



**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

September 2020

Hello and welcome to our September newsletter.

I hope many of you managed to have a break over the Summer.

We have been busy finalising our 2019-20 Annual Report which you can now read on our website [here](#). The report details how we worked with partner agencies to meet our strategic aims and includes information from partners on how they are supporting survivors of domestic abuse and sexual violence.

We have lots of updates to share with you this month so I hope you enjoy reading it all.

If you have anything you would like us to share in the newsletter, please contact Amanda.Warburton@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Julia Cullum
Partnership Manager



Accessible Economic Abuse leaflet

We have created a new leaflet to highlight the signs of economic abuse and signpost to support services. The leaflet is created in an 'accessible' style that is suitable for people with communication or literacy difficulties.

The leaflet can be downloaded and printed from our website at https://www.cambsdasv.org.uk/website/economic_abuse/424212

DASV Champions Network – October

We will be holding the October Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Champions meetings virtually again.

The dates are below and we will be joined by Cambridgeshire Constabulary to talk about the police and criminal justice processes around domestic abuse. We will also have a network/information sharing session afterwards.

Please email DASVChampions@cambridgeshire.gov.uk to book a place – you only need to attend one session as they will all be the same.

Due to a large number of people booking but not attending the July sessions, please do remember to let us know if you can't attend so we can free up spaces for others.

5th October, 10.00 – 11.30

21st October, 13.30 – 15.00

27th October, 11.00 – 12.30

Barriers to health professionals screening for DA

A recent study published by the British Journal of Nursing looked at barriers preventing health professionals screening women for domestic abuse? The literature review aimed to identify the potential barriers preventing health professionals from screening women for domestic abuse and to consider how these barriers could be overcome.

A literature review of electronic databases using predetermined search terms and inclusion/exclusion criteria was undertaken. Seven studies were identified for review, consisting of five qualitative and two quantitative pieces of research.

Several barriers to screening by health professionals were identified, including lack of training, education, time, privacy, guidelines, policies and support from the employer, with the most prevalent of these being a lack of training and education. Further research is required, specifically within the UK, to provide more details about how these barriers might be addressed.

Read the full article at <https://www.magonlinelibrary.com/doi/full/10.12968/bjon.2020.29.13.754>

Teenage relationship abuse – where to Draw the Line

Safe Lives ran a #TalkaboutToxic survey earlier this year to understand teens' thoughts around love, abuse and relationships. 51% of the young people we surveyed said they wanted advice on what was and wasn't ok in a relationship.

Using the findings ([which you can read here](#)) and in close collaboration with young people, [SafeLives](#) and communications specialists [On Our Radar](#) have worked to create a pilot mobile platform: **Draw the Line**.

Draw the Line has been designed to support young people in understanding where the line is in relationships between healthy and abusive behaviours, providing clarity where the line seems blurred. *Is it OK when your boyfriend pressures you to have sex? Or reads your text messages?*

Draw the Line captures anonymous short stories submitted by young people about how they have been impacted by abuse in relationships, and asks participants to draw a virtual line where they identify toxic and harmful behaviours. Users get the chance to compare their own line with that of their peers and find out how domestic abuse professionals interpret the content.

In a world where teenagers tell us they feel overlooked and unheard, we want to listen, giving young people a chance to share their own story as well as learn from those of others.

Draw the Line includes clear signposting to 24/7 safeguarding support, so that teenagers can explore this information safely, as well as advice about how to support friends who are experiencing abuse.

Want to see it for yourself? Have a look at drawtheline.uk on your smartphone.

Please note: Although girls are more likely to experience abusive behaviour in young relationships, domestic abuse can and does happen to anyone. Draw the Line are keen to hear and share the stories and experiences of young people and children of all genders, including boys and young people who identify as LGBTQ+. Please share the platform widely to help them achieve this.

Updated FGM Guidance

The Government has updated the guidance around Female Genital Mutilation

The guidance is applicable to all persons and bodies in England and Wales who are under statutory duties to make arrangements to discharge their functions having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and vulnerable adults.

You can download the new guidance, which includes helpful case studies, [here](#).

More than half a million pounds secured for services supporting vulnerable victims

ACTING Police and Crime Commissioner, Ray Bisby thanked partners for helping his office to secure more than £600,000 of additional funding for services supporting domestic and sexual abuse victims since spring.

The cash injection started in March with news of a successful bid to the Home Office for an additional two Independent Sexual Violence Advocates (ISVAs) for the Cambridge and Peterborough Rape Crisis Partnership. 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. This will fund the posts for the next two years.

Only a couple of months later, the Commissioner welcomed [over a quarter of a million pounds for local charities](#) from the government. The money, totalling £279,108, was awarded to 12 organisations within Cambridgeshire and Peterborough who provide individual or family support to local residents experiencing domestic abuse or sexual violence before or during lockdown.

“Family Action applied for additional funding which has been invaluable in enabling us to provide vital support to children and young people affected by domestic abuse and sexual violence,” said Julie Sturgeon, Operational Manager at Family Action.

“In July alone, we supported 26 children and young people who had experienced domestic abuse and sexual violence. The grant received has allowed us to provide specialist support, advice and even co-ordinate food parcels and essentials for those families most in need during the Covid-19 pandemic.”

At the same time Cambridge and Peterborough Rape Crisis Partnership secured an additional £123,138 from the national Rape Support Fund to make sure vital emotional support continued to be provided.

And finally, the news came in early July that the Home Office was to fund a third Independent Sexual Violence Advocate. This had been in the original bid but approved in a second round of funding. This brought the funding for these three posts over the two years to more than £220k. Of the three new ISVA posts created, two will support victims aged 18 and under.

Charities across the county worked with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner to compile bids to bring the money into the area.

A spokesperson for The Meadows Children and Family Wing said:

“The Covid-19 Emergency Funding we received has been vital in supporting our work with survivors of domestic abuse during a time of great uncertainty. We have been able to purchase some essential assets for effective remote working and fund staffing hours to ensure we meet increasing needs during and after the pandemic.”

The funding is helping a range of support organisations across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to provide much-needed support to some of the county’s most vulnerable victims both during and after lockdown.

“We’ve had to switch many of our services to online and via the telephone rather than face to face. This additional funding will not only allow us to support more children and young people who have been harmed by crime but it will allow them the means to access our vitally important services.

“Part of the funding will be spent on buying mobile phones and tablets - many cash-strapped families are simply unable to afford them,” adds Embrace Child Victims of Crime, CEO Anne Campbell.

“Whether we are in lockdown or not, it is vital that victims of domestic abuse or sexual violence have access to the right support when they need it,” explains Acting Police and Crime Commissioner Ray Bisby.

“The pandemic has brought many challenges however I am pleased this additional money will help local organisations adapt their services in order to continue to support people whilst maintaining social distancing.”

With Covid-19 bringing a halt to many fundraising efforts, the aforementioned £123,138 secured by Cambridge and Peterborough Rape Crisis Partnership made sure that vital emotional support continues to be provided throughout the pandemic.

Norah Al-Ani, Director of Cambridge Rape Crisis, said:

“The Cambridge and Peterborough Rape Crisis Partnership understands the real potential for the current situation with Covid-19 to cause anxiety and concern for many, not least of all those processing trauma and living with the impacts of sexual violence and abuse. We are delighted to receive this much needed additional funding for our countywide ISVA service and our emotional and therapeutic support services. It has been a beacon of light for us and the survivors we are here to support.”

“We anticipate that as lockdown restrictions are further eased we will see a surge in demand for support services and feel reassured that this additional funding will enable us to continue to provide the best possible support to survivors and victims in the county.”

The Commissioner added: “Altogether this funding is being used to improve access to services and provide additional capacity within charities to respond to demand for help as lockdown eases.

“I would like to thank partners for their support in securing this much needed funding.”

Updates from the Central Government Safer & Stronger Communities Team

Government’s response to Home Affairs report on domestic abuse

On 27 July 2020, the Government published its [response](#) to the Home Affairs Committee’s report on Home Office preparedness for Covid-19: Domestic abuse and risks of harm. Following our oral evidence to the committee, the Government’s response recognised the important work of the LGA in helping ensure that social workers continue to work with vulnerable children at this time. We will continue to make the case for investment in these important services as part of our Spending Review submission to the Treasury.

Cont’d on next page

Domestic abuse bill

In July 2020, the [Domestic Abuse Bill](#) completed its passage through the House of Commons and

had its First Reading in the House of Lords. During the House of Commons stages, several Government amendments were made, including new clauses on: children in the definition of victims of domestic abuse; homelessness; special measures in family and civil proceedings; prohibiting cross-examination in person in certain circumstances; and banning the 'rough sex' defence. The Bill will continue to its Second Reading in the House of Lords after the Summer recess. If you would like further information about the Bill, please contact Rachel.Phelps@local.gov.uk

Future of the Probation Service

The House of Commons Justice Committee has launched an inquiry in the future of the Probation Service. The Committee's inquiry will examine the proposed model for the new probation service and seek views on how well the proposed model addresses the problems identified in the past. The Committee will seek to understand the effect Covid-19 has had on the delivery of probation services and what the potential impact may be going forward into the next phase of the Probation Reform Programme. The deadline for written evidence is 7 September 2020. We would welcome any feedback from colleagues on the proposed model for the new probation service, please contact Rachel.Phelps@local.gov.uk

Tackling serious violence

The Youth Violence Commission published its [final report](#), which recognised the devastating effect that serious violence has on young people and emphasised the importance of investing in youth services and early intervention. In our [media response](#), the LGA outlined that a public health approach is needed to tackle serious violent crime with the input of a range of partners, including those in the health and education sectors, as opposed to relying solely on a criminal justice strategy.

In addition to this, the LGA also published a [case studies document](#) on 'Taking a public health approach to tackling serious violent crime'. The document contains case studies on councils working in partnership to deliver early interventions which help to prevent children and young people from becoming involved in serious violent crime. If you would like any further information about the case studies, please get in touch with Rachel.Phelps@local.gov.uk

Impact of Covid-19 on DA survivors

Women's Aid released a report in August detailing their findings on how Covid-19 has impacted on domestic abuse survivors.

The report details that over 90% of respondents currently experiencing domestic abuse said the Covid-19 pandemic had negatively impacted in at least one way. Of those women living with their abuser during lockdown, 61% said the abuse had worsened. More than two-thirds (68%) said they felt they had no one to turn to during lockdown.

One in ten (10%) survivors said that their abuser had actively used lockdown restrictions to stop them from leaving.

38.3% said child contact arrangements have been used to further abuse, for example not returning children or restricting women's access to their children.

The report reveals how abusers have used the pandemic as a tool for abuse to increase fear and anxiety. 67% of women responding who were currently experiencing abuse said that Covid-19 had been used as part of the abuse they suffered in one or more ways.

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

Vulnerable victims of crime can pre-record evidence to avoid attending court

Following successful pilots in three areas, all crown courts in London and Kent will be able to offer children and other vulnerable victims of crime the opportunity to pre-record evidence so they do not have to attend court. All areas across the country will follow suit by the end of the year.

For many victims, facing their abuser in court can be very traumatic and some perpetrators will also use the circumstances to further intimidate the victim.

In the pilot areas, victims said they felt less pressure than attending court, according to the Ministry of Justice. The decision to pre-record evidence is made by judges on a case-by-case basis.

Evidence is video-recorded as close to the time of the alleged offence as possible, to help memory recall. It then gets played during the trial, so witnesses or victims can remain away from the courtroom.

Victims' Commissioner Dame Vera Baird welcomed the announcement, saying: "I have been concerned that children who complained of victimisation should not spend a long part of their childhood beset with the worry of ultimately giving an account of what happened. If they can give their evidence at an early stage, they will then be free to get on with their lives. There is also a further point that therapy is often delayed whilst a complainant is a witness."

Pets and Domestic Abuse – what's the link?

The DASH Risk Assessment Checklist includes a question about if the abuser has ever harmed

pets – seemingly a random question when we're looking at the safety of victims and their children – but harm of pets is a key indicator of the lengths an abuser will go to to control their victims.

Those of us with pets will know they can often be a great comfort in times of distress and many people offload their worries to their beloved furry friend, safe in the knowledge that they won't tell anyone or answer back. But domestic abusers can view this closeness as another opportunity to exert their power and control over the victim and the household. In cases of domestic homicide where a pet is also killed, the public are often more horrified by the death of the pet than the human victim. Surely no one could deliberately hurt a defenceless animal?

Research from Dog's Trust in 2019 shows that, of 379 respondents, 89% of professionals working in domestic abuse said they knew of cases where a pet has also been abused and 49% knew of cases where a pet had been killed.

Indeed, many victims will not leave their abuser as they are too scared about what harm the abuser will do to their pet. This fear is exploited by the abuser to keep their victim under their control – 'If you leave I will kill your dog' is a very effective way of making someone too frightened to leave.

This control can also manifest in other ways such as displaying jealousy about how much the victim cares about the pet, restricting access to food and veterinary care (either physically or by financial abuse), or as a way to turn children against the victim ('Your Mum made me give the dog away')

Fleeing to a refuge with a pet in tow is not really an option – so how can victims get help to keep their pets safe? Dog's Trust run the Freedom Project in various locations across the UK and Cats Protection Paws Project is similar – both provide foster carers for pets who will take care of the animal until the victim is able to be reunited with them. Unfortunately no national schemes for other types of pets exist so we would like to see more vet surgeries and pet shops operating local schemes through contacts they already have. We've produced the attached poster that we're asking vets and pet shops to display to help raise awareness of the links between harm to pets and domestic abuse.

The poster can be downloaded from our website at https://www.cambsdasv.org.uk/website/posters_for_free_download/397373 and we're happy to share it with other areas.

www.dogstrustfreedomproject.org.uk

<https://www.cats.org.uk/what-we-do/paws-protect>

DRIVE Webchat for Professionals working with domestic abuse perpetrators

The DRIVE Project has teamed up with the Respect Phonenumber to offer support and guidance to professionals on working with high-harm, high-risk and complex-needs perpetrators of domestic

abuse. A Drive Expert Advisor is available to offer free support and guidance via webchat every **Monday, Wednesday and Thursday** between the hours of **10am-12pm and 2-4pm** for 6 months, starting on Thursday 28 May. This service is available to all professionals – Social Workers, Probation Officers, Mental Health and Health Care professionals, Domestic Violence Advisors, Police Officers etc at the following link <https://respectphonenumber.org.uk/frontline-workers/>

DRIVE want to promote safe working and ensuring all voices are captured within the professionals work. The work isn't effective unless it's done in a multi-agency way. Services need to be speaking to each other to share information and insight around the victim, perpetrator and any children.. Ideally there will be a worker identified for the victim and one for the perpetrator but this may not be possible in all circumstances (ie Children's Social Care). Trust within the working relationship is important so this lends itself to that but transparency about the process is also important too.

The DRIVE Advisor will go through a checklist with the professional asking questions such as has it been DASH'd? Has it gone to MARAC? What's is your relationship like with the family and how often are you in contact with the perpetrator?

Where local perpetrator interventions exist, the DRIVE Advisor will signpost to these. However, there are currently no perpetrator interventions in Cambridgeshire or Peterborough other than those run by Probation services.

The service can be a useful action to consider for MARAC chairs. If it is felt that not enough work is happening with the perpetrator then an action could be tasked for the lead worker to contact DRIVE Webchat to help them shape the work.

With very complex cases, the DRIVE Advisor can arrange a case discussion over the telephone which is then followed up with a transcript emailed to the worker.

If the DRIVE Webchat service is used the worker must share this with other agencies involved with the perpetrator and victim including MARAC and IDVA Service.

The Everyone's Business Advice Line

Hestia have launched the Everyone's Business Advice Line for employers in the UK looking to respond to disclosures of domestic abuse from their employees.

The advice line will be a point of contact for businesses, offering practical guidance on how to approach disclosures and signpost staff to specialist domestic abuse services.

We know that employers have a vital role to play in ending domestic abuse, and that when they take action, it saves lives.

Employers, HR teams and managers who are seeking advice can call 07770480437 or email Adviceline.EB@hestia.org between 10am-3pm Monday to Friday for support.

Trust Me – a poem from the Voices Together project from Safe Lives

He said 'Trust me'
Why would I not
He said he loved me
And I was hot

That no one else would love me
The way he would do
And that life without me
Made his life feel blue

What utter shambles
I later did see
It was all about him
And nothing about me
I fed his ego

And yet was not aware
When the police took him away
All I could do was stand
and stare

by **Tee** - Written in lockdown 22/04/20

Free online training from Against Violence & Abuse (AVA)

15th & 23rd September and **1st** October - Domestic Abuse & Children: Preparing for
The Domestic Abuse Act 2021

16th & 29th September and **12th & 21st** October - Managing the Secondary Effects of
Trauma for Health and Social Care Workers

29th & 30th September and **27th & 28th** October - Digital Safeguarding

14th & 21st October - Domestic Abuse and Mental Health

23rd & 29th October - Domestic Abuse and Alcohol

23rd & 25th September and **1st, 5th, 12th, 13th & 26th** October - Child to Parent
Violence

Freedom Course in BSL

Deaf women, compared to hearing women, are twice as likely to suffer from domestic abuse. The Deaf community is very small, so Deaf women are scared of reporting their perpetrators" (www.signhealth.org.uk 2014). Studies show abuse is 2 to 6 times more likely to happen with someone with disabilities. Cambridgeshire Deaf Association (CDA) works to ensure that Deaf

people have equal opportunities and access to resources and educational material around Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Due to communication difficulties, Deaf women may not have any support network and no one that they can report abuse to in their native language, British Sign Language (BSL).

Cambridgeshire Deaf Association worked closely with Women's Aid 5 years ago to ensure our staff were trained to deliver the freedom programme. BSL is an entirely separate language from English. The word order is different from English and as it is a visual/spatial language, whole concepts can be represented by position in space rather than words and phrases as they would be in a spoken language. For many deaf people who have been deaf from birth, English is a second language and is difficult to access in spoken form. Due to communication barriers, Deaf women facing domestic abuse are limited in receiving support and advice.

We amended Womens' Aid resources to make a visual, accessible version, including pictures on the wall and role play using prompts. We use colours and body language on posters to represent "good" behaviours and "bad" behaviours. We worked with Womens' Aid to ensure the resources were accurate and matched their delivery.

Thanks to funding from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, we are running the Deaf Freedom Programme again over a course of 12 or 13 sessions. This allows a deep presentation and discussion about each one of the behaviours and additional resources around consent, violence and effects on children. Video resources, visual posters, pictures and interactive sessions alongside the BSL resources and BSL delivery, mean that the Deaf women on the course have full access to the information and can gauge a much better understanding of their situation than they would be able to access in written form.

Figures show over 60% of Deaf people have experienced or will experience abuse by a partner in their lifetime. (Gretchen Waech, Executive Director, Justice for Deaf Victims National Coalition 2009). We hope to make Deaf women more aware of recognising the signs of abuse and know where they can seek further support from. By providing the course in such a visual way, and directly in sign language, it allows women to visualise the events in their life and categorise it as "wrong" or "right" and begin to be able to recognise the signs of abuse in a relationship.

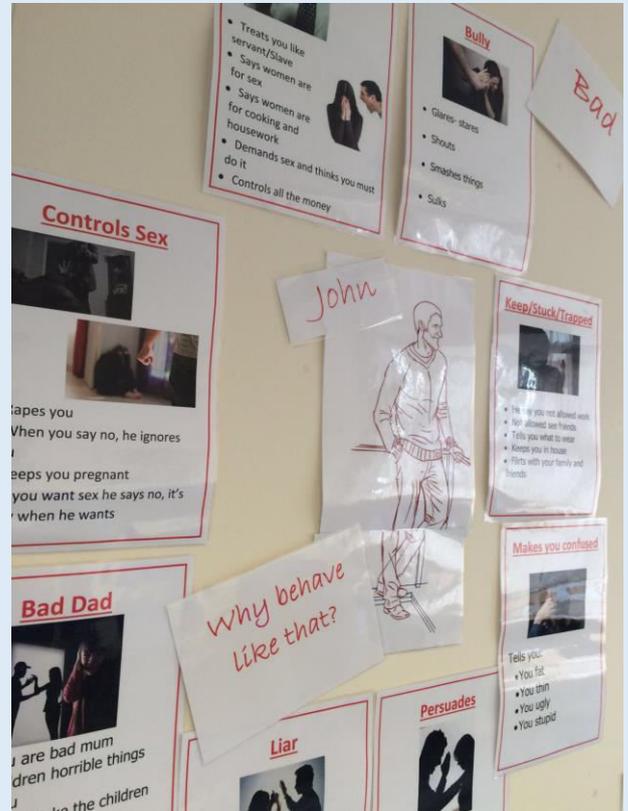
We have also supported professionals to provide information to individuals with learning disabilities, even if they don't have any sort of Deafness. Because of the visual nature and easy to adapt resources, this makes the course an equivalent to "easy read" materials in other sectors. We have been able to support Deaf women from a variety of countries even when communication may have been more complex. We have worked with Deaf women with learning difficulties and have provided one to one Advocacy with a number of women during the course to support them to access support services and take action on their situation.

We hope that by attending the programme, women leave stronger and with a greater understanding of the complexities of domestic abuse. We also leave women with an awareness of who to contact and an ability to arrange a 'safe exit' with the appropriate professionals and a Deaf specialist Advocate involved. One Woman said "Freedom Programme course has improved my self-esteem and confidence in myself to enable to move into positive perspectives in my life... Freedom Programme course will be able to help deaf women considerably because it's delivered in their language. They [the facilitators] have the awareness of language, culture and the needs of understanding the barriers that us women face of the support in the mainstream services. I believe the more Freedom Programme courses available it may be a great beneficial service to allow deaf women to have equal access just the same as hearing women. They had posters of the types of behaviours and some role play helped to understand the difference expression of behaviour as

well. Every deaf person is different and this course matches their communication needs. I didn't realise how much control he had over me before this course, now I am more safe.”

We've also used common videos and translated them into BSL to make them accessible and to allow Deaf women access to the same information that hearing people have. An example of this is the “tea and consent” video: <https://youtu.be/M-F5vo7FQic>

Below are examples of pictures that we use during the BSL Freedom Course.



Vacancy for Senior Practitioner and Practitioner

Starting salary £21,076 pro rata per annum, 21 hours per week for Practitioner

Starting salary £23,113 pro rata per annum, 28 hours per week for Senior Practitioner

Mpower provides intensive and goal-oriented support to women with highly complex needs whose children have been removed into care. As Practitioner, you will do this by taking a relational approach that centres around the needs of each woman.

As a **Practitioner** you will work with a high level of independence and self-direction, managing the subtleties of professional boundaries and confidently using a flexible approach where work with different women can go in a range of directions and last for varying lengths of time.

As **Senior Practitioner** you will:

- Provide this support by taking a relational approach that centres around the needs of each woman.
- Manage the team of Practitioners in your region to do the same.
- Draw on your experience, the experience of colleagues, professional networks, research, and other sources to set best practice within the broader Mpower service.

You will work with a high level of independence and self-direction, managing the subtleties of professional boundaries and confidently using a flexible approach where work with different women can go in a range of directions and last for varying lengths of time.

Ultimately, your work will enable women who have experienced complex trauma to make meaningful change, rebuild their lives, and reduce the number of children being removed into care.

By joining the service, you will be at the forefront of the exciting expansion of Mpower into Cambridgeshire, with the service having been successfully delivered in Suffolk and Norfolk for the last seven years.

It is essential that you are able to travel within the areas and have considerable experience of working intensively with people with highly complex needs and have experience of collaborating on complex safeguarding cases.

For an application pack or to apply please visit our website at <https://www.ormiston.org/work-for-us/>

Closing date: 9am, Monday 21st September 2020

Ormiston Families is committed to safeguarding. We are an equal opportunities employer; we value diversity and welcome applications from all sections of the community.

What would he say if you asked if he was safe at home?



**Pets are often harmed or even killed by domestic abusers
Many victims will stay with their abuser to protect their pet**

For more information visit www.cambsdasv.org.uk

