



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

February 2018

Dear Partners

We are excited that Julia Cullum has now started her post as Partnership Manager. Julia's background is in workforce development and she has been delivering some of the domestic abuse courses across the county for several years, as well as being our Children & Young People's Coordinator a couple of years ago so many of you will know her. Julia will be working alongside Vickie Crompton to take forward the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough VAWG Action Plan.

Social media is the main platform for sharing information these days and we are no exception. We're on both Twitter and Facebook (links below) and use both regularly to share what we are up to as well as news from across the domestic abuse and sexual violence sector. Please give us a 'follow' to let us know you're out there!

March brings a number of key campaign/awareness events including International Women's Day on 8th March, the Women of the World Festival in London and the whole month is being used to highlight safeguarding across both adults and children's services. Keep an eye on our social media pages for news of events locally and nationally.

We have been working with the providers of the Cambridge United Football Club website for a few years now to share messages about domestic abuse and our latest highlights support available to male victims <http://www.gladiatorfootball.co.uk/league-two/cambridge-united> (scroll to bottom of website).

We hope you enjoy the newsletter and remember that you can submit articles to Amanda.warburton@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Vickie Crompton & Julia Cullum
Partnership Managers



Training update

LGSS Learning and Development have integrated their booking system to a different Learning Management Systems (iLearn) for all the Social Care Workforce Development including Domestic Abuse training. You can now view and book the full offer available from LGSS Learning and Development on iLearn <http://lgss.learningpool.com/>

If you do not already have an iLearn account, you will need to create one to book a course. In order to do this simply select the course you want to book, click 'Create new account' and follow the instructions. By doing this you will now have access to your personal learning record which will include all eLearning and face to face courses. Social Care courses will only be included for attendance from the 19 February 2018.

If you need any further information, help or support please contact the Learning and Development team at LGSSLearning@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

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.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Adults Board have launched their new Training Brochure which runs up to December 2018 and can be accessed [here](#).

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

NSPCC launch new film aimed at primary school children

The NSPCC have released new film to help primary school children stay safe from sexual harm, including child sex abuse and female genital mutilation (FGM). The film is aligned with the NSPCC PANTS campaign and supports learning on body rights and safety. The film is accompanied by a lesson plan and suggested letter to parents/carers

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DuGY_bNfUmQ

Increase in reports of sexual offences against men and boys

The office for National Statistics says that reports of sexual offences against men and boys have more than tripled in the past decade. ONS reports there were 12,130 offences reported in England and Wales in 2016-17, compared with 3,819 in 2006-07.

Andy Connolly, from Survivors UK, said victims were beginning to feel they would be believed but there was still a "massive wall of silence".

A 2015 survey estimated about 96% of offences against males go unreported.

Mr Connolly, chief executive of male rape and sexual abuse charity Survivors UK, said: "We do know of men who come forward and they just meet comments like 'men can't get raped, they can't be sexually abused' and are treated with disbelief that it is even a thing that happens to men."

The BBC made a special request for data which shows that reports of sexual assaults against males went from 2,687 to 7,610 (+183%) and rape reports rose from 1,132 to 4,520 (+299%) between 2006-07 and 2016-17.

Over the same period, reports of sexual assaults against females rose from 21,128 to 38,186 (+80.7%) and rape reports went from 12,599 to 36,639 (+190%).

Part of the increase has been attributed to a rise in the number of historic allegations being made to police.

Untangling the concept of coercive control: Theorizing domestic violent crime

Two internationally recognised experts have released a paper assessing three approaches to domestic violence: two that use the concept of 'coercive control' and one that uses 'domestic violent crime'. Sylvia Walby and Jude Towers from Lancaster university have used Stark's concept of coercive control and Johnson's distinction between situational couple violence and intimate terrorism for the article which is available at the link below.

The article assesses these approaches on seven issues and offers original analysis of data from the Crime Survey for England and Wales concerning variations in repetition and seriousness in domestic violent crime. It links escalation in domestic violent crime to variations in the economic resources of the victim. It concludes that the concept of domestic violent crime is preferable to that of coercive control when seeking to explain variations in domestic violence.

Cambridgeshire ISVA to speak at House of Lords

Ellie Ball, senior Independent Sexual Violence Advisor, has been invited to speak on the topic of Violence Against Women: A Determinant of Health

This event follows up a major conference held at Cumberland Lodge in February 2017: *Violence Against Women: A Determinant of Health*.

The conference in February brought together delegates from public health directors, NHS representatives, policy makers, think tanks, charities and service users, to explore ways of enhancing the Government's strategy to end violence against women and girls. It examined the barriers to, and opportunities for, enhancing health professionals' response to a range of issues including FGM, sexual violence, intimate partner abuse, and honour based violence. The conference made a series of practical recommendations for both health workers, victim support services and policy makers.

To bring the key learning points and outstanding actions from the conference directly to policymakers, senior civil servants and influencers in Westminster, we are holding a follow-up seminar at the House of Lords on International Women's Day (8th March).

The seminar aims to provide a safe forum to come together and ask:

- Why are rates of violence against women in the UK one third higher than the EU average?
- What is needed to develop a more integrated approach for early intervention & joint up action
- How can we encourage stakeholders from a wide range of sectors including healthcare to address the issues of gender based violence.

Seminar Chair: Baroness Butler-Sloss GBE

- **Winnie M Li**, PhD Researcher and Author of 'Dark Chapter'
- **Dr Neera Dholakia**, Lead GP for Safeguarding Children and Clinical Lead for Mental Health, West London CCG
- **Ellie Ball**, Independent Sexual Violence Advocate (ISVA), Cambridge Rape Crisis

Break4Change

A group of staff drawn from across Cambridgeshire Children's Services and Peterborough Youth Offending team recently completed a pilot of the Break4Change programme. Break4Change is a group work programme 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 are run by staff from BeatThis and use lyric writing, rapping and other media to embed progress, deepen reflection and develop empathy. Over the ten weeks each young person developed a music track and lyrics inspired by themes discussed in the group, these were made into a compilation CD with artwork co-designed in the group, and each young person was presented with a copy in the final week.

A film dialogue process is also used through the ten weeks to enable communication 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 group took referrals from across the county, and approximately six young people and eight parents attended the course, held in Huntingdon. Attendance was on a voluntary basis. Evaluation of the group has been completed through post group interviews with families, and pre and post group questionnaires. The programme was initially developed several years ago in Brighton and we were keen to stay as close as possible to the Brighton model and evaluation methods. Attendance over the ten week period was generally excellent, and feedback from both young people and parents has been overwhelmingly positive. The results from parent questionnaires showed a change in a positive direction in all areas assessed. Importantly, those parents who took part reported a reduction in the frequency and severity of violence at the end of the 10 week programme. Parents who completed the course rated improvements in their confidence, the quality of their parenting skills, improvements in the emotional link between child and parent. They also reported less psychological distress and an improvement in their quality of life. Post group interviews suggest parents valued the chance to discuss issues with others in a similar situation and young people valued the creative element and the chance to express their views through video dialogue.

Here are some quotes from participants;

[the best thing was] "Being able to put my point across and seeing how mum reacts to it and being able to hear their opinions without it being so hostile" – young person

"We've made progress really quickly. We've been going through this for years and it's only since we've found this course that we've both realised the changes we need to make" – parent

The group is now working on establishing funding and a staff structure to enable us to run the group on a more sustainable basis. Partnerships have also been developed with the YMCA who, in conjunction with Break4Change Brighton have developed a holding programme for families waiting to attend the main Break4Change programme, or who do not reach the threshold for the full Break4Change programme. The YMCA group begins in Huntingdon on 7th March. For further information on the Break4Change programme contact Matthew Pink, Acting Team Manager Cambridge Team, Youth Offending Service on 01223 507220.

Matthew Pink

NSPCC survey on disclosures of abuse and neglect

The NSPCC would like to invite you to complete a survey on professionals' experiences of listening to children and receiving disclosures of abuse and neglect.

The ambition is to develop a practical resource that will support professionals working with children to confidently deal with disclosures of abuse and to improve children's experiences of the disclosure process. This is in response to NSPCC research which found that too often children's disclosures go unheard and unnoticed. For example, young people have told us that although the physical and emotional signs of abuse were there, no one picked up what was happening: *"I never went and asked for help, but no-one ever asked me"*.

A crucial first step to developing this resource is to hear directly from individuals about their experiences of dealing with disclosures. Please follow the link below to the survey if you work with children and young people either directly or indirectly for example: police officer, sports coach, teacher, school counselor, school nurse or anyone else who works in a school, social worker, GP, health visitor, foster carer, adoptive parent or anyone involved with children through the family court system.

https://www.snapsurveys.com/wh/s.asp?k=151730760346&mc_cid=41089d6e0e&mc_eid=273e6b246c

Inquiry into sexual harassment of women and girls

The Women and Equalities Committee has launched a new inquiry into sexual harassment of women and girls in public places. MPs now want to focus on women and girls' experiences of sexual harassment in public places: on the street, on public transport, in shopping areas, in bars and clubs and in other public areas.

Deadline – Monday 5th March http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/women-and-equalities-committee/news-parliament-2017/sexual-harassment-public-places-launch-17-19/?mc_cid=41089d6e0e&mc_eid=273e6b246c

Government SRE consultation closed

The Revised sex and relationships education (SRE) curriculum, consultation ended on 12th February. The BBC asked a group of mothers - who had their first child when they were teenagers – for their comments on what should be included in SRE education. The women said youngsters need to learn about issues such as:

- consent
- coercion
- grooming
- abusive relationships
- sharing intimate photos and videos
- the pressures of social media
- the risk of having their drinks spiked with date-rape drugs

Christina commented that getting involved in early sexual experiences can often be about underlying mental health issues such as low self-esteem. "If someone's missing something in their life or they've had a trauma or a loss and they're desperately seeking to fill the void, they might search to fill that void in the means of a sexual relationship with somebody.

Bethany, 22, who was 17 when she gave birth to her daughter, says the issues young people face were just beginning to change when she was growing up, as people started to get smartphones. "I noticed a real change in the peer pressure that started happening and just how children didn't understand the pressure. There are these new things that have come up that we need to focus on - there's definitely pressure by peers and social media and this whole thing of photos and videos and revenge porn and the effects of sending this and using it against someone as well. And also domestic abuse and how you can educate children about sex and how to not be abusive in a sexual way.

"There's so much pressure and we need to be teaching children that it's not OK to put pressure on people to have sex and that it's OK to leave a situation when you're feeling pressure. "Understanding that concept that a 'No,' is a 'No,' and that it's not OK to kind of fear someone into doing something, even if you're not physically touching them but the mental threat has been put there - that is still taking advantage.

New leaflets about sexual violence services in Cambridgeshire

The Cambridge and Peterborough Rape Crisis Partnership have released three new leaflets about the services available to survivors of sexual abuse and sexual violence across the county. The leaflets explain the role of ISVAs, what to expect when working with an ISVA and also about the Children and Young People's ISVA. The leaflets are available at the links below:

http://www.cambsdasv.org.uk/website/downloads_and_resources_1/96816

http://www.cambsdasv.org.uk/website/children_and_young_people_/96818



For the period up to 2019 The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Adults Board are focussing on the following priorities:

- **Domestic Abuse** – To ensure that adults at risk of abuse and neglect are protected from all types of Domestic Abuse; and when victims are identified they are provided with appropriate support to recover and are safeguarded in line with the principles of Making Safeguarding Personal. In this priority there will be a particular focus on **elder abuse** (over 65)
- **Neglect** (including self-neglect and hoarding) – To ensure that adults, at risk of abuse and neglect, in all settings, are protected from neglect; and when victims are identified they are provided with appropriate support to recover and are safeguarded in line with the principles of Making Safeguarding Personal.
- **Adults living with mental health issues** - To ensure that adults at risk of abuse and neglect are protected, and that practitioners are skilled and trained appropriately to recognise changes in symptoms and behaviours that may indicate a deterioration in their mental health and that a change in care management/planning is required; and when victims are identified they are provided with appropriate support to recover and are safeguarded in line with the principles of Making Safeguarding Personal.

To help us work towards these priorities, we need to raise awareness of Safeguarding and the work of the SAB, so along with the Safeguarding Childrens' Board we are promoting Safeguarding Awareness activities in March 2018, with partner agencies undertaking a range of activities across the county – including themed team meetings around safeguarding, having stands and information in public areas, and workshops and training events about safeguarding.

On March 15th the SAB is running a conference – “Safeguarding is Everyone’s Business”, which will include sessions on Information sharing, Making Safeguarding Personal and Forced Marriage when a person has a learning disability, as well as real case studies, if you would like to attend the conference see <http://safeguardingpeterborough.org.uk/availabletraining/>

By raising awareness we hope to better identify adults who may be at risk of abuse and neglect and help practitioners have a better understanding of their role in Safeguarding, so together they can work towards better outcomes.

Future of the Space Project

Sarah-Jane Smedmor, Assistant Director Children and Families, has provided the following update about the Space Project.

“As you are aware there has been a lot of discussion over the last couple of months in regards to the future of the SPACE project in Cambridgeshire.

Whilst the project has worked hard to positively engage a number of very vulnerable women over the last two years, I am writing to confirm that the decision to cease funding for the project has been made. This means that the project will be ceasing as from 30 April 2018 in line with the CCC business plan.

In planning for this, the project have not allocated the referrals they have received since November and will not be accepting any new referrals. In relation to the women they are currently working with, the project will be discussing with the safeguarding and Early Help services and other appropriate services in regards to how best to support these women going forward.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the project team for their commitment and passion for the work they have undertaken”

Job vacancy for Romanian Speaker

The Victim and Witness Hub are recruiting for a Specialist Victim Care Coordinator-Migrant Victims of Exploitation who can speak and write in English and Romanian to help support victims of exploitation, particularly sexual exploitation, involving girls from the Romania. The post is part time (16 hours) so may be of interest to someone who already works part time hours and wants a few more.

The link to the job advert is below, please could you share with anyone you think may be interested. The closing date for applications is 11th March.

<https://tri-force.tal.net/vx/lang-en-GB/mobile-0/appcentre-5/brand-4/xf-b8db75f6892d/candidate/so/pm/1/pl/17/opp/6192-PS-217-C-Specialist-Victim-Care-coordinator-Migrant-Victims-of-Exploitation/en-GB>

New Keep Your Head website for adults

The SUN Network are thrilled to be able to share the fantastic news that the new Keep Your Head website funded by Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group, Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council will be going live on the 20th of February. The website will be a one stop shop for information on services locally and nationally that can offer support with your mental wellbeing as well as offering self-help options. It offers information on numerous co-existing challenges and experiences such as drink and drugs, domestic abuse, eating disorders, sexual violence and social isolation.

The SUN Network will be maintaining and updating the site so if you are aware of a service you feel should be on there, let us know at Enquiries@sunnetwork.org.uk or take a look for yourself if you would like to find services that can help and support you at www.keep-your-head.com/adults



Feeling low?

Trouble sleeping?

Stressed out?

Everything getting too much?

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Mental Health

KeepYourHead

Wellbeing and mental health information and support for all ages

www.keep-your-head.com



Cambridgeshire
County Council





Annual Conference

CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

STOP THE
ABUSE
Pretty please

SAVE THE DATE!

Date: 8th June 2018

Venue: Deafblind UK Conference Centre,
Cygnet Rd, Peterborough PE7 8FD

Further details about the day and how to book will follow.