



**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

November 2019

The decision to hold a General Election in December has meant yet another hold up for the Domestic Abuse Bill, but that hasn't detracted from the global efforts to raise awareness of Violence Against Women and Girls this month - 25th November is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women & Girls and also White Ribbon Day. It's also the start of the 16 Days of Action Campaign. We held stalls at the Military Covenant Conference and also the Parish Councils Conference at the beginning of November where we had lots of visitors keen to know more about White Ribbon and local support services for survivors of domestic abuse and sexual violence. We will be having a stall at the Education Safeguarding Conference later in November and are also excited to be linking with the Cambridge Jazz Festival, via Cambridgeshire County Council White Ribbon Ambassador (and local musician) Gil Karpas to promote White Ribbon at the festival.

We will be linking with partners over the next few weeks to share messages about all the events happening locally and nationally so keep an eye on our social media (links at the bottom of the page).

We will also be embedding a short film 'Rattle Snake' onto our website during the 16 Days of Action – the film is based on real life stories of women who have experienced coercive control. Created by Open Clasp, the film is used to train police on how to respond better to incidents of coercive control. You can view the trailer for the film at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2JiPOVwrG7I>

We hope you enjoy this newsletter and please do share any news from your service with us that we can include in future newsletters.

Julia Cullum
Partnership Manager



DASV Champions Network – January 2020

The dates for the next networking events are below, to book a place please email dasvchampions@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

January 2020– Stalking & Harassment and Learning from local Domestic Homicide Reviews

Cambridge City & South	Fenland	East Cambs	Huntingdon	Peterborough
15 th January 10.00 – 12.00 Arbury Community Centre, Campkin Road, Cambridge, CB4 2LD	13 th January 11.00 – 13.00 March Community Centre, 34 Station Road, March PE15 8LE	21 st January 10.00 – 12.00 Centre 33 Offices, Centre E Barton Road, Ely, B7 4DE	27 th January 10.00 – 12.00 Stanton House, Stanton Way, Huntingdon PE29 6XL	17 th January 10.00 – 12.00 Crosskeys Homes Shrewsbury Avenue, Woodston, Peterborough, PE2 7BZ

Cambridge City Council Domestic Abuse Conference

This conference will mark 25 November - White Ribbon Day and the United Nations International Day for Eliminating Violence Against Women.

This event is supported by Cambridge City Council.
British Sign Language interpreter attending.

Headline Speaker: Dr Jessica Eaton: 'The psychology of victim blaming and self-blame of women subjected to sexual violence and abuse'.

Other speakers include:

- David Greening, Head of Housing Services, Cambridge City Council
- Deirdre Reed, Independent Domestic Violence Advisory (IDVA) Service Operational Manager
- Amerjit Singh, Detective Inspector, Public Protection, Cambridgeshire Constabulary
- Angie Stewart, Chief Executive Officer, Cambridge Women's Aid
- Norah Al-Ani, Director, Cambridge Rape Crisis Centre
- Stef Martinsen- Barker, Chief Executive Officer, Cambridge Women's Resources Centre.

Book your place at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/domestic-abuse-conference-tickets-79699225529>

Booking closes at 5pm on Thursday 21 November.

National Domestic Abuse Helpline

The National Domestic Violence Helpline has had a change of name to the National Domestic Abuse Helpline and is now being run solely by Refuge. The number for the free 24-Hour helpline remains the same - 0808 2000 247, Refuge's expert staff and volunteers will continue to provide confidential, non-judgmental support to women experiencing domestic abuse, including safety planning, information about their rights and options, and referrals to refuges and other specialist services across the country. The expert team will be able to speak to women in any language on the Helpline, using interpreters.

The Women's Aid Live Chat continues to run from 10am – 12pm weekdays

<https://chat.womensaid.org.uk/>

Calling all Asda Wisbech shoppers

The Asda store in Wisbech has chosen Cambridgeshire Refuge as one of its nominees for the green token scheme. If you shop at this store, you can put your token in the box and the charity with the most tokens will win £500. All money will go to support victims of domestic abuse in the Fenland, Huntingdonshire and Peterborough areas.

Spooky goings on in Cambs refuge

The Child Support Worker in one of the Cambridgeshire refuges, a post funded through the Home Office CADA funding, organised a Halloween party for children living in the refuge. The event included lots of spooky themed food and fun



New report highlights male victims' experiences

Respect have published a new report titled [The voices of male victims-Burrell S.R. and Westmarland N. \(2019\)](#) an evaluation for Respect.

The research project was carried out by Dr Stephen Burrell and Professor Nicole Westmarland of the Centre for Research into Violence and Abuse, Department of Sociology, Durham University.

The report provides unique insights into callers' expectations and experience of the Men's Advice Line, their help-seeking behaviours, and their perceptions of domestic abuse services more broadly.

The men who were interviewed gave overwhelmingly positive feedback about the Men's Advice Line and the service provided by the helpline workers they spoke to.

International Men's Day

We are teaming up with local radio station Cambridge 105 to raise awareness of male victims of domestic abuse on 19th November, which is International Men's Day. Breakfast Show presenter, Matt Webb, is curating a series of interviews and information sections throughout the day highlighting how men can get support for a range of issues including abuse, homelessness and mental health. Look out for more information on our social media pages and <https://cambridge105.co.uk/>

Cambridge Re-Use

Cambridge Re-Use is a local charity, working within a 15 mile radius of Cambridge. We are the only furniture charity in Cambridge that only serves people struggling financially, enabling them to furnish their home while also getting items that can help make their house a home.

We offer a service based on choice, quality, and affordability and can deliver to customers if you wish. Anyone who is earning under £18,000 as a single household or £23,000 as a couple can access the service and shop at Cambridge Re-Use by bringing in proof of their income, wage slips or benefit letters.

Cara, Manager at Cambridge Reuse, is very keen to work with other organisations to make sure Reuse is well known to anyone who could make use of it.

'I would like to try and ensure that people that are struggling on a low income and eligible to shop at the charity are aware of the service.'

I would like to see how we can work together with other organisations as I appreciate all organisations run differently. It would be great to meet and look at ways that we may be able to adapt our model to fit with the organisations' needs and develop stronger partnerships.'

Cara is happy to visit local groups and talk to staff or attend staff/ team meetings. She is also happy to write a short piece for newsletters or bulletins. Or why not visit Reuse and see at first hand how they work and the range of goods they offer.

Contact Cara to arrange: cara@cambridgereuse.org.uk

Cambridgeshire's Victim and Witness Hub marks 5th Anniversary

The Hub provides confidential 'end to end' support to anyone finding themselves a victim of crime whether or not their crimes are reported to the police.

Victim and Witness Care Coordinators provide confidential emotional and practical support from the point of reporting through any criminal justice process including giving evidence at court. The Hub also links into many specialist services from support for young victims of crime, survivors of sexual and domestic violence to specialist language support for migrant victims of exploitation.

In 2016 the victim service and the police Witness Care Unit merged so that seamless support could be offered to both victims and witnesses attending court.

Liz's story: when Liz found herself a victim of domestic abuse earlier this year, she was immediately contacted by Victim Care Coordinator, Debra Tolley. Debra encouraged Liz to open up about how she was feeling, how she became involved with the person who committed the crime against her and how it was affecting her family and her emotions. Liz explains: "At first, I was angry for allowing this to have happened to me but as soon as Debra made contact, she assured me that she was not there to judge, instead to offer her support and guidance. I felt immediately reassured that she would be there for me whenever I needed to talk.

"Over the next six weeks, as the case against my offender was prepared and a court date set, I was able to speak to Debra regularly which was hugely helpful. The person who committed the crime against me, although now in prison had continued to contact me (despite bail conditions not to) so Debra discussed the importance of going ahead with the trial so that justice could be served, avoiding the risk of any future victims. She encouraged me write my personal statement, which I would read out in court. I was extremely nervous but Debra was by my side throughout, reassuring me that I was doing the right thing."

Liz's offender was found guilty and sentenced. Liz added: "What Debra did for me made all the difference – I was not only able to process what had happened to me, but supported throughout the whole process."

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

"Everyone in the Hub is professionally equipped to support people like Liz.

"It's important to remember that no one has to go through being a victim of crime on their own. I am proud of all the staff who work so hard to support victims of crime and want to thank them for their tireless efforts.

Support services provided by the Hub can be found here: <https://www.cambsvictimservices.co.uk/>



Vulnerability and Sexual Violence Awareness Training for Licensed Premises

Report by Adam Ratcliffe, Manager of Cambridge Business Against Crime (CAMBAC) / Co-ordinator Pub Watch / Cambridge City Co-ordinator Ask For Angela Campaign / Cambridge City Council White Ribbon Ambassador

A recent training event saw nearly 100 people from the Licensed Trade in Cambridge attend to learn about the issues of vulnerability, sexual harassment and sexual violence in the night-time economy.

Cambridge Business Against Crime (CAMBAC), Cambridge City Council and Cambridgeshire Police worked in partnership to bring together members of management, staff and security from licensed premises across Cambridge, to enhance their knowledge and understanding of this complex issue.

Sexually harassing behaviour is unfortunately all too prevalent within nightclubs, bars and pubs across the country. Cambridge is proud to be a safe city, recently being awarded the Purple Flag accreditation, but is not immune to these incidents.

CAMBAC works very closely with both the City Council and Police Licensing teams, to ensure that all premises across Cambridge are aware of potential issues and trained to always use best practice in every situation.

On occasion, experts are brought in to work on specific areas and this time we got in touch with the Good Night Out Campaign, a Community Interest Company based in London. They deliver an accreditation programme to licensed premises (venues, pubs, bars, clubs and festivals) event promoters and organisers, students' unions and many other nightlife organisations. They help them to better understand, respond to and ultimately prevent sexual harassment and assault in their spaces.

The Good Night Out Campaign has delivered training on behalf of the Mayor of London, Greenwich Council, Southwark Council's landmark Women's Safety Charter, Drinkaware, Kingston Upon Thames Council and many more.

The event was a huge success, with attendees actively discussing implementing policies within their venues, and future regular sessions are already being discussed.

Next round of Innovate and Cultivate funding

Cambridgeshire County Council is pleased to announce that the next deadline for Innovate & Cultivate Fund applications is 1st February 2020. A pre-application advice session will be held on 10th December (details below).

The aim of the fund is to support initiatives that strengthen our communities and reduce pressure on County Council services, thereby giving a return on investment. Council services that are inviting applications are adult social care and children & families services.

The fund is open to voluntary, community and social enterprise sector organisations based in and outside of Cambridgeshire, and public sector organisations in Cambridgeshire. Please note that projects serving Peterborough residents are not eligible.

There are two funding streams: a 'Cultivate' fund for smaller projects that build community support networks and an 'Innovate' fund for bigger, bolder and more innovative initiatives.

New Cultivate 'Seed' Fund Projects

We've developed guidance on starting Cultivate Seed Fund Projects that can help people to remain independent and active within their community, encourage volunteering and complement more costly Council services. Projects include **Timebanks, Good Neighbour Schemes, Dementia-Friendly Communities and Men's Sheds**. See our [webpages](#) for details.

Upcoming application deadlines

1st February 2020 - Cultivate grants (£2,000 - £19,000) and Innovate grants (£19,001 - £50,000)

1st May 2020 – Cultivate grants only (£2,000 - £19,000)

Pre-application advice session

Do you want to talk through your ideas before you submit your application? Bookings are now open for our Innovate & Cultivate Fund Advice Session on **Tuesday 10th December, 9:30am-12:30pm at the William Collyn Community Centre in Girton**. Please [book here](#).

Applications and further information about fund priorities and criteria may be found on the [website](#). Cambridgeshire Community Foundation can answer questions about applying for the Fund info@cambscf.org.uk.

Free London Seminar 29th November

As part of UN Women's 16 days of activism to eliminate violence against women and girls, AVA are hosting a seminar on tackling children and young people experience of gender based violence. It will discuss what changes there have been made in policy and practice to improve the response including what Domestic abuse could mean for children and young people.

The seminar is at The Foundry in London and will include presentations from AVA Project, Limes college, the Children's Commission office and Experts by Experience.

Apply for a place at this link https://avaproject.org.uk/events/free-seminar-tackling-children-and-young-peoples-experiences-of-gender-based-violence/?mc_cid=e9e538ef52&mc_eid=273e6b246c

Focus on LGBT support

A worker at the LGBT Foundation in Manchester recently provided an article for the 'My Working Week' series run by the Guardian Online.

Monday

I work in a domestic abuse team for an [LGBT charity](#). I never really know what to expect when I come in to work: whether it's offering talking therapy or providing substance abuse services, no one day is the same.

The first person arrives and I do an assessment with questions on past sexual abuse, injuries and criminal records, so I can determine how to help. The questions are looking at the current risk to the person from the alleged perpetrator and cover all forms of abuse, such as physical, emotional, financial, and controlling and coercive behaviours.

The way people contact us varies; some are referred by GPs, others by mental health charities. The most serious cases tend to come to our drop-in services, as a final call for help.

Tuesday

Today I meet Daniel. He initially came to the charity as a survivor of domestic abuse. His confidence was low and he had severe trust issues. In our sessions we discuss the meaning of love and relationships. I try to understand what these concepts mean to Daniel; the idea of becoming close to someone, either emotionally or sexually, terrifies him. Having been so vulnerable in the past, Daniel has constructed many barriers. Together, we attempt to break them down.

In one of our sessions, it emerges that Daniel witnessed domestic abuse at home while growing up. Many studies suggest that experiencing this trauma will have a lasting impact on the child's future relationships.

While helping survivors is an essential part of the charity, domestic abuse prevention is even more important. Daniel and I work together on a series of exercises such as consent workshops and anger management activities. These ensure people will not be at risk of committing domestic violence because of their past.

Wednesday

Lucy, a trans woman, escaped an abusive relationship but was denied access to a women's refuge because she was seen as a threat to other women.

In greater Manchester, there is only one refuge which has accepted a trans female. Many refuges will not accept trans women or male victims of domestic abuse.

For many like Lucy, staying with family is not an option – individuals can become estranged as a result of their sexual or gender identity. Staying in a hostel or B&B can also be problematic due to

the homophobic and transphobic abuse people receive. Some past clients have had things thrown at them, while others have experienced hate crimes and been physically attacked.

I see someone in the afternoon who has been deliberately infected with HIV by his partner. He was forced to have unprotected sex by his abuser, who stopped him from visiting a sexual health clinic. Now his health is in an extremely fragile state.

Thursday

In the middle of a drop-in appointment, my client who has experienced domestic abuse tells me they want to kill themselves.

I call a colleague in while I ring an ambulance. I've noticed over the past few years that the number of people turning to us for crisis support is increasing, as is the level of service users with complex needs.

Friday

I meet Billie, a client who is going to testify in court. The process is emotionally taxing. To make it slightly easier, we provide counselling services and special support. For Billie, this includes a pre-trial visit to the court so it's less intimidating on the day.

Despite our efforts, many victims drop out before the trial. Recently, the person I was helping dropped charges because of threats and harassment from their partner's family before the hearing.

You learn not to let this job affect you. Once people arrive at our charity I tend not to worry, because I know we can help them. What keeps me up at night is knowing that so many individuals are trapped in abusive relationships, unable to seek help.

Healthy Relationships advice from NSPCC

NSPCC Learning has published a new webpage on promoting healthy relationships in education settings.

The website includes tips on ways to promote healthy relationships in the early years, with 5-11-year-olds and 12-18-year-olds as well as with children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/safeguarding-child-protection-schools/promoting-healthy-relationships/>

Age UK demand older abuse victims are recognised

National charity Age UK have called for older victims of domestic abuse to be properly recognised in any future legislation. Launching the 'No Age Limit' report, Age UK said that There are no reliable figures for people older than 74 as the data is not gathered – so the amount of people experiencing domestic abuse could be much higher. If the figures do not include older people, this means it can affect how resources and funding are allocated, and so older people who need these services could be left in abusive situations.

The story of Grace is highlighted in the campaign:

“When I was 22 I met George. He was handsome and charming. He showered me with compliments and made me feel wonderful. However he controlled every penny and decided what I wore and how I arranged my hair. George would return from the races smelling of whiskey. If he'd won at the races we'd dance and he'd treat me to a bottle of port. If he'd lost, he'd treat me to a beating.

When the children left home, George allowed me to have a part time job. I started to gain confidence. George noticed the change in me and began treating me differently - he even bought me a cat. I adored Misty and she followed me everywhere. But one evening, George whispered in my ear what he would do to Misty, if I ever left him. He repeated that threat hundreds of times over the coming years.

His memory has started to fail now. He gets frustrated and angry. Thankfully, problems with his hip mean he can't manage the stairs any more so he sleeps downstairs and allows me to sleep upstairs. Night-time is my favourite part of the day. I can rest knowing he can't get to me and feel safe for the first time in years. I lie in bed and my thoughts are completely my own.”

You can read the full No Age Limit report at this link https://www.ageuk.org.uk/our-impact/campaigning/no-age-limit/?utm_source=guardian&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=noagelimit

Can you volunteer your time to support survivors of rape and sexual violence?

Join our volunteer team to provide vital phone & email support to women & girls in your community



"I get to spend my time in a meaningful way, contributing to a cause I really care about"



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

we especially welcome applications from BME & LBT (lesbian, bi and trans) women

comprehensive training and support is provided

volunteering@cambridgerapecrisis.org.uk

01223 313 551



Cambridge Rape Crisis Centre



