



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

**March 2020**

We were pleased to hear that the Government has allocated an additional £30m funding to tackle rape and domestic abuse next financial year 2020/21 which includes:

- **£15m to tackle domestic abuse-** £10m will be invested to curb domestic abuse, including by tackling high-risk, high-harm perpetrators of domestic abuse through early interventions using case management and one-to-one interventions. There will also be a £5m fund to trial new domestic abuse courts which will consider family and criminal matters in parallel, providing more consistent support to victims.
- **£15m of funding for victims of rape and sexual abuse to improve their experience of the justice system.** It will be used to hire independent sexual advisers trained to guide and support victims through the justice system, speed up charging decisions, and provide extra online resources for victims of domestic abuse and rape, including a single digital hub.

In addition, the Domestic Abuse Bill has returned to Parliament and the Home Office have issued some fact sheets which can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/domestic-abuse-bill-2020-factsheets>

**Julia Cullum**  
Partnership Manager



**April DASV Champions - CANCELLED**

Due to the current situation with Corona virus which has led to some venues closing and many agencies advising staff not to attend meetings, we have decided to cancel the April DASV Champions sessions.

We plan to move the topic to the July sessions instead and will advise if July sessions are still happening nearer the time.

**New email address to contact IDVAS**

We have a new email address to contact the IDVA Service so please use this one for any enquiries and MARAC referrals. If you need to speak to an IDVA, please email this address and they will call you back [idva.referrals@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:idva.referrals@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

## **WOMEN AND GIRLS PROJECTS IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH RECEIVE MAJOR FUNDING BOOST**

Grassroots groups working in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough will get much-needed grants worth over £40,000 to help support local women and girls facing a range of challenges.

Five projects will receive grants of between £5,000 - £10,000. This is the second time Cambridgeshire Community Foundation has awarded groups money from the Tampon Tax Community Fund to help women and girls experiencing issues such as period poverty, domestic and sexual abuse and mental health.

Collectively as a network, UK Community Foundations is one of the UK's largest grant-makers and was asked by the government to distribute the largest share of the funding raised through the levy on sanitary products through its network of community foundations. A total of £6.9 million has been awarded nationally to grassroots groups in the two rounds of funding.

Michael O'Toole, CEO, Cambridgeshire Community Foundation:

"This funding supports the groups on the ground that are making a huge difference to the lives of women and girls. We know there is huge demand out there for these services and are proud to help small organisations working in our community to access vital public funding, which otherwise they may miss out on."

The projects being funded:

- Peterborough Women's Aid has received £9,000 to provide a Women's Support Worker, workshops and outings benefitting women who are survivors of domestic abuse.
- Turtle Dove Cambridge has received £9,000 to pilot an alternative education provision and offer an 8-10 week 1:1 support programme for young women.
- Wisbech Community Development Trust has received £8,000 to provide yoga sessions and confidence courses for women who have suffered domestic or sexual abuse.
- One Voice 4 Travellers has received £9,217 to hold employment workshops for domestic abuse survivors in East Cambs and Fenland to enable them to reduce family poverty through securing of employment.
- Peterborough Rape Crisis Care Group has received £5,000 to train the phone, text and app volunteer team who support women and girls in crisis who live in rural communities.

Community Foundations are local champions, connecting people and organisations that want to improve their communities. They invest in local people and organisations tackling some of the biggest issues facing communities today and supporting some of society's most disadvantaged people. They provide help and advice to those who want to give at the heart of their communities, both now and in the long-term, by matching donors to important local causes.

See page 6 for news about the next round of funding.

## Postal processes put victims at risk

Survivors of domestic abuse face significant harm because their post isn't secure and their address is regularly disclosed. Research by the Citizens Advice Bureau found that half of survivors of domestic abuse have their post intercepted by the perpetrator.

Survivors they spoke to missed out on cancer treatments, faced thousands of pounds of debt from unpaid bills, and lost touch with their support networks as a result of perpetrators hiding their letters. Perpetrators also use information they find in survivors' letters to discredit them to certain services, to financially abuse them, and to control and monitor their movements.

When survivors leave the home where they experienced abuse, they often need to keep their whereabouts secret. However, 40% of survivors who've left the home have had an agency disclose their new address to the perpetrator. This puts their safety at significant risk and leads survivors to avoid engaging with services for fear of giving out their address.

The impact

### Financial

Survivors have lost £7.1 billion in the last 10 years as a result of perpetrators intercepting their post.

### Practical

Survivors miss appointments with essential services because perpetrators hide their letters. And 1 in 2 survivors who have left the home avoid engaging with a service because they don't want to give out their address.

### Safety

71% of survivors who had their new address disclosed by an agency said their safety was compromised as a result.

### Wellbeing

Over half felt stressed or anxious as a result of having their post intercepted.

Recommendations

1. The government should invest in an 'Address & Collect' service, provided at post offices, to ensure people in unsafe or untraditional living situations have equal access to post.
2. The Information Commissioner's Office should investigate the significant number of data breaches, highlighted by this research, that put survivors of domestic abuse at serious risk.

## University of Suffolk DA Conference

University of Suffolk are holding a conference, supported by Suffolk County Council, which features a brilliant line up of speakers including the UK's first Domestic Abuse Commissioner, Nicole Jacobs.

For more details of the conference speakers and themes please visit their website [here](#). If you would like to attend simply click on the image below to visit our online shop, where you can find out more and purchase tickets. There are now limited tickets still available, so please book early to avoid disappointment.



The Domestic Abuse Research Network (DARNet) is pleased to announce the

# DOMESTIC ABUSE CONFERENCE

Wednesday 20 May 2020  
8.00am–5.00pm

**BOOK NOW**

 Suffolk County Council

 University of Suffolk  
Suffolk Institute for Social and Economic Research

The poster features a blue background with white text. On the right side, there is a photograph of three women in professional attire engaged in conversation. The text is arranged in a clear, hierarchical manner, starting with the organizing body, followed by the event title in large, bold letters, then the date and time, a prominent 'BOOK NOW' button, and finally the logos of the supporting organizations.

## Survey of LGBT+ experiences of sexual violence

Galop, the LGBT+ abuse and violence charity, are undertaking the first UK-wide study of LGBT+ specific experiences of sexual violence.

The first stage of this study is an anonymous online survey which is open to anyone who identifies with a minority sexual orientation or gender identity, who is over the age of 16 and lives in the UK.

The survey can be found at <http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/GalopSVSurvey> and will be open until **April 30<sup>th</sup> 2020**. We have taken care to ensure that our trauma informed approach to client work is built into the survey design and the support resources which are included throughout, as we know reflecting upon these experiences can be difficult.

We would really appreciate if you would **share this link** with your service users, colleagues and any other relevant contacts to help us reach as many potential participants as possible.

## **CQC report on keeping people safe from sexual incidents**

A new report from the Care Quality Commission looks at how people are kept safe from sexual incidents in social care services, and also how they are supported to express their sexuality

From the three-month period reviewed, CQC identified and analysed 661 statutory notifications that described 899 sexual incidents or incidents of alleged sexual abuse that took place in adult social care services. These notifications were around 3% of the total notifications of abuse or alleged abuse we received in this period.

Almost half (48%) of the incidents reported in this period were categorised as sexual assault, defined as sexually touching another person without their consent. The second most common type of incident (11%) was exposure and nudity, and 8% were categorised as sexual harassment. There were 47 (5%) allegations of rape.

In the period of the review, most incidents were alleged to be carried out by people who use services (nearly 60% of the notifications), and the vast majority of people affected were also people using services. In 16% of cases, the alleged incidents were carried out by employed staff or visiting workers, and in 8% it was friends or relatives.

Sexual incidents were nearly four times more likely to be carried out by men (485) than women (126) during the period reviewed. And women were over three times more likely to be affected by sexual incidents than men. Forty-five per cent of all people affected were women aged 75 and over in our findings.

Of the 661 notifications, 46% were from a residential care home, 28% from a nursing home, 12% from a domiciliary care service, and 2.5% from other services, such as supported living, Shared Lives, and extra care housing. The rest of the notifications (11.5%) were from services that provide more than one type of care provision.

### Recommendations

Skills for Care update their guidance on 'Supporting personal relationships' to incorporate the learning from this report by Spring 2020.

That providers and leaders across the adult social care sector develop a culture, environment and processes that support people's sexuality, keep them and staff safe from sexual harm, and promote people's human rights.

The Care Quality Commission should continue to strengthen processes to ensure that people's human rights are protected and that they are kept safe from abuse in adult social care services, including sexual abuse, and empowered to make positive relationships, through improved monitoring, risk assessment and inspection.

You can read the full report at

[https://www.cqc.org.uk/sites/default/files/20200225\\_sexual\\_safety\\_sexuality.pdf](https://www.cqc.org.uk/sites/default/files/20200225_sexual_safety_sexuality.pdf)

## Launch of the Whole Housing Toolkit

The Whole Housing Approach project team is proud to announce the online launch of the Whole Housing Approach (WHA) toolkit, which offers practical guidance and resources to local areas to deliver a consistent WHA to domestic abuse.

For people experiencing domestic abuse, the home is often the most dangerous place. On average two women are killed by their partner or ex-partner every week in England and Wales and 75% are killed in their own home.

Safe and stable housing is a core need for victim/survivors and yet it can be the most difficult need to meet. Many victim/survivors (rather than perpetrators) are often expected to relocate to different accommodation and bear the costs of starting over in order to be safe. A lack of affordable, longer term housing in many areas is a major barrier to escaping and factors strongly into a victim/survivor's decision making about whether to leave a perpetrator.

The Whole Housing Approach and the toolkit aims to change this by:

- Creating earlier identification and intervention for domestic abuse through mobilising social and private landlords and key institutions involved in private ownership,
- Reducing the number of people who are made homeless as a result of domestic abuse,
- And increasing tenancy sustainment options so that people experiencing domestic abuse can remain safely in their home when it is their choice to do so or do not lose their tenancy status if they relocate. This includes social housing landlords taking action to remove perpetrators from properties through enforcement where appropriate and safe to do so.

The toolkit was the culmination of the WHA pilot project, which was funded by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government over 18 months from October 2018 to the end of March 2020. Six specialist domestic abuse organisations as well as a civil society organisation have been working with 10 local authority areas (including Cambridgeshire) to provide domestic abuse initiatives and practices across a range of accommodation settings and tenure types (social, private rented and privately owned). Some of these initiatives are existing housing options while others are being introduced to England for the first time.

The toolkit can be accessed online at [www.dahalliance.org.uk/what-we-do/whole-housing-approach/whole-housing-toolkit](http://www.dahalliance.org.uk/what-we-do/whole-housing-approach/whole-housing-toolkit)

## Bidding open for 2020/21 Tampon Tax Funding

The 2020/21 round of Tampon Tax Funding is **inviting charitable, benevolent and philanthropic organisations** from across the United Kingdom to bid into one of three categories: violence against women and girls, young women's mental health and well-being, and a general programme.

The deadline for applications is 31<sup>st</sup> May 2020. Please check the eligibility criteria before applying!

Further information is available on Gov.uk <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/tampon-tax-fund-application-form-2020-2021-funding-round>