



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

October 2015

Dear Partners

The 2014-15 Cambridgeshire Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership Annual Report has now been published and is available on our website at http://www.cambsdasv.org.uk/website/annual_reports/153268

November is a key month for domestic abuse awareness as it includes the UN Day of Elimination of Violence against Women. See page 9 for more information about local and national activities.

From January 2016, the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Governance Board will be joining with Peterborough. This is to ensure consistency, joint working and equality at a strategic level. It is planned to have a joint strategy for domestic abuse and sexual violence by Spring 2016.

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

The dates and venues for the 1.5 day Introduction to Domestic Abuse training are below, to book visit <http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/learntogether/social>

Tues & Wed	8-9 December 2015	All Saints Church, Hartford
Wed & Thurs	20-21 January 2016	CPDC, Trumpington
Tues & Wed	23-24 February 2016	March Town Hall
Wed & Thurs	16-17 March 2016	Stanton House, Huntingdon
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

Respect have the following courses running in November and December. Cost is £156 per place including VAT. Contact Respect's Training Coordinator directly at events@respect.uk.net to book a space.

Better Engagement with Perpetrators of Domestic Abuse (1-day course)

Date: Tuesday 10 Nov 2015

Course description:

This one day course is for practitioners who come into contact with perpetrators – such as social workers, Cafcass officers, health workers, substance misuse workers, relationship counsellors or people working mainly with victims but wanting to understand more about perpetrators. You will learn about current research and practice developments, techniques to help engagement and risk assessment and how to make effective referrals to specialist domestic violence programmes.

Working with Male Victims of Domestic Abuse (1-day course)

Date: Wednesday 9 December 2015

Course description:

This one-day course will provide knowledge about the experiences of male victims of domestic violence including how these may differ from women's experiences and information about the nature, scale and incidence of intimate partner violence against men. Participants will practice using skills in responding appropriately to male victims and will identify specific experiences and difficulties faced by specific groups of male victims such as gay men or men from specific ethnic backgrounds. Participants will get a hard copy of Respect's Toolkit for work with male victims of domestic violence.

Against Violence and Abuse (AVA) also offer a number of training courses related to domestic abuse, for details visit <http://www.avaproject.org.uk/our-training--events.aspx>

Domestic violence link to homelessness

The Telegraph has reported that the threat of physical attack or sexual assault amongst women living on the streets has forced them into hiding. These women have limited access to essential support and cuts in funding are going to make the situation worse. The homelessness charity St Mungo's Broadway estimates around 12 per cent of rough sleepers in London are female, but the number is likely much higher. Half of the women using St Mungo's said they had experienced domestic violence and a third said it had contributed to their homelessness – compared to just 8 per cent of the charity's male clients. One female client said 'I did a lot of sofa surfing after I left my violent partner. But then I ran out of friends and I became homeless.'

To read the full story, go to <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/women/womens-health/11879403/Sexual-exploitation-violence-and-drugs-A-homeless-woman-in-Britain.html>



Refuge supports NICE Guidelines on Domestic Abuse

In July, Refuge contributed to the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) new quality standard for domestic violence which will outline how health professionals can better identify and support victims of domestic violence. Refuge highlighted that women and children should be routinely asked about domestic violence by all health professionals, regardless of whether there is an obvious 'indicator', such as a recent injury, to prompt them. From Refuge's decades of work with survivors they know that it can take a long time before someone feels ready to disclose abuse and that there are not always obvious signs of violence. Refuge also stressed the importance of sensitive, non-judgmental approaches where people are questioned in a confidential setting away from their partner, in order to make women feel more able to share their experiences.

The final guidelines are due for publication in February 2016.

Cambridgeshire DASV met with a representative from Cambs Local Commissioning Groups recently and it is hoped to work more closely with them on information sharing in the future.

Cambridge heads, hearts and hands joined in the task of tackling domestic and sexual violence/abuse in the City

From Ann Sinnott, Lead Councillor on Domestic Violence/Abuse, Cambridge City Council

Following the 9 February 2015 launch of the Cambridge Community Forum (CCF) on Domestic & Sexual Violence/Abuse, and the award at the launch of White Ribbon Status to Cambridge City Council, work has continued apace with a programme of events and actions around the City (see round-up to Dec 2015 below).

Latest event: **Educational institutions sub-group meeting**. Speakers: Lisa Pollitt, *'Young People's Experiences of Living with Domestic Violence'*. Tom Jefford, Head of Youth Support Services, Cambridgeshire County Council, Russ McPherson, White Ribbon Ambassador, Cambridge City Council.

CCF was founded on the belief that the community can significantly augment the work undertaken by professionals and play a vital role in tackling domestic and sexual violence/abuse. While signposting services for perpetrators, our main work is with victims. Our aim is to make Cambridge a city that visibly and demonstrably says 'No!' to these issues. A city that, reaching out with compassion and understanding, will encourage victims to come forward and seek the help they need.

Fundamental change can only be achieved incrementally. Building on the initial foundation of the formation of CCF, each and every subsequent event or action is a crucial step in the process of creating radical change. Raising awareness in individuals is key to the achievement of this aim: enlightened individuals become torch bearers, carrying newly-acquired knowledge to the areas of the city where they work, live and play. Informed individuals are able to challenge prevalent victim-blaming myths and prejudices, and counter other types of misinformation, with facts and figures.

At the request of CCF members, two sub-groups were subsequently formed (others are planned): (i) large commercial employers, (ii) educational institutions.

A series of White Ribbon Ambassador Talks is in process of being rolled-out in various sectors of the City and also in those City Wards with the highest prevalence of domestic violence/abuse. At the CCF launch we had three WRAs, we now have six (with more in process of appointment):

Adam Ratcliffe, Director, Cambridge Business Against Crime

Dave Doggett, Chairman, Cambridge United Football Club

Mark Woolner, Detective Inspector, Head, Domestic Abuse Investigation Unit

Russ McPherson, Security Student Liaison Manager, Cambridge Regional College

Shapour Meftah, Businessman and member of the Mill Road Muslim Community

Stephen Pattison, VP Public Affairs, ARM Holdings Ltd

We have undertaken a great deal in just a few short months, with more in the pipeline for this year [and next year but more about that another time!]. This work was made possible by the appointment, in May 2015, of Louise Walker as a part-time co-ordinator. Louise's remarkable dedication and sterling efforts should not go unsung - she is the lynchpin for all our efforts.

Cambridge Community Forum (CCF) on Domestic & Sexual Violence/Abuse, 2015 EVENTS AND ACTIONS

February

CCF launch, with focus on domestic violence/abuse

March

Large commercial employers sub-group meeting. Potential workplace actions discussed. Cambridge Women's Aid had previously assisted Addenbrookes Hospital in the drawing up of HR policies to adequately safeguard victims in the workplace. Addenbrookes kindly allowed this document to be circulated to sub-group members who attended.

May

Quarterly CCF meeting, with a focus on sexual violence/abuse.
Speaker: Norah Al-Ani of Cambridge Rape Crisis.

June

White Ribbon Stall outside Guildhall. WRAs Adam Ratcliffe, Mark Woolner, Shapour Meftah and Stephen Pattison engaged with 138 members of the public.

September

WRA Talk for Religious Leaders, Parkside Fire Station.
Speakers: Adam Ratcliffe and Stephen Pattison, White Ribbon Ambassadors, Cambridge City Council. Rev Matthew Trick, Cambourne Church. Angie Stewart, Cambridge Women's Aid.

October

Educational institutions sub-group meeting.
Speakers: Lisa Pollitt, *'Young People's Experiences of Living with Domestic Violence'*. Gill Hanby, *'Chelsea's Choice – Awareness Raising of Child Sexual Exploitation'*. Angie Stewart, Cambridge Women's Aid. Russ Mcpherson, White Ribbon Ambassador, Cambridge City Council.

November

CCF Quarterly meeting, followed by:
Survivors conference, to be opened by Cambridge City Council CEO, Antoinette Jackson. Keynote speaker: Fiona Bowman. Other speakers TBC.

December

WRA Talk - Community Wing, Abbey Meadows School. Details TBC

New programme for adults with learning disabilities



Following the success of our pilot programme, DHIVERSE are pleased to announce that we have recently been awarded a Reaching Communities Grant



from the Big Lottery to enable us to make our

'ABC (AWARENESS, BALANCE, CHOICE) Programme'

one of our main services and available throughout Cambridgeshire, Peterborough and some bordering counties for the next 3 years.

ABC is a sex, relationships and keeping safe programme designed specifically for people with a learning disability or difficulty.

The ABC programme targets young people and adults with a learning disability or difficulty (LDD) and aims to equip participants with the skills, knowledge and information they need to make informed choices about their personal relationships, sexual health & wellbeing and keeping safe. The programme can be adapted to be age appropriate and will primarily be delivered to groups of up to 12 people but has been developed so that it can also be used to support individuals on a 1-2-1 basis. The programme also has a module 'Understanding ABC' aimed at equipping parents, carers and professionals to understand the sex and relationship needs of people with a learning disability or difficulty. This exciting and innovative programme has already supported over 400 people during the pilot phase and we now have the opportunity to deliver this to many more throughout Cambridgeshire, Peterborough and some bordering counties.

For further information on the ABC programme, for posters and leaflets or to make a referral to the programme please contact:

Liz MacKenzie, Programme Lead T:01223 508805 E:elizabeth@dhiverse.org.uk

Because I love you....

US organisation One Love have launched a short You Tube film with the subject #That's not love. The one minute video highlights the transition from love to control that is a key feature in some abusive relationships.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4JYyHa03x-U&feature=youtu.be>

Alcohol Awareness campaign

Cambridgeshire Drug and Alcohol Action Team is looking for teams/organisations to support its alcohol awareness campaign season running from November 2015 until end of January 2016. This year we have an overarching theme called "Have You Ever". This was suggested by the Sun Network who advocate on behalf of service users in contact with alcohol treatment services. This is an important period as it encompasses Alcohol Awareness Week (16th- 22nd of November) and Xmas and into January where we have an opportunity to promote Dry January.

The idea of the "Have You Ever" theme is it allows organisations supporting the campaign to tailor alcohol themed messages to their audience. For example for older people the message could be "Have You Ever Worried older the people you support are drinking too much" or "Have You Ever heard that too much alcohol can increase the risk of cancer". If you are supporting people with weight problems the message could be "Have You Ever Realised how many calories are in alcoholic drinks". Resources can also be directed to staff in organisations to help promote healthy lifestyles and reduce sickness and stress levels.

The DAAT will support any organisation wishing to deliver its own campaign with harm reduction materials which could include providing, leaflets, posters and a range of easy to use tools or Apps. We have designed a campaign pack which details all the resources which are available. For further information contact joseph.keegan@cambridgeshire.gov.uk or phone 01223 507 141 or see the following link <http://www.cambsdaat.org/2015/10/alcohol-awareness-campaign/>

Relate Cambridge Releases film to promote its work with children

Relate Cambridge has just released their 2nd film - to promote its work with children. Funding from the Big Lottery has allowed Relate Cambridge to offer free counselling for children aged 5 – 18 whose parents and/or guardians are having counselling with Relate.

We were absolutely delighted - when we approached the Parkside Federation to ask for their help with finding cast members – to find that they embraced the challenge and were very keen to support their ex pupil Alex Nunes, who directed the film. The Head of Drama and 2 pupils feature in the film along with family and friends of the staff at Relate Cambridge.

The launch is being timed to coincide with a showing at the Relate Annual Conference in November and there are also plans for the film to be shown an assembly at the Parkside Federation as well as to other local schools and colleges. It can be accessed through our website, and on vimeo – the link for this is:

https://vimeo.com/137959151?utm_source=email&utm_medium=clip-transcode_complete-finished-20120100&utm_campaign=7701&email_id=Y2xpcF90cmFuc2NvZGVkfDczMGE3ZTQyNjBhOWQwZTQ0YTUyN2ZjOGU0Zjc1ODZkNDE4fDIwMTA3NTI8MTQ0MTEyMDY0OHw3NzAx

Huntingdonshire Local Practice Group

Domestic abuse – the impact on children 11+

By the end of the session participants will have considered how experiences of domestic abuse:

- Impact on young people's perceptions of relationships
- Effects different aspects of young people's overall development
- Can be understood and helped by those supporting young people

Facilitated by: Claudette Driscoll, Family Worker, Hunts locality and
Natalie Prestell CSW Access Hunts

Date: Wednesday 11 November
2015

Time: 3:30pm – 5:30pm

Venue: Bargroves, Cromwell
Road, St Neots, PE19 2EY



Please confirm your attendance via email lscbtraining@cambridgeshire.gov.uk or call the
LSCB on 01480 373522

Who are we?	We are an established lively network group from all agencies with an interest in the welfare of children, young people and families.
Who should attend?	ALL workers in statutory, voluntary and community sector who work with children young people and families.
Why should you attend?	It is an excellent way of finding out what is happening in the sector and open discussions are welcomed.

Refreshments will be provided

Remember November – domestic abuse awareness month

The UK considers November to be the key month to raise awareness of domestic abuse. This is because 25th November marks the International Day of Elimination of Violence Against Women. The date is also the start of the 16 Days of Action campaign which aims to highlight issues of violence against women via the media and businesses.

The Cambs DASV Partnership will be undertaking a number of communication activities during November, including:

- Implementing a 'safe place' initiative with businesses – pilot in Fenland to be agreed
- Sharing the 16 Days of Action toolkit with business leaders in the county
- Using social media to raise awareness with a focus on recognising controlling and coercive behaviour
- Supporting Cambridgeshire Constabulary with their Get Closer campaign (more details below)

Cambridgeshire Constabulary dedicate their Get Closer campaign to domestic abuse each November. This year, the themes are split into four weeks:

Week 1: *Know the signs*

Week 2: *Break the cycle/Take the first step* (aimed at perpetrators as well as victims)

Week 3: *We are united*: promoting the multi-agency approach to tackling DA (and explaining the processes to encourage reporting and engagement)

Week 4: *Clare's Law*

Links to the national campaigns are below:

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/take-action>

<http://16daysofaction.co.uk/>

Domestic Abuse and the armed forces

New guidance around domestic abuse for people in the armed forces has been issued by the government. The resources include information on getting support both in the UK and worldwide, along with answers to some common concerns that people in the armed forces might have about reporting domestic abuse.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/domestic-abuse-guidance-and-support-for-the-armed-forces-community>

What is consent?

The hashtag #consentis has been popping up on social media over the last few weeks as part of the CPS campaign to raise awareness of sexual consent. Alison Saunders, the Director of Public Prosecutions has posted an article on the CPS website:

Consent Is... beautiful, it is enthusiasm, it is free choice, it is mutual. It is NOT assumed, NOT a right of marriage, NOT in the clothes you wear.

These views, shared on Twitter in response to our new awareness campaign, show that the vast majority of people fully understand consent. And yet a myth persists that establishing whether someone is a willing sexual partner is somehow complicated, even unreasonable.

Some victims are still blamed in a way that simply does not happen for other crimes. If someone is burgled the automatic response is not to ask: "what did you do to deserve that?". Or if someone has their car stolen they haven't, historically, been expected to go through their car ownership history to see if the theft could be blamed on some "inadequacy" in their own behaviour to mitigate the guilt of the thief.

The issue is that for too long we too have blamed victims - usually women - for allowing themselves to be raped; and we have forgiven perpetrators - usually men - for acting on some kind of instinct from which they seemingly must be protected. This is insulting to both men and women, who in the vast majority of cases conduct affectionate, consensual, mutually agreeable relationships. The law is clear, and has been since 2003, that if one person does not consent to sexual activity - with the freedom and capacity to give that consent - and the other person doesn't reasonably believe there is consent - then it is an offence. Of course it is our job to prove this in court.

Capacity means that someone who is under severe influence of drink or drugs; someone who may be young or have certain learning disabilities; or who is asleep may not be able to consent to sex; Freedom means that someone under pressure - for example within an abusive relationship or under pressure from someone in a position of trust (like a teacher, a doctor, a priest), or power (like an employer, gang leader, prison officer)... may also not be considered to have freely consented.

It is only a decade ago that the criminal justice system, as well as the care system, was effectively turning its back on vulnerable young girls groomed for sex in many of our city centres. We now properly recognise that as rape. But then few people understood the very vulnerabilities that made the rapists target those girls - drink, drugs, unstable backgrounds - were the ones we mistakenly used to excuse their attackers. Many of us thought that no jury would believe these girls who craved attention and went back for more. But since then we have seen successful convictions across the country and we have seen a change in attitude.

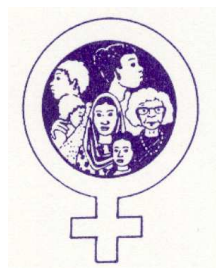
But the issue remains less well understood when the situation is between two adults who know each other. I want that to change for a number of reasons. Firstly, it is my job to apply the law and bring prosecutions. If people do not understand the law they

will not understand why prosecutors are in our courts with increasing numbers of sex offences - they now make up more than 30 per cent of Crown Court trials.

While criminal cases where consent is the issue may be complex to prosecute and difficult to prove that does not mean that the basic concept of consent itself is difficult. And that is the second reason - I want people to feel comfortable that they know when they might be a victim of crime, or a suspect of crime. We should all know where we stand.

In our campaign we have used [a clever animation](#) that compares sexual consent to having a cup of tea. You wouldn't force or pressure someone into having a cup of tea, and you can tell when someone wants a cup of tea or not. If someone says they want a cup of tea one minute, they can change their mind the next and should not be pressured to drink the tea. If this sounds simple, then so is the issue to consent to sex.

If you haven't seen it, I suggest you watch this film and join the debate. [#ConsentIs...](#)



Cambridge Women's Aid

Supporting women & children since 1977

New website coming for Cambridge Women's Aid

Our partners at Cambridge Women's Aid are developing a new website and hope to launch around December/January. There will also be new leaflets and a number of awareness activities led by users of Cambridge Women's Aid happening over the next few months including exhibitions at art events.