



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

**December 2017**

Dear Partners

As the year draws to a close, we are looking forward to delivering our new VAWG Strategy and Action Plan with partners over the course of the next three years. The Strategy is now available on our website at <http://www.cambsdasv.org.uk/website/strategy/86058> and work has already begun with all partners to identify how the key priorities can be delivered and to capture all the work that is taking place across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough around domestic abuse and sexual violence. We will be keeping everyone informed of progress via this newsletter so do keep in touch to find out the latest updates.

Thank you to everyone that helped spread awareness messages during the 2017 '16 Days of Action' campaign. Hundreds of our new posters are winging their way across the county to GP surgeries, pharmacies and libraries. If you would like posters to display in public areas, please contact Amanda who will be pleased to send some out to you.

In Spring 2018 we will be launching our new Domestic Abuse Champions Network with a series of monthly workshops focusing on key issues. We are currently developing the role description and hope to have DA Champions across all key organisations. Again, we will keep you posted via the newsletter.

I hope you enjoy the festive period and look forward to sharing more VAWG news with you in 2018.

Remember that you can submit articles for the newsletter to  
[Amanda.warburton@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Amanda.warburton@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

**Vickie Crompton**  
**Partnership Manager**



## Training update

Please see our website for details of levels and training available in the joint training offer for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough [http://www.cambsdasv.org.uk/website/training\\_1/86050](http://www.cambsdasv.org.uk/website/training_1/86050)

**Please note that as the Council's Workforce Development Team has now moved to LGSS, courses are only free to employees of Cambridgeshire County Council, Peterborough City Council and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Foundation Trust. LGSS charge £75 per day for all other attendees.**

### Next available courses

- ❖ Domestic Abuse Risk Assessment (Level 3) – 18<sup>th</sup> January
- ❖ Introduction to Domestic Abuse (Level 2) - 6<sup>th</sup> February
- ❖ Engaging with Perpetrators of Domestic Abuse (Level 4) 5<sup>th</sup> February
- ❖ Managing Domestic Abuse in Families – 1<sup>st</sup> February

To book: <https://www.cambslearntogether.co.uk/social-care-development-1/learning-and-development-children/-s/learning-and-development-childrens/> (scroll down to calendar at the bottom of the page) <https://www.cambslearntogether.co.uk/social-care-development-1/learning-and-development-children/-s/learning-and-development-childrens/>

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Adults Board have just launched their new Training Brochure which runs up to December 2018 and can be accessed [here](#).

Against Violence and Abuse (AVA) run CPD accredited training throughout the year. There is a charge for these courses <https://avaproject.org.uk/events/>

## New Guidance for Cambridgeshire Children's Social Care

Our colleagues in Children's Social Care at the County Council have been working hard to develop new guidance for practitioners around domestic abuse and violence. The new Guidance was launched earlier this month and will be available to CCC staff via Camweb soon.

## CAFCASS Learning from Serious Case Reviews

CAFCASS, representing the voice of children in the family courts, released a report into commonalities in Serious Case Reviews earlier this month. The report highlighted risk factors in its key findings including:

- Domestic abuse was the most common risk factor in SCR cases, present at varied risk levels in 71% of the SCRs. Domestic abuse is very 'gendered' in our sample: that is, it is frequently perpetrated by the father or male partner. However, in 48% of cases featuring domestic abuse, the person thought to have killed or harmed the child was not the alleged domestic abuse perpetrator.

The full report can be read at

[https://www.cafcass.gov.uk/media/350886/cafcass\\_learning\\_from\\_scr\\_submissions\\_-\\_2017\\_-\\_external\\_version.pdf](https://www.cafcass.gov.uk/media/350886/cafcass_learning_from_scr_submissions_-_2017_-_external_version.pdf)



## Women march through Peterborough to reclaim the night

Peterborough MP, Fiona Onasanya joined around 50 women of all ages to march through Peterborough city centre for the Reclaim the Night. She was supporting them with making a stand against sexual harassment.

The event was sponsored by Peterborough Rape Crisis Care Group. Lizzie Denning, the event organiser and trustee of PRCCG said "Reclaim the Night is a women's only march that's designed to show strength and solidarity, and our march was all about making women and girls in Peterborough feel safe and supported. It was organised by Peterborough Rape Crisis Care Group to enable local women to feel part of a welcoming, powerful movement, and allow them to be heard.

It's also an extremely important time for raising awareness of sexual violence, with all that's going on in the press. One in five women aged 16-59 has experienced some form of sexual violence from the age of 16, and it's so important to reassure those affected that they aren't alone, and that their voices can be heard."

The charity is now planning for a number of events in the New Year, including on International Women's Day (March 8) and next November to celebrate their 35th anniversary.

Lizzy added: "We'd like to reassure any women affected by sexual violence that the charity is open to them. Visit [www.peterboroughrapecrisis.co.uk](http://www.peterboroughrapecrisis.co.uk) or call 01733 852 578 on Wednesday 7pm-9pm or Saturday 10am-midday."





## Cambridge City celebrates White Ribbon Day

Two of Cambridge City Council's seven White Ribbon Ambassadors - Shapour Meftah of Cantab Millenium and Adam Moghadas of Cambridge Family Law Practice - helped out with the Council's White Ribbon stall outside the Guildhall on Saturday 25 November, White Ribbon Day and UN Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

Also in attendance were Janet Croft, Madeleine Knightley, Felicea Gattagrisa and Joye Rosenstiel from Cambridge Soroptimist International, local journalist Naima Islam, Louise Walker from Cambridge City Council Safer Communities Team (who valiantly wore the White Ribbon's Davey the Dog suit) and Cambridge City Councillor Ann Sinnott, Lead Councillor on domestic violence / abuse. They were joined later by Cambridgeshire County Councillor Kevin Cuffley, Community champion on community safety and domestic violence/abuse.

The White Ribbon Campaign tweeted about the Cambridge event "Great work – engaging with the community".

*Pictured in the above photograph*

Left to right: Madeleine Knightley (Cambridge Soroptimist International), Naima Islam (Local Journalist), Cambridge City Councillor Ann Sinnott (Lead on Domestic Abuse), Cambridge County Councillor Kevin Cuffley (Champion for Community Safety and County's White Ribbon Ambassador), Shapour Meftah (Cambridge City White Ribbon Ambassador) and Louise Walker (Cambridge City Council Partnership Support Officer dressed as the White Ribbon Mascot, Davey the Dog).

BeNCH wrote to partners recently to invite participation in a survey to give feedback and would like to highlight that the survey is still open until 22<sup>nd</sup> December.  
Please click on the link below to have your say.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/BENCHCRC2017>

Please do share the link with other colleagues who may also work with BeNCH CRC, so they too can provide feedback on our services.

### **Draw a Line under violence against women**

The United Nations have launched a new campaign to raise awareness of violence against women and girls in the light of recent extensive international publicity about the subject. The Draw A Line campaign features celebrities such as Beverley Knight, Benedict Cumberbatch and Joanne Froggatt in a video aimed at bringing about change. The campaign highlights that 1 in 4 women in the UK, and up to 70% in some parts of the world, have experienced sexual or physical violence. In recent months we have seen global outrage at the scale of this issue. But violence is not inevitable.

You can watch the video at: <http://drawaline.org.uk/>

### **Project Worker Vacancy at Centre 33**

Centre 33 are looking for a Project Worker to deliver their Schools Resilience and Well Being work. The post is for 37 hours per week and offers a salary of £22,212 - £25,440. The post is fixed term to July 2018

#### **Purpose of Job**

Your principal responsibility is to coordinate and deliver the resilience and wellbeing programme to secondary schools that has been jointly developed by Centre 33 and Cambridge United Community Trust

#### **Secondary school project work**

1. To provide information to young people in a classroom based setting
2. To inform young people about mental health, resilience and well-being

#### **To apply:**

Please send your 1-2 page cover letter and your CV to [communitytrust@cambridge-united.co.uk](mailto:communitytrust@cambridge-united.co.uk) with the subject title as 'Schools Project Worker Application'.

Please also send any questions to this email address as well.

The closing date is **Friday 29th December 2017**. Interviews will be in the week beginning the 8th January in Cambridge. <http://centre33.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Schools-Resilience-Well-being-Project-Worker.pdf>

## **Legal Aid changes for DA victims start in January**

Time limits preventing victims of domestic violence from obtaining legal aid for court hearings will be scrapped from January, the Ministry of Justice has announced.

The current restrictions, which have resulted in large numbers of women confronting abusive ex-partners without representation, will also be relaxed to accept evidence from victim support organisations.

Confirming the new guidelines for the Legal Aid Agency, the justice minister, Dominic Raab, said: "We have listened to victims' groups and carefully reviewed the criteria for legal aid for victims of domestic abuse in family cases. These changes make sure that vulnerable women and children get legal support so their voice is properly heard in court."

Legal aid has usually been available to victims of domestic violence and child abuse, or those deemed at risk, as long as they could provide evidence of abuse within the past five years. Removal of the five-year limit and admission of fresh categories of evidence will help large numbers of women and some men who have been deprived of legal advice and representation in family court disputes over custody and contact with children.

Statements from domestic violence support organisations and housing support officers will in future be accepted as evidence of past abuse, as well as those from social services, law enforcement agencies and medical professionals.

## **New DE Guidance around sexual violence in schools**

New Department for Education guidance to schools and colleges highlights best practice around sexual violence and sexual harassment. The new advice stresses that educational establishments should be making clear that sexual attacks and harassment "will never be tolerated and is not an inevitable part of growing up", warning that if it is allowed, then it can "provide an environment that may lead to sexual violence".

The advice says those accused of sexual attacks or misbehaviour also need support and may be victims of abuse and trauma themselves. Schools still have a duty to act if incidents outside school are reported. The Guidance is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sexual-violence-and-sexual-harassment-between-children-in-schools-and-colleges>

The new Guidance has been launched at the same time as a consultation on revisions to 'Keeping children safe in education', the statutory guidance that sets out what schools and colleges should do and the legal duties with which they must comply to keep children safe. The consultation includes new advice on sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges. The consultation can be accessed at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/keeping-children-safe-in-education-proposed-revisions>

## **Call for evidence: National Commission into women facing domestic and/or sexual violence and multiple disadvantage**

AVA (Against Violence and Abuse) and Agenda, the alliance for women and girls at risk, have established a new National Commission to take evidence on the issues experienced by women who have faced domestic and/or sexual violence and who have also faced multiple disadvantage (particularly problematic substance use and mental ill health).

For the purposes of the Commission, domestic and sexual violence are understood to encompass wider forms of violence against women, including: harms related to all forms of sexual violence, intimate partner violence (IPV), so called 'honour based' violence, forced marriage, trafficking and female genital mutilation.

About the Commission: A panel of experts, Chaired by Baroness Hilary Armstrong, will report in autumn 2018. Information on the Commission can be found [here](#). The Commission is working alongside peer researchers who are taking evidence from women with direct personal experience and a group of practitioner experts.

We are interested in how domestic and sexual violence interconnects with the following issues:

- Substance use and dependence
- Mental ill health
- Poverty
- Homelessness
- Involvement in prostitution
- Involvement in the criminal justice system
- Removal of children
- Disability

Evidence is being collected in an online form on SurveyMonkey, the link to the call is [here](#). There are some longer form questions in the second half of the survey. We have outlined them in a word document and suggest you complete them in that document before copying and pasting them into SurveyMonkey, to avoid any problems saving or changing your answers

Closing date 9th February 2018