



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

February 2016

Dear Partners

You may notice something slightly different about our logo at the top of this newsletter and on other communications – we have now joined forces with Peterborough. A joint strategy and action plan is being developed and will be discussed at the next meeting of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Governance Board in March.

As we approach a new financial year, we have been commissioned to provide only one Health IDVA post, instead of two, for 2016/17. This means we have, unfortunately, had to rationalise existing referral pathways to reflect this reduction in capacity.

The Health IDVA post will now only be taking referrals from Accident and Emergency Departments, Hospital Maternity Departments and other hospital based services for all hospitals in Cambridgeshire (excluding Peterborough Hospitals).

High-risk referrals to the Cambs IDVA Service will still be accepted via MARAC arrangements, more details of which can be found at www.cambsdasv.org.uk. Referrals to specialist voluntary-sector partners can still be made in the usual way.

On a more positive note, we would really appreciate your help with making sure our website is easy to use and finding out what people are using it for. The survey will take no more than 2 minutes and can be accessed at the link below <http://www.cambsdasv.org.uk/website/survey/178418>

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 Domestic Abuse training are below, to book, click on the following link and choose the 'Workforce Development Children's' option at the bottom of the page <http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/learntogether/social>

Introduction to Domestic Abuse (1.5 day course)

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

Domestic Abuse Risk Assessment - 1st March , 26th April, 8th June

Children Experiencing Domestic Violence - 17th March

Engaging with perpetrators of DV - 6th May

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

Specialist training is also offered by **Against Violence and Abuse (AVA)**. Most of these events are in London and there is a charge. For details of upcoming events please see http://www.avaproject.org.uk/our-training--events/open-training.aspx?mc_cid=1ae5fd614c&mc_eid=273e6b246c

Update on MARAC

In order to clarify the role of the new DV pilot process, it has been agreed that the daily discussions will now be referred to as 'Daily Marac Meetings' and our weekly Marac meetings will be known as 'Marac Plus Meetings'.

This does not change anything that has already been agreed, the titles merely reflects the nature and purpose of the new pilot process.

Feedback from partners so far, is very positive of the new process and although its early days, it appears to be working well.

Gaps in sex and relationships education leave too many children at risk

A Survey of over 2,000 young people has found that their safety may be at risk due to inconsistent sex and relationships education:

- Half (50%) of young people did not learn how to get help if they were abused
- Over half (53%) did not learn how to recognise grooming for sexual exploitation
- More than 4 in ten had not learned about healthy or abusive relationships
- A third (34%) of young people said they learnt nothing about sexual consent at school

Campaigners at the Sex Education Forum are calling for mandatory status for sex and relationships education (SRE) in all schools, after a survey of young people found that their safety is being undermined by dramatic variations in what is taught.

The survey of over 2,000 11-25 year-olds, showed that across a range of topics that could protect children and young adults from harm, such as knowing where to turn to for help if they experience sexual abuse, or information about female genital mutilation (FGM) or sexual consent, many young people are left in the dark by gaps in their SRE.

Half (50%) of those surveyed had not learnt from their primary school about how to get help if you experience unwanted touching or sexual abuse, 16% had not learnt the correct names for genitalia and even more (17%) had not learnt that the genitals are private to you, all key to recognising and reporting abuse. Young people were more likely to have learnt about the difference between safe and unwanted touch from discussions at home than at school, but even so, less than half of young people (45%) said they had learnt about this with a parent or carer.

When asked about their school SRE as a whole:

- Over half of young people (53%) had not been taught to spot the signs of when someone is being groomed for sexual exploitation.
- More than 4 in ten had not learnt about how to tell when a relationship is healthy (46%) or abusive (44%).
- Worryingly, given that sexual assault is something that a significant minority of young people experience^[1], lessons about sexual consent are not routinely covered in schools.
- Half (50%) of young people had not discussed real-life scenarios about sexual consent.
- A third (34%) had been taught nothing at all about sexual consent.

^[1] One in five women and one in 20 men in Britain experience attempted sex against their will. Source: Macdowall, W and others (2013) 'Lifetime prevalence, associated factors, and circumstances of non-volitional sex in women and men in Britain: findings from the third National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles (Natsal-3)', *The Lancet*, 382, 1845-1855.

Only a quarter (24%) of young people said they learnt about FGM, but the figure increased to 4 in ten (40%) amongst 11-13 year olds, suggesting things are starting to change.

Overall, despite signs that SRE is slowly improving, just 10% of those surveyed said the SRE they received was 'very good', and nearly a third (22%) said it was 'bad' or 'very bad', indicating that young people themselves are dissatisfied.

Lucy Emmerson, Coordinator of the Sex Education Forum, said: *"The odds of a young person learning vital information about equal, safe and enjoyable relationships are no different than the toss of a coin. The ultimate consequence of this is that many children don't know how to recognise abusive behaviour or how to seek help."*

With evidence about the benefits for children and young people of teaching SRE stacked up high and a growing list of politicians calling for the subject to be mandatory, there is no excuse for Government to continue leaving SRE to chance."

Dr Mary Bousted, General Secretary, Association of Teachers and Lecturers said: *"As members of the Sex Education Forum, ATL fully supports its call for mandatory and inclusive Sex and Relationships Education. We know that education staff want high quality training so that they can deliver the SRE that will enable young people to keep themselves safe. We call upon the Government to take this important step, which parents, education staff and young people all want, so that we can all help to tackle child abuse, sexual health issues and young people's poor mental health."*

Full details about the survey can be found in: 'Heads or Tails: What young people tell us about sex and relationships education' at www.sexeducationforum.org.uk

Government rejects call to make PSHE mandatory

England's education secretary has rejected MPs' calls to make sex-and-relationship education compulsory in all schools, infuriating campaigners.

Last month, the chairmen of the education, health, home affairs and business committees wrote to Mrs Morgan saying personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE), which includes sex education, was a "crucial part of preparing young people for life".

"It can provide them with the knowledge and confidence to make decisions which affect their health, wellbeing and relationships, now and in the future," said the joint letter.

But Mrs Morgan said while she agreed PSHE was crucial, making it statutory "would do little to tackle the most pressing problems with the subject". Mrs Morgan also says the government "will continue" to keep the subject's status "under review".

Witness Summons in Domestic Abuse Cases

Her Majesty's Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate (HMCPSI) has undertaken an audit into the issuing of witness summonses. The audit found that there is a lack of compliance with CPS national policy guidance on the use of summonses in domestic abuse cases, including not requesting an early risk assessment of the impact of a witness summons on the individual, or of considering the possibilities of proceeding with the case without the support of the victim/witness by using other evidence. It also found that more could be done to utilise the resources of other agencies in supporting the victim and concluded that in 12.7% of cases examined, applying for a witness summons was not the most appropriate course of action.

Three key recommendations have been issued as a result of the audit:

- 1** The CPS ensures all operational staff are aware of the CPS domestic abuse policy and apply it in all cases where a witness summons is being considered. In particular: the need for an early risk assessment to determine the impact on the victim of applying for a witness summons; that other options for adducing the witnesses evidence are considered; and, the need to record the full rationale for applying for a witness summons.
- 2** Any assurance checks undertaken by CPS managers around victim and witness issues, include the analysis and use of witness summonses.
- 3** The case management system is used to flag all cases where a witness summons is issued.

Treatment of victims by the CPS

HMCPSI have also issued findings from their inspection on the quality and timeliness of Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) communication with victims:

- contrary to requirements and the CPS's stated obligations, in a majority of cases, there is no evidence that victims are consulted before decisions are made to discontinue a case, or substantially alter charges against a defendant (71.1%).
- The quality of the explanations provided by Prosecutors to Victim Liaison Officers (to pass onto the client) explaining the decision to discontinue a case, or substantially alter charges against a defendant, was variable, often inadequate and not sent in a timely manner.
- In 95.7% of letters there was no evidence that victims of domestic abuse had been provided with details of sources of support.
- Face to face communication with victims at court is inconsistent

The CPS has been given recommendations to improve communication and service to victims as a result of this report.

Sharia Law challenge

A bill seeking to protect women and challenge the application of sharia law in the UK has been approved by the House of Lords.

Baroness Cox's Arbitration and Mediation Services (Equality) Bill passed its third reading on Tuesday. It will now be handed over to the House of Commons for consideration. To become law, the bill will need an MP to sponsor it and steer it through the House of Commons.

Baroness Cox's bill, which has received support from Christian Concern, seeks to tackle the challenge of sharia councils, which fail to protect Muslim women adequately from violence and abuse. The bill also challenges the broader issue of the development of a parallel legal system based on sharia law within the UK.

It is estimated that around 30 sharia councils operate in Britain today. The 'courts' issue Islamic divorce certificates and advice on aspects of religious law.

Many women are unaware that they have recourse outside of these 'courts', or they come under community pressures to submit to the rulings of sharia councils.

Bedroom tax victory for DA survivor

The Court of Appeal has ruled that the so-called bedroom tax discriminates against a domestic violence victim. One of the two cases involved in the ruling concerned the effect of the policy on women living in properties adapted because of risks to their lives. In the case heard, the victim's home was equipped with a panic room.

The Department for Work and Pensions said they give additional funding to local councils to help people in these types of situations and they will appeal the decision. The case is now due to be decided in the Supreme Court.

Parenting Leaflets

West Mercia Women's Aid kindly gave us permission to adapt their Domestic Abuse and Parenting leaflets for use in Cambridgeshire. The series of ten leaflets advise on parenting children that have experienced domestic abuse and cover ages from baby up to teenager.

The leaflets can be downloaded from our website at
<http://www.cambsdasv.org.uk/website/parenting/185992>

Child First Campaign

Women's Aid are calling on the Government, all family courts professionals, and involved agencies to make the family court process safer for women and children survivors of domestic abuse. The Child First campaign aims to ensure that children are always put at the heart of contact decisions made by the family courts and to end avoidable child deaths as a result of unsafe child contact with dangerous perpetrators of domestic violence.

Survivors of domestic abuse frequently have said that they can be re-victimised and traumatised by their abusers, even after separation, through the family court process. The Women's Aid campaign report, *Nineteen Child Homicides*, highlights the tragic stories of 19 children and 2 women in 12 families that were killed by perpetrators of domestic abuse in circumstances related to unsafe child contact within a ten year period.

For more information and to sign the petition to Government, please visit <https://www.womensaid.org.uk/childfirst/>

WOW Festival

The Women of the World (WOW) Festival 2016 takes place from 8-13 March. A number of events will be taking place at the Southbank Centre in London to mark the festival and the International women's Day on 8th March

http://wow.southbankcentre.co.uk/?mc_cid=1ae5fd614c&mc_eid=273e6b246c



Cambridge also has its very own WOW Festival starting on 5th March and running through til 17th March. The programme includes talks, plays, art events and a Reclaim the Night march and can be accessed at this link

http://www.wowcambridge.cam.ac.uk/files/final_-_right_side_up_-_programme_1_-_web_version_-_final.pdf

Latest crime data

On 12th February, the Office of National Statistics released the latest Crime Statistics, Focus on Violent Crime and Sexual Offences, for the year ending March 2015. Some of the key findings are presented below:

There were 88,106 sexual offences recorded by the police in the year ending March 2015, the highest figure recorded since the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in 2002. This is thought to reflect improvements in recording practices and a greater willingness of victims to come forward to report such crimes.

The prevalence of domestic abuse experienced in the last year (6.1% of adults aged 16 to 59) was the lowest estimate since the series began. This includes partner abuse, family abuse, sexual assault, and stalking.

8.2% of women and 4.0% of men reported having experienced any type of domestic abuse in the last year. This is equivalent to an estimated 1.3 million female victims and 600,000 male victims. As in previous years, women were more likely than men to have experienced intimate violence across all headline types of abuse asked about.

In regards to homicide, women were far more likely than men to be killed by partners/ex-partners (44% of female victims compared with 6% of male victims).

Over three-quarters (77%) of female domestic homicide victims were killed by a partner/ex-partner, with the remaining 23% killed by a family member. For male homicides, there was a much more even split, with around a half (51%) of victims killed by a partner/ex-partner and the other half (49%) killed by a family member.

The majority (97%) of the female domestic homicide victims were killed by a male suspect, whereas among men, only around a third of domestic homicide victims were killed by a female suspect.

Among females, victims of domestic homicides were less likely to be White and more likely to be Asian.

The full data can be viewed at this link <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/crime-stats/crime-statistics/focus-on-violent-crime-and-sexual-offences--2014-to-2015/chapter-2.html#tab-Main-points>

Cambridge City Domestic Safeguarding team

18 months ago PC Dom Carminati and PC Mark Mossop, with more recently PC Chris Casboul, have been working as a 'Domestic Safeguarding' team within the Cambridge City Impact Team.

The aim of the team is to provide safeguarding to those individuals identified as vulnerable high risk victims of domestic abuse whilst working alongside internal and external partners. The work is focused on building rapport with those high risk individuals, conducting regular visits, feeding back information via monthly meetings and also via the Constabularies intelligence system. The team also investigate any offences that are disclosed. The team rely on building a rapport with the individual, promoting empowerment and encouraging them to support police action. The list of external partners is extensive but includes the councils, probation, inclusion, IDVA service and the MASH.

An example of the work carried out is best evidenced by the following case studies where those identified as repeat perpetrators have been given longer and longer prison sentences. Another measure of success has also been the impact on reducing the calls for service on reactive and other departments.

Case A: The team began a tactic of unannounced calls. Along with IDVA Lizzi Catterick the team built a relationship with the survivor so strong that they were able to tell from her demeanour and how she presented herself if the perpetrator was inside the address. The aim was to make it a hostile environment for the perpetrator, the first time he would have experienced such an environment. With this proactive tactic the team managed to catch the perpetrator breaching his restraining order 8 times, resulting in a total sentence of 76 weeks imprisonment. A was encouraged to attend University and rehab giving her the incentive and confidence to turn her life around.

Case B:– The survivor's vulnerability has been heightened in that she has been in a relationship with three separate repeat perpetrators, with all concerned having a dependency on alcohol. B has tended to hide away from all agencies, rarely engaging and making daily calls for service. Those 3 perpetrators have been convicted on 14 occasions spending a combined 128 weeks in prison. More recently one of the perpetrators has just started a sentence of 30 weeks for breaching a restraining order after being arrested on the day of his release.

Case C: This survivor continues to instantly get back with the perpetrator almost on his release from police custody or prison. The team have worked really hard since the perpetrators' most recent sentence to ensure that this wouldn't happen. C is visited daily to ensure that she continues to engage and that support can be provided in a timely manner. On the perpetrators' release the team have provided a presence outside her address, visiting C and her family. To date there has still been no concern or calls for service. The result has been a total of 28 weeks imprisonment.

Update from Refuge

It was a busy end to 2015, with Refuge launching two major campaigns in December. The first, [My Money, My Life](#), aims to shine a light on financial abuse. Together with the Co-operative Bank, Refuge commissioned the UK's largest study to date on the subject and found that 18 per cent of all adults in the UK have been a victim of financial abuse. Refuge is now calling for industry-wide agreement to support people who experience financial abuse in their relationships and is working with the Co-operative to drive change across the banking sector. We also produced a [financial guide](#) packed with practical information to support women who have experienced financial abuse.

On Christmas Eve we launched our [#GiveThemRefuge](#) campaign, which aims to raise awareness of the daily reality for children living with domestic violence via a hard-hitting 'home video'. The video shows a little girl being filmed by her sister opening presents on Christmas day, while their father abuses their mother just outside of shot. We were very fortunate to be given media space by Facebook free of charge, so we were able to target the video at the timelines of 2.1 million parents with children under 12. The response was phenomenal: we saw a 1000 per cent increase in website traffic during the campaign period, and an 89 per cent increase in donations.



So far, 2016 has been no less busy or exciting. In early February, Refuge became the surprised (but very pleased!) beneficiaries of a fund to ['save Helen Titchener'](#), a character from The Archers. Refuge supporter Paul Trueman decided to set up a [JustGiving page](#) to 'rescue' Helen, who has been suffering domestic abuse at the hands of her husband, Rob. Paul planned to galvanize listeners' empathy for Helen and use it to help real-life victims of domestic violence - and he certainly has done. In just seven days, Paul had raised almost £50,000 for Refuge - money that will be translated into specialist support for real Helen Titcheners up and down the country. What's more, the story appeared on BBC Breakfast and in almost every national newspaper. We have been bowled over people's generosity and heartened by such a public display of appreciation for the work VAWG services like ours do. The campaign has provided a fantastic opportunity for awareness-raising and we hope it continues to reverberate for many months to come.

NICE Guidance due out end Feb

The Domestic Violence and Abuse Quality Standard will be published by NICE on 18th February. You will be able to access the information at this link <http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/indevelopment/gid-qsd106>

Peterborough news wanted

Now that the newsletter is covering Peterborough too, we would be grateful for any articles of good news, information or case studies from colleagues in Peterborough. Articles should be a maximum of one side of A4 if possible and we are happy to include pictures. Please send to Amanda.warburton@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

National Sexual Violence Conference

On 12th February, we attended the first national sexual violence conference.

Walk the Walk, supported by Rape Crisis and Northern Rock Foundation, brought together some of the leading figures from within our sector, bringing skills, experience and expertise all under one roof.

The themes of the event were:

- The role of partnership working in reducing sexual violence
- How to meet the needs of survivors
- Lessons learned to date
- What is working now (best practice from the UK and Australia)
- The way forward

Key-note speakers on the day included:

- Carolyn Worth, Director South Eastern Centre Against Sexual Assault (SECASA)
- Detective Senior Sergeant Craig Gye, Central Gippsland Sexual Offence and Child Abuse Investigation Team
- Liz Kelly, Professor of Sexualised Violence at London Metropolitan University and Director of the Child and Woman Abuse Studies Unit
- Dr. Cliona Saidléar, Head of Rape Crisis Rape Crisis Network Ireland
- John O'Brien, Secretary to the IICSA Independent Inquiry into Childhood Sexual Abuse

We will be using the knowledge and links gained at the conference to ensure the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Sexual Violence Strategy takes into account and meets the varying needs of victims.