



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

April 2015

Dear Partners

Welcome to the April newsletter.

The new Cambridgeshire Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence website is now live! You can find us at www.cambsdasv.org.uk

The site has a wide range of information for the public, including children and young people, and a section for professionals where you will find training information and latest research. We will be launching a brand new Domestic Abuse Basic Awareness elearning module in the next few weeks which will be hosted on the new website. The module on the Cambridgeshire County Council learning pages has now been closed.

We have also now got a separate Twitter page, our user name is @Cambs_DASV

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

Simon Kerss

Cambridgeshire Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Partnership Manager
simon.kerss@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
www.cambsdasv.org.uk





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

Children under 10 years old and domestic violence, 14th May, London

Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD), domestic violence and families, 21 May 2015, London

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

New Child Safeguarding Guidance

Two updated pieces of guidance have been issued by the Home Office – Working Together to Safeguard Children and What to do if you're worried a child is being abused.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/419595/Working_Together_to_Safeguard_Children.pdf

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/419604/What_to_do_if_you_re_worried_a_child_is_being_abused.pdf

Speaking out against victim blaming

A short skirt is not a yes.

A red lip is not a yes.

A wink is not a yes.

A slow dance is not a yes.

A walk home is not a yes.

A drink back at mine is not a yes.

A kiss on the sofa is not a yes.

What I wear and how I behave are not invitations.

This doesn't mean yes is a campaign spearheaded by London Rape Crisis to dispel the myth that victims are to blame for rape or sexual assault. You can upload your own images to the website – visit for more details

<http://www.thisdoesntmeanyes.com/>

Spring cleaning?

Have you been having an annual clear out of clutter and wondering what to do with all those unused toiletries lurking in the bathroom cabinet? Give and Make Up is a non-for-profit organisation that arranges donations of essentials for women and children living in refuges <http://www.carolinehiron.com/p/give-and-makeup.html>

If you would like to donate (unused) items to Cambridgeshire refuges, please contact Amanda.warburton@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Voting available to all?

With the press full of articles encouraging people to vote in the election on 7th May, Polly Neate from Women's Aid has raised the issue that voting isn't possible for all women. Controlling behaviour is a key feature of domestic abuse – the perpetrator may not allow the victim to leave the house or receive mail, thus they are unable to visit the polling station to make their vote.

Women that have moved house to escape a perpetrator and cannot disclose their address due to high risk of being tracked down by the perpetrator can ask to be assessed for anonymous registration – but the process only accepts evidence from the criminal justice system. As a high number of victims choose not to report domestic abuse to the police, this excludes a lot of women from being able to register to vote without disclosing their address. Women's Aid are working to try to get legislation amended.

DV RIM update

The work to introduce the Barnardo's Domestic Violence Risk Indicator Matrix (DV RIM,) used to assess risk to children in households where domestic violence is prevalent, has been completed by the Local Safeguarding Children Board.

Since March 2014 a total of ten DVRIM workshops have been facilitated across Cambridgeshire with a total of 177 practitioners attending. As the LSCB multi-agency DVRIM local practice groups are now completed the single agencies have initiated their programmes of cascading the DVRIM back to their practitioners. DVRIM has been written within the relevant LSCB training, there are identified DVRIM courses within the LSCB training calendar and it is going to be an integral part of the Cambridgeshire domestic abuse training offer. Single agencies have also incorporated within their mainstream safeguarding children training.

Updated guidance for Adult Safeguarding

The Local Government Association have issued an update to the Adult Safeguarding and Domestic Abuse guidance for practitioners and managers. The guidance highlights key issues such as an increase in familial and inter-generational abuse, increased prevalence of sexual abuse amongst women with disabilities and the complex area of Carers as victims of domestic abuse. The document also details barriers that practitioners need to consider when working with adults at risk where domestic abuse is a factor.

The guidance can be accessed at this link http://www.local.gov.uk/publications/-/journal_content/56/10180/3973717/PUBLICATION



National Stalking Awareness Week

The Suzy Lamplugh Trust have launched a new film and fund raising campaign to raise awareness of what stalking is and to emphasise that it's not romantic, trivial or funny but it is illegal.

The two minute film, entitled 'Is It Stalking?' looks at the different types of stalking and offers support and advice for people who may be experiencing it.

The film can be viewed at this link <http://www.suzylamplugh.org/2015/04/nsaw/>



New guidance on Adolescent to parent violence

Adolescent to parent violence and abuse (APVA) may be referred to as 'adolescent to parent violence (APV)', 'adolescent violence in the home (AVITH)', 'parent abuse', 'child to parent abuse', 'child to parent violence (CPV)', or 'battered parent syndrome'.

There is currently no legal definition of adolescent to parent violence and abuse. However, it is increasingly recognised as a form of domestic violence and abuse and, depending on the age of the child, it may fall under the government's official definition of domestic violence and abuse.

The Home Office have issued new guidance for practitioners, including best practice advice, that can be accessed at the following link or via the Professionals section of the new DASV website (www.cambsdasv.org.uk)

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/420963/APVA.pdf

Lights, Camera, Action!

We might not get any coverage at Cannes, but the Safer Communities Partnerships Team are moving into films! Working with Cambridgeshire Police Learning and Development department, we are planning to make a series of short films that can be used to raise public awareness of a range of issues including domestic abuse, inter-familial violence, alcohol and drug abuse. The videos will also be incorporated into training for police and other professionals.

If your team would like to join this project, we're open to ideas and suggestions of expanding the project to other service areas. We have the equipment and a studio but will need a financial contribution towards developing materials for other services.

If you are interested, please contact Amanda.warburton@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Increase in sexual offences reporting

The Office for National Statistics has reported the latest crime figures to December 2014. Total sexual offences rose by 32% with the numbers of rapes and other sexual offences being at the highest level ever recorded since the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) in 2002/03. As well as improvements in recording, this is also thought to reflect a greater willingness of victims to come forward to report such crimes. The full report can be read at this link

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/crime-stats/crime-statistics/year-ending-december-2014/index.html>

VAWG Progress Report

The Home Office have published a summary of their work to end Violence Against Women and Girls. Key achievements highlighted in the report include:

- The Crown Prosecution Service project that there will be around 550 extra jury trials this year and 650 extra decisions to charge in cases involving rape allegations and an increase in prosecutions for domestic abuse to nearly 90,000 by the end of this financial year (up from 70,700 in 2012/13).
- To date, at least 945,000 women and girls worldwide have accessed VAWG prevention services.
- over 3500 applications have been made under the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS or Clare's Law) and over 1300 disclosures made.
- Since Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPOs) were introduced, over 2500 have been put in place across 39 forces.

There is an acknowledgement of work still to do including supporting frontline professionals, to tackle online manifestations of VAWG and support schools to educate young people about these crucial issues.

The full report can be read at this link

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/409510/VAWG_Progress_Report_2010-2015.pdf