



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

August 2025

Hello Everyone

We hope you have managed to have a break over the holiday period. All the DA Services continue to support those subjected to domestic abuse and help them to cope and recover over the summer. For those of you who were unable to make the Peterborough DASV Conference, there is a YouTube link to an edit of the day, featuring all the speakers. As part of the conference, we had two excellent poets, Charis and Alex, they are both incredibly powerful. The poems can be found within the write up of the conference.

You will see a number of things that are happening in the Autumn, including Business Against Abuse Training in Peterborough & Cambridgeshire – if you have links to any businesses please share the Eventbrite link with them.

The October DA Champions sessions, 'SafeLives MARAC review of Cambridgeshire & Peterborough', are now available to book:

<https://buytickets.at/cambridgeshirepeterboroughdomesticabusesexualviolencepartnership/1816146>

Dates:

6th October 2025 10.00 - 12.00

16th October 2025 14.00 - 16.00

21st October 2025 12.00 - 14.00

Please let us know about anything happening within your service.

Best Wishes

Julia & Vickie

Julia Cullum, DASV Head of Service – Cambridgeshire

Vickie Crompton DASV Manager - Peterborough



Government National Emergency Alert Test 7th September 2025

The UK Government will send a test Emergency Alert to mobile phones across the UK at around 15.00 on 7th September 2025 as part of plans to strengthen the country's preparedness. During the test the mobile phone will vibrate and make a loud siren noise for roughly 10 seconds. This will happen even if the phone is set to silent. Ahead of the national test, the government will be running a public information campaign to notify people that the test will be taking place, including communications targeted at vulnerable groups, such as victims of domestic abuse.

The alert will not sound if:

- The phone is turned off
- The phone is in flight mode

How do victims of domestic violence turn off the alerts?

How you opt out depends on your device.

Full instructions telling you how to opt out are available at [<https://www.gov.uk/alerts/opting-out>]
If you still get alerts after opting out, contact your device manufacturer for help.

Embrace

Parental Peer Support Sessions (Embrace)

As part of our charitable offer, Embrace has secured funding to run a years' worth of parental peer support sessions for parents/carers whose children have been the victims of sexual violence. The programme is an internationally recognised programme called 'You are Enough' and was developed in Finland through Protect Children. Embrace has been fortunate enough to secure the exclusive UK license to deliver the model.

A huge "usp" of the project is that it focuses on the parents' feelings, not what happened to their child. As a result, parents don't have to wait until the cessation of a criminal investigation/ trial before they can access the support.

Embrace will be running sessions for parents of children who have been victims of

- Online sexual harm
- Intra familial CSA
- Extra familial CSA
- Sibling CSA

The sessions are run remotely so there is no need for parents to travel. At the moment Embrace have funding to deliver these sessions free of charge.

[You Are Enough UK Leaflet - Embrace.docx](#)

[You Are Enough overview - Embrace.docx](#)

Embrace are also extremely grateful for their partnership with Merlin's Magic Wand Children's Charity.

Merlin's Magic Wand Charity make it possible for Embrace to send families on a magical day out together. Victims of crime deserve something to look forward to, separate from the trauma they have had to face. These magical days out provide families the opportunity to heal and create important, lasting memories together.

If you would like to nominate a child, that has been a victim of serious crime, please submit a referral for 'Theme Park Days Out' on our website: <https://embracecvoc.org.uk/refer-a-child/>

Please note that Embrace are unable to provide further tickets to families that have previously been referred in for a Theme Park Day Out.

Preventing VAWG - Businesses Against Abuse (BAA)

Colleagues who attended the county's first VAWG Prevention Event prioritised the delivery of BAA, in particular the wider roll out outside of Cambridge, and it was agreed as one of the key themes to be progressed by the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategic Board and endorsed by the High Harms Board as part of work to prevent serious violence.

With that in mind the Police and Crime Commissioner has approved funding to extend Businesses Against Abuse training /awareness countywide through a grant to the Cambridge and Peterborough Rape Crisis Partnership. The partnership staff will jointly deliver with the Constabulary mirroring the successful model which was developed with Safer Street 5 funding in Cambridge, in partnership with CAMBAC and the City Council. The funding being used comes from the Serious Violence Duty Funding which had been ringfenced for VAWG Prevention.

Funding is being provided for 15 sessions with the potential to reach 750 people and includes:

- Six sessions in Peterborough & three sessions in Fenland
- Six sessions in Cambridgeshire

This training is open to all businesses who feel their staff would benefit and following the training they will be officially accredited by the police as part of 'Businesses Against Abuse' (BAA).

They will be trained in:

- Spotting vulnerable situations
- Recognising predatory behaviour
- Helping customers who experience abuse and/or predatory behaviour
- Obtaining the required information for the emergency services
- Dealing with situations involving vulnerable people
- Forensic awareness

By taking part in the training, they are making a commitment to being a safe space for all customers, particularly women and girls. BAA accredited businesses should serve as a place where violence, misogyny, and sexual offences are not tolerated.

Find out more about the BAA here: [Businesses Against Abuse | Cambridgeshire Constabulary](#)

Peterborough BAA training - Eventbrite - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/businesses-against-abuse-training-tickets-1548010092859?aff=oddtcreator>

Huntingdon BAA training - [BUSINESSES AGAINST ABUSE ACCREDITATION TRAINING Tickets, Wed, Oct 15, 2025 at 9:30 AM | Eventbrite](#)

Other dates will be released as they are confirmed.

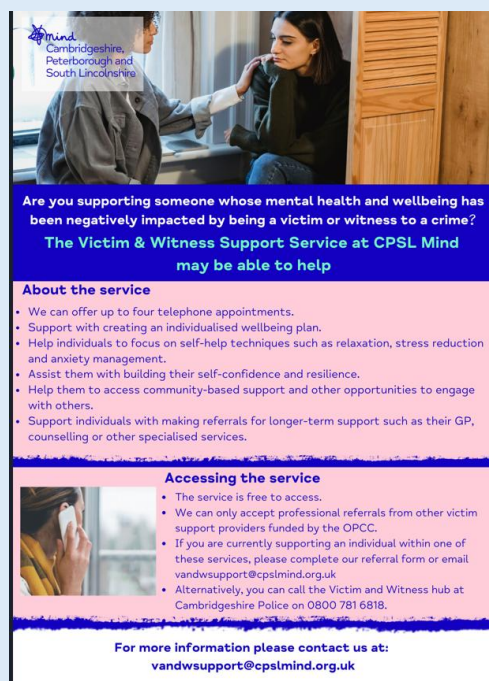
For Baby's Sake

Please see the link for events & webinars

[Events and webinars - For Baby's Sake](#)

CPSL MIND

CPSL Mind have a service which supports Victims and Witnesses of crime with wellbeing such as anxiety management, stress reduction, sleep, wellbeing plans and signposting to other specialist services. They currently accept professional referrals from the IDVA service, Cambridgeshire Constabulary, Victim & Witness hub and other services also funded by the OPCC. If an organisation isn't funded by the OPCC but would like to make a referral, they can do so via the Victim & Witness hub – all details can be found in the leaflet below



Cambridgeshire, Peterborough and South Lincolnshire

Are you supporting someone whose mental health and wellbeing has been negatively impacted by being a victim or witness to a crime?

The Victim & Witness Support Service at CPSL Mind may be able to help

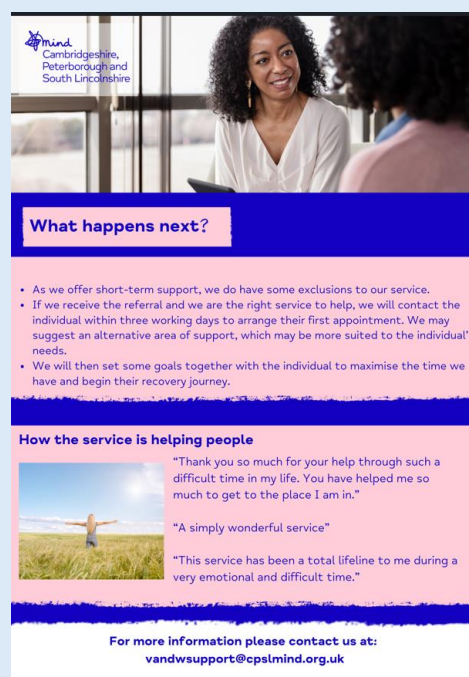
About the service

- We can offer up to four telephone appointments.
- Support with creating an individualised wellbeing plan.
- Help individuals to focus on self-help techniques such as relaxation, stress reduction and anxiety management.
- Assist them with building their self-confidence and resilience.
- Help them to access community-based support and other opportunities to engage with others.
- Support individuals with making referrals for longer-term support such as their GP, counselling or other specialised services.

Accessing the service

- The service is free to access.
- We can only accept professional referrals from other victim support providers funded by the OPCC.
- If you are currently supporting an individual within one of these services, please complete our referral form or email vandwsupport@cpslmind.org.uk
- Alternatively, you can call the Victim and Witness hub at Cambridgeshire Police on 0800 781 6818.

For more information please contact us at:
vandwsupport@cpslmind.org.uk



Cambridgeshire, Peterborough and South Lincolnshire

What happens next?

- As we offer short-term support, we do have some exclusions to our service.
- If we receive the referral and we are the right service to help, we will contact the individual within three working days to arrange their first appointment. We may suggest an alternative area of support, which may be more suited to the individual's needs.
- We will then set some goals together with the individual to maximise the time we have and begin their recovery journey.

How the service is helping people

"Thank you so much for your help through such a difficult time in my life. You have helped me so much to get to the place I am in."

"A simply wonderful service"

"This service has been a total lifeline to me during a very emotional and difficult time."

For more information please contact us at:
vandwsupport@cpslmind.org.uk

Suicide Prevention Day September 10th 2025

Every year on 10th September, organisations and communities around the world come together to raise awareness about how we can work together to create a world where fewer people die by suicide.

World Suicide Prevention Day is a chance for us all to come together, raise awareness, and take meaningful steps towards preventing suicide and supporting those who may be struggling to cope.

New figures released in March 2025 confirmed a devastating reality: more people in the UK are dying by suicide following domestic abuse than being killed by a current or former partner
www.safelives.org.uk/news-views/domestic-abuse-and-suicide-figures/

Further reading and recommendations from research undertaken by Tim Woodhouse: Churchill Fellow 2023) [Woodhouse_T_Report_2023_Final.pdf](#)

Mind run suicide prevention training – see poster below for more details:



STOP Suicide Training

Fully funded

1 in 5 people have thoughts about suicide at some time in their life

Our expert Training Team at CPSL Mind run suicide prevention training across Peterborough and Cambridgeshire.

Due to funding, these courses are free to attend for anyone who may wish to learn valuable suicide prevention skills to help someone who is feeling suicidal and help reduce the risk of suicide.

This workshop will equip you with the knowledge to spot warning signs, ask directly about suicide, support someone to stay safe and look after your own wellbeing.

STOP suicide
Save a life. Change a life.
Working together for a suicide safer community

To sign up go to:
<https://www.cosmind.org.uk/courses/stop-suicide-workshop/>

CPSL Mind logo Charity Number 280287

Cambridge Community Arts

After 11 incredible years, Cambridge Community Arts and its associated Creative Fenland project have very sadly closed at the end of July 2025 💜 We've done everything we can to secure a sustainable future of the charity, without success. Though this was a hard decision, we're proud to be closing with dignity – reflecting the spirit of creativity and community that has defined us. Thank you to every learner,

tutor, volunteer, and supporter who's been part of our journey. Your creativity and courage have changed lives.

The staff who have worked at CCA over the years, have been intrinsic to the charity's ability to deliver impact. Each of them has shown an unwavering commitment to their role and has gone above and beyond to drive the charity's mission forward. We cannot thank them enough.

Thank you for all your support.

Chair of Trustees

Cambridge Community Arts

Respect

Information shared by Respect in their June newsletter

- Updates from the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) meetings: In June the meeting was chaired by Jess Asato MP, with a focus on stalking.

<https://respect.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=8da4b84a629cb9102464e2289&id=06ea1100f1&e=6fcd9d7d69>

- Women's Aid have urged the government to recognise the need for a whole-system response to VAWG.'

[https://respect.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?](https://respect.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=8da4b84a629cb9102464e2289&id=06ea1100f1&e=6fcd9d7d69)

- VAWG coalition makes recommendations for halving VAWG metric

<https://respect.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=8da4b84a629cb9102464e2289&id=6f34922b52&e=6fcd9d7d69>

Domestic Homicide Review Report July 2025

'The Domestic Homicide Review report highlights urgent need to turn learnings into action' – Victims Commissioner

Published: 15th July 2025

Welcoming a new report by the Domestic Abuse Commissioner, Dame Nicole Jacobs, the Victims' Commissioner joins the DA Commissioner's calls for a robust oversight mechanism, saying that we owe it to victims and their families to turn learning into action.

Following the release of a [new report](#) by the Domestic Abuse Commissioner, Dame Nicole Jacobs, evaluating how Domestic Homicide Reviews are carried out, the Victims' Commissioner has issued a statement welcoming the report – joining Dame Nicole's calls for a robust oversight mechanism.

Commenting on the report, the Victims' Commissioner said:

I welcome this important report. Delays, lack of accountability and repeated missed opportunities not only compound the grief of those left behind but also leave future victims at risk.

I support the call for a robust oversight mechanism to ensure that reviews are completed on time, acted upon and lead to real, lasting change.

We owe it to victims and their families to turn learning into action. It is simply not good enough to keep identifying the same failings without ensuring meaningful change.

HM Prisons & Probation

The Building Better Choices program is due to replace Building Better Relationships program at sentencing for perpetrators in August

[Building Choices - Information for Sentencers Oct 24 AT.docx](#)

Living Keys Updates

Cherished Support Group returns Monday 1st September. A monthly women's-only support group held in a warm, welcoming space. Cherished is a time to talk, share, and be among others who understand. No pressure, no judgment—just gentle, empowering connection.

Monday Drop-In Service returns Monday 8th September 13.00 - 17.00. Our weekly drop-in is a safe space for women to access emotional support, housing guidance, financial help, ID applications, CV building, and more. Or to simply connect with other women over refreshments, arts, crafts, nail painting and so on. No appointment needed - just come as you are. All groups/courses are held in a safe and secure location. For more info: admin@livingkeys.co.uk / 07507269081

Family Drop-in service will be at Bretton Baptist Church starting on Wednesday 29th October and will continue as a pilot every last Wednesday of the month. This is for families that are struggling with their daughter/son going through domestic abuse relationships. This will be run by Living Keys and Restored. 1830-2000.

Freedom Programme returns Friday 26th September. This 12-week course is for women affected by domestic abuse. It explores the behaviours, belief systems, and warning signs of abusive partners

while helping women rediscover their own voice and safety. All groups/courses are held in a safe and secure location. Call or email for more information. Applications now open: admin@livingkeys.co.uk

Domestic Abuse Recovery Toolkit (DART) returns Wednesday 24th September. A structured 12-week CBT based course designed to help survivors of domestic abuse rebuild self-esteem, confidence, and control over their lives. This toolkit supports long-term healing and growth. All groups/courses are held in a safe and secure location. Call or email for more information. To attend, you must have completed the Freedom Programme. Applications now open: admin@livingkeys.co.uk

The Wellness Workshop returns 3rd Monday of every month (next: Monday 15th September) Piloted for 6 months with great feedback, The Wellness Workshop is now a permanent programme. Facilitated by Bianca, this transformative group blends lived experience with academic insight to help women better understand and manage their mental health and wellbeing. Bianca is a 5th year, mature student studying Psychology and Criminology at university and also completing a Diploma in Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT)—all while just qualifying as a Level 3 Peer Support Worker. Bringing a deep passion for helping others, rooted in her own personal journey through trauma, recovery, and growth, Bianca curated this workshop which is not therapy, but an educational, empowering space to explore: Emotional Regulation and Stress Management, Therapeutic Journaling, Grief and Loss, Body positivity, Financial confidence, Future envisioning. Drawing from both CBT and DBT frameworks, we invite you to join us in a safe, reflective space where women can learn practical skills, gain insight, and feel less alone in their experience. It's a workshop built by someone who's walked the road and now walks beside you. All groups/courses are held in a safe and secure location. For more info: admin@livingkeys.co.uk / 07507269081

Family Support Network Date to be Confirmed. We are proud to launch a brand new, specialist support group designed for parents and carers of adult children who are experiencing or have experienced abusive relationships. This unique and much needed space offers compassion, clarity and connection for those navigating the emotional weight of watching someone they love suffer – while often feeling helpless, confused or isolated. This safe space offers a peer support circle, education on abuse dynamics, healthy boundaries and self-care tools, grief and loss support, crisis navigation and signposting. Share, connect, and receive guidance on how to support your loved one while taking care of your own emotional wellbeing. All groups/courses are held in a safe and secure location. Call or email for more information. For more info: admin@livingkeys.co.uk / 07507269081

Safe Lives Updates

SafeLives 2025-2026 Strategy: Find what works. Help it Happen

Domestic abuse remains at epidemic levels — yet too many people continue to face silence, disbelief, and fragmented responses.

Our mission stays the same: to end domestic abuse for everyone. But our approach is evolving.

This strategy sets out:

- ◇ The scale and complexity of the problem
- ◇ A clear vision for how things should be
- ◇ How we'll use our strengths to help make it happen — by listening, analysing and innovating.

Grounded in authentic voice, evidence, and collaboration, this is our roadmap for change — across the systems that should protect and support people.

To find out more please click the link <https://safelives.org.uk/about-us/our-strategy/>

Non-fatal strangulation

We've recently added more course dates to our calendar

➡ And they're still free!

Learn to better spot the signs, assess risk, and evidence NFS correctly. Delivered in partnership with fellow experts from the Institute for Addressing Strangulation (IFAS).

Introductory sessions (non-interactive)

- ◇ NEW self-directed eLearning
- ◇ Webinars

Sector-specific advanced sessions (interactive)*

- ◇ Police
- ◇ Probation
- ◇ Social care
- ◇ Sexual violence services and Isvas
- ◇ Professionals working with young people

*Please note you must have attended a webinar or completed our eLearning prior to attending an advanced course.

Please click the link for more information

<https://safelives.org.uk/training-courses/non-fatal-strangulation-training/>

PEGS

Breaking The Silence: A Multi Agency Approach to Child-to-Parent Abuse and Safeguarding!

Join us this October for a day dedicated to breaking the silence: by sharing updates, policies, research, and education around child-to-parent abuse, through a safeguarding lens.

This not-to-be-missed event will bring together CPA professionals from across the UK from different sectors, offering opportunities to connect, learn and collaborate in person.

What to expect:

- A fantastic speaker lineup featuring sector-leading voices (featured on our website)
- Interactive Q&A panels with experts and practitioners
- Limited-space professional workshops (optional)
- Access to specialist online resources – before and after the event

Whether you're a frontline professional, policymaker or researcher, this conference will leave you informed, inspired and equipped to make meaningful change.

Interested in securing your place? Please visit: <https://www.pegsevents.co.uk/product/pegg-conference-2025/>

Women's Aid

Nineteen More Child Homicides

Nineteen More Child Homicides is the third report published by Women's Aid in the past three decades as part of [Women's Aid Child First campaign](#). This report tells the stories of children who have been killed by a parent who is a perpetrator of domestic abuse through child contact (formally or informally arranged). Nearly a decade on from the publication of *Nineteen Child Homicides*, this report documents a further 19 children's lives that have been lost as a result of unsafe contact arrangements. These findings illustrate the need for a culture shift at all levels to domestic abuse from professionals involved in child contact arrangements, whether informal and formal.

The study reviewed relevant serious case reviews (SCRs) and child safeguarding practice reviews (CSPRs) for England and Wales, published between September 2015 to September 2024 (inclusive). Key findings:

In 18 families 19 children were killed by perpetrators of domestic abuse who had access to these children through formal or informal contact arrangements.

- 17 of the 18 perpetrators were men, 15 of whom were fathers to the children they killed. The remaining two were the biological fathers of other children in the family. In one case the perpetrator was female and mother to the child who was killed
- There were 28 deaths in total: 19, children, four women, two dogs, and three perpetrators who committed suicide
- There were 44 children of the mothers and fathers in these 18 case studies. This means that through these homicides, 25 children lost a sibling, eight lost a parent, and six children lost both a parent and a sibling

In all the eight cases where the child who was killed was over five years old there was evidence to suggest that they were subject to coercive and controlling tactics by the perpetrator.

- Coercive control experienced by children included preventing the children from accessing support, medical treatment, speaking to agencies alone or isolating them, verbal and physical threats, and physical abuse of the mother in front of the child/ren
- Children were not granted sufficient opportunity to disclose abuse or time to explore their feelings about contact with an abusive parent
- In two of the cases, the perpetrators had a history of committing child sexual abuse, including child sexual exploitation. In one of these cases the victim was the mother of one of the children killed and agencies had failed to respond appropriately to this concern at the time

There is still a widespread lack of understanding of coercive control and how perpetrators use child contact as a tool to manipulate professionals.

- Claims by perpetrators that their abusive behaviour was a result of only wishing to see their children was common
- In the three cases the mother was also killed a Domestic Abuse, Stalking, Harassment and Honour Based Violence (DASH) risk assessment had been completed and was scored as medium risk

Ensuring specialist support for survivors is key, including financial support to overcome the impact of increases in the cost of living.

- In five of the cases, the couple appeared to be living together despite being separated. In three of these cases, the reviews stated that this was for financial reasons
- In two out of the three cases in the report where the mothers were from a Black or minoritised background there were issues around professionals not using interpreters

and fears regarding information sharing from survivors with uncertain or insecure immigration status. Neither of these survivors were supported by a specialist Black and minoritised 'by and for' domestic abuse service who could have helped them to understand their rights

There is a need for a culture shift at all levels in the response to domestic abuse from professionals involved in child contact arrangements, both informal and formal.

- In the five cases where it was stated that the abusive behaviour of the perpetrator was not known to agencies, there were failed opportunities to ask or follow up concerns regarding domestic abuse
- There were two cases in these reviews where opportunities to provide the survivor with relevant information about the perpetrator's history of abuse were not utilised
- In the same way that parental separation is a crucial risk indicator, so is the point in which agencies step down and end involvement. Agency separation, siloed working, and resource constraints was a risk factor for families in these cases

Link to the full report: [Nineteen More Child Homicides - Women's Aid](#)

Women's Aid has launched a brand-new online hub built for young people on our LoveRespect site, covering everything from staying safe digitally to understanding power, control, and consent online.

Whether you're 14–17 or 18–24, there's a space for you. No pressure, no judgment — just facts, tools, and support to help you make sense of online relationships.

Explore the hub now -

14-17s: <https://loverespect.co.uk/.../advice.../staying-safe-online/>

18-24s: <https://loverespect.co.uk/.../advic.../online-digital-abuse/>

16 Days of Action

16 days of action 25th November – 10th December

Keep a look out for free webinars

Save the dates:

The Impact of Furniture Poverty and the work of the Angels Foundation:

26th November 14.00 - 15.00

Stand up to Harassment webinar delivered by The Suzy Lamplugh Trust:

27th November 12.30 - 13.00

Justice for Joan – Daphne Franks

28th November 13.00 - 14.00

Researchers call for better coordinated and holistic care for women who often come from abusive backgrounds

New research shows that a third of women who have died during, or in the year after pregnancy were known to children's social care services, and 65% of these women reported experiencing domestic abuse before or during their pregnancy. In addition, a fifth of the deaths were as a result of suicide. Existing research already shows that around 30% of domestic abuse starts during pregnancy – this is often due to the abuser feeling they have lost control as the woman's body changes and jealousy about extra attention the pregnant woman receives from friends, family and medical professionals. Academics at King's College London and the University of Oxford, who published the new research in the BMJ Medicine, also found that 5% of the deaths were due to homicide. Other key findings included uncoordinated involvement of maternity and mental health services with social care and other medical specialists, resulting in overwhelming and disjointed appointments and the researchers called for urgent changes to be made to how mothers with social care involvement are treated by clinicians and other agencies during their pregnancies and early motherhood.

Link to article in The Guardian [A third of UK women who died during or after pregnancy known to children's services, study finds | Pregnancy | The Guardian](#)

Peterborough Domestic Abuse Conference 20th June 2025



The Peterborough Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Conference was held for the third year on Friday 20 June.

Speakers included Peterborough City Council CEO Matt Gladstone, Living Keys, Peterborough Rape Crisis, Cambridgeshire Constabulary, Cambridgeshire Deaf Association, Peterborough Women's Aid and Peterborough's Poet Laureate Alex Tyler.

Attendees heard the stories of survivors and how their experiences shape their work with other women and girls.

Experts spoke about specific difficulties women with experiences of domestic abuse and sexual violence can face; this included the communication barriers that deaf women can face and how this can make it harder for them to find support, as well as housing and navigating services across Peterborough.

Two poignant poems were written and read out by a member of the charity Living Keys and the Poet Laureate Alex Tyler.

Poem by Poet Laureate Alex Tyler

Invisible Man

I have seen the aftermath of invisible men. The women in my life in tears or worse at the memory of them; memories so solid that it bruises them to this day. For the longest time I didn't know what to say. And when I first met one, I was surprised to learn I had known him for years, then, obviously, he disappeared. Though I still see him every day, in all the decisions I never made.

You are present by your absence, invisible man. A public secret. Never said outright in tacit headlines; woman attacked, woman raped, woman abused. You're never named, but we know it's you. Squint your eyes and read between the lines, at what's implied because that's where he hides, in plain sight.

But don't get me wrong, the invisible man is not always silent, and even his words can be violent. He calls brothers, friends, fathers and sons, towards hills of his choosing to die on. Hills made of the promise of cars, women, money! But it's all faux power, don't believe the hype, men are more than that tacky stereotype. He reduces everything with value to mere trinkets; cheapens us while boasting of riches. Men's worst instincts run amok, given form by Instagram, snapchat and tiktok.

What's worse, he chose to be this. What really stings, is that I know what he's feeling. Here I am having made the right decisions, but I know what it is to feel invisible. I know what it is to feel that rage can give you presence, that

it's better to be strong than to be right, that you should just let the devil inside grip your bones and drive. Believe me, I know.

But I promise you though, it's better to have a thick skin than a shell. And listen well, anything gained through violence is underserved, and temporary, but if you'd sooner choose invisibility, then we see right through you; you are a two-dimensional monster, and that is all you will ever be.

You see the invisible man is so called because he haunts his peers as well as his survivors, and with his poltergeist personality, there comes a point where the only way for him to be, is through violence, and after that, that is all people will see. If you go down that road, it doesn't matter that you're a father, successful, rich, swish motor, sense of humour, a personality, none of it matters if you chose

violence. None of it will outweigh what you have done. All that you are, gone. But more than that, your guilt demands an another man's explanation, and there will never be an excuse, for defending your abuse.

All that is left of my violence is so precious I save it for myself, which is not perfect I know, but it's better than inflicting it on everyone else. I channelled that energy into demonstrating that a real man does not throw his weight around, they carry it, or put it behind them, or better yet, behind people or causes who need it.

So, my brothers, while you are still visible, make choices that give you depth and weight, choices that help you build and grow, choices that keep you here. Make you present, make you seen, again and again. Choices, that make you men.

Poem by Charis https://youtu.be/AsHzJkM_bg4

Save the Date – DASV Conference 24th June 2026 Sand Martin House

Working With Offenders team

We're excited to announce the launch of 'Working With Offenders' brand new online training series – developed in collaboration with Penal Reform Solutions and designed for professionals across the criminal justice sector.

Covering everything from trauma-informed practice and desistance to ethical collaboration and lived experience, this programme delivers practical, reflective learning tailored for those working with service users and people with convictions and complex needs.

What to expect:

- Weekly 60 minute online sessions
- Led by leading practitioners in justice reform
- Real-world tools for professional and organisational change

To see the full programme and register please see the link below.

<https://www.workwithoffenders.co.uk/training-academy/>

Office of Police and Crime Commissioner – Prevention Fund

A new fund has been launched which is accepting applications from voluntary and community organisations for up to £5,000 for local initiatives to prevent crime, VAWG or anti-social behavior.

The fund follows closely on from the county's first VAWG Prevention Event, hosted by the Police and Crime Commissioner Darryl Preston. It enables local VAWG organisations to bid for funding to enable

them to contribute to the delivery of prevention. At a recent DA/SV Strategic Board the following six themes were proposed to guide future work and may help shape local thinking.

1. **Early intervention with children and young people** – in particular the importance of raising awareness of healthy relationships and acceptable behaviours within education and youth settings in a coordinated way, but ensuring young people who are home educated, and parents can access inputs.
2. **Empowering communities in public spaces to prevent VAWG** – maintaining the momentum of Businesses Against Abuse and extending this across the county.
3. **Enabling VAWG support service providers to contribute** – through provision of local resources.
4. **Engaging with, and listening to, survivors and victims** and using what they tell us to guide local approaches.
5. Challenging and reviewing local **workplace policies and practice**.
6. Continuing to build on the strong and effective **partnership working and governance structure** already in place.

You can find details of the fund [here](#).

The Elms SARC

The Elms Sarc are holding an open morning 17.10.25; all professionals are welcome to attend. Please see the link below to book:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-elms-sarc-open-day-tickets-1361366597139?aff=oddtcreator>

The Edge Cafe Cambridge

EDGEwords 4 'Fuelling Recovery'

We are now inviting submissions for our 4th EDGEwords creative writing anthology, to be launched at The EDGE Café in September 2025. We are looking for short pieces – fiction, life writing or poetry – on the theme FUELLING RECOVERY. This is open to your own interpretation and we look forward to a variety of submissions.

All proceeds from the anthology will go towards The EDGE Café's work, supporting people in recovery from addiction.

Submission guidelines:

Open to all writers over the age of 16.

The theme is FUELLING RECOVERY, maximum of 300 words for prose, or 30 lines for poetry.

Maximum of 3 submissions per person.

Submissions should be in the form of a word document or a pdf.

We can't return your submission, so please don't send us your only copy.

We will announce our final selection on our Facebook and Instagram accounts week commencing 8th September

All entrants will be invited to the launch event on 26th September

The deadline for submissions is Sunday 24th August 2025.

Please follow the link to our events page to submit your work

<https://www.theedgecafecambridge.com/fuelling-recovery/>

Peterborough Women's Aid Charity Ball.

"We would love you to join us at the PWA Charity Ball on November 1st at The Holiday Inn. Enjoy a fabulous night including a 2 course meal, entertainment, auction and much much more!!

Tickets are £55 and can be purchased using this link

[Celebrating 50 years PWA Charity Ball at Holiday Inn Peterborough - West event tickets from TicketSource](#)



Cambridge Community Safety Project Please see the poster below from CSP Member, Susie Talbot, Cambridgeshire County Council Public Health Team Commissioning (Drugs and Alcohol), which includes tips to 'stay safe this summer'.



Breaking the Silence: Art Against Abuse Exhibition 30th September 2025

University of Cambridge

Open Call For Art

Artwork: "Rebirth" by anonymous survivor (2024)

Picture: Sebastian Tobisiak

Apply to display your art at the 2nd iteration of **Breaking the Silence: Art Against Abuse** exhibition at ARU in collaboration with charities and survivors to raise awareness on domestic abuse. We particularly welcome diverse perspectives.

Exhibition Date & Location

30 September 2025

@Helmors Street Reception and Atrium
ARU Cambridge Campus
11am - 4pm

“The personal nature of the art made it very emotional. It was a beautiful and thought provoking exhibit. Profound and important.”
-Attendee at last year's exhibition

Art Submission Deadline

16 September 2025

Application email should include:

- "Open Call" in the subject of the email
- Type(s) of art (poetry, painting, digital, etc.)
- Brief description and/or concept abstract
- Any media/pictures of the artwork
- Size and display requirements

Artwork drop-off: 8-10am on day of event
Artwork pick-up: 4-6pm on day of event

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