



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

August 2015

Dear Partners

Our new **Domestic Abuse elearning module** is now live! The training is aimed at level 1 of the training offer so is suitable for anyone that needs a general awareness of domestic abuse and the services available in Cambridgeshire. The module is free to access and available to anyone not just County Council staff. A certificate can be downloaded after undertaking a short quiz as a record of completion.

You can find the new module at

http://www.cambsdasv.org.uk/website/elearning_module/92616

In September myself and Vickie Crompton are attending the **European Conference on Domestic Violence** where I will be speaking on the topic of 'The evolution of Hester's 'planets': The end of domestic violence advocacy services?' The conference has signed up an impressive range of experts from across Europe so we're really looking forward to hearing about plans and initiatives and how we can continue to keep Cambridgeshire at the forefront of developments in the field.

We have been working with the Adult Safeguarding team at CCC on an awareness campaign to encourage **older women** to seek support for domestic abuse and will be launching this in September. We are also partnering with Action on Elder Abuse to offer an alternative place for people to call for specialist support. Look out for the posters appearing across Cambridgeshire and online nationally soon.

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

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www.cambsdasv.org.uk



Upcoming Training from AVA

Children under ten years old and domestic violence, 23 September 2015, London

Vulnerable adults, Domestic Violence and Abuse and the Care Act

Visit <http://www.avaproject.org.uk/our-training--events.aspx> for more

DPP speaks out about VAWG

Alison Saunders, the Director of Public Prosecutions wrote an article in the Guardian at the end of July about Violence against women and girls and how male victims should not be excluded from prevention and support. In the article, the DPP said that her focus is on improving the experience of criminal justice for all victims— male or female, adult or child, current or non-recent. But she said it's also clear that some offending is based on gender and Violence against women and girls (VaWG) is recognised worldwide and by the UK government as a form of offending where gender really does play a part.

The United Nations says: "Violence against women is a manifestation of historically unequal power relations between men and women, which have led to domination over and discrimination against women by men and to the prevention of the full advancement of women, and ... violence against women is one of the crucial social mechanisms by which women are forced into a subordinate position compared with men."

At the Crown Prosecution Service this includes certain types of offending such as domestic abuse, sexual offences including rape, forced marriage, stalking, honour-based violence, trafficking, female genital mutilation and prostitution offences. These crimes are personal, invasive and traumatic – regardless of the gender of the victim – and the sheer volume of them is staggering, particularly when it is widely accepted that reporting rates are low. And of these thousands upon thousands of cases, we cannot shy away from an uncomfortable truth – they are inextricably linked to gender.

Over the past five years our records show that most (84%) of the victims of these crimes, where gender is recorded, are female; and almost all (93%) of the perpetrators are male.

The full article can be read at

http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/jul/28/violence-women-girls-male-victims-crimes-men?CMP=share_btn_tw

Cervical Screening for survivors of sexual violence

On 6 August, the My Body Back Project are opening a cervical screening clinic especially for women who have experienced sexual violence, based in Whitechapel, east London. The clinic is open to all women and trans men living in the UK and a referral from a medical professional is not needed.

All of the female staff will be trained to work with women who have experienced sexual violence and there is the option of booking in for an initial consultation with a Sexual Violence Health Advocate (SVHA) who can support you throughout the process. Physical procedures such as cervical screening can be emotional and stressful for survivors of sexual violence when the right support is not available.

For more information, please see <http://www.mybodybackproject.com/services-for-women/mbb-clinics/>

Cambridge University changes policy on sexual assault

Following criticism last year on its policy on investigating sexual assault, Cambridge University has now revised its disciplinary code of conduct so that it encompasses harassment, including sexual assault. The previous policy implied that disciplinary actions should only be taken on cases where the police are involved but this fails to take into account the University's requirement to protect students. It is hoped that the new policy will encourage students to report sexual violence and assaults and give confidence that appropriate action will be taken by the University.

Survivor publishes her story

Evie was just 16 when she met Yiannis and entered what turned out to be a violent 11 year relationship. She's now written a book about her experiences and how she was able to leave her abuser and make a safer life for herself and her daughter.

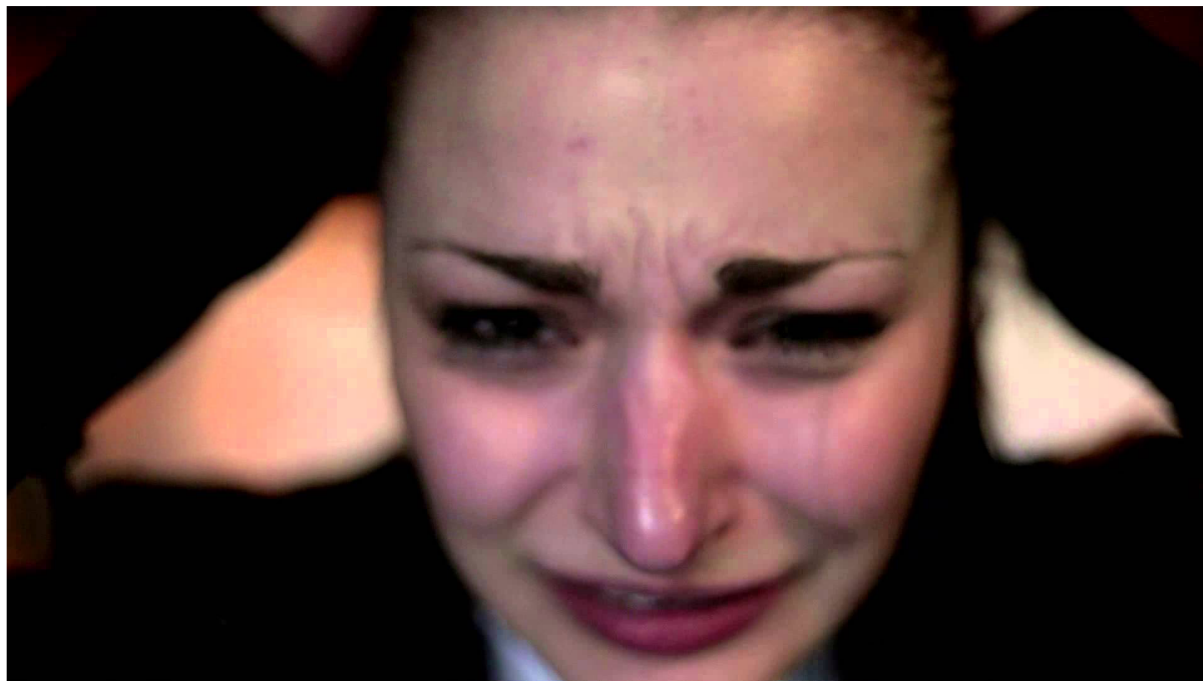
The book, called Wish, is available via Amazon and 10% of the profits are being donated to Survive – a charity supporting survivors of domestic abuse in Bristol and South Gloucestershire.

<http://eviejameswish.co.uk>

http://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/product/B013P97Z1E?keywords=evie%20james%20wish&qid=1439222720&ref_=sr_1_1&sr=8-1

Chelsea's Choice

Raising Awareness of Healthy Relationships and Child Sexual Exploitation



What is Chelsea's Choice?

'Chelsea's choice' tells the story of three students who discover the diary of a girl called Chelsea. Chelsea was a young girl who, having fallen out with her friends and family was approached by a man called Gary. Gary was older, owned a car, had a flat and treated her like an adult. Unfortunately Gary was not what he seemed to be! Chelsea's story is played out and examined by the three students who, along with their teacher, attempt to understand what happened to Chelsea and how it could have been prevented.

A programme of performances across Hunts, East Cambs and Fenland starts in September. If you would like to know more about the 2015 Chelsea's Choice tour please contact gill.hanby@cambridgeshire.gov.uk or Yasmin.Arshad@Huntingdonshire.gov.uk

There is also a professionals workshop being held on 8th September hosted by Huntingdonshire District Council. The Workshop will provide an opportunity to for you to find out more about CSE and what the key local issues are and explore the themes of the play and find out what resources are available to support them. It will also be a chance to promote services and resources that can support follow up work and meet local organisations and services who can support performances and follow up work.

If you or a colleague would like to attend the pre-performance workshop please email Yasmin.Arshad@Huntingdonshire.gov.uk with your name, organisation and contact details.

Case studies for legal aid report

A team of professionals, including Women's Resource Centre and Southall Black Sisters, are asking for information and case studies about female victims of domestic abuse who have been denied access to legal aid because they are unable to prove they are a victim.

The evidence will be included in the shadow report to the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) Committee, which provides civil society organisations with the opportunity to supplement the Government's report on the impact of the civil legal aid cuts. More information on what type of evidence is needed and how to submit it, can be found at <http://www.gardencourtchambers.co.uk/legal-aid-cuts-and-domestic-violence-against-women-call-for-evidence-to-un/>

Domestic Abuse awareness for children and young people

The National Institute for Health Research have completed a study into interventions aimed at raising awareness of domestic abuse amongst children and young people.

The report, Preventing domestic abuse for children and young people (PEACH), looked at programmes across 18 different areas of the UK and evaluated the impact of interventions. <http://www.journalslibrary.nihr.ac.uk/phr/volume-3/issue-7#abstract>

The main findings of the research are:

- Lack of national guidance and funding leads to lack of sustainability and patchy provision
- Local evidence of effectiveness is required which will strengthen provision
- Schools being keen to deliver programmes is crucial
- High risk CYP likely to be outside of schools so need to be included in programmes
- Lack of LGBTQ provision
- Longer interventions are more effective

Recommendations:

- Develop a national programme for delivery in schools at secondary level
- Identify outcomes with CYP and professionals
- Develop mixed methods of evaluation
- Cost and benefits should be clear
- More work needed for interventions with primary aged children

This report coincided with the completion of our own Healthy Relationships project in Cambridgeshire where workshops were delivered to almost 1100 pupils by Centre 33 and SexYOUality. Feedback from the schools that received workshops was positive and all would welcome an ongoing programme of awareness. Our evaluation reached the same conclusions as the national research so we are hopeful that we will be able to continue delivery in the 2015-16 academic year.

BTP reports of sexual violence increase

British Transport Police have reported an increase in sexual violence reports in the Eastern region in the latest figures. Data shows that reports are up by 34.8% from 2013-14 and the increase is believed to be partly due to more people reporting the crime. BTP launched the Report it to Stop it campaign in April following research that showed that 90% of unwanted sexual behaviour on public transport is not reported.

People can now text 61016 to report sexual crimes on public transport and BTP are putting more officers on late evening and night trains.

2 women 2 many

The national domestic violence charity Refuge, together with families of women killed by current and former partners, are calling on the Government to open a public inquiry to investigate why victims of domestic violence are still not getting the protection they deserve from the police and other state agencies.

Two women are killed every week in England and Wales by a current or former partner so the campaign has adopted the hashtag #2women2many to raise awareness on social media.

The petition launched in 2013 and aims to get 75,000 signatures (currently at 53,000) so a big push is needed to get more.

<https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/public-inquiry-into-police-and-state-agency-response-to-domestic-violence>

Help spread the word

The issue of violence against women and girls, including domestic abuse and sexual violence, is in the media every day. We use our social media pages to highlight and share information across the UK so if you are interested in these issues please do

follow us on Facebook and Twitter using these links  



Mental Health First Aid Lite

½ day introductory course

For staff in CCC and partner organisations who wish to increase awareness of mental health.

There will be no cost for this training

Public Health offers this course which will be delivered on our behalf by Kaleidoscope Plus.

What will I learn on an MHFA Lite Course?

This course offers an introduction to the following;

- Understanding the term mental health
- Identifying the stigma/discrimination surrounding mental ill health
- Introduction to some mental health problems
 - Relating to other peoples experience
- Responding appropriately and supportively to people with mental health problems
 - Looking after our own mental wellbeing

Who can attend?

Aimed at staff who are not in direct client/service user contact roles, but who wish to increase their awareness and knowledge of mental health.

Please note that due to the emotive nature of the training, if your own mental/emotional wellbeing is not currently stable, it is likely that you may find the course challenging

For dates/details or to be placed on the list for attendance on one of the courses please email

training@kaleidoscopeplus.org.uk



Mental Health First Aid (2 days)

For front line workers in CCC and partner organisations.

There will be no cost for this course

What will I learn on an MHFA course?

An MHFA course will teach you to:

- Spot the early signs of a mental health problem
- Feel confident helping someone experiencing a problem
 - Provide help on a first aid basis
- Help prevent someone from hurting themselves or others
 - Help stop mental illness from getting worse
 - Help someone recover faster
- Guide someone towards the right support/self-help
 - Reduce the stigma of mental health problems
 - Look after your own mental health.

Who can attend?

- Front line CCC staff and those in associated/partner organisations in Cambridgeshire who currently have no professional mental health qualification.
 - Working with adult clients in face to face contact roles.

Please note that due to the emotive nature of the training, if your own mental/ emotional wellbeing is not currently stable, it is likely that you may find the course challenging.

NB: There will **be no cost for this course**. However, once you have returned a booking form and confirmed your attendance, failure to attend (or find a replacement) will be charged to your manager at the full cost of £200 per person. Failure to attend the second day will be charged at £100.

Details

- There are up to 15 places available on each course
- All courses run from 9:30am- 4:30pm
- **You must attend both days to achieve certification**
- Refreshments will be provided. Please bring your own lunch

For dates/details or to be placed on the list for attendance on one of the courses please email

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