



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

March 2015

Dear Partners

Welcome to the March newsletter.

It's all about the web for us this month with the launch of our new website due in April and we have taken a brave step into the world of social media. We are on Twitter, sharing an account with our partners in the Drug & Alcohol Team, and on Facebook.

You can follow our Twitter account @cambsDAAT_DASV

You can like and follow our information page on Facebook – search for Cambs DASV

Details of the new website will be in the April newsletter – it will feature areas for the public, professionals, children and young people and an elearning module.

Last month we told you that work we have done with VoiceAbility to raise awareness of domestic abuse for adults with learning disabilities had been nominated for an award at the National Learning Disability and Autism Awards. The work has been shortlisted and the Speak Out Council from VoiceAbility attended the judging day in Birmingham on 26th March. We should find out soon if we have won!

I hope you enjoy the newsletter and remember that you can submit articles to Amanda.warburton@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

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http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20114/domestic_abuse_and_sexual_violence



AVA are running a number of courses for professionals working with adults and children and young people over the next few months, including:

How to use a Response-Based Approach with survivors of domestic violence, sexual violence and sexual exploitation, 21 April 2015, London

For information on other training from AVA, visit <http://www.avaproject.org.uk/our-training--events/open-training.aspx>

Funding bid success for women's refuges

The Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership have been successful in a bid to the Dept for Communities and Local Government for one off additional funding for women's refuges. The bid, led by Vickie Crompton in partnership with Refuge, Cambridge Womens Aid and the Housing leads from Cambridge City, Huntingdon and Fenland District Councils, has secured a total of £300,000 for the three refuges in Cambridgeshire. The funding will be used towards maintenance, staffing and a Community Psychiatric Nurse to support women and children in the refuges to access specialist support. The funding will be paid to the districts who will then pass £100,000 to each refuge.

Revenge Porn Awareness Campaign goes live

A campaign to highlight that 'revenge porn' is a criminal offence was launched on 12 February. The Be Aware B4 You Share campaign is being run by the Ministry of Justice in partnership with Women's Aid, the UK Safer Internet Centre and the Suzy Lamplugh Trust. It seeks to deter potential perpetrators by highlighting that revenge porn is a crime that will be prosecuted. It also aims to support victims by directing them to the new government-funded helpline where they can receive information on the legal help available and their right to have intimate images removed from websites.

The Ministry of Justice welcomes the support of those in the crime and policing community in promoting the campaign. A range of campaign materials including a police factsheet and poster is available for you to download, and you can also follow the dedicated [Facebook campaign page](#) and the Ministry of Justice on Twitter using the handle @MoJGovUK. For more information on the campaign or to find out how you can be involved, please contact campaigns@justice.gsi.gov.uk

Professional duty to report FGM

As part of the government's efforts to end female genital mutilation (FGM) within a generation, Crime Prevention minister Lynne Featherstone announced front line professionals will have a mandatory duty to report cases of FGM. The duty has been designed to give frontline workers such as teachers and social and healthcare professionals the confidence to confront FGM. It is envisaged it will aid police investigations and increase the number of perpetrators caught and prosecuted.

The proposed mandatory duty will:

- apply in cases which have been disclosed by the victim and/or are visually confirmed
- be limited to victims under 18
- apply to all regulated healthcare and social care professionals, and teachers
- require reports to be made to the police within one month of initial disclosure/identification
- see frontline workers who fail to comply with the duty be dealt with via existing disciplinary measures

The move follows a public consultation which sought views on how a mandatory reporting duty could work, and who it should apply to. The duty will be introduced through amendments to the Serious Crime Bill to ensure the new duty is legislated for ahead of the dissolution of Parliament, alongside multi-agency statutory guidance for front line professionals.

FGM Resource Pack

Cambridgeshire Local Safeguarding Children Board have launched a Peterborough and Cambridgeshire FGM resource pack. Included within the pack are: an opening letter from both Chairs of the LSCB Boards, leaflets, guidance and training slides.

For practitioners there will also be a couple of Local Practice Group workshops across Peterborough and Cambridgeshire, led by Dr Emilia Wawrzkowicz, Consultant Paediatrician & Designated Doctor for Safeguarding Children Cambridgeshire and Peterborough CCG .

The workshops take place on:

17 April 2015 at the Meadows Centre , Arbury from 9.30 – 11.30

28 April 2015 at Northminster, Peterborough from 14.00 – 16.00

To attend a workshop, please contact lscbtraining@cambridgeshire.gov.uk or call the LSCB on 01480 373522 for the Cambridgeshire workshop or pscb.training@peterborough.gov.uk or 01733 863747 for the Peterborough workshop

If you would like a resource pack emailed to you, please contact Amanda.warburton@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Report on domestic and sexual violence funding

The All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Domestic and Sexual Violence, supported by Women's Aid and Rape Crisis England and Wales, [released a report](#) in February revealing that funding for violence against women services is not fit for purpose. The report concluded the APPG's Inquiry into domestic and sexual violence service provision, which received both written and oral evidence from over 60 organisations and more than 100 survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

Recommendations:

- That the government adopts a needs led approach to tackling sexual and domestic violence and bolsters services that address women's needs.
- Development of a cross cutting ministerial position based in the Cabinet Office. The Minister's function will be tackling violence against women and girls and ensuring a cross-departmental approach to regulating the commissioning of services.
- All national and local VAWG strategy, priority setting and commissioning is based on an equitable needs analysis of all forms of violence against women and girls.
- The Department of Communities and Local Government, the Ministry of Justice, local government and the Department for Health provide joint guidance on co-commissioning, with clear guidelines for local authority and health commissioners about their obligations to provide sexual violence and domestic violence services under the Equality Duty and the UK's international obligations.
- Development of sustainable and secure funding models for specialist sexual violence, domestic violence and BME-led services ideally agreed on a cross party basis to ensure consistency and continuity of service provision.
- Statutory data relating to all forms of violence against women must be sex disaggregated, include protected characteristics and work to consistent definitions.

Healthy Relationships lessons for schools

Education Secretary Nicky Morgan announced new government plans this month to teach school children about sexual consent and healthy relationships. The plans are being drawn up by the Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE) Association, the organisation that oversees PSHE teaching.

In Cambridgeshire, the DASV Partnership have been working with schools for some time to raise the issue of healthy relationships and sexual consent. Our partnership with Centre 33 and SexYOUAlity has seen workshops delivered at five schools across Cambridge City and East Cambs since July 2014, with a further six schools in the two districts booked in before the end of July 2015.

We have also collated a list of all providers of these types of workshops across the county and will be asking them to complete a self- assessment quality assurance framework over the next couple of months and to sign up to a values statement. We are working with the Cambs SRE Gateway web site to enable the details of healthy relationships sessions, and the quality assurance of providers, to be made available to all schools in Cambridgeshire via the web site so they can choose the most appropriate option for their pupils.

Femicide Census

In February, Women's Aid launched the UK's first ever Femicide Census - a census on women killed by men.

The Femicide Census includes a wide range of information about women who have been killed by fatal male violence, the perpetrators and the incident of murder itself, including the date, names, police force area, and information about children, recorded motive and the weapon.

Information in the Femicide Census was initially from a set of names that had been collected by Karen Ingala Smith who searched the web for news about women who had been killed by men and published the details in her blog 'Counting Dead Women'.

Freedom of Information Act requests were subsequently made to police departments, local authorities and other public bodies throughout England to verify certain information and identify new victims that had not been identified already. Data was also collected from publicly available sources such as the press and the NHS Trust England website.

Women's Aid say the Femicide Census will:

- provide a clearer picture of domestic homicides in the UK by age/ethnic origin/relationship/ profession/region/outcome;
- provide a clearer picture of men's fatal violence against women that is not committed by a partner or ex-partner;
- Allow information to be utilised to create advocacy tools to provide concrete data on domestic violence homicides;
- provide data when NGOs working to end domestic violence against women is providing expert evidence on domestic homicides in civil cases or before the Coroners court;
- Enable comparisons and parallels to be drawn between cases and identifying where there is the potential for a systemic argument against the State for failing to protect the Right to Life; and
- provide a resource for academics researching femicides.

Change of name for CAADA

Coordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse (CAADA) have changed their name to Safe Lives. The risk assessment checklist used to assess domestic abuse risk is still known as the CAADA-DASH.

You can visit their new website at <http://www.safelives.org.uk/>

Progress on national VAWG activity

To mark International Women's Day, the government has published a progress report on its activity to end violence against women and girls which focuses on five key achievements between 2010 and 2015 so far:

- Introduction of legislation to criminalise forced marriage in England and Wales – the Forced Marriage Unit has delivered nearly 500 outreach events
- National roll out of the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme and Domestic Violence Protection Orders – there have been 1300 disclosures and 2500 DVPOs made to date
- Introduction of stalking legislation and development of online resources for professionals
- Provisions to criminalise revenge porn and possession of depictions of rape, including launching a helpline for victims
- Creation of a new offence of domestic abuse to capture coercive and controlling behaviour

The report also advises that the number of referrals for domestic abuse and violence from the police for prosecution is higher than ever before (over 100,000) but the number of cases of domestic abuse reaching court has also risen. In 2013/14, there were just over 78,000 prosecutions nationally. Current projections expect that figure to increase to nearly 90,000 by the end of 2014/15; The conviction rate for domestic violence and abuse is also at its highest ever level at almost 75% in 2013/14 – up from 72% in 2009/10.

The full report can be read here <http://www.avaproject.org.uk/sector-news/policy-points--consultations/report-call-to-end-violence-against-women-and-girls-progress-report-2010-to-2015.aspx>

Women's experiences of financial abuse

Women's Aid has published a report on women's experiences of financial abuse and what this means with Universal Credit coming in. Cambridge Women's Aid think that bringing these issues to the attention of the government is vital at this time and were pleased to support this research. Eight of CWA's service users from outreach and refuge took part in a focus group with the author to inform this work. It is great to see so many of their voices included in the report.

The report is available on the Women's Aid website:
<http://www.womensaid.org.uk/page.asp?section=00010001001400130009§ionTitle=Financial+Abuse>

New Digital Stalking website

The internet is used by abusers to carry out many forms of digital abuse including digital stalking. A new website has been launched to provide information to both victims and professionals that aims to increase the safety of victims of this type of abuse. <https://www.digital-trust.org/>

Survivor Art Exhibition

In early March, an exhibition of art from users of Cambridge Women's Resource Centre, Cambridge Women's Aid and Cambridge Rape Crisis Centre was held at Anglia Ruskin University. The show was coordinated by ARU student Jordan Griggs and a launch event for professionals was attended by over 30 people. The free exhibition was open for a week in the Lord Ashcroft Building so was accessible to hundreds of students and members of the public. Some of the work can be seen below and more will be displayed on the new Cambs DASV website.

