



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

December 2015

Dear Partners

Yet another year has flown by and it's Christmas once again. Sadly, this time of year isn't full of joy for some people and the extended holiday period usually leads to more incidents of domestic abuse. Children are particularly vulnerable at this time of year - an issue that is highlighted in this short film <http://www.saracharlington.org.uk/12days/>

On a brighter note, Cambridge Women's Aid have sent us some of the pictures that have been created by children they have worked with over the last 12 months – look out for them in the Newsletter.

Looking forward to January, our colleagues at Cambridgeshire Police will be running their annual campaign to encourage people to report rape and sexual violence. We will be supporting the campaign by highlighting the support that is available to people who choose not to report to the police.

And after the festivities and (for some) excesses of Christmas and New Year, our colleagues in the Drug and Alcohol Action Team are encouraging people to take part in Dry January – see page 10 and the poster on page 13 for more details.

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

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Upcoming Training

The dates and venues for the 1.5 day Introduction to Domestic Abuse training are below, to book visit <http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/learntogether/social>

Wed & Thurs	20-21 January 2016	CPDC, Trumpington
Tues & Wed	23-24 February 2016	March Town Hall
Wed & Thurs	16-17 March 2016	Stanton House, Huntingdon
Tues & Wed	19-20 April 2016	CPDC, Trumpington
Wed & Thurs	18-19 May 2016	Stanton House, Huntingdon
Tues & Wed	14-15 June 2016	Stanton House, Huntingdon
Wed & Thurs	13-14 July 2016	Stanton House, Huntingdon

Details of all four levels of domestic abuse training offered in Cambridgeshire are now available on our website http://www.cambsdasv.org.uk/website/training_1/86050

Picture from the children's art group at Cambridge Women's Aid



New Coercive Control law comes into effect

The Government announced that the law criminalising coercive control and psychological abuse is going to be enforced by the 29th December 2015. Those who are found guilty under the Serious Crime Act 2015 will be liable to a maximum of 5 years in prison, a fine or both.

The new law criminalises perpetrators who coerce, control and psychologically abuse their victims. In order for the offence to apply, the behaviour would have to pass two main tests.

Firstly, the perpetrator should know that their actions would lead to another person being controlled. What this means is that if a reasonable person, with all the information available to them, would conclude that the perpetrators actions amount to psychological abuse and coercive control, then the perpetrator should know that their actions would have this effect as well.

Secondly, as a result of the perpetrators actions, there has to be a serious negative influence on the victim's daily life and as a consequence of the perpetrators actions, they suffer alarm, distress or fear for their life.

The new law applies to behaviours in three environments: an intimate relationship, former partners who still live together and family members. This does not mean that the partners still have to be together in order for it to go to court, it just means that the actions themselves have to have occurred when the victim and perpetrator were personally connected. A controlling incident would have to occur more than once, though a time frame between incidents is not specified in the law.

However, this law is not retroactive. It will only apply to cases that occur after the day it is enforced, previous incidents can be used to build a case, but past abusive relationships do not fall under the Act.

Taken from http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/rhea-gargour/new-domestic-violence-law-really-mean_b_8725238.html

Stranger Stalking Consultation

The Government has launched a consultation seeking views on the introduction of new measures to offer better protection to victims of 'stranger stalking'.

In 2012, the Home Office introduced 2 new offences of stalking into the Protection from Harassment Act 1997. However, for cases of 'stranger stalking' there are fewer interim measures available to offer protection to victims and place restrictions or positive obligations on the perpetrator. The consultation will consider the introduction of a stalking protection order to address this issue and provide the required protection to victims.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/introducing-a-stalking-protection-order>

Spotlight on Fenland

The quarter 2 report of Fenland's 2015/16 strategic assessment is now available on [Cambridgeshire Insight](#). The report looks at "Domestic Abuse and Unhealthy Relationships" in Fenland including domestic abuse and vulnerability, and possible areas of under-reporting. It touches upon the effects of abuse and personal relationships, and looks at how the partnership can improve reporting, awareness and prevention.

Key findings of the research are:

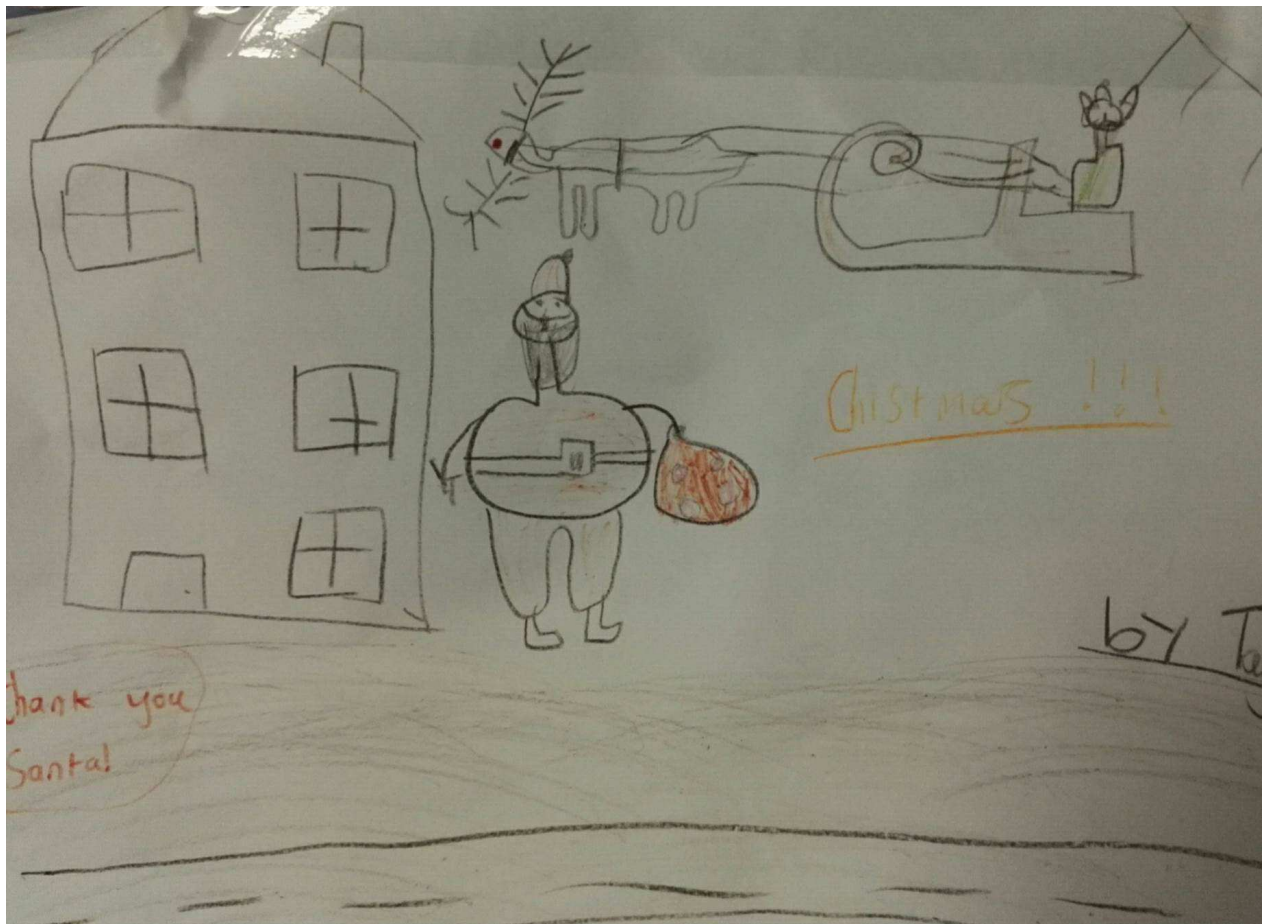
- At least 24% of violent crime in Fenland is believed to be attributed to domestic abuse with the rate of police recorded domestic abuse incidents in Fenland remaining higher than for Cambridgeshire.
- Intimate partner/ex-partner violence currently accounts for largest proportion (three quarters) of domestic abuse in Fenland.
- Older victims, particularly women, may be currently under-represented within the police data locally. There remains a low level of referrals to adults' social care for concern relating to domestic abuse of both older people and those classified as vulnerable (i.e. with a disability).
- Familial (occurring between adult family members not in an intimate relationship, e.g. siblings, parent/child) domestic abuse currently accounts for a quarter of police recorded abuse it is still a concern. Services are not currently designed or set up to provide the most appropriate support for familial abuse.
- As at 30th September 2015, 13.6% of open 'cases' in Fenland to Children's Social Care were flagged as cases of parents experiencing domestic abuse, and the impact is therefore extended to the whole family.
- During the production of this report it was identified that there was a lack of available data from health partners in relation to understanding disclosure of domestic abuse. Data from other sources (FRA 2014) indicates that at least 15% of victims reported to a health agency. There is no comparable local data available at this time.

New Guidance for Mental Health Practitioners

New guidance for mental health professionals has been published following a major new study into "routine enquiry" in mental health settings. The study revealed that, even though routine enquiry has been Department of Health policy since 2003, it is inconsistently applied.

The four briefings published in November provide guidance for mental health commissioners, trust managers, service providers and front-line professionals on how services can be improved, based on survivors' experiences. A further briefing demonstrates the links between experience of violence and abuse and mental health problems.

You can download the guidance on our website at http://www.cambsdasv.org.uk/website/mental_health/171562



Picture from the children's art group at Cambridge Women's Aid

Domestic Abuse Toolkit

We are frequently asked for a comprehensive toolkit around domestic abuse for practitioners. Against Violence and Abuse (AVA) have produced the Complicated Matters Toolkit to support practitioners dealing with the related issues of domestic abuse, alcohol or substance misuse and mental health. We are happy to support the use of the toolkit in Cambridgeshire and our colleagues in the Drug and Alcohol Action Team also endorse its use.

A limited number of hard copies are being ordered but you can purchase the toolkit from AVA for £20 [http://www.avaproject.org.uk/our-resources/good-practice-guidance--toolkits/complicated-matters-stella-project-toolkit-and-e-learning-\(2013\).aspx](http://www.avaproject.org.uk/our-resources/good-practice-guidance--toolkits/complicated-matters-stella-project-toolkit-and-e-learning-(2013).aspx)

Alternatively, you can download it from our website for free <http://www.cambsdasv.org.uk/website/toolkits/171483>

Chelsea's Choice

Raising Awareness of Healthy Relationships and Child Sexual Exploitation

A 40 minute play with 30 minute workshop

South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City 2016

How You Can Get Involved

South Cambs and Cambridge City (SCCC) Children and Young People's Area Partnership; Cambridge Community Safety Partnership; South Cambs Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership and the Drug and Alcohol Team are working together to bring a tour of Chelsea's Choice to SCCC in February/March 2016

Please find below information on the production and highlights how you can participate.

If you have any questions or want to discuss your contribution please contact

South Cambs: Leanne.fisher@cambs.pnn.police.uk

Cambridge City: Cheryl.carter@cambs.pnn.police.uk

Performances will take place

- In secondary schools
- In special needs schools
- In community settings

The package includes

- An introductory workshop for adults who will be working with young people seeing the performance, highlighting the themes covered and what support and resources are available to support preparatory and follow up work (for details see below)
- Information about people/organisations who can support follow up work
- A performance of the play
- An evaluation with students seeing the performance

How Can you Get involved?

1. Do you want to find out more about child sexual exploitation; see the play and meet people in your area who are working with young people?

We will be hosting information workshops on Friday 15 January 2016

These will provide an opportunity to

- See the play prior to the tour for young people
- Find out more about CSE in SCCC and what the key issues are
- Find out how to support young people to avoid or deal with CSE and what resources are available to support this
- Promote services and resources that can support follow up work

Workshop Information:

Friday 15 January 2016	9.30 – 12.30	Cambridge City	Contact: Cheryl.carter@cambs.pnn.police.uk
Friday 15 January 2016	2.45 – 5.45	Melbourn Village College	Contact: Leanne.fisher@cambs.pnn.police.uk

2. Do you/your service offer support around any of the themes linked to the play?

Following last year's tour young people said the play was a great way of raising their awareness but that they would have liked

- Someone to talk to about the issues raised
- To have developed skills to help them avoid/resist/deal with situations in their own lives

We are, therefore, compiling a directory of people/services who

- Are happy for young people to contact them to talk further about the issues
- Can offer workshops; projects or other initiatives to schools or other settings to help them follow up the play

If you would like your service to be included in the directory contact
Cheryl.carter@cambs.pnn.police.uk to discuss

3. Do you know a young person who would benefit from participating in this programme?

Most performances in school will be shown to young people in Y9/10. You may be working with young people who will not see the show in school but who would benefit from participating in the programme.

We will be hosting a number of non school based performances. Currently these are booked for

Monday 7 March	Afternoon	Meadows Community Centre. Cambridge Adults and young people
Tuesday 8 March	Afternoon	Brown's Field Community Centre. Cambridge – young people
Tuesday 8 March	7pm	Brown's Field Community Centre. Cambridge – young people
	TBC	Cherry Hinton Village Centre. Cambridge Adults and young people
	TBC	Gamlingay
	TBC	Cambourne

Please contact Cheryl or Leanne if you want to attend one of these sessions with young people or parents/carers or if you want to know about additional sessions

If you are planning on attending these sessions we ask you to also attend one of the introductory workshops

Launch of new FGM Films

At the end of October, FORWARD launched three animated short films on the issue of female genital mutilation (FGM). The three films are the result of a two year project between FORWARD of Animage Films. The aim of the films is to offer a more visual way to invoke passion and action

Needlecraft is a three minute animated film aimed at raising awareness of FGM in the UK.

My Body My Rules is a three minute animated film aimed at raising awareness of FGM amongst primary school aged children in the UK.

The True Story of Ghati and Rhobi a short animated film made for use in Africa and as part of a social change campaign with FORWARD partner Children's Dignity Forum (CDF). This film is being launched in Tanzania and will become more widely available at a later date.

Guidance for working with sexually active under 18s

An amendment to the Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) For The 21st Century has been released for professionals working with sexually active under 18s. The revised guidance is designed to assist those working with children and young people to identify where these relationships may be abusive, and where the children and young people may need protection or additional services.

It is based on the core principle that the welfare of the child or young person is paramount, and it emphasises the need for professionals to work together in accurately assessing the likelihood of Significant Harm when a child or young person is engaged in sexual activity.

The guidance can be found on the Professionals section of our website at

http://www.cambsdasv.org.uk/website/children_and_young_people_/96818



Festive picture, drawn by a resident supported by Refuge, national domestic violence charity

Recovery Hub moving forward

Our colleagues in the Drug and Alcohol Action Team have been working to set up a recovery hub in Mill Road in Cambridge and have now (after hours of hard graft) managed to get planning approval. Renovation work will hopefully start after Christmas and will take around 8 weeks. The hub will be an exciting, lively new space separate from treatment services and provide an independent resource promoting and developing a recovery community.

The hub plans to offer a wide range of opportunities for individuals in recovery to provide support to each other and develop personally and socially away from specialist services. The long term vision is that this project will be service user led and run. The hub will be a comfortable, funky, inviting space with a café facility. In order to meet the vision DAAT need support from professionals and the recovery community, there will be various opportunities to support the project from buying a coffee to volunteering your time to help out, watch this space.

HMIC Honour-Based-Violence – are the police ready?

HMIC have published a report into the preparedness of forces in England and Wales to deal with so-called honour-based crimes. The report cites three forces out of 43 as completely unprepared and only three as fully prepared.

The review examined police tactics for identifying and stopping forced marriages and female genital mutilation (FGM) and forces were assessed on five key areas.

The results for Cambridgeshire Constabulary are below:

Leadership - Not yet prepared

Awareness and understanding - Prepared

Protection - Not yet prepared

Enforcement and prevention - Not yet prepared

Overall - Not yet prepared

The full report can be read at

<https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmic/publications/the-depths-of-dishonour/>

Love You to Death

The BBC has commissioned a film that will name each of the 86 women who died at the hands of their male partner or ex-partner during one calendar year, from 1 January 2013 to 31 December 2013. Woven into this list are more detailed accounts of a range of individual deaths, told through personal testimony from the parents, siblings, children, friends and neighbours of the women who died. Family members give detailed accounts of what took place, as well as speaking openly about their feelings, their loved ones and their grief.

Love you to death will be shown on BBC Two on 16th December at 9pm.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/mediacentre/proginfo/2015/50/love-you-to-death>

Key points for professionals when making domestic abuse enquiries

The new guidance for mental health practitioners includes a number of key points that survivors have made in regard to professionals asking about domestic abuse. We feel these are important for all health and social care professionals.

- Ask everyone, Ask early, and Keep asking – it may take a while to build trust
- Don't ask when the potential perpetrator is in the room or nearby
- Don't ask just as a tick box exercise – show genuine interest
- Ask open questions
- Don't sideline domestic abuse as not as important as other issues
- Respond positively – believe them, always
- Respond appropriately – ask what they would like you to do, ensure you know about signposting options
- Follow up – don't assume that it has gone away because you asked

Will you stay dry in January?

Cambridgeshire County Council is supporting the Alcohol Concern Dry January campaign this year. We would like organisations across Cambridgeshire to display the attached poster clearly in their offices, workplaces and services from early December onwards until the end of January. Dry January encourages people to take a month out from alcohol and enjoy the benefits of having a break from drinking. By seeing how beneficial a break from alcohol is, people will have the time and space to evaluate the amount they drink, giving them the confidence to make healthier choices during the rest of the year. Benefits of Dry January as follows:

- People can lose weight – a small glass of wine has 125 calories!!!
- Save money
- Have better sleep and more energy

This is not suitable for people who have a strong dependency on alcohol but for people who would like to try having a month alcohol free who would normally drink and is aimed at staff in organisations and service users. People can sign up for Dry January at the following webpage:

<http://www.dryjanuary.org.uk/>

The County Council is looking for people to volunteer to be a Dry January Champion. All you have to do is sign up yourself and encourage others to have a go. Please could you let me know if you would like to be a Dry January Champion.

Joseph Keegan, Alcohol Strategic Lead, 01223 507 141
joseph.keegan@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

#16signs #16daysofaction

Raising awareness of the many different aspects of controlling and abusive behaviour can help women, and concerned friends and family members, identify domestic violence. Refuge believes that early prevention is essential; forewarned is forearmed. It is also vital people know what services are available to them and that Refuge is here to offer information and support.

This is why Refuge used the 16 days of action to raise awareness of 16 of the common signs of abuse. The campaign launched on the 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. The #16signs campaign shared survivors' voices to draw attention to the different types of behaviours which can indicate abuse. Jealous behaviour, isolating someone from their friends or family, controlling what they wear or what they can do, are all signs of abuse. Each day throughout the 16 days of action, Refuge focused on a particular sign of abuse; highlighting how it can manifest itself, how it was experienced by survivors of abuse and how people who are identifying with the sign can get more information and support.

An example of one of our #16signs shared on social media:



My money, my life – new campaign to raise awareness of financial abuse

On International Human Rights Day (10 December 2015), Refuge, in partnership with The Co-operative Bank, launched a powerful new campaign “My money, my life” to raise awareness of financial abuse and call on the banking sector to do more for victims.

Refuge and The Co-operative Bank joined forces to carry out the UK’s largest study to date to uncover the true scale of financial abuse within intimate partner relationships. The research, led by academic Nicola Sharp-Jeffs, found that a staggering one-in-five people in the UK reported that they have experienced financial abuse.

Based on this research the ‘My money, my life’ campaign will inform those experiencing financial abuse about their rights and empower them to make positive choices about their own financial future. Refuge has produced a financial guide as a support resource for women who have experienced financial abuse and will be working with The Co-operative to drive change across the banking sector.

The ‘money matters’ report recommends that a code of practice is developed for the financial industry to ensure there is a consistent response across the sector to financial abuse and ensure that they are better able to support victims. The report also recommends that bank staff are trained to recognise financial abuse and that financial independence and joint money management is discussed when people take out joint products like accounts and mortgages.

For more information about the campaign or to download the guide, please visit:
<http://www.refuge.org.uk/what-we-do/campaigns/my-money-my-life/>





DRY JANUARY®

**CAN YOU
STAY OFF THE
BOOZE FOR
31 DAYS?**



SIGN UP AT WWW.DRYJANUARY.ORG.UK

For more information, contact Alcohol Concern at dryjanuary@alcoholconcern.org.uk

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25 Corsham Street, London, N1 6DR



Alcohol Concern
Promoting health, improving lives

Do you know a child who has been affected by domestic violence?



Starting 11th January 2016

Ages 9-11 years

Venue to be confirmed

"This is the best group ever, we do fun things, get to talk about our feelings and you really take care of us..."
(6 year old boy)

The Community Group Programme for Children and their Mothers

The 12 week programme is an integrated community group programme for children and their mothers who have experienced domestic abuse.

Children's groups help children begin the healing process by:

- Allowing children to share their experiences with other children
- Exploring ways of expressing their feelings safely
- Looking at coping strategies for the future

Mothers' groups support women in understanding how to help their children recover by:

- Giving mothers an opportunity to meet other women who have had similar experiences and share their feelings
- Exploring the impact their experiences may have had on their children
- Finding ways to heal from the past and look to the future thereby strengthening the bond between mother and child.

Children can attend the programme even if their mother does not, but children respond best when mothers participate.



For further information and to make a referral please contact:

Name: Positive Pathways

Organisation: Ormiston Families

Tel: 01354 293123

Email: positive.pathways@ormiston.org