

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

October 2017

Dear Partners

As usual in October, we are forward planning to November and in particular the 25th November which is the [International Day of Elimination of Violence Against Women](#). This is also the start of the [16 Days of Action](#) campaign that aims to raise awareness of gender based violence, this year's focus for the international event is on education. The [UK 16 Days](#) campaign focuses on information for employers. The theme for 25th November this year is 'Leave no-one behind' – a reminder that support for victims and survivors should be inclusive of all intersectionalities.

We are developing some new awareness materials which we plan to launch during the 16 Days of Action and we will also be making posters available on our website so they can be downloaded and displayed across the county. Keep an eye on our social media for details - social media is one of the main ways we share information. Please like and follow us on our Facebook and Twitter pages using the links in the icons below.

Our partners at Cambridge City Council will be running a White Ribbon Campaign awareness raising stall on Saturday 25 November from 10:30 -14:30 outside the front of the Guildhall (opposite the market) in Cambridge.

If your organisation is planning an event or awareness activity, please let us know.

As always, this newsletter brings you a variety of updates and articles about local and national issues around domestic abuse and sexual violence. I hope you enjoy the newsletter and remember that you can submit articles to Amanda.warburton@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Vickie Crompton
Partnership Manager



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

Please note that as the Council's Workforce Development Team has now moved to LGSS, courses are only free to employees of Cambridgeshire County Council, Peterborough City Council and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Foundation Trust. LGSS charge £75 per day for all other attendees.

Next available courses

- ❖ Domestic Abuse Risk Assessment (Level 3) – 22nd November
- ❖ Domestic Abuse Typologies, 19th October
- ❖ Introduction to Domestic Abuse (Level 2) - 14th/15th December
- ❖ Engaging with Perpetrators of Domestic Abuse (Level 4) 6th November

To book: <https://www.cambslearntogether.co.uk/social-care-development-1/learning-and-development-children/-s/learning-and-development-childrens/> (scroll down to calendar at the bottom of the page) <https://www.cambslearntogether.co.uk/social-care-development-1/learning-and-development-children/-s/learning-and-development-childrens/>

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) run CPD accredited training throughout the year. There is a charge for these courses <https://avaproject.org.uk/events/>

New MARAC Guidance for BME victims

Safe Lives have issued new guidance for MARAC cases involving victims from black or minority ethnic backgrounds. The new guidance includes advice on so-called Honour Based Violence and recommends that Adult Social Care have input into these cases.

<http://www.safelives.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/National%20Scrutiny%20Panel%20Guidance%20BME%202017.pdf>

County-wide project to support young people affected by Domestic Abuse

POLICE and Crime Commissioner, Jason Ablewhite announced earlier this month the details of a multi-agency project to support young people who experience domestic abuse or sexual violence.

The announcement comes as Ofsted calls for greater awareness of how these issues affect children's wellbeing. This is one of 41 projects across England and Wales receiving a share of nearly £17m in government funding to help prevent violence against women and girls and provide support for victims.

The 'Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Prevention and Intervention Project' has been funded through a successful partnership bid by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Cambridgeshire County Council for £400,000 from the Home Office's VAWG (Violence against Women and Girls) Transformation Fund. The project will tackle the adverse childhood experiences of young victims of domestic and sexual abuse through community-based counselling services. It will also support young people showing low-level perpetration type behaviour, as a result of what they have witnessed or experienced.

The project is delivered by national charity Embrace-Child Victims of Crime (CVOC), and Ormiston Families in partnership with a range of different organisations and charities.

All counselling services provided by the project will be entirely voluntary and confidential and referrals can be made by contacting Embrace CVOC on **0845 60 999 60** or visit the website: www.embracecvoc.org.uk.

Teaching of DA in medical schools

The University of Bristol was involved in a study looking at how domestic abuse is taught in medical schools. A total of 25 out of 34 medical schools participated in the survey and all respondents felt that there should be formal teaching on DVA in the medical curriculum. Eighty-four per cent of respondents reported that there was some formal teaching in their medical school, and 90% of these reported that it was mandatory. Of those who delivered some teaching, 52% reported that the provision was 0–2 hours in total. Most commonly content was delivered in year 4. DVA teaching was delivered in different modules, by different methods and delivered by a range of different providers. Seventy-five per cent of respondents reported that they felt the provision at their medical school was inadequate or not enough. Barriers to providing DVA education identified included time constraints, failure to perceive it as a medical problem and the assumption that it will be covered elsewhere.

The full report is available at <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/tct.12706/full>

SAFER CORRIDORS ACTION TOOLKIT

Following the publication of the Women and Equalities Committee Report on sexual harassment and abuse in schools, this toolkit offers ways of engaging with young people about sexual harassment in school. It will enable young people and staff to devise and carry out actions to improve awareness and reduce incidents in their own school.

It is for use in any secondary school where leaders wish to develop or review their responses to sexual harassment or assault and address inequality, poor achievement and attendance issues amongst those affected.

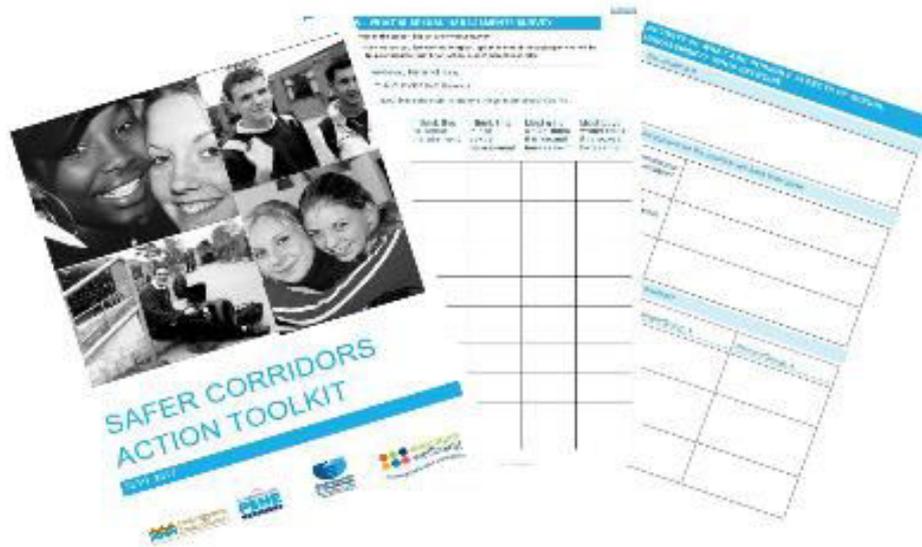
As schools prepare for statutory RSE, it is essential that a school's ethos and environment reflect and illustrate the skills and attitudes taught in the curriculum in order for real behaviour change to occur.

WHAT IS IN THE ACTION TOOLKIT?

- Background information concerning the national picture and current developments
- A series of discussion based activities, which use a range of learning methodologies, to raise awareness, identify local issues and prompt local change
- Links to associated documentation and teaching activities

WHO IS THE ACTION TOOLKIT FOR?

- Teachers working with class groups in RSE or PSHE lessons.
- Adults leading groups of peer mentors or leaders who provide support to other students.
- Adults leading student councils or action groups.
- Schools leaders planning training for staff on sexual harassment, assault and abuse.



The pack is available as a .pdf and costs £25. To order the Safer Corridors Action Toolkit:

Email pshe@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Phone: 01480 376256 Visit: www.cambslearntogether.co.uk/services-to-schools/pshe/



ROLL UP!

ROLL UP!

CAMBRIDGE RAPE CRISIS CENTRE

FIREWALK!

28TH OCTOBER

4-8PM

FACE YOUR FEARS WALK ON HOT COALS
FOR A GREAT CAUSE!

crcc

25
YEARS

Celebrating 25 years of University status



Anglia Ruskin
University

<https://www.facebook.com/CambridgeRapeCrisis/>
for more details

SPACE goes to Cardiff

The Unite/CPHVA Conference took place in Cardiff on 17th and 18th October and Cambridgeshire's Space Project was delighted to be chosen to deliver a workshop for attendees on Trauma informed practice for women who have had their children permanently removed. The CPHVA Conference (Community Practitioners and Health Visitors Association) is the key national event for decision makers and practitioners working in the field of children's health and social care and attracts speakers and attendees from across the UK. Key note speakers this year included Jonathan Ashworth MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Health, and Christopher Cloke and Vivienne Laing from the NSPCC and workshops and master-classes were delivered by leading experts from organisations across the country. Of particular interest was John Carnochan from the Scottish Violence Reduction Unit who impressed upon the importance of early intervention in preventing violence and the importance of supporting victims of violence, and Jasvinder Sanghera, CEO of Karma Nirvana, who spoke of the importance of school nurses and health visitors in identifying issues such as forced marriage and honour based abuse.

The Space Project works with women who have had their children permanently removed and aims to support these mothers to improve their self esteem and confidence as well as gain an insight into the issues that may have led to the removal of their children. Space launched in December 2015 and to date has had 73 referrals of women, who between them, have had a total of 196 children permanently removed from their care. Vickie Crompton and Sarah Newman told the conference that these women have often suffered significant life traumas and removal of her child/children has added to this, and shared how the project uses a trauma based, people centred approach, led by the woman.

The workshop was attended by over 60 delegates and there was a great deal of interest from practitioners from across the country.

The Space Project was also featured in a short film from Essex University highlighting the limited availability of support to women who have had children removed. Also featured is the Positive Choices project in Suffolk who have been hugely supportive to Space.

<https://www.essex.ac.uk/research/showcase/can-we-do-more-to-support-birth-mothers-after-their-child-is-taken-into-care>

Domestic Abuse survivors to get help to vote

Ministers have confirmed they will press ahead with plans to make it easier for domestic abuse survivors to register to vote anonymously. Under existing legislation, domestic abuse survivors must provide a court order or have their application supported by a senior independent witness, such as a police superintendent, in order to appear anonymously on the electoral register. These strict requirements have deterred many from registering at all – prompting a campaign by charities and survivors to make it more accessible.

The government's changes will increase the number of people who can act as witnesses, including medical and healthcare professionals and refuge workers, and expand the type of evidence which can be put forward.

To complement the legislative changes, the Cabinet Office will launch further research to identify and explain other barriers to electoral registration faced by survivors of domestic abuse. This research will be critical in shaping new policies, projects and future engagement.

Success for Child First campaign

Following Women's Aid's Child First campaign, changes to the guidance given to judges in child contact cases when there is an allegation of domestic abuse, have been announced by Sir James Munby, President of the Family Division, which will help ensure that children are no longer at risk.

The new guidance recommends that where a risk assessment flags ongoing risk to the child there will be no contact ordered, even at a contact centre, and that courts should provide special protection measures to guarantee the safety of both survivors of domestic abuse and their children in court. While the new guidance will hold judges more accountable by requiring them to follow the guidance and also explain why any contact that they order will not expose the child to further harm and how it is in child's best interest.

In response to the announcement, Women's Aid on the Family Judiciary and Ministry of Justice to ensure that all judges and magistrates are aware of the revised guidance and their responsibility to follow it. This needs to be supplemented with a thorough understanding of domestic abuse and its impact on children so that judges can manage these complex cases effectively and safely. We, therefore, also call on the Judicial College to ensure that all judges and magistrates are given compulsory training on domestic abuse, including coercive control, and its impact on children so that they can identify, understand and appropriately respond when there is an allegation of domestic abuse in child contact cases.

New law to help prevent acid attacks

Prison sentences for those who repeatedly carry corrosive substances without good reason are among a set of new laws aimed at tackling serious violence being by the Government. The measures include a new offence of possession of a corrosive substance in public without a good or lawful reason. It would place the onus on the individual caught in possession to explain why they are carrying it, rather than on the police to prove that it was intended to cause injury. Those convicted of this offence for a second time would face a mandatory minimum sentence in line with existing knife possession laws. Acid attacks are sometimes used by domestic abuse perpetrators, stalkers and in so-called Honour Based Violence. The proposals are part of the consultation on new legislation on offensive and dangerous weapons. The consultation closes on 9th December 2017 <http://bit.ly/2gjz54F>

Latest CPS VAWG Report

The Crown Prosecution Service has released the 2016-17 Violence Against Women & Girls report. This edition is of particular interest as it is the tenth annual report so enables comparison on the last decade of data. Key points from the report include:

- VAWG convictions over the last ten years have risen from 51,974 to 84,565 – a 63% rise
- 14% increase on convictions for sexual offences in the last year
- A fall in the overall volume of domestic abuse prosecutions from 100,930 in the previous year to 93,590, following fewer cases being referred by the police. There was also a fall in prosecutions for stalking and harassment.
- Since the introduction of the offence of controlling or coercive behaviour 309 offences have been charged and reached a first hearing.
- The volume of referrals from the police of HBV related offences fell from 216 in 2015–16 to 200 in 2016–17, with a corresponding fall from 145 to 136 in the volume of defendants charged. Just 90 convictions were made in the last year.
- Mandatory reporting of Female Genital Mutilation by professionals hasn't resulted in an increase in cases being referred for prosecution.
- Domestic abuse cases that went to court in Cambridgeshire were up by 3.7% on last year and convictions were slightly up (898 compared to 878 last year) but the conviction rate remained steady at 79%
- 61.7% of rape cases that went to court in Cambridgeshire in 2016-17 resulted in a conviction. Whilst this is an increase on 2015-16 (54%) there was a significant drop of on third in cases sent to court.

The CPS state they will be working with the Ministerial Domestic Abuse Working Group, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and the Home Office National Oversight Group to ensure the falls in police referrals for some offences are addressed at the highest level.

<http://www.cps.gov.uk/publications/docs/cps-vawg-report-2017.pdf>