



**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

December 2020

Hi All!

December is upon us already, and we are in Tier 2. All services continue to operate and are on hand for anyone suffering domestic abuse or sexual violence. Christmas will be looking very different for many of us, and the families we work with.

There is good news on the horizon, with additional funding for domestic abuse coming to the Local Authorities, we are unclear as to the amount, but we hope this will allow the excellent services we already have in place to continue, and that we are able to improve the response received by those experiencing domestic abuse.

As a partnership, we are committed to continuous improvement, and welcome any of your feedback on what works, and what could be done better. Where do you see the key gaps for those you work with? Please do not hesitate to get in touch, we love hearing from you.

2020 really was a difficult year, and we will take all that we have learned into 2021.

Look after yourselves, and we hope you get some rest over the festive period.

Vickie Crompton & Julia Cullum
DASV Partnership Managers



DASV Champions Sessions – January 2021

Speakers are 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 on the following dates:

11th Jan – 11am-12.30pm,

13th Jan – 1pm-2.30pm

21st Jan – 1pm-2.30pm

Please email dasvchampions@cambridgeshire.gov.uk to book a place and electronic invites will be sent out in early January.

Response from Cambridgeshire Constabulary to media report

Cambridgeshire Constabulary and our partners are aware of a story circulating in the national media today concerning apparent encouragement from Police for victims to take civil action against perpetrators as an alternative to seeking criminal prosecution. This is absolutely not the case here in Cambridgeshire and we have worked tirelessly throughout the Covid pandemic to enhance the safety of victims of Domestic Abuse by arresting and prosecuting offenders. Our partner agencies, including the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership, Refuge and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Women's Aid, have continued to operate a full service to support victims through advice and safety planning.

Civil orders – such as Non-Molestation Orders – have formed part of our safeguarding provision in Cambridgeshire for a number of years; we will refer victims based on their individual needs. In addition to any civil order, we will always seek to prosecute offenders wherever possible.

Domestic Abuse continues to be a priority for Cambridgeshire Constabulary and the network of partners that we work with to safeguard the vulnerable from harm. The Acting Police and Crime Commissioner remains committed to ensuring all survivors and victims of domestic abuse are supported and that their voices are heard.

New Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Sexual Ill Health Prevention Partnership

This brand new service will provide vital information to improve knowledge and awareness of sexual health and contraception issues in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. This includes working closely with partners and community groups, as well as providing workshops and sessions online and – when it's safe to do so – in schools.

"We will also be doing testing for HIV and other STIs, as well as work to support the groups most affected by poor sexual health, including young people, gay and bisexual men and BAME communities. We're committed to playing our part to ensure good sexual health is a right and reality for everyone."

Glenda Bonde, Service and Partnership Manager Terrence Higgins Trust.

If you would like to discuss what we can offer your organisation or you would like us to visit your service please do not hesitate to get in touch via cambridgeshirecso@tth.org.uk directing your enquiries to either Frankie Stephens (Peterborough) or Kerry Young (Cambridgeshire).

If you would like more information or support on HIV testing please contact tth@cambridgeshirenhs.net

Latest Femicide Census released

The Femicide Census was started in 2015 in collaboration with Women's Aid, law firm Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, and Deloitte. This census was in response to the lack of official data from the UK government and an unwillingness to look at the problem of men's fatal violence against women and girls as a coherent issue.

The first report published in 2016 was called 'Redefining an Isolated Incident: An Analysis of the Deaths of Women Killed Between 2009 *and* 2015, *in* 2016.' In the 10 year period covered in the UK 1,425 women's lives have been taken by men. The current report also shows that 'Of the men who killed women, as recorded in this report, 29 (2%) are known to have killed before. In twenty cases they had killed women, in nine cases other men.' additionally a further '117 suspicious deaths of women involving violent incidents or histories of violence where for various reasons the death could not be attributed to the suspected perpetrator or his actions.'

The authors indicate that little has changed over a 10 year period in the rate of femicide, the methods used or the context and relationships with men who murdered them.

The report comprehensively covers a number of areas related to femicide including:

Report areas, police areas, victim's (relationship to perpetrator, locations, methods of killing, victims country of birth, occupation age, disability health and substance use issues) and perpetrator (country of birth, age bands, occupation, history of violence against women, if they have killed before) and findings on the criminal justice outcomes, methods and media representations of the murders.

The report makes recommendations these include:

- Challenge to sex-based structural inequality and the recognition of the importance of socially constructed gender/sex role stereotypes in the UK
- That the scene of a death of a woman should be secured and treated as a crime scene and a robust and thorough interrogation of the relationship and dynamics of the parties and their histories should be undertaken.
- Support Services for women subjected to male violence should be prioritised includes increased funding including services
- Targeting women from Eastern European and post-communist/post-Soviet nations and women at risk of trafficking and prostitution

You can access the full report [here](#).

Tackling child abuse

DfE re-launched its Together, We Can Tackle Child Abuse campaign aimed at increasing awareness of the signs of all forms of child abuse and neglect, as well as confidence levels in knowing how to report suspicions. This latest round of activity includes a new element centred around online child sexual abuse, due to the heightened risk to vulnerable children of exposure to online sexual abuse during these times where they are having to remain at home more than usual. Click here to read in full: [Tackle Child Abuse – An England wide campaign to help you recognise the signs of child abuse and neglect. Supporting you to report your concerns.](#)

Vacancy at Cambridge Women's Resource Centre

CWRC are recruiting for a Co-ordinator for Turning the Corner (EWE project). A partnership project supporting vulnerable women engaged in street sex work in the Peterborough region of Cambridgeshire. CWRC engage in women-centred working, this role is to provide care-coordinated support for women with complex needs who want support or the exit street based sex work within a housing provision. The ideal candidate will be self-motivated, with energy, and experience of working with vulnerable adults. A developed sense of self-awareness who can work in a gender and trauma informed way. This is a position for 1 year which we will be developing to support the partnership work of the Sexual Exploitation and Sex Working Partnership with a view to extend the funding.

CWRC is seeking to hire a Project Coordinator who will be organising our street sex worker project and overseeing staffing in the house. This task involves monitoring project plans, schedules, work hours, budgets, and expenditures, organising and participating in stakeholder meetings, and ensuring that project deadlines are met in a timely manner. Line management will be with CEO of CWRC. To be successful as a Project Coordinator, you will need to be able to work on tight deadlines, be competent in using Microsoft Office applications such as Word and Excel, and have exceptional verbal, written, and presentation skills. A bachelor's degree in a related field of study and at least three years of relevant experience is required for consideration. 37 hour post based in a women's centre plus house. Pro rata £32,000

The deadline for applications is 14 December 2020 and interview dates are 17 and 18 December. Interested applicants can visit our website at www.cwrc.org.uk for application forms and more information.

If you're on the safe side, please help those who aren't

1 in 4 women and 1 in 6 men experience domestic abuse in their lifetime. That means it's likely happening on your street.

National Domestic Abuse charity Refuge have launched a new video to remind us that as many of us continue to spend more time indoors, it is imperative that we keep [#ListeningFromHome](#), keeping an eye and an ear out for any neighbours who may be experiencing domestic abuse.

If you hear violence next door, don't be a bystander. Call the police. Watch the latest [#ListeningFromHome video](#) now.

Refuge launches digital animation on what to expect when calling its National Domestic Abuse Helpline

During the UN Women's 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence, Refuge have launched a new [digital animation](#) to reach abused women who may need to access support from its National Domestic Abuse Helpline. The animation forms part of Refuge's ongoing campaign to share the Helpline number and live chat resources with as many women as possible. As we live through a second lockdown, more women than ever are experiencing domestic abuse and are isolated and alone with their perpetrators for long periods of time. Right now their need for support may be greater than ever.

Refuge's National Domestic Abuse Helpline is free of charge and runs twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. It is a confidential and non-judgmental service, run by a close-knit team of highly trained women. Helpline advisers will never tell a woman what to do, but will give her space to talk about what is happening to her, provide her with emotional support and information on her rights and options. The expert team will help her access other services, like legal advice and support, counselling and mental health support, and housing options such as refuge accommodation.

The carefully created warm, engaging and reassuring animation gives information on the different ways to get in touch with the Helpline, providing critical information for women whose safe window for making contact may have narrowed due to lockdown. If it is not safe to speak, women may wish to use our newly-extended live chat service, which operates online via www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk from Monday to Friday, 3-10pm. Refuge knows that making contact can feel daunting for women, it may be the first time they've ever spoken to someone about what is happening to them. It is important for them to feel as comfortable as possible when reaching out for help, which is why the Helpline offers an interpretation service so women can speak to advisers in their own language.

16 Days 16 Films

16 finalists have been chosen from over 350 submissions from the UK, Ireland, France, Italy, Mexico and the United States. All films are directed by a female-identifying filmmaker, are 20 minutes or under, and speak powerfully to the many forms which gender-based violence, inequality and discrimination can take.

Every day from today, 25 November, to 10 December, we will be sharing one of the final 16 films across our social media.

Then, on 16 December, a winner will be decided by an independent jury at a streamed online event and Awards Announcement, hosted in partnership with Girls on Film and moderated by British film critic and broadcaster Anna Smith.

The independent jury, made up of a cohort incredible women from different creative backgrounds including actresses Anna Friel and Ashley Judd and activist Dr. Leyla Hussein, will decide the winning filmmaker and two runners up, with each receiving a cash prize. The winner will also receive the opportunity to direct UK SAYS NO MORE's new public service announcement.

[Watch a new short film every day here.](#)

New Webchat Service from DHIVERSE – Supporting Sexual Health & Sex & Relationships

We know it can be difficult to access services in person at the moment and that the lockdown and the pandemic can make sex and relationships, as well as keeping on top of our sexual health difficult. We also know that, even when things are 'normal', it can sometimes be a bit embarrassing talking face to face with someone about sexual health, sexual wellbeing and related issues. It's for these reasons that we've launched a **new webchat service**. Our webchat service is a really great way for people to connect with one of our of sexual health, sex and relationships and HIV professionals, without the need to book a face to face session or have the struggle of finding a convenient time to phone us during our office hours.

Webchat gives you the opportunity to chat online with one of our friendly team and to get free, confidential and non-judgemental support and information. Remember – we've pretty much heard everything, so you needn't feel concerned about asking a question! We won't ever tell you what you should do, but we will give you non-judgemental, unbiased information to help you make your own informed decisions. We can also signpost you to other relevant support and information and although **we can't offer you medical advice**, we can make sure you know where to go for it.

For more information and opening times visit our website www.dhiverse.org.uk and click on the 'Sexual Health Information' tab or email Meg Veit at Meg@dhiverse.org.uk

Commissioner welcomes funding boost for rape and domestic abuse support

ACTING Police and Crime Commissioner, Ray Bisby has announced that services for sexual and domestic abuse victims in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough are to receive a funding boost of more than £190,000.

The funding is made up of £97,138 which will be allocated to local services facing greater demand and Cambridgeshire's additional allocation from the Rape Support Fund which totals £93,601. This will be awarded to the county's sexual violence support service the Cambridge and Peterborough Rape Crisis Partnership.

All 11 services are reporting an increased demand for emotional and practical support from victims. The additional funds will allow them to retain trained staff and continue to respond to victims in a way that meets their needs.

"While the Coronavirus health emergency continues to impact on all of us, for victims of domestic or sexual abuse, lockdown restrictions can increase anxiety. Positively our providers are reporting that many more victims are accepting help and are keen to spend time talking to staff who are offering both emotional and practical support", explains Mr Bisby.

"Today's funding announcement recognises the vital work undertaken by service providers to ensure sexual and domestic abuse victims can continue to access support during this difficult time."

Cambridgeshire Deaf Association is one of the local service providers to receive a small cash injection. Ruth Godden, Cambridgeshire Deaf Association, added:

"This grant has allowed us to purchase practical resources which will enable staff to continue to provide support to domestic abuse victims, such as face masks for British Sign Language users. We understand the real potential for the current situation with Covid-19 to cause anxiety and concern for many, not least those processing trauma and living with the impacts of domestic

abuse. We want to reassure survivors of domestic abuse that we are still here, and you are not alone.”

The Acting Police and Crime Commissioner along with partners has already secured over £600,000 of additional funding for services supporting domestic and sexual abuse victims since spring. Including three Independent Sexual Violence Advocates (ISVAs) for the county. ISVAs offer important practical and emotional support to anyone who has been raped or sexually assaulted recently or in the past regardless of whether the crime has been reported to the police.

“I would like to thank partners for their support in securing over £790,000 for rape and domestic abuse victim services this year. Altogether this funding is being used to improve access to services and provide additional capacity within charities to respond to demand for help as this pandemic continues. I would urge anyone who is a victim of a sexual assault, whatever the circumstances it happened in, to seek help. Your safety and wellbeing is our main priority.”

Any victims wishing to access support can call the Freephone advice number on **0800 781 6818** or email: victimandwitnesshub@cambs.pnn.police.uk.

There is also online advice on the Victims Services website which provides details of other local and national organisations providing specialist support: www.cambsvictimservices.co.uk.

COUNCIL SUPPORTS INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

CAMBRIDGE City Council is supporting the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women on 25 November.

Internationally, this starts 16 days of activism against gender-based violence leading up to 10 December, the UN’s Human Rights Day. Wednesday 25 November also marks White Ribbon Day in the UK. The White Ribbon Campaign works to engage men in speaking out about violence against women and girls, to challenge gender stereotypes underpinning such violence and to challenge cultures that lead to harassment, abuse and violence against women.

The council first achieved White Ribbon accreditation in 2015 for its work in support of the aims of the campaign, and has remained accredited ever since. In previous years the council has held conferences on the subject of tackling the crime of domestic abuse to mark the UN day, but that this year’s planned conference has had to be postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic.

In the past, the conferences have featured speakers and presentations from many partner organisations who work closely with the council to address domestic abuse, such as Cambridge Women’s Aid, Cambridge Rape Crisis Centre, Cambridge Women’s Resources Centre and Cambridgeshire Constabulary, as well as the council’s own White Ribbon Ambassadors.

Cambridge City Council remains committed to tackling domestic abuse by working with partners locally and nationally in a number of ways. Last year it became only the fifth local authority in the UK to be awarded the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) accreditation. This accreditation is the national benchmark for how housing providers should respond to domestic abuse, recognising that they are in a unique position to identify abuse, prevent it and provide help for people suffering its effects.

To achieve its accreditation the council had to demonstrate how it works to improve the quality of service given to those seeking housing advice, and support tenants, residents and council staff

who may be experiencing or are affected by domestic abuse.

In addition to the DAHA and White Ribbon accreditations the council 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.

The 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 young people against violence and exploitation, and listening to community needs and responding together to reduce harm. In addition the council requires all applicants for new taxi drivers' licences to pass a safeguarding and knowledge test, which includes questions about how to identify customers who are potentially at risk of domestic abuse, and how they can provide assistance.

Earlier in November the council held an online seminar for Cambridge private landlords, to help them identify cases of domestic abuse in their properties, and the help that is available to them to tackle it.

Cllr Nicky Massey, Executive Councillor for Transport and Community Safety said: "Sadly this year we have seen a rise in cases of domestic abuse nationally since the first national lockdown, but I would like to stress that even during this current lockdown victims of domestic abuse are able to leave their home to seek the help and assistance they need. Information about the support locally and nationally for victims of domestic abuse is available on the council website. It is a shame that we have been unable to hold our annual conference this year due to the pandemic but we remain absolutely committed along with our partners, to protecting some of the most vulnerable people in our community."

White Ribbon Day celebrations

Cambridge City Council also featured on the White Ribbon Campaign Day – 25 November - in two collages on their webpage: <https://www.whiteribbon.org.uk/day>.



Cambridge City White Ribbon Ambassadors pictured from top left: Adam Ratcliffe, Mayor Councillor Russ McPherson, Sam Gomersall, Adam Moghadas and Shapour Meftah.

Photo collage by Louise Walker

Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council showed their commitment to supporting victims of domestic abuse by raising a flag to mark White Ribbon Day. Due to lockdown

rules, only one councillor from each authority was present for the flag raising. For Cambridgeshire, Cllr Mac McGuire, Chairman of the county council, raised the flag at Shire Hall.

Cllr Mac McGuire said: "We are pleased to be taking part in White Ribbon Day event and the county council continue to work with its partners to help and support victims of domestic abuse. I would urge anyone experience domestic abuse to access support - please do not suffer in silence."

In Peterborough, Cllr John Holdich, leader of the city council, raised the flag at Peterborough Town Hall. Cllr Holdich said: "We are committed to supporting all victims of domestic abuse and we are proud to be one of the many organisations across the country to stand up and speak out against violence towards women and girls. We also recognise that both men and boys can also be victims of domestic abuse. We understand that the reporting of domestic abuse has risen this year due to Covid-19 and I want everybody to know that support is available for all victims."

Partners from District Council's also joined in with posting on social media and South Cambridgeshire District Council posted a short film which can be viewed at <https://m.facebook.com/SouthCambridgeshireDistrictCouncil/videos/a-message-on-white-ribbon-day-2020/186553586342393/>

Fenland District Council also made a film which we hope to share in the next newsletter.

DHIVERSE launch new RSE Curriculum package

As the delivery of RSE becomes statutory for schools, and must be fully in place by summer 2021, we've worked hard to develop and design, from scratch, a comprehensive curriculum package which is innovative, varied and fit for the 21st Century! Our new programme follows DfE guidance and local frameworks to ensure that students have the opportunity to cover all the priority learning around sex, sexual development, relationships and more. We have written 60 lesson plans across Years 7 to 11, which we're releasing in waves across the autumn and winter. We've prioritised lessons in line with the DfE's suggestion that "*schools should consider prioritising curriculum content on mental health and wellbeing*".

Our flexible programme allows schools to purchase lessons in a variety of ways. They can:

- Book Dhiverse staff for in-person delivery at school (subject to current safety advice and guidance around Covid-19)
- Buy individual lesson plans and supporting resources for specific topics
- Buy year-group lesson bundles or the entire curriculum
- Book staff training to complement the programme

For more info or to make a booking or purchase please contact enquiries@dhiverse.org.uk or call me, Louisa Perry, RSE Curriculum Coordinator, on 07957 656 929 and I'll be happy to talk through the different options.

New MPower service launched in Fenland

Ormiston Families' Mpower service operates across Ipswich, Great Yarmouth, Lowestoft, Norwich, Kings Lynn and now in Fenland, Cambridgeshire. The service supports women who have had one or more children removed from their care.

Mpower practitioners tailor their support to meet the needs of each woman, making every intervention unique. Women are empowered to set their own goals and address the issues that led to the removal in order to reduce the likelihood of it happening again. Mpower increases women's self-esteem and wellbeing, improves their access to community and therapeutic services, and encourages them to make positive choices. Where appropriate, our practitioners will also support partners.

Criteria for referral:

- We support women whose child/ren has been removed into care, including those currently in care proceedings.
- We can support women with:
 - Understanding the reasons for previous removals
 - Making positive changes to their lives through agreed personal goals
 - Maintaining or moving onto contraception
 - Practical matters such as housing, debt and education
- Aims to empower women and reduce the number of women experiencing repeat removals
- Is goal-oriented and provides non-time limited one-to-one support
- Has the capacity to support up to 25 service users at any time

We can offer support to Women in Wisbech, March, Whittlesey, Chatteris and the surrounding villages.

The service is unable to reunite parents with their children.

For an informal discussion please contact Emma Davies on 07790 369850 or email on emma.davies@ormistonfamilies.org.uk

The pandemic experiences of migrant women

Safety4Sisters have released findings from their latest report 'Locked in abuse, locked out of safety which explores the experiences of migrant women during the COVID pandemic.

This report details evidence collected by Safety4Sisters identifying the risks faced by migrant women as a result of the pandemic. They call for urgent action for migrant women who are increasingly being exposed to high risk situation with violent perpetrators.

To read the full report click [here](#).

Opportunities to participate in research

Victim Focus want to hear experiences from UK women aged 18 years old and over, to explore several key issues:

- How prevalent is violence against and abuse of women and girls in the UK?
- Do key theories and assumptions about women and girls still stand when a large public sample is examined?
- Are there some misconceptions and myths about which women and girls are subjected to abuse and violence?
- Are we collecting enough information on broad types of violence, abuse and oppression of women and girls in the UK?

The findings from this study will provide the vital information needed for VictimFocus to create and publish peer reviewed advice, guidance and resources which will be available for FREE to all survivors and professionals around the world. <https://freeonlinesurveys.com/s/gjPliqH9#/0>

Alice Gomersall from The University of East London is looking to recruit participants for her study exploring the professional response to children bereaved by domestic homicide in the UK. She is looking to recruit: a) professionals with direct experience of working with children bereaved by domestic homicide, and b) professionals without direct experience but who are working in the fields of domestic abuse, mental health, social care, and related services, or those that commission these services. Participation would involve completing an online survey estimated to take between 15-20 minutes. Some participants may also wish to volunteer themselves to take part in a follow-up interview; this is entirely optional. To access the survey please click [here](#).

Emilie Wildman, a PhD student from King's College London is recruiting for a new qualitative study examining the experience of violence towards family carers from service users with severe mental health conditions. The team are looking for family carers who had experience of aggression/violence from the service user they care for, and service users who have been aggressive/violent to their family carer. Taking part in the study will involve completing a one-off individual (online) interview and participants will be compensated for their time. Please contact emilie.wildman@kcl.ac.uk for more information about taking part.

UCL STEaPP, University of Queensland and QUT are calling for domestic violence sector workers in the UK and Australia to take part in a survey to assess the impact of Internet of Things (IoT) technology on survivors of domestic violence. Participants will be asked to share their own, or their organisations, thoughts, insights and practices of working with survivors of domestic and sexual violence and to consider whether the emergence of technology-facilitated abuse is affecting the ways in which women use technology to find information, support and safety. The survey should take 5 to 10 minutes to complete. For more information and the link to the survey click [here](#).



This official Christmas card for 2020 from Refuge was created by a child living in one of the Cambridgeshire refuges with support from the CADA funded Children's Refuge Worker.

We love it!

Do you work with Older People?

The Dewis Choice Project is based in Wales and was developed to explore the issues of older people experiencing abuse. The project has created a free online training resource that is for anyone working, or volunteering with, older people.

They are currently working with Safe Lives to deliver and develop specialist training and support for older people, including people with dementia.

You can access the training at <https://dewischoice.org.uk/what-we-do/training/>

CPS Rape guidance consultation – have your say

The CPS have launched a public consultation on their updated guidance around Rape and Serious Sexual Offences. The updated legal guidance reflects the changing world and improved understanding of the many complex issues related to rape. Many of the revisions have been informed by the expert insight of stakeholders. The revised guidance also features updated content around reasonable lines of enquiry and disclosure which aims to assist prosecutors with striking the appropriate balance between the needs of an investigation and the right to privacy.

The consultation documents can be accessed at <https://www.cps.gov.uk/consultation/consultation-rape-and-sexual-offences-legal-guidance>