



**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

August 2018

Dear Partners

Cambridgeshire County Council recently received accreditation by the White Ribbon charity and at the beginning of the month we held our first White Ribbon event at the Cambridge Folk Festival. White Ribbon aims to end male violence, primarily against women, but also recognises the issue of male violence against men and boys. Cambridge Live Trust kindly offered us a stall for free and Oblique Arts, a local charity providing art for the Folk Festival, helped with displaying the White Ribbon logo around the festival site. Read more and see the pictures on page 4.

We are running a short survey for Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Champions to help us evaluate the networking sessions so far and plan for future events. If you have attended any of the sessions in April or July, please complete the survey at <http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/S6NQL/>

The dates for the October sessions are below, the topic is mental health and the Victim and Witness Hub – please book a place by emailing Amanda.Warburton@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

| October 2018 – Mental Health, Victim and Witness Hub | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Cambridge | South Cambs | East Cambs | Fenland | Huntingdon | Peterborough |
| 8 th October | 17 th October | 11 th October | 15 th October | 3 rd October | 23 rd October |
| 10.00 – 12.30 | 10.00 – 12.30 | 10.00 – 12.30 | 11.00 – 13.30 | 10.00 – 12.30 | 10.00 – 12.30 |
| Arbury Community Centre | Sackville House | East Cambs District Council | March Community Centre | Medway Centre | Peterborough Town Hall |

Vickie Crompton & Julia Cullum
Partnership Managers



Training update

The **Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Adults and Children Board** have released an updated training brochure for the period between September and December 2018, which is available to download from <http://www.safeguardingpeterborough.org.uk/availabletraining/> This update includes additional dates and new courses for Safeguarding Adults. They have also made some changes to the training pages on the website. The 'Available Training' page now lists every course which has its own webpage with details of the course and its own online booking section. It is hoped professionals will find this easier to navigate and apply for places.

LGSS has revised its Introduction to Domestic Abuse course and the new **Domestic Abuse Awareness** training will be 1 day (previously 1.5). The revised course is slightly broader in scope and briefly covers Johnson's Typologies and Hester's Planet model as well as the Feminist model. The course is free to employees of Cambridgeshire County Council and other organisations who have an SLA with LGSS. For others the cost is £55. The next dates are 30th August and 31st October.

Guidance for nurses and midwives supporting DA victims to vote

The Royal College of Nursing has released guidance aimed at nurses and midwives, who may be supporting victims of domestic abuse or related safeguarding issues, to support them to register to vote anonymously in elections.

Anonymous registration was set up to help individuals whose safety would be at risk (or where the safety of other people at the same address as them would be at risk) if their name or address was listed on the electoral register – for example a person who has fled domestic abuse (Woman's Aid 2018). Attestation is a statement that if the applicant's name and address were on the register, the applicant or another member of the household's safety would be at risk and nurses and midwives are counted as a qualifying officer to make an attestation.

The guidance can be downloaded at
<https://www.rcn.org.uk/professional-development/publications/pub-007068>

Could you volunteer for Centre 33?

Could you spare a few hours a week to volunteer at Centre 33? If so we are looking for a Volunteer Information Worker at our Ely site on Thursday evenings 4-7pm. Our Information Workers are an integral part of our service for young people so if you are interested in volunteering then please email recruitment@centre33.org.uk for an application form or click on the link below for further information on the role and other volunteering opportunities at Centre 33.
<http://centre33.org.uk/help/volunteering-centre-33/>

DA Toolkit for employers

Business in the Community and PHE has published a domestic abuse toolkit that will help raise awareness of the issue with employers and provide guidance on how they can support those affected by it.

With one third of a working adult's life spent in work, employers are in a unique position to create a supportive workplace culture that encourages the identification of health and wellbeing needs and to help break the silence around this issue.

This toolkit, developed in consultation with employers, will help them spot the signs and symptoms of domestic abuse, which include:

- frequent absence, lateness or needing to leave work early
- reduced quality and quantity of work or missing deadlines
- changes in the way an employee communicates - a large number of personal calls or texts or a strong reaction to personal calls
- physical signs and symptoms such as unexplained or frequent bruises or other injuries

The toolkit gives key actions for employers:

1. Acknowledge

Use this toolkit to help understand the issues, and acknowledge every employer's responsibility to address domestic abuse. Enable colleagues to openly discuss this topic, and provide a supportive workplace

2. Respond

Review your policies and processes to ensure you are providing a supportive workplace and can respond to disclosure.

3. Refer

Provide access to organisations who can help employees affected by the issue.

The Domestic Abuse [Toolkit](#) forms part of a suite of toolkits developed by Business in the Community, in association with PHE.

White Ribbon goes to the Cambridge Folk Festival

At the beginning of August the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership celebrated Cambridgeshire County Council's White Ribbon accreditation with a stall at the Cambridge Folk Festival at Cherry Hinton Hall.

Thanks to volunteers from the County Council's Communications, HR and Engaging Communities Teams we were able to operate the stall on Friday, Saturday and Sunday and had a steady stream of visitors, including the Mayor of Cambridge! We handed out over 300 White Ribbon pins during the weekend and over 500 White Ribbon Stickers. We also had information available from our partners including Cambridge Rape Crisis, Refuge and Cambridge Women's Aid.

Cllr Cuffley helped run the stall on the Saturday and was interviewed about the White Ribbon Campaign by Cambridge 105 Radio.



Police Commissioner launches new website to help victims of crime

POLICE and Crime Commissioner, Jason Ablewhite has launched a new, independent and confidential [Victim Services website](#) for victims and witnesses of crime across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

The Victim Services website, funded by the Commissioner, provides victims and witness with clear and simple information about available support and how to access it, whatever the crime. The website also provides a service directory.

Police and Crime Commissioners are responsible for commissioning local support services for victims of crime and receive a grant each year from the Ministry of Justice to enable the provision of services which best meet the needs of local victims of crime.

In Cambridgeshire, end to end support is provided through the Cambridgeshire Victim and Witness Hub. Victim and Witness Care Coordinators provide emotional and practical support to anyone affected by crime from the point of reporting through any criminal justice process including giving evidence at court. The Hub also links into hundreds of specialist services.

The Commissioner sees the website as a vital tool to ensure victims of crime know what information and support is available to them and who to request help from if they are not already receiving it.

Police and Crime Commissioner, Jason Ablewhite said:

“If you become a victim of crime or witness a crime, the last thing you need is to be in the dark about who to turn to for support. Taking the first step and asking for help, whether you report the crime to the police or not is a very important stage in your recovery. The new website lists all of the specialist support services available to help you cope and recover. It also helps reassure any victims who have already accessed support, but want a resource to refer back to. Importantly, accessing the website helps put you in charge of what you want to happen next.

Steve Welby, Head of Cambridgeshire’s Victim and Witness Hub added:

“For people becoming victims and/or witnesses of crime, the new website provides people with very clear access to the wealth of support available to help. Having the right person to talk to at the right time can make an enormous difference.”

Following engagement with victim service providers across the county, the website has been developed by local company Chameleon, to compliment the support offered by the Victim and Witness Hub.

You can visit Victim Services website here: <https://www.cambsvictimservices.co.uk/>

MOD launches DA Strategy

The Ministry of Defence has launched its first strategy to tackle domestic abuse within the Armed Forces and defence civilian communities.

The strategy builds on existing work by the military in this area, such as providing specialist training to welfare staff, and will include the launch of a campaign to raise awareness across the Armed Forces and enhancing support for civilian staff.

A national audit of current available support will also be undertaken, to ensure that help will be on hand for those suffering abuse, wherever they are.

The No Defence for Abuse Strategy aims to partner with specialist organisations to help them understand the unique needs of the service community. It will also work to create a culture of safety and support for those experiencing domestic abuse and their children, taking steps to break down the invisible wall that can deter victims from asking for help.

While there is no evidence to suggest that domestic abuse is any more prolific within the service community than in the general population, UK figures show that at least one in four women and one in six men will be affected by domestic abuse in their lifetime.

The delivery of the new five-year strategy will be focused on three key areas:

- Prevention – raising awareness of domestic abuse and what it entails, encouraging a culture of openness and taking steps to better identify those most at risk
- Intervention – enabling appropriate responses through specialist training, ensuring that MOD policies do not serve as barriers to those seeking help, and providing consistent support
- Partnering – working with external organisations and expert bodies to provide services suitably tailored to the Armed Forces, and learning from best practice

As well as raising awareness and providing support to those affected, the No Defence For Abuse Strategy will work to provide rehabilitation options for perpetrators, and engage with specialist agencies to prevent future abuse. As an employer, the Ministry of Defence will continue to support the Employers' Initiative on Domestic Abuse, and contribute to Government-wide work in developing the first Domestic Violence and Abuse Bill.

https://www.basw.co.uk/system/files/resources/Domestic_Abuse_MOD_booklet_Digital.pdf

GP speaks out about her experience of abuse

A GP in Cheshire has spoken out about a violent attack from her husband. Becky Dougherty is an experienced healthcare professional and has also worked in prisons but wants to highlight that being a professional doesn't mean you won't experience domestic abuse.

<http://www.runcornandwidnesworld.co.uk/news/16368556.gp-lucky-to-be-alive-after-husbands-brutal-attack/>

Specialist Domestic Violence Courts – How special are they?

A report commissioned on Specialist Domestic Violence Courts (SDVC) by the Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner, found evidence of defendants 'gaming the system' by pleading not guilty to domestic violence offences in the hope that the domestic violence complainant will not turn up at court and the case will then be dismissed. This was confirmed in observations of 170 domestic violence cases in which significant numbers of defendants changed their pleas from not guilty to guilty at the last minute when the complainant did appear at the court.

The authors of the report emphasised that because of the nature of domestic violence crimes, and complainants' vulnerability to ongoing coercive control, they may not appear in court as a result of intimidation. The authors argue that this reinforces the need for well-funded Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVA) services and for adequate training for magistrates and court staff in order to support victims of domestic violence to pursue prosecutions.

Cuts to IDVA services and for training for sentencing and SDVC court staff are a concern. Of interest for our study, the authors note that defendants cited alcohol misuse on the part of complainants as a way to undermine her claims of victimisation. In addition, alcohol intoxication as mitigation for an offenders' behaviour was observed to go unchallenged by courts although this is not part of sentencing guidelines. The report notes: 'There were concerns that the most frequent mitigation was that the perpetrator was in drink and that the courts did not, in any hearing, point out that there is no known causative link between the two'

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

The link between brain trauma and IPV

An article has been published in JAMA this month that focuses on brain trauma due to IPV and the devastating consequences this can have on patients.

The article focuses on work conducted at the Barrow Neurological Institute's Concussion and Brain Injury Centre in Phoenix. The author Rebecca Voelker points out that 'some experts say what's lacking is attention to the long-term consequences of being hit, punched, or kicked in the head over and over. Concussion and chronic traumatic encephalitis (CTE) among professional football players who take continual hits to the head have grabbed headlines, but for survivors of partner violence—some who've been hit every day for years—brain injuries have essentially gone unnoticed.'

She acknowledges that domestic violence patients may not have time to recover between injuries which can lead to further complications. Staff in homeless shelters are now being trained to screen all women for domestic violence who come into shelters who have sustained head injuries. The article covers further research and findings in this field.

You can access the article [here](#).

BJSW special edition on elder abuse

The British Journal of Social Work has released a special edition focussed on elder abuse. The volume includes articles on financial abuse, supporting older survivors of sexual violence and a focus on two specialist older people domestic abuse projects in Wales.

Also covered is findings from local authority survey data around Making Safeguarding Personal plus research from initiatives in Poland.

<https://academic.oup.com/bjsw/issue/48/4>

Government unveils plans for the future funding of supported housing

The plans reveal that supported housing, including refuges and all forms of short-term supported housing, will be funded by housing benefit and kept outside of the Universal Credit system.

Katie Ghose, Chief Executive of Women's Aid, said: "This will be warmly welcomed by survivors and our member services; housing benefit makes up, on average, around half of a refuge's income.

"Women in refuge will still be entitled to Universal Credit for assistance with supporting themselves and their families, it is therefore vital that housing benefit continues to work with the wider Universal Credit system.

"Domestic abuse refuges save lives. With on average two women every week being killed by a current or former partner in England and Wales, refuges provide a real lifeline for thousands of women and children experiencing abuse at home.

"Today the government has taken decisive action to protect refuges' last guaranteed form of funding, they must now work with us to ensure that funding for the support refuges provide for survivors is also secure."

Misogyny hate crime report

The report from Nottingham Trent University details the findings of an evaluation commissioned by the Office of the Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner and the Nottingham Women's Centre to assess the impact of the Misogyny Hate Crime policy, introduced by Nottinghamshire Police in April 2016.

Key findings:

- 95.2% of participants who responded to the survey thought that the behaviours mentioned, i.e., the behaviours that Nottinghamshire Police had distinguished to be Misogyny Hate Crime, were a social problem
- 90.4% of respondents thought that these types of behaviours are a particular problem for women
- 43.3% felt the behaviours were 'anti-social' and 51.9% regarded the behaviour as 'criminal'

<http://www.nottinghamwomenscentre.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Misogyny-Hate-Crime-Evaluation-Report-June-2018.pdf>

Cambridge City Council White Ribbon

Cambridge City Council White Ribbon stall held at the Abbey People's Community Lunch on 24th June. There was a live screening of the England vs Panama World Cup Football match and the DASV Partnership Domestic Abuse World Cup 2018 campaign posters were displayed on screen also.

Pictured are: Cambridge City Mayor Councillor Nigel Gawthrop and Lady Mayoress Jenny Wood, Ann Sinnott (former Cambridge City Lead Councillor for Community Safety and Domestic Violence), Cambridge City White Ribbon Ambassadors; Dave Doggett (former Chair of Cambridge United Football Club) and Ben Szreter (Chief Executive Officer of Cambridge United Community Trust) with White Ribbon Mascot, Davey the Dog (aka Louise Walker, Partnership Support Officer, Cambridge City Council Safer Communities Team).





East of England Domestic Abuse Housing Operational Group

DAHA are keen to give housing providers in the region the opportunity to share best practice and learn from each other and experts in the field about how to work with Domestic Abuse survivors with the ultimate aim to improve outcomes for their customers who experiencing domestic abuse.

The DA HOG will meet quarterly:

- A chair will be elected from this group
- The group will have clear learning aims and look at themes related to housing and domestic abuse that are pertinent to the members as identified by DAHA
- We will invite guest speakers from specialist agencies with the aim of sharing best practice and improving partnership working
- There will be opportunities to network
- There will be the opportunity to host the meeting in your own organisation
- The first meeting will be on 12th September 2018 – venue to be confirmed.
- We encourage members from staff who are at a level that can influence and bring about change in their organisation
- Please get in touch if you have any queries and/or would like to offer to host or book a place:

c.mackechniejarvis@standingtogether.org.uk

or

s.crosby@standingtogether.org.uk



Cambridge Rape Crisis Centre

Are you empathetic, non-judgemental and a good listener?

Do you want to make a difference to the lives of women
and girls?

We are looking for women to join our
helpline & email support volunteer team!

make a difference

Contact: volunteering@cambridgerapecrisis.org.uk
01223 313551

Application deadline: Thursday 6th September

We can contribute to childcare costs and reasonable travel expenses to enable
women to volunteer.

We especially welcome application from BME and LBT (lesbian, bi and trans)
women.