



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

September 2015

Dear Partners

At the beginning of September, Vickie Crompton and myself attended the **European Conference on Domestic Violence** in Belfast. I also submitted a paper which was accepted as part of the programme. The conference had a number of keynote speakers from across Europe who presented the latest research findings and practice developments. There were also excellent networking opportunities allowing us to talk to colleagues working in domestic abuse and VAWG services and share tools and knowledge.

Our campaign to encourage **older women** to seek support if they are being abused by a spouse or partner launched on 16th September. We worked closely with colleagues in Adult Safeguarding and partnered with Action on Elder Abuse to offer an alternative place for people to call for specialist support. Colleagues in Peterborough have also joined the campaign so we have been able to share resources with them. If you would like a copy of the poster to display (featured on page 7) please contact Amanda.

Remember that our free Basic Awareness **Domestic Abuse elearning module** is now live and available to all agencies. It can be accessed at http://www.cambsdasv.org.uk/website/elearning_module/92616

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 from AVA

Visit <http://www.avaproject.org.uk/our-training--events.aspx> for details of upcoming training in the sector

Peace One Day

Police forces across the UK will be highlighting domestic abuse as part of a global movement called Peace One Day.

The international day of action, declared by the United Nations as a global event, will take place on Monday, 21 September 2015 and is an opportunity for forces to help raise awareness of domestic abuse.

A national review of training and best practice on investigating domestic abuse is currently in process and it is aimed to publish new national guidance, known as Authorised Professional Practice (APP), for forces in September, along with new toolkits for frontline officers.

The College of Policing national domestic abuse coordinator, Detective Chief Inspector Steve Jackson, said: "Unfortunately domestic abuse remains a pervasive problem and it's important that we do all we can to raise awareness of this issue. "Victims need to know that they're not alone and they need to know that they will be listened to by police.

"The College is leading on several pieces of work to improve standards in this area and we have overhauled training to ensure officers focus on the victim's experience and the pattern that may be behind a single incident of abuse. "We are intending to publish our new APP next month, along with products to assist forces in training and development.

"Peace One Day is a great opportunity to help make a difference and to highlight individual work by forces. "The more united we are on this front and the stronger our collective spirit, the bigger a difference we can make."

People can contribute to the Peace One Day campaign on social media using the hashtag #PeaceOneDay.

For more information and to sign up, visit the Peace One Day website: <http://www.peaceoneday.org/coalitions/reducing-domestic-violence>.

Cambridge University addresses sexual assault reporting

Cambridge University's Women's Campaign is working with the university to address issues with reporting in colleges. Following on from the university's change in its disciplinary procedures in July to include 'sexual harassment', and in response to the government's calls for an investigation into 'lad culture' on campuses within the UK, the Women's Campaign is calling for a full-scale investigation of current policies and practices, and a complete reform of procedure where necessary. Too many women are being assaulted and harassed in the very space where they should be safe, and it has gone on for too long. The Women's Campaign are also working with local organisations and businesses to raise awareness of harassment and violence in night-time venues in an attempt to change the damaging culture that pervades.

The information above from Charlotte Chorley, the CUSU Women's Officer, comes in the same week as Nicola Dandridge, the chief executive of Universities UK, said on her blog that all universities should establish compulsory sexual consent workshops to teach students that "no means no". Universities UK is the body which represents vice-chancellors and Nicola argues that sexual violence, harassment and "lad culture" are "serious matters where a zero-tolerance approach is required". Her comments come as the Business Secretary Sajid Javid has asked Universities UK to set up a task force to come up with a code of practice within a year to tackle the problem.

Worrying data on sex crimes in schools

More than 5,500 alleged sex crimes in UK schools were reported to police in the last three years, BBC figures show.

Freedom of Information requests sent to all UK forces showed there were nearly 4,000 alleged physical sexual assaults and more than 600 rapes.

At least a fifth of offences were carried out by children, so-called "peer-on-peer" abuse, but details about the rest of the assaults are not known.

The government said schools had a duty to report child welfare concerns.

All UK forces responded to a BBC FOI request asking how many sexual offences were recorded by the police at schools during the last three academic years, from 2012 to 2015. Police Scotland provided figures for 2011-2013.

In some cases the victims and suspects were both five years old.

Self help guide for survivors of sexual violence

A new booklet is available for users of the ISVA service and Cambridge Rape Crisis Centre. The self-help guide was reproduced for Cambridgeshire with kind permission of Somerset and Avon Rape Crisis. The ISVA team in Cambridgeshire feel that survivors being able to access a self-help guide will enable them to feel more in control of their own journey to recovery. Furthermore, the guide will help to reduce feelings of isolation by providing a trustworthy source of information that reflects an awareness of some of the very challenging feelings and emotions they may be experiencing.

The booklet can also be downloaded from our website at http://www.cambsdasv.org.uk/website/getting_support/84212

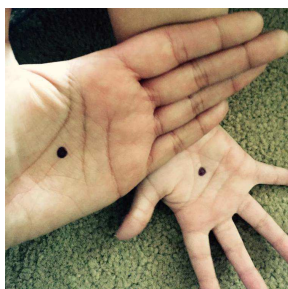
Black Dot Campaign

We are aware of a national campaign that a survivor of domestic abuse has developed called the Black Dot Campaign. The idea is that victims of domestic abuse put a black dot on their hand and this indicates that they need help. The campaign has launched in the last couple of days and has been featured in the Huffington Press.

Professionals have some reservations as the campaign is getting exposure on social media and other media platforms which could put victims at increased risk as perpetrators will also be aware of it. It also relies on the person being shown the dot knowing what it means and what to do.

The creator of the campaign has posted safety information on their Facebook page and confirmed that professionals were not consulted about the campaign so may not be aware.

We don't know yet how widely it is being used, but we would be grateful if you could make colleagues aware of the campaign and that information about domestic abuse for professionals and the public is available on our website at www.cambsdasv.org.uk





'Saving lives' – THERE IS HOPE

New support service for victims of HBV and Forced Marriage

True Honour aims to support all victims of Honour Based Violence (HBV), Forced Marriage (FM) and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). Sarbjit Kaur Athwal set up the charity in 2015 following her own experiences as a key witness against her brother-in-law and mother-in-law who were convicted of arranging the 'so called honour killing' of Sarb's sister-in-law, Surjit Athwal.

True Honour offers training to a wide range of organisations including police forces, schools, universities, local authorities, partner agencies as well as working with communities to raise awareness of these hidden crimes and providing support to victims and survivors. The organisation also offers social support to survivors and art and poetry workshops to help young people express their views about HBV, FM and FGM.

The website contains a wealth of information about breaking down the barriers to tackling these crimes as well as details on accessing training and the full story of why Sarb chose to waive her anonymity and speak out against her in-laws. www.truehonour.org.uk



Interactive Video Game to Combat Sexual Assault

Patronus is building a product with the goal of creating an experience that educates and inspires people towards primary intervention against sexual assault on college campuses. The product will take the form of an interactive graphic novel, guiding the guest as a bystander through varying instances of harassment that can lead to an incident of sexual assault. The aim is to leave the guest educated on the situations in which sexual assault can occur as well as feeling empowered at the difference they can make with their actions.

For further details see: www.etc.cmu.edu/projects/patronus

Faith leaders sign Declaration on Domestic Abuse

On 15 July 2015, faith leaders from across the UK gathered at the House of Lords to speak out against domestic abuse. It was the first time that different faith leaders have stood together to acknowledge the problem of domestic abuse within their own faith communities, and to pledge to do something about it.

The first step: a nationwide Faith Leaders' Declaration on Domestic Abuse endorsed by dozens of prominent UK faith leaders. Above all, the Declaration affirms that domestic abuse is irreconcilable with the teachings of our faiths. It commits faith leaders to addressing domestic abuse and promoting positive action. It also provides a practical definition for identifying domestic abuse in all its forms.

Hosted by Lord McColl of Dulwich and organised by Restored and FaithAction, the July 15th interfaith reception was an incredible opportunity for faith leaders to recognise the unique opportunities for challenging harmful beliefs and seeking an end to domestic abuse in our faith communities. The event featured speeches from Baroness Scotland (former Attorney General), Shahin Ashraf (Muslim Women's Network UK), and Alastair Redfern (Bishop of Derby). Following the reception, we hope that faith leaders will endorse, circulate, and use the Declaration within their own faith communities.

For the next step of this initiative, Restored is looking for personal stories about how different people and faiths are working to end domestic abuse in the UK. On the 25th of November, we plan to publish these stories and show how effective a faith-based response can be in ending domestic abuse.

If you have any stories on how faith groups are working to end domestic abuse in your community, please send them to peter.grant@restoredrelationships.org.



Are you trying to hold the pieces together?

*If you are an older person with an abusive or violent partner you **CAN** get support*

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Cambridge Women's Aid 01223 361214

(City/South Cambs)

Refuge 07787 255821 (East, Fens, Hunts)

or

Action on Elder Abuse 0808 808 8141



Poster design by Grace Bruno Photography