



**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

**October 2020**

Hello to everyone!

Following a secondment to the Whole Housing Programme Manager role, and a redeployment working with the Covid Hub, it is great to be back working in the partnership with you all.

This week we had the first of the Autumn DA Champions sessions on line and it was great to have so many engaged in such important topics.

The Government recently announced a consultation regarding funding for safe accommodation and partnership working in line with the Domestic Abuse Bill and we welcome any additional resource this will likely bring to the county.

Work on Domestic Homicide Reviews will have touched many of you recently. Each death is incredibly shocking and painful, and we will do our utmost to ensure lessons are translated into action, to reduce the likelihood of future deaths. We owe this to those who have died and their families. People are at the centre of all the work we are doing as a partnership and if you have any feedback, or would like to speak to us, Julia and I would be really interested in speaking with you, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

We appreciate every single of you who are working to improve the lives those suffering domestic abuse and sexual violence, both directly and indirectly in your roles.

**Vickie Crompton & Julia Cullum**  
**DASV Partnership Managers**



## Whole Systems Approach to Domestic Abuse

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/whole-housing-approach-toolkit-dissemination-event-registration-124408847211?aff=WHABoardnetworks>

A core need for people experiencing domestic abuse is stable and safe housing. The Whole Housing Approach has been developed by system leaders across the housing and domestic abuse sectors and considers the main housing tenure types and the options needed to achieve this.

An initial 18-month pilot of the Whole Housing Approach took place in three pilot sites including Stockton-On-Tees, Cambridgeshire and three London Boroughs (Westminster City Council, Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea and Hammersmith & Fulham). Join us for a Whole Housing Approach event, a free online event where we will share findings from the first year of our pilot project and highlight best practice featured in our Whole Housing Approach Toolkit.

Date: 5th November Time: 1pm – 3pm Speakers include:

- Survivors sharing their experiences of accessing safe and stable housing
- Nicole Jacobs, the UK's first Domestic Abuse Commissioner
- Expert pilot project delivery partners on implementing the model in the 3 pilot sites

## For Baby's Sake video launched to highlight working with parents to prevent intergenerational violence

The charity For Baby's Sake have launched a video focusing on parenting, babies and domestic violence. Emma Lazenby a film maker from Bristol worked with the charity to use a couple's individual testimonies to highlight how the charity is working with parents to stop the intergenerational transmission of violence. Baby's Sake Programme works with the whole family to deal with trauma and the complex needs that are often not addressed for parents who are born into dysfunctional and abusive relationships.

For Baby's Sake programme has been running since 2015, an evaluation led by King's College London and published in May 2020, identified it as the first programme of its kind to 'fill an important gap in provision' through its 'unique approach', working with the whole family and starting in pregnancy, when babies need protection and parents are motivated to change.

You can access the video **here**.

## **Partnership between Cambridge Women’s Aid and St Catharine’s College provided “pop-up” accommodation to women and children escaping abuse**

Cambridge Women’s Aid and St Catharine’s College announced in September that they have worked together to provide 1,456 nights of safe accommodation to women and children escaping domestic abuse this summer.

In response to an acute shortage of refuge spaces triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic, the partnership focused on finding an imaginative way deliver “pop-up respite beds” using temporarily vacant College accommodation. Both partners hope they have established a collaborative model that can be used by other organisations to open up space for families in the future.

St Catharine’s first approached Cambridge Women’s Aid at the start of lockdown to offer accommodation free-of-charge for affected women and their families, as part of a longstanding relationship between members of the College community and Cambridge Women’s Aid. Between 27 April and 3 September, 23 women and children benefited from the safety, comfort and security of life in College, with a team of porters on hand 24/7 and CCTV in operation.

Angie Stewart, Chief Executive Officer at Cambridge Women’s Aid, said, *“It is hard to describe how touched we were to receive such a generous offer. Not only did the pop-up accommodation at St Catharine’s provide a true sanctuary to women and their children at a dreadful time in their lives, it also meant we actually provided an enhanced service during lockdown instead of a reduced service as was common for many UK organisations.”*

Sir Mark Welland, Master of St Catharine’ College, commented, *“While the outbreak of COVID-19 had a profound impact on everyone’s lives, survivors of domestic abuse faced a particularly dire situation. I am immensely proud that the St Catharine’s community could join together with Cambridge Women’s Aid to devise an imaginative way to offer support and safety to these women and children when they needed it most.”*

### **Excerpts from anonymised messages from women helped by the partnership**

*“I am incredibly grateful to St Catharine’s for their thoughtful kindness. At the moment I can’t find the words to explain what it has meant to me and my daughter, and the psychological safety it has offered us. Obviously I know this has only been able to happen for us and other women and children because of Woman’s Aid. I am deeply thankful to you, as are my family.”*

*“I really believed I would have to live out my life with my husband’s misery and abusive behaviour... You all played an important first part of my new journey of my future happiness. My time spent at St Catharine’s was very good: comfortable and so quiet!”*

Lady Welland, Fellow Commoner of St Catharine’s and a longstanding volunteer at Cambridge Women’s Aid, said, “Cambridge Women’s Aid is a charity close to my heart and it is a privilege to be part of a college that has embraced the opportunity to help women and children in need. It has been overwhelming to hear that the women and children who lived at St Catharine’s this summer were able to create positive memories while they were with us. Thank you to everyone across the College and Cambridge Women’s Aid who facilitated this novel approach, which I sincerely hope others will be able to learn from and build upon.”

## **Clare's Law goes online**

On Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2020, Cambridgeshire Police launched the ability to apply online for a Clare's Law disclosure (Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme).

The scheme and remit remains exactly the same. Anyone can apply online for information to safeguard themselves or apply on behalf of someone else as long as the person at risk resides within Cambridgeshire.

For any service users you are working with who wishes to make an application, please signpost them to Cambridgeshire Constabulary website where there will be a link to the online application. It is a very easy process. Obviously this should only be completed in a safe environment and not used as a way to report ongoing, live domestic situations. There remains the ability to call 101 and see an officer face to face but the preferred method is for applications to be made online.

Following this, the application is reviewed by the MASH and if required, an officer from the team will contact the applicant to gain more details. Beyond this, the scheme remains the same and applicants should receive a decision on whether a disclosure is required within 35 days. Urgent disclosures will continue to be prioritised and if required, requests for partner agency information will be completed in the same fashion as we do now.

This process will not change any decisions made in MARAC for a disclosure to be given.

There is no change to applications under Sarah's Law – applications need to be made by calling the force on 101.

## **Launch of Survivor's Symposium**

Alpha Vesta's Survivors Symposium is the opportunity for those that have been impacted in the workplace by domestic abuse to share their experience with us, in a confidential and supported setting led by our trained advisors and counsellor. These experiences will go on to inform future awareness sessions and training delivered by Alpha Vesta.

Alternatively, you can write about your experience and share it with us confidentially through contacting us at [survivors@alphavesta.com](mailto:survivors@alphavesta.com).

You may have been a victim/survivor of domestic abuse yourself or worked with someone that was experiencing abuse. You may have been an employer or work colleague who spotted the signs and was either able to reach out effectively and safely or felt ill-equipped to do so. You may have been concerned about someone that came into contact with you through your work, but were struggling to know how to respond. Your insight is invaluable.

Ground level research and lived experience underpins all of our work at Alpha Vesta where our mission and foundation statement is 'Breaking the Cycle of Domestic Abuse through Awareness, Prevention and Early Intervention through the Workplace'.

Please see the attached launch leaflet along with a powerful interview we recorded with Survivor, Fiona Bowman, whose workplace, she says, saved her life when she was subjected to 10 long years of domestic abuse by her husband.

<https://vimeo.com/460565746>

Please visit our Eventbrite page to join us for one of our current fully-funded online awareness sessions and workshops in domestic abuse.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/alpha-vesta-cic-30277303852>



## **Eyes and Ears – a programme for the community**

The sense of community and the motivation to look out for each other has never been more significant than in the here and now of daily life. With the Coronavirus pandemic, everyone is facing uncertainty and the strategies we use and the support we offer to others to try and cope with this are incredibly critical to our future emotional health and well-being. Staying safe and keeping well are priorities for us all and everyone has a part to play.

The Community Eyes and Ears programme provides an ideal platform for people of all ages to get involved and understand how they can make a difference to the lives of those around them by simply spotting the signs that all may not be well with a neighbour, colleague, friend and knowing how to report potential concerns.

The development of the programme has been funded by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire and is supported by:

- Cambridgeshire County Council
- The District Councils and the associated community safety partnerships
- The Emergency Services
- The Healthy Schools Service
- A range of community associations

Information about the wider programme can be found here:

<https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/community-safety/community-eyes-and-ears>

### **A home-learning module for Adults and Young People will shortly be on offer to all.**

The aim of this module is to raise awareness of themes such as: cyber-crime, scams and fraud, hate crime, children and adults at risk of abuse and neglect, radicalisation, loneliness and modern slavery.

## **Should we talk to children about domestic abuse?**

Domestic abuse is a topic that garnered much attention during the initial national lockdown, as people began to realise that staying at home to stay safe wouldn't necessarily mean staying safe for domestic abuse victims living with their perpetrators. But should we be talking about this tricky topic with young people at school?

The Sex Education Forum have compiled some answers to this question, along with resources, in a blog which can be read at:

<https://www.sexeducationforum.org.uk/news/news/why-should-we-be-talking-about-domestic-abuse-our-young-people>

## **'Domestic Abuse in Lockdown'**

Hestia's latest report, 'Domestic Abuse in Lockdown', explores the impact of the pandemic on victims of domestic abuse and the tools in place to support them.

The report reveals a 38% increase in people trying to access Hestia's domestic abuse support services and reflects on the importance of the UK SAYS NO MORE Safe Spaces scheme, which has seen 1 in 4 pharmacies become Safe Spaces for victims of domestic abuse.

Read the report now.

## **Safe Spaces remain open in UK pharmacies**

We are pleased to announce that Safe Spaces will be remaining open in Boots, Superdrug and Morrisons pharmacies across the country, as well as in selected independent pharmacies.

Victims of domestic abuse can use the consultation room at these pharmacies to call a support service, phone a helpline or contact a loved one.

Find your nearest Safe Space here.

## **Someone for Young People to Talk to:**

The Someone to talk to Service is offering telephone support and telephone counselling. Young people should self-refer through the helpline on; Phone: 0333 4141 809 or via Text / WhatsApp to: 07514 783745 (The phones are staffed Mon-Fri 12-5 and 10-1 Saturdays)

Outside of this you can reach us via email at [help@centre33.org.uk](mailto:help@centre33.org.uk) or via our website [centre33.org.uk](http://centre33.org.uk)

The someone to talk to service is for 13-25 year olds

## **NEW HEALTH DA OUTREACH WORKER**

Refuge are delighted to have successfully secured funding for a Health Outreach Worker through the Cambridgeshire Cultivate and Innovate fund. This worker will cover Fenland and Huntingdonshire. The focus of this role will be to engage with all health professionals, provide training and advice and increase the number of referrals into the service from the health sector. This role will be live early in 2021, further details to follow with new referral pathways.

## **Peterborough Rapid Relief Team Initiative**

A new initiative has commenced involving Police in Peterborough and the RRT (Rapid Relief Team). The RRT are a company that want to do more for families and individuals affected by domestic violence. RRT have designed the Food Box to act as an emergency food bank for people and families in need, and they now support people from low socio-economic backgrounds and those in crisis.

The RRT Food Box comes in two different sizes, and contains a variety of non-perishable, long-life food.

Ten boxes have been delivered to THORPE WOOD POLICE STATION so far and officers are being encouraged to use them when appropriate for families in need that may not have immediate access to food vouchers and finances, especially over the weekend.

RRT would be willing to provide boxes directly for families too if more support is required. These boxes have been provided specifically for domestic abuse victims, however if officers attend incidents where there are people in need, they are also encouraged to supply the family with a Food Box.

## **PETERBOROUGH WOMEN'S AID SERVICE MANAGER (FEMALE APPLICANTS ONLY)**

We are looking for a candidate with –

- knowledge and considerable experience of domestic abuse against women and children
- personal drive to manage and develop Refuge services and Outreach services in our community
- ability to maintain and develop local and national strategic networks and work collaboratively with partner organisations, local charities, businesses, our community and public bodies
- ability to seek out new funding and manage bid applications

You will be based locally but there will be some travelling for liaison both across the region and nationally.

Hours: 35 hours per week in the first instance. Contract renewable in March annually subject to funding availability. NB:It is hoped to extend the hours to 37 in the near future.

Salary: £37,890.00 pro rata

Closing Date: 30<sup>th</sup> October 2020

If you are interested in this very rewarding job, working with a committed and passionate staff team, please send for an application pack to Carole Epsom, email: [carole.epsom@wa-support.co.uk](mailto:carole.epsom@wa-support.co.uk) Tel: 08454103123 Mon-Fri 10-2pm

An enhanced DBS disclosure will be required for this role.

This post is open to women only under the Equality Act 2010, schedule 9 (part 1).

Peterborough Women's Aid is an equal opportunity employer. Registered Charity No: 1180370



## **Rape Crisis announces ground-breaking national project on sibling sexual abuse**

Rape Crisis England & Wales (RCEW) announced on Tuesday 29th September 2020 a new national piece of work on supporting survivors of sibling sexual abuse, which will be the largest Government-funded project of its kind to date in the United Kingdom.

The two-year project across England and Wales will be funded by the Home Office and the Ministry of Justice.

RCEW will partner with two of its member Rape Crisis Centres and two universities on the National RCEW Sibling Sexual Abuse Project.

Somerset and Avon Rape and Sexual Abuse Support (SARSAS), in partnership with the University of the West of England (UWE), Bristol will oversee research and work on the provision of specialist trauma-informed support services for adult survivors of childhood sibling sexual abuse.

West Mercia Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre (WMRSASC), in partnership with the University of Birmingham will oversee the research and work on the provision of suitable support services and pathways for children from the age of five and young people who are current victims and survivors of sibling sexual abuse.

The project will include working with children and young people with problematic and harmful sexual behaviours and their families.

Sibling sexual abuse is believed to be the most common form of child sexual abuse within the family setting. Children are more likely to be sexually abused by their siblings - brothers, sisters, step-brothers and step-sisters - than by their parents, but society's awareness of sibling sexual abuse has trailed behind other child abuse issues and concerns.

Sibling sexual abuse remains a hidden, chronically under-estimated and untreated form of child sexual abuse. It continues to be ignored, played down or denied as harmless or non-threatening childhood sexual experimentation that does not require attention.

Support services and researchers agree it has received little attention and there is a lack of academic literature on the subject. This is in spite of the known life-time impacts of sexual abuse on the health and happiness of victims and survivors.

The main aim of the two-year national project is to increase the provision of specialist support for both recent and past survivors of sibling sexual abuse across England and Wales, in order to help them recover, heal and rebuild their lives.

The project also aims to improve the continuity, consistency and quality of specialist support for survivors of sibling sexual abuse across England and Wales.

## **Learning Disabilities - Reporting Rape & Sexual Assault**

A brilliant piece of work by Rape Crisis Centre in Tyneside and Northumberland on the experiences of people with learning disabilities who report rape or sexual assault. Full Report can be found here

<https://rctn.org.uk/campaigns/people-with-learning-disabilities-who-report/>



## CHILD TO PARENT VIOLENCE STUDY

"I'm meant to be his comfort blanket, not a punching bag" – Ethnomimesis as an exploration of maternal child to parent violence in pre-adolescents

"This is the first study to use ethno-mimesis to explore the lived experiences of mothers navigating child-to-parent violence initiated by pre-adolescent children. The current child-to-parent violence research landscape is predominantly focused upon the experiences of parents of adolescent children, identifying that violent behaviours can be used as a life-long strategy." (*Nikki Rutter Department of Sociology, Durham University*)

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### **A Safe Fund: costing domestic abuse provision for the whole family**

This briefing paper sets out what a comprehensive funding package would look like in practice. We do not shy away from the significant amount of investment this would require the UK Government to commit. Instead we point to the facts – that 2.4 million people are victims of domestic abuse each year and that the costs of domestic abuse amount to £66bn according to the Government's own figures. In any other context, say that of an infectious disease, our costings would represent an obvious investment in a societal scourge. (*SafeLives*)

### **ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY**

This is a really interesting audit from the Disabilities Trust Foundation, for anyone working in domestic abuse services: "We would like to invite you to answer this short survey, which has had input from domestic abuse charity SafeLives, to ascertain your level of experience and understanding of acquired brain injury."

*Acquired brain injury in survivors of domestic abuse: A practitioner's knowledge audit*

### **Training and Events**

**AVA** are currently offering a varied programme of training events and webinars over the coming months. To find out more click [here](#).

**Adira** is a survivor-led mental health organisation that supports black people's mental health issues. They recently ran an online event called Black Mental Health Live which has been recorded and uploaded to their website. The watch the recording click [here](#).

**The Royal College of Psychiatrists** in running their Faculty of General Adult Psychiatry Annual Conference on 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> October. Topics include domestic violence and abuse, racism, equality and COVID-19 and workforce wellbeing and mental health. For full details click [here](#).

**Parveen Ali and Angela Hardwick** from the University of Sheffield have developed a project for the Festival of Mind titled 'Phoenix: Impact of Domestic Violence and Abuse'. You can explore photos from the installation, listen to a podcast and watch a talk about the project to find out more.

**Standing Together Against Domestic Violence** have launched this year's Blooming Strong campaign to promote the strength of survivors of abuse. They have a programme of events as part of the campaign which you can find out more about here.

**Standing Together Against Domestic Violence** also launched their MOPAC funded London Domestic Homicide Review Case Analysis and Review of Local Authorities DHR Process. You can watch the recording of the launch on YouTube here.

**The Sexual Violence and Health Research Network** are issuing a call for abstracts for their Sexual Violence and Health Research Day on 5<sup>th</sup> November. For full details please contact [sylvia.mckelvie@nhs.net](mailto:sylvia.mckelvie@nhs.net).