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**Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Newsletter**

**A monthly newsletter brought to you by the**

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Partnership

February 2024

Hi All

We have so many events to tell you about this month and hope you get the opportunity to benefit from them.

Peterborough City Council are pleased to announce their annual domestic abuse and sexual violence conference on the 13th May, which will be held at the Husani Islamic Centre. Last year tickets went quickly so please don’t hesitate to book a place if you are working in Peterborough and would like to come

<https://buytickets.at/cambridgeshirepeterboroughdomesticabusesexualviolencepartnership/1121294>

Our Domestic Abuse Basic Awareness elearning module has been updated with some new content but it’s still free for anyone to access. Please note that we’re no longer offering a certificate for completion of the elearning module as it’s awareness based rather than formal training and has no CPD value. The elearning can be accessed at [Cambridgeshire County Council DASV Partnership - Domestic Abuse Awareness (cambsdasv.org.uk)](https://www.cambsdasv.org.uk/web/domestic_abuse_awareness/92618)

We have been working with Lydia Mack on enabling people to understand the differences between parental conflict and domestic abuse so there are some free webinars available to anyone who wishes to join – details below.

And we’re very excited to read your nominations of inspirational women for International Women’s Day so please do send them in.

Have a great month

Vickie & Julia

**Vickie Crompton & Julia Cullum**

**DASV Partnership Managers**

[Facebook icon](https://www.facebook.com/CambridgeshireDASV/)[Twitter icon](https://twitter.com/Cambs_DASV) [Image result for instagram logo](https://www.instagram.com/cambsdasv/)

**International Women’s Day**

This International Women’s Day on 8th March has the theme of Inspire Inclusion - ‘When we inspire others to understand and value women's inclusion, we forge a better world. And when women themselves are inspired to be included, there's a sense of belonging, relevance and empowerment.’

Cambridgeshire Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership would really like to hear about women across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough who are striving to achieve and value women’s inclusion.

**If you know an inspiring woman, please let us know.** They don’t have to work in the VAWG sector. Please send us a few words about them and we will include some of the nominations in our March VAWG Newsletter.

Please send nominations to [Amanda.Warburton@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Amanda.Warburton@cambridgeshire.gov.u)

**Hourglass update**

We love a collaboration! Local organisation Cambridgeshire Deaf Association have teamed up with Hourglass to explain (with BSL) how Hourglass are working in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to support older victims of domestic abuse <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jdJwnm5MAQ4>

Karen Hunt is the local Community Response Officer for Hourglass in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and Karen is keen to come along to team meetings and events to explain the work of hourglass. She can also offer specialist advice to professionals working with older victims of domestic abuse and works closely with the IDVA Service [KarenHunt@wearehourglass.org](mailto:KarenHunt@wearehourglass.org)

**Impossible Expectations: Family Law Courts and**

**Survivors of Domestic Abuse**

Simon Kerss, Anglia Ruskin University

Wednesday 17 April 2024

11.00am - 12.30pm (Online)

MRC are hosting an online event, to be held via Zoom. [Click here](https://www.beds.ac.uk/media/gpiboqgh/2024-04-17-family-courts-da-survivors.pdf) to view the event flyer, or for further information about our events, visit [www.beds.ac.uk/mrc](http://www.beds.ac.uk/mrc)

Places are limited. To book a place please email:[mrc@beds.ac.uk](mailto:mrc@beds.ac.uk?subject=MRC%20Webinar:%20subject=MRC%20Webinar:%2017%20April%202024,%20Family,%20Courts,%20and,%20Survivors,%20of,%252%20Domestic,%20Abuse)

**Local support for veterans in the justice system**

Op NOVA, delivered by the Forces Employment Charity and commissioned by NHS England, provides support for veterans who are in contact with the justice system, enabling them to access the services they need.

* The aim of the Family Support Navigator is to help families build their own resilience, self-reliance, and grow in confidence to manage future difficulties by finding appropriate support from a network of partners across England.
* Initially the Family Support Navigator will provide one-to-one family support where family circumstances are having a significant impact on the health, development or wellbeing of the whole family unit, and assist in bridging support for families and or carers to find solutions to the parenting and relationship challenges they face.
* Carry out an in-depth needs assessment to identify a need(s), create an action plan, and refer that family to a more localised support network for ongoing support for targeted help.

The Family Support Navigator will assist in the initial stages for those with the most need and will support the journey by identifying and bridging support potentially in the following areas.

* Keeping families safe - looking after health and wellbeing, overcoming stress and depression, managing disability, eating and exercise and drink and drug use.
* Safeguarding.
* Couple relationships - co-parenting and managing conflict.
* Parenting - building good relationships, communicating, developing routines.
* Difficult life events - managing relationship breakdown, supporting bereavement, trauma, domestic abuse to be able to build a more positive future.
* Housing, budgeting, benefits, managing debts, essential furnishings and repairs, hygiene and cleanliness.
* Moving towards employment - providing training, CV and interview preparation, voluntary work experience and preparation for work.
* Creating new opportunities - helping families take up community activities, develop community relationships and make friends.

**Criteria for Referral:**

* The Veteran must already be registered with Op Nova, this could be historic, which then would be discussed on a case-by-case basis.
* Veteran Spouse/Partner who are still in a relationship, or recent broken relationship of within 3 months.
* A Carer of a Veteran who has ill health or injury.

**Referral Pathway:**

* Self Referral/Org Referral via Op Nova online referral form - [www.forcesemployment.org.uk/opnovareferral](http://www.forcesemployment.org.uk/opnovareferral)
* Telephone – 0800 917 7299
* Email: [opnova@forcesemployment.org.uk](mailto:opnova@forcesemployment.org.uk)
* Secure Email: [opnova@forcesemployment.cjsm.net](mailto:opnova@forcesemployment.cjsm.net) – For Police, Probation Service, and Liaison and Diversion use only.

**Victim Notification Scheme goes live**

The Victim Notification Scheme aims to ensure victims of stalking and harassment, where the current sentence is not covered by the Victim Contact Scheme, and in particular those where the sentence is less than 12 months, are:

* + Informed of an offender’s release from custody

* + Notified about licence conditions prior to release,

* + For those cases where there is sufficient time left on the licence, victim to be offered opportunity to request licence conditions.

A referral will be made by V&WH at the conclusion of the case at court and a member of the Victim Contact Scheme will make contact with the individual concerned.

If you wish to learn more, please do contact [MICHELLE.HOGGINS1@justice.gov.uk](mailto:MICHELLE.HOGGINS1@justice.gov.uk), The Senior Probation Practitioner in the team.

**Brain Injury and Domestic Abuse**

Too Many to Count is the first study in the United Kingdom to explore the prevalence of brain injury in domestic abuse survivors accessing community-based services. Researchers spoke to 60 women 55% of whom screened positive for a history indicative of brain injury and the evidence reveals 1 in 2 people who have experienced domestic abuse may be living with brain injury.

Key findings:

* 80% of people who experienced domestic abuse had had a serious blow to their head
* 75 of of people who experienced domestic abuse had been held at least once in a way that restricted their breathing
* The report recommendations focus on how agencies can work together to close the gaps in knowledge and practice around domestic abuse and brain injuries.

[Too Many To Count - Brainkind](https://brainkind.org/toomanytocount/)

**DWP updates information for victims of domestic abuse**

The Government has updated information on support available from the Department of Work and Pensions for people who are victims of domestic violence and abuse at the following link:

[Help available from the Department for Work and Pensions for people who are victims of domestic violence and abuse - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/domestic-violence-and-abuse-help-from-dwp/help-available-from-the-department-for-work-and-pensions-for-people-who-are-victims-of-domestic-violence-and-abuse)

# **Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Pre-birth Protocol**

Almost half of Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews in all Local Authorities relate to babies under 1 year of age. Babies are entirely reliant on their parents or carers to meet all their needs, and this makes them extremely vulnerable.

Early referral (once the pregnancy has been confirmed) and intervention gives prospective parents time to either demonstrate that change has happened and that they can parent the expected child or gives them time to create any change that is needed. Pre-Birth Assessments are critically important and need to be undertaken in a thorough and timely way.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Boards have developed a new protocol which aims to support all professionals in identifying risk factors and assist in constructing meaningful plans in partnership with parents that will protect the unborn child from harm.

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Pre-birth protocol has been updated and can be accessed [here](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDQsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vd3d3LnNhZmVndWFyZGluZ2NhbWJzcGV0ZXJib3JvdWdoLm9yZy51ay9jaGlsZHJlbi1ib2FyZC9wcm9mZXNzaW9uYWxzL3Byb2NlZHVyZXMvcHJlLWJpcnRoX2Fzc2Vzc21lbnQvP3V0bV9tZWRpdW09ZW1haWwmdXRtX3NvdXJjZT1nb3ZkZWxpdmVyeSIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyNDAyMDIuODk1NjI0MzEifQ._rGne5eiSLO-kyM0rZczCHtmqDCiduDparfUn1M50ys/s/908410810/br/236458763493-l)

**New SWAY: Children Missing Education**

A new sway has been developed, to help practitioners understand why it's important to identify Children Missing Education, and what to do when they are concerned that a child they work with is missing education.

Please access the Sway Briefing [here](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDcsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vd3d3LnNhZmVndWFyZGluZ2NhbWJzcGV0ZXJib3JvdWdoLm9yZy51ay8yMDI0LzAxLzMwL2NoaWxkcmVuLW1pc3NpbmctZWR1Y2F0aW9uLz91dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkiLCJidWxsZXRpbl9pZCI6IjIwMjQwMjAyLjg5NTYyNDMxIn0.mnaiY0olxdR-2wjMQGCgLz7iU0g7SdtnRmdqhqqcCpo/s/908410810/br/236458763493-l)

# **Spotting the signs of romance fraud**

Romance fraud happens when you think you’ve met the perfect partner online, but they are using a fake profile to form a relationship with you.   
  
The fraudster gains your trust over a number of weeks or months and has you believe you are in a loving and caring relationship. However, the criminal’s end goal is only ever to get your money or personal information.

You can read about the five ways to spot the signs of romance fraud, [here](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDgsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vY3JpbWVzdG9wcGVycy11ay5vcmcvbmV3cy1jYW1wYWlnbnMvbmV3cy8yMDI0L2phbi9maXZlLXdheXMtdG8tc3BvdC10aGUtc2lnbnMtb2Ytcm9tYW5jZS1mcmF1ZD9tY19jaWQ9NjEzMmNjNTVlMCZtY19laWQ9N2Y0ZDE2ZDk2NiZ1dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkiLCJidWxsZXRpbl9pZCI6IjIwMjQwMjAyLjg5NTYyNDMxIn0.QlF5Ccre5JIfiWsn0LSV6PfUvU9QRfxHJjmrJ4TBMA8/s/908410810/br/236458763493-l)

# **Trauma Cards**

# We would like to extend our Trauma Cards to any agency that wants to use them. The cards give survivors of trauma a way to explain to professionals about situations that may trigger their trauma and what they can do to help. The cards should be given to survivors of trauma alongside discussions about the impact of trauma and resources that can support them. More information is available on our website at [Cambridgeshire County Council DASV Partnership - Trauma Cards (cambsdasv.org.uk)](https://www.cambsdasv.org.uk/web/trauma_cards/660466)

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| **Sexual Abuse of Older People – The Last Taboo?**  On the 25th of January, Hourglass presented a webinar on The Sexual Abuse of Older People, speaking to Independent Researcher Amanda Warburton-Wynn, Kate from the Revenge Porn Helpline, Maria from Limeculture and Poppy from Hourglass. [The Sexual Abuse of Older People | Hourglass Webinar (youtube.com)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AUvhvFXIP6M&t=4s)  Amanda is working with Cambridgeshire County Council’s Learning & Development Team to develop a face-to-face training session about sexual abuse and assault of older people which will be initially offered to staff in CCC Adult Social Care.  **Non-Fatal Strangulation Updates**  Non-fatal strangulation poses significant health risks, including strokes, nerve damage, and psychological harm.  IFAS has collaborated with major royal colleges and associated professional groups to develop comprehensive guidelines for the clinical management of non-fatal strangulation, aiming to provide victims with optimal care promptly and mitigate potential harm.  [Guidelines for clinical management of non-fatal strangulation in acute and emergency care services - Institute for Addressing Strangulation (ifas.org.uk)](https://ifas.org.uk/guidelines-for-clinical-management-of-non-fatal-strangulation-in-acute-and-emergency-care-services/)  IFAS also have information for victims of strangulation that can be accessed at [IFAS 01 - Patient Information v2.indd](https://ifas.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/IFAS-01-Patient-Information.pdf)  **Afternoon Tea event**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Living Keys are celebrating International Women’s Day with an  afternoon Tea event at George Alcock centre, Peterborough  on Friday 8th March. Price of tickets are £10 pp and it is a ticket only event.  <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/living-keys-afternoon-tea-in-celebration-of-international-womens-day-tickets-825481115237?aff=oddtdtcreator> |  |   **Job Vacancy – Lifeline Manager Cats Protection** |

Cats Protection currently have an exciting opportunity for a motivated individual to join as a Lifeline Manager for our East Anglia service. This is a permanent position, working 35 hours per week and in return you will receive a salary of up to £32,894.59 per annum plus excellent benefits.

The role will be based in West Norfolk with daily travel in the East Anglia area as necessary for the role. Cats Protection is operating a system of hybrid working, with the flexibility to working from home when appropriate. This can be discussed further at interview stage.

Details at <https://careers.cats.org.uk/job/500720>

**Cambridgeshire Shared Lives DASV Project Go Live!**

We are extremely pleased and excited to announce that the Shared Lives DASV Project is now LIVE! The Shared Lives DASV Project provides support for survivors of domestic abuse with learning disabilities, addressing care and support needs as well as their needs as a survivor.

Shared Lives Domestic Abuse Carers open up their own home to the person they are supporting, creating a community based, family environment for people to build confidence and independence. This support can vary from person to person, and each arrangement is matched by the Shared Lives Scheme. This matching process will look at a multitude of factors including the persons support needs, level of risk, mutual interests, and lifestyle.

Following the same model of support used in the wider scheme, Shared Lives Domestic Abuse Carers can offer a range of solutions – this could include overnight stays or day visits to their home for a couple of hours (i.e., meeting for a coffee). Every person using this service will be offered access to specialist support from a domestic abuse professional, alongside the support they receive from their Shared Lives Domestic Abuse Carer. Carers are not expected to provide specialist domestic abuse support; however, every carer receives tailored training around domestic abuse and trauma informed practise.

The project supports people who have a multitude of experiences with abuse. Abuse could still be ongoing, and they are looking for a safe place to relax. Or it could also be that the abuse is historic, and they have never had anyone outside of their family network to discuss this with.

If you are working with someone who…

* Has experiences with domestic abuse
* A diagnosed learning disability
* Aged 18+

…then they may benefit from accessing our project!

If you are working with someone who fits this criteria, please contact us, we are more than happy to talk how we can support people to access this support.

Please contact us on [cambridgeshiresharedlives@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:cambridgeshiresharedlives@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

**Community awareness sessions**

Cambridge Women’s Aid offer free, online training courses to members of the local community from all backgrounds and identities where they learn about domestic abuse, including its gendered nature, how to challenge the stereotypes surrounding it and how to listen to, believe and direct survivors to specialist support.

Anyone with a connection to Cambridge can become part of the Ask Me Community, whether you have been personally affected by domestic abuse or whether you would like to learn more. Please note that the course is for community members and is not aimed at professionals.

For details of upcoming session in March, please visit [Ask Me Project (cambridgewa.org.uk)](https://cambridgewa.org.uk/askmeproject.php)

**Young Carer Awareness Sessions**

The young carers project from Centre 33, are excited to inform you about our upcoming Young Carers Training sessions.

All our training sessions are offered completely FREE of charge, aiming to create awareness and provide essential insights into the challenges faced by young carers. These bitesize sessions, lasting between 45 minutes to an hour, are scheduled on zoom between 9.30 am to 10.30 pm for the convenience of participants.

The training sessions cover a range of topics, including:

* Introduction to Young Carers
* How to Make a Good Referral
* How Centre 33 Supports Young Carers
* The Role of a Young Carers Champion

These sessions will not only enhance understanding but also contribute to building a supportive community for young carers.

All upcoming training and links to book can all be found here: [Events Archive - Centre 33](https://centre33.org.uk/events/)

**April DASV Champions Network**

For the April sessions we’ll be joined by Simon Kerss who will be talking about working with familial abuse and also by Libby Swannell-Bell who will be focusing on support to survivors with learning disabilities.

Details of how to sign up are on our website at [Cambridgeshire County Council DASV Partnership - DASV Champions (cambsdasv.org.uk)](https://www.cambsdasv.org.uk/web/dasv_champions/343773)

**THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN DOMESTIC ABUSE AND PARENTAL CONFLICT**

You may find yourself supporting a family and wondering whether the behaviours you are seeing indicate domestic abuse or parental conflict. The two are very different (although can look similar), and it is important that professionals working with families are able to identify which is happening, and know how to respond with the appropriate advice and support.

Join these upcoming webinars designed for professionals in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to learn more from the experts at Amity.

Choose from Wed 13 Mar 2024, Tue 19 Mar 2024 or Thu 18 Apr 2024

**Ticket Tailor Box Office Link:** <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/cambridgeshireandpeterboroughrpc> (shows all three session)

**First Transgender Domestic Abuse refuge opens**

It has long been known that there is a dearth of provision nationally for Trans and Non-Binary people who are living with domestic abuse even though current evidence suggests that Trans + people are more likely to experience abuse from a current or ex-partner or directly from family members.

The Loving Me service was established in 2022 by Trans+ people who are also experienced in delivering support services to victims of abuse, exploitation and/or violence. Founded by Amanda Elwen and lead by Moss Ferry, The Loving Me service is proud to announce the opening of the first 7 bed refuge.

The Loving Me team has 6 practitioners who will support the individuals living in the refuge. The refuge was purchased via a repayable grant from the Rank Foundation and investment from the Sam and Bella charitable foundation.

The refuge has been refurbished to a high standard, CEO of Loving Me Moss Ferry said “Every day trans and non-binary people are struggling to find safe accommodation that will allow them to be free of their abusers. We are so proud to be opening this refuge, a warm, welcoming and supportive environment where members of our community can feel safe and supported and begin to rebuild their lives“

Referrals are now being taken and even if refuge is not a suitable option, support is provided nationally online.

Founder, Amanda Elwen said, “Most victims and survivors from the Trans+ community want to receive support delivered ‘by and for’ their own community. This is because specialist ‘by and for’ organisations are better able to understand the context and complexity of abuse faced by minoritised survivors and build the trust critical to effectively assess risk and provide the right support”.

If you are or if you know someone who is experiencing domestic abuse and need to speak to someone then you can contact the Loving Me team on 0330 1 34 34 34 , email them at [help@lovingme.uk](mailto:help@lovingme.uk) call directly on 07902 478958.

Socials: <https://linktr.ee/lovingme_uk>



**Cambridge City Council Supports Sexual Abuse and Sexual Violence Awareness Week 2024 - Report by Louise Walker**

Cambridge City Council supported [Sexual Abuse and Sexual Violence Awareness Week](https://sexualabuseandsexualviolenceawarenessweek.org/) (5 to 11 February 2024) – a national week to raise awareness about the unacceptability of sexual abuse and violence.

To raise awareness, Colleagues and Councillors were asked to provide messages around the campaign’s theme of #ITSNOTOK. These were posted internally as a collage, and you can see some of these contributions in the image and included below:

* how often sexual abuse doesn’t get reported.
* that 1 in 4 women have been subjected to some form of sexual violence since the age of 16.
* that 1 in 6 children have been sexually abused.
* that 1 in 18 men have been subjected to some kind of sexual violence since the age of 16.
* that 53% of LGBT+ people in the UK have been subjected to sexual violence in their lives.
* that people with disabilities are sexually assaulted at nearly three times the rate of people without disabilities.

Norah Al-Ani, of local charity and council partner Cambridge Rape Crisis Centre, also made a short video for staff to mark Sexual Abuse and Sexual Violence Awareness Week 2024, which was well received. You can watch Norah’s video at [SASVAW 2024 (youtube.com)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B_z9oSzc8YA)

