barriers to them reporting offences;
- A commitment to work with third sector organisations and campaign groups to challenge gender stereotypes and improve reporting;
- Proposals to involve more national men's groups, as well as groups working with boys and girls, in the scrutiny of CPS policies.

The Director of Public Prosecutions, Alison Saunders, said: "The way society views masculinity can make it very difficult for men and boys who are the victims of sexual and domestic offences to come forward.

"This 'public statement' formalises the CPS commitment to male victims and recognises that stereotypes of masculinity and femininity can, and do, feed sexist and homophobic assumptions. These can deter male victims from reporting abuse and pursuing a prosecution. The statement addresses this challenge and I hope it will create an environment that gives male victims increased confidence to come forward and get the justice they deserve."

The statement forms part of the [CPS revised Violence Against Women and Girls \(VAWG\) Strategy 2017-2020](#) which outlines the CPS's approach to all VAWG Crimes.

The CPS, in line with the United Nations conventions, ratified by the Government, recognises these crimes have a disproportionate number of female victims, hence the continued use of the term "VAWG". However, the CPS also recognises the experience of male victims and the distressing impact on them.



## **Forced Marriage Protection Order case study**

Reducing the risk have been given permission to share the case study below from Thames Valley Police who recently secured their first Forced Marriage Protection Order:

*A young female in the Thames Valley area got a message to a friend that her family were threatening her with violence and planning to take her abroad to marry against her wishes. This had been going on for some years and the family were just waiting for her to finish her education. Police and other professionals assisted her to leave the address. The investigation did not provide enough evidence for any criminal charges, but the evidence gathered was used to support a FMPO. The burden of proof is lower. The Judge in the family court placed 12 restrictions on the family of this female including handing passports and other documents to the Police, not threatening violence or encouraging others to do so, not applying for passports on her behalf, not remove her from the UK against her will. All of the evidence was heard ex-parte so the family were not aware of who has supported the application. It was made by Police on behalf of victim. She did not have to attend court. She is now safe and living happily elsewhere. It has provided her with the re-assurance that if she ever chose to return later in life the protection remains until a further order is made.*

*Victims reporting Honour Based Abuse and forced marriage are normally very isolated. Reporting frequently means leaving everything behind. It is a brave step and they need a lot of support. The key point is there are things that can be done. Information sharing is very strict around this crime type. If you suspect honour based offences or forced marriage then treat all the information with strictest confidence and raise a safeguarding alert.*

## **All Party Parliamentary Group on DV holds first meeting**

The inaugural meeting of the APPG on Domestic Violence in the 2017-19 Parliament was held on 19 July 2017. The discussion focused on priorities for the forthcoming Domestic Violence and Abuse

Act. The meeting heard from Katie Ghose, new Chief Executive at Women's Aid, and received presentations from Saheli Asian Women's Project and Professor Jane Callaghan who introduced her research on children's experiences of domestic abuse. The meeting was also open to a Q&A session from the public.

You can read the minutes from the meeting [here](#).

## **Reshaping Drug and Alcohol services in Cambridgeshire.**

### **Have your say**

The Public Health Joint Commissioning Unit is re-tendering the adult drug and alcohol treatment service contract. The current contract, which is currently held by 'Inclusion', comes to an end on 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2018. This provides us with the opportunity to explore new and innovative models of treatment provision to meet current need. The new contract will include the provision of

- Advice and information
- Medical treatment
- Harm reduction
- Recovery orientated programme of support
- Support around housing, education, training, work
- Family/carer support.

The aim of the new service is to ensure that everyone who wants and needs support gets the best help they can to enable them to make the changes that they need to make. We also want to provide support to parents, partners and others who live with someone who is misusing drugs and alcohol.

The new service will have the following deliverables.

- An integrated specialist drug and alcohol treatment system across Cambridgeshire.
- Increased alignment and integration with related services to ensure that the complex needs (most notably poor mental and physical health, homelessness, unemployment) of service users are effectively addressed with treatment and recovery outcomes achieved.
- Robust recovery focused treatment approaches.
- A long term condition treatment model which decreases demand for acute treatment services and ensures that needs are appropriately addressed.
- Early intervention and harm reduction interventions.

The purpose of this consultation is to seek your views on how we can shape our new service model. We have developed an online survey for any interested parties including service users, family members, front line practitioners and professionals. If you would like to participate in our survey please follow the link below and submit your response by the 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2017. The survey should take 10-15 minutes.

<http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/KJKTE/>

## Domestic Abuse Housing Accreditation programme

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough DASV Partnership are pleased to be working with Standing Together to implement the Domestic Abuse Housing Accreditation across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The programme was developed by Standing Together in partnership with Gentoo and Peabody Trust and aims to save lives and improve an organisation's response to individuals experiencing domestic abuse

Housing Providers are uniquely placed to identify domestic abuse. Residents living with domestic abuse are four times more likely to have ASB complaints made against them and domestic abuse is a leading cause of women's homelessness. Residents living with domestic abuse are more likely to be in serious financial crisis and are four times more likely to lose their tenancy

- Bring Housing to the Table: Housing is uniquely placed to identify, recognise & respond to domestic abuse
- Ensure staff & residents are aware and equipped to deal with DA
- Cost benefits to the organisation and society

The programme ensures staff and residents are aware and equipped to deal with domestic abuse and has cost benefits to the organisation and society.

The accreditation process for housing providers covers 8 priority areas:

- Policy and Procedures
- Case Management
- Risk Management
- Equality and Diversity
- Perpetrator Management
- Partnership Working
- Staff Training
- Publicity and Awareness

The two workers for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough are now in post:  
Caroline Mackechnie-Jarvis [C.Mackechniejarvis@standingtogether.org.uk](mailto:C.Mackechniejarvis@standingtogether.org.uk)  
Sharon Crosby [S.Crosby@standingtogether.org.uk](mailto:S.Crosby@standingtogether.org.uk)

## Corona Community Drop in

Cambridge Housing Society run drop in sessions 3 to 4 days a week at Corona House in Cambridge for women who are in need of social support. The sessions include activities such as outings and art and are open to any woman aged 18 or over.

A woman who used the service commented 'As soon as I walked in the door I felt welcome, safe, and in a space where I didn't have to pretend that I was always ok. The art group helped me to find a way to express myself and enjoy something, which I find really hard to do. Before I knew it, I was attending other drop-ins for the community. The community is such a wonderful bunch of people'

For more information call 01223 369125 or email [coronahouse@chsgroup.org.uk](mailto:coronahouse@chsgroup.org.uk)