



**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

March 2019

Spring has sprung and we have plenty of news of changes!

Vickie Crompton is off on a 1 year secondment at the beginning of April to Standing Together. In November 2018, Vickie led on a bid to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government with Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council, alongside the charity Standing Together Against Violence and Abuse, and Westminster City Council and they were successful in securing the largest bid of £1.45m over 18 months. Vickie will be managing this project for Standing Together, but as the project covers Cambridgeshire she will still be around – read more about the work on page 2-3.

We also have news about new services for children affected by domestic abuse which have been funded by a successful bid to the Home office. You can read more about what Embrace and Family Action will be doing on page 4.

Our Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Champions Network has now been going for a year and we have over 100 champions across a range of organisations. The April sessions will be looking at support available to survivors of sexual violence – details are on page 3 so please book on if you haven't already.

Finally, at the beginning of March the Home Office issued a revised VAWG Strategy which summarises the actions that have been undertaken so far and adds some new items to the action plan. We will be revising our Cambridgeshire and Peterborough VAWG Action plan to reflect this update.

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



Whole Housing Approach to Domestic Abuse

This work is being delivered by the charity Standing Together Against Violence and Abuse, and Westminster City Council alongside Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council. The mission of the work is to improve housing options for families affected by domestic abuse through a 'whole housing approach' (To provide a plethora of housing options to people suffering domestic abuse understanding families will be on a spectrum of need). The overall vision is for the approach to be rolled out nationally as the outcomes for families will be demonstrated in terms of reducing homelessness, tenancy sustainment, early intervention and providing move on/ and housing options for families affected by domestic abuse.

Background and Development

- **Nov 2017** - DAHA National Housing and Domestic Abuse Policy and Practice Group meets for the first time – put together as a recommendation of Winston Churchill Fellowship
- **May 2018** – the group submits Whole Housing approach proposal to DA Bill consultation
- **Nov 2018** – included as response to Social Housing Green Paper
- **Nov 2018** – MHCLG funding secured
- **Jan 2019** – Value of Whole Housing Approach recognised in Domestic Abuse Bill



Housing Option Project	Description
Private rented housing sector	Raising awareness with landlord associations and bodies, letting agents and local authority PRS team. Promote practice under accreditation and licencing schemes.
Privately owned housing sector	Raising awareness of economic abuse and developing responses with mortgage providers/brokers, estate agents,

	conveyancers & courts
Managed reciprocal Arrangements	Housing exchange service for social housing tenants specifically for survivors of domestic abuse and violence against women
Sanctuary Scheme	Coordinating and managing efficient target hardening for survivors
Perpetrator Management	Explore enforcement and positive engagement action with perpetrators and improve partnership working
Resident Support Scheme	Quick access to flexible funding to cover practical costs not covered elsewhere
Housing Options DV / Mobile advocacy	DA posts (LA housing options service & mobile advocacy) offering 1:1 with focus on multi needs and exp disadvantages
Domestic Abuse Housing Accreditation	Providing accreditation for social housing providers

Whilst on secondment as Programme Manager, Vickie will still be around and would welcome any contact if your agency is involved in any element of the bid, or would like to learn more about this work.

The project will be producing a toolkit to be used across the country and to share the learning, and there will be an event held at the end of the project.

Reminder – April DASV Champions Sessions

The April sessions will be focusing on support available to survivors of sexual violence and we will have speakers from The Elms, Rape Crisis, ISVA and Police Rape Investigation Team.

Dates and venues are below. To book please email DasvChampions@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

April 2019 – Sexual Violence					
Cambridge	South Cambs	East Cambs	Fenland	Huntingdon	Peterborough
1 st April	17 th April	2 nd April	15 th April	4 th April	25 th April
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	Centre E, Ely <u>Note new venue</u>	March Community Centre	Stanton House	Fleet Community Centre <u>Note new venue</u>

New posts at Family Action

Thanks to funding from the Home Office, we are working with Family Action who will have two Victim Care Coordinator posts in the Domestic abuse team to provide support to families, young people and children who have experienced domestic abuse and where a crime has taken place.

The posts will work alongside the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Victims and Witness Hub staff and the Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs) to identify and support children 0 - 5 and their families known to this service, who are or have experienced domestic abuse - this could include direct or indirect support and include parents, siblings, children, extended family. They will work with colleagues, children Centre's, and other identified groups, to ensure coordinated support is offered to children and families and to advocate on behalf of children and families where appropriate to ensure support is in place. All support will inform the effectiveness and suitability of options to improve safety. All advice will be based on a thorough understanding and assessment of risk and its management.

The aim is to offer support and aid recovery from the impact of domestic violence and abuse and support children and young people through the criminal justice process with support with video-recorded interviews, statements, domestic homicide reviews etc. One of the team will primarily work with children under five and their non-abusive parent across Peterborough other support will be county wide.

Professional referrals can be made to 01733 893361.



Embrace Child Victims of Crime - Referrals for 7-12years – Domestic Abuse

Embrace have received funding from Cambridgeshire County Council, to offer 1:1 specialist counselling support to young people aged 7-12 years, who have experienced Domestic Abuse. This is additional funding to our existing support to 13-19 years (24 with additional needs), funded by the Cambridgeshire Police Crime Commissioner.

Embrace counsellors are now able to offer support to 7-12year olds and can visit them in school or other safe venue to undertake 1:1 counselling. Embrace use a Trauma Focused CBT approach, with sessions ranging between 8-20 individual sessions. TF-CBT is recognised by NICE as an evidenced based therapy.

How to Refer: All referrals must be made through the Embrace secure website:

www.embracecvoc.org.uk

Referrers can make the on-line secure referral by clicking on the **Time4U** tab.

We take referrals from both professionals and safe adults in families who wish to self-refer.

To enquire or speak to a member of staff, call: 01480 422970 or contact **Marc James;**

marc@embracecvoc.org.uk

We do not encourage referrals where the young person is still living in a domestically abusive environment or has regular contact with the abusing adult.

The personal and financial costs of domestic abuse

Hestia and Pro Bono Economics have released a report that shines an important light on the huge personal cost to children who witness domestic abuse – and the £1.4bn economic cost to the taxpayer as a consequence. The report 'On the Sidelines' highlights that there is so little research in this area that the economists have only been able to look at children who have been exposed to severe violence and gone on to develop behavioural disorders.

The research found:

- The number of UK children who have witnessed severe domestic violence is around 500,000
- The damage to children's mental health from exposure to domestic violence could potentially result in a significant increase in the cost of public services.
- The long-run cost to the taxpayer of supporting these children to the age of 28, could be up to £1.4b

<https://www.hestia.org/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=3c675589-0a2d-4420-aa19-fcd71b289d32>

The Economics of Abuse – new report

The Domestic Abuse Report 2019: The Economics of Abuse explores the relationship between domestic abuse and economic resources, looking at the needs and experiences of survivors around finances, welfare, housing and employment (economic needs), and how these needs are met by specialist domestic abuse services.

The report explains the myriad ways in which victims and survivors of domestic abuse can be affected by financial issues including access to benefits, housing and financial abuse. Case studies from a number of victims illustrate the issues experienced and there are some interesting tables about what happens to a victim's income after they leave an abusive relationship (hint, it doesn't increase!)

Also included are a range of recommendations for Government and key partners in domestic abuse including housing providers and specialist support services.

<https://www.womensaid.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Economics-of-Abuse-Report-2019.pdf>

Financial abuse of older people

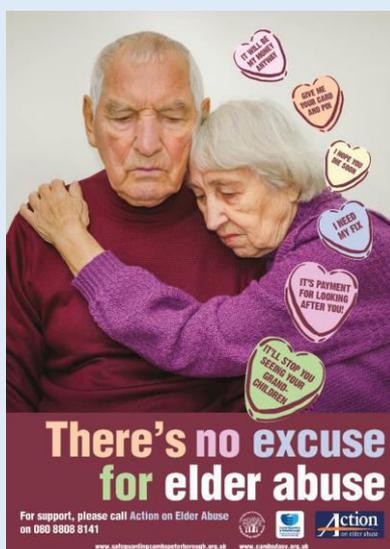
The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership have linked up with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Boards, and with national organisation Action on Elder Abuse, to create a new poster highlighting the issue of financial abuse experienced by older people from family members.

On average, the best estimate for the UK is that between 1 and 2 per cent of people aged 65 or over in the United Kingdom today have suffered (or are currently suffering) financial abuse since turning 65. This is likely to be a conservative estimate, and the suspicion remains that the true extent of financial abuse – particularly if we use the wider definitions – is actually much greater. Financial abuse is a form of domestic abuse under Safeguarding Adults legislation within the Care Act 2014.

The poster will be shared across the county with partner organisations including libraries and GP surgeries or it can be downloaded from

https://www.cambsdasv.org.uk/website/posters_for_free_download/397373

If you would like more information please contact dasv@cambridgeshire.gov.uk



Refuge Drop – In sessions Peterborough

As of March 18th an Outreach Worker will be available to support female victims of Domestic Abuse at the following locations. This service is also available to professionals for case discussion or advice

Mondays: East children's centre, Durham Road, Peterborough, PE1 5JU

Fridays: Acorn Children's centre, 20 Scaford Drive, Welland, PE1 4TR

These sessions will run from 10-12pm and 1pm-3pm

Contact - OutreachCambridgeshire@refuge.org.uk

National Stalking Awareness Week Monday 8th April – Friday 12th April 2019

National Stalking Awareness week is about raising awareness of stalking and the stories behind the statistics. This year Suzy Lamplugh Trust and the National Stalking Consortium are focusing on the impact stalking has on victims' mental and emotional health as well as their physical safety in order to raise awareness amongst health professionals of the seriousness of stalking and that #StalkingStealsLives

Victims of stalking experience psychological trauma including:

- Denial, confusion, self-doubt, questioning if what is happening is unreasonable, wondering if they are over-reacting
- Depression (all symptoms related to depression)
- Anxiety, panic attacks, agoraphobia (frightened to leave the house, never feeling safe)
- Difficulty concentrating, attending and remembering things
- Inability to sleep – nightmares, ruminating
- Symptoms of Post-traumatic Stress disorder e.g. hypervigilance (always on the lookout), flashbacks of frightening incidents, easily startled
- Self-medication alcohol/ drugs or using prescribed medications
- Suicide thoughts and/or suicide attempts

Suzy Lamplugh Trust will be sharing findings from a new report on the impact of stalking upon victims during the week as well as findings from the Agency Stalking Intervention programme's first twelve months

Free older people and substance use online course

Following its previous success, Middlesex University are running a **free online international course** for the third time starting **13 May 2019**. People are invited to register online **via Future Learn** via the link below.

People in later life face specific issues in relation to problematic substance use But people's problems in later life tend to be more invisible, both in care services and in substance use services. This online course brings these issues together from a health, social care, informal carer and public health point of view. It draws on international perspectives from experts in the UK, New Zealand, Australia and the USA, to compare and share knowledge, skills and best practice with the community.

Topics covered include:

- Introduction to the issues concerning problematic substance use in later life, context, causes, recognition.
- Identifying interventions and best practices to tackle the issues and promote health and wellbeing in ageing populations.
- Developing a community of practice and networking on the issues.

Follow this link to register <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/substance-use>

Highlight on tech abuse

You might have seen that the pioneering work by Refuge on tech abuse was featured on the BBC's Victoria Derbyshire programme recently.

The service launched with the support of Google at the end of 2017, having evolved directly from a trend identified by our frontline services.

Data from our IMPACT case management database has, since, shown the sheer prevalence of tech abuse.

The Refuge Tech Abuse and Comms teams worked for months with Victoria Derbyshire on the film below. Huge thanks in particular to our courageous survivors who took part. The piece is being widely covered across the BBC and shared on social media. We saw an immediate spike in traffic to our tech abuse pages during the programme. <https://www.refuge.org.uk/our-work/forms-of-violence-and-abuse/tech-abuse-2/resources/>

BBC content on tech abuse

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-47623436>

Summary on BBC News Online

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0741x6v>

Short film on tech abuse from the programme

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m0003g91/victoria-derbyshire-20032019>

Full programme including live interview with Refuge's Jane Keeper