



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

**June 2025**

Hello All

We hope you are all well and enjoying the longer days.

The “split” of the IDVA service is now complete and both teams are fully functioning – if you have any queries in relation to domestic abuse, IDVAs or MARAC, there is an IDVA on duty Monday to Friday. Their details can be found on the website – [www.cambsdasv.org.uk](http://www.cambsdasv.org.uk).

We would also like to take this opportunity to introduce you to our new Partnership Officer – Karen Hedger – who is joining us from the Cambridgeshire IDVA Service. Karen is your new contact for the DASV Newsletter, Champions, website updates and a whole raft of other things that Amanda did – you can email her [Karen.Hedger@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Karen.Hedger@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) . Amanda is now the Strategic Domestic Abuse Lead for Health in Cambridgeshire, at [amanda.warburton@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:amanda.warburton@cambridgeshire.gov.uk).

Due to the changes within the DASV Partnership and the IDVA Services, we have decided to postpone the DASV Champions Networking events over the summer, and they will restart in September.

We will also be running webinars during the 16 Days of Action around VAWG from 25<sup>th</sup> November to 10<sup>th</sup> December. If you have any suggestions for topics during the 16 Days of Action webinars, please drop an email to [DASVChampions@Cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:DASVChampions@Cambridgeshire.gov.uk) Even better, would you like to run one of the webinars?

As ever, please do let us know if you'd like news from your organisation to feature in the newsletter.

Best Wishes

*Julia & Vickie*

Julia Cullum, DASV Head of Service – Cambridgeshire

Vickie Crompton DASV Manager - Peterborough



## **New streamlined support service improves care for victims of domestic abuse**

A new model of support has been unveiled to transform the safety and wellbeing of victims of domestic abuse across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

The new service, jointly developed by Police and Crime Commissioner Darryl Preston and partners, is available for all adult victims of domestic abuse assessed as medium risk who report their experiences to police. Launched on 1 April 2025, it sees specialist staff from domestic abuse charity Peterborough Women's Aid embedded within the PCC's existing Victim and Witness Hub to support all adult victims of police-reported domestic abuse crimes who have given consent for help and are deemed at medium risk of harm.

Victims of domestic abuse referred to the service are offered short-term, phone-based emotional and practical support alongside safety planning. Those requiring longer-term support are referred on to local specialist domestic abuse support agencies depending on their needs including the current Domestic Abuse Support Services (DASS) Outreach Service and The Meadows Children and Family Wing.

Already, early benefits of the new service have been identified, with the co-location of specialist staff allowing professional conversations to take place with Hub Coordinators and investigating officers to protect victims from the trauma of having to relive their experiences over the phone multiple times.

In the first six-weeks of delivery, the service received 218 referrals and supported 211 victims. 100% of victims were contacted within the agreed timescales, with 54% supported with a successful outcome during the first call. The specialist domestic abuse support workers have also facilitated face-to-face discussions with other co-located partners in the Hub to provide a seamless, timely service to victims within agreed response timescales.

Supporting Victims and Witnesses is a key priority in the Commissioner's new Police and Crime Plan, and he has vowed to ensure all victims receive the tailored support they are entitled to, under the Victims' Code, to help them cope and as far as possible need to recover from crime they have experienced. whilst fulfilling his duty to adhere to the Victims' Code.

The service, which is being piloted over the next 12 months, improves the timeliness of support, ensuring the force meets the Victims' Code requirement to refer victims to services within two working days. It also provides more consistency of service provision, streamlining the pathway to support and providing increased service resilience.

## **Invitation to MARAC Review event**

All key stakeholders are invited to join us on Thursday 17th July 2025 10am – 3pm at the Lady Olivia Centre in Brampton to discuss the findings of the SafeLives Public Health Approach review into the local response to domestic abuse in Cambridgeshire & Peterborough.

At this workshop, we will:

- Review SafeLives' findings following the work they have undertaken locally
- Discuss the identified examples of good practice and areas for improvement with partners • Identify key areas for priority action in Cambridgeshire & Peterborough
- Begin shaping an improvement plan for Cambridgeshire & Peterborough based on SafeLives' findings and discussions with partners

We are very keen to ensure multi-agency participation from partners across the system in this workshop as it will shape our plans going forward. If you would like to attend to represent your agency please contact [Jessica.KeelingClose@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Jessica.KeelingClose@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

## **FREE TRAINING!!**

Non-fatal strangulation (NFS) is used by perpetrators of domestic abuse to control and intimidate their victim. It is an insidious and lethal form of physical violence which recently became a standalone criminal offence in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. Despite the strong link between NFS and domestic homicide, it can be difficult to evidence due to a lack of visible injury.

**It is vital that professionals understand NFS and the risks it poses.**

Safe Lives have worked with the [Institute for Addressing Strangulation](#) to develop and deliver training for a range of professionals who encounter victims and survivors of NFS. Professionals interacting with victims and survivors must make an accurate and timely risk assessment, so they can get them the right support as quickly as possible.

Safe Lives are currently offering Introductory eLearning and Introductory webinars, after which, you will be able to book onto a One-day advanced course (tailored to your sector).

[NFS training for professionals - SafeLives](#)

## **SARC open day**

The Elms Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) are holding an open day for professionals on the 11<sup>th</sup> July from 10am – 12 midday. All professionals are invited to come along and see how a SARC works and gain insight to share with any victims/survivors they are working with.

Tickets are available via the link below;

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1361365513899?aff=oddtcreator>

## White Ribbon Ambassador Training Underway in Peterborough

Earlier this month, two groups of male White Ribbon Ambassadors from Peterborough City Council took part in a training session focused on strengthening their ability to challenge sexist and abusive behaviour, and deepening their understanding of what it means to represent the White Ribbon campaign.

Led by Riswan Rahemtulla, the training featured open and honest discussions about the personal and organisational challenges involved in tackling male violence and domestic abuse. Participants also explored practical strategies for creating change.

This training is part of Peterborough City Council's White Ribbon Accreditation and is helping prepare for the upcoming **Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Conference**, which will be held on **20 June 2025** in Peterborough.

Another White Ribbon Ambassador session is scheduled for **White Ribbon Day, 25 November 2025**.

If you're interested in attending the **20 June conference** or the **November training**, please contact **Vickie Crompton** at [Vickie.crompton@peterborough.gov.uk](mailto:Vickie.crompton@peterborough.gov.uk).





## DASV Shared Lives Project celebrates finalist success

The DASV Shared Lives Project, a collaborative scheme to support survivors of domestic abuse with learning disabilities, reached the finals of the Local Government Chronicle Awards in the Health and Social Care Category. Whilst, sadly, the project didn't win, the judges commented that they liked the focus on accessible, holistic support for a very vulnerable group and praised the project as an innovative scheme with a strong focus on joint working across adult social care and domestic abuse and passionate leadership.

## Be WOW'd by a podcast

***The Women of the World (WOW) Show Podcast*** is now available to listen to. Hosted by WOW founder **Jude Kelly**, each episode was recorded at a different location from the live UK tour, capturing the unfiltered energy, brilliant humour, and fierce honesty of women and non-binary people across the UK.

You'll hear from frontline activists, artists and everyday change makers, plus incredible guests like **Mary Portas, Laura Bates, Aja Barber, Kieran Yates** and **Caroline Bird**.

Together, they tackle the real stories affecting women – from mental health, ambition, and burnout to motherhood, workplace sexism, and the politics of care. Through laughter, personal anecdotes, and honest conversations, this series is a reminder that hope is a radical act – and change is always possible.

Available on most podcast platforms.

## Support for LGBTQ+ survivors highlighted

This Pride Month the multiple disadvantage and homelessness project at Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse is focusing on the lives and experiences of LGBTQ+ people experiencing domestic abuse, . Because the statistics are stark:

- 1 in 4 LGBTQ+ people experience domestic abuse in their lifetime
- LGBTQ+ people are TWICE as likely to become homeless
- Trans people, particularly trans women of colour, face the highest rates of violence and the least access to safe housing and specialist services.

Support for survivors who identify as LGBTQ+ is available from [Galop - the LGBTQ+ anti-abuse charity](#)



## "ONLY"

By Charis Hawkins

He's only a waiter, too slow with drinks  
But he doesn't deserve to be told what he thinks  
It's only an eyebrow; finger tap or smile  
Not quite right, you're unsure for a while.

It's only a look, or a silence, or a glare  
But you question the meaning and whether it's fair.

Only one bad day, he's usually so sweet  
He buys you big gifts, and spoils you a treat.

It's only a joke, just a comment in jest  
Don't be so sensitive, that's your new quest.

Sexist, racist, homophobic one too  
He'll even make jokes at the expense of you.

It's only a nigger at first you see  
Until it is regular jokes on me.

Questioning friendships, layering doubt

"It's only one night you don't need to go out"

"Your friends will be fine without you" he'll say

"I haven't been able to see you all day!"

Your job you're too good for, why don't you quit?"

You have been unappreciated there you admit.

"Why don't you stay at home and have a new baby?"

We could even get married, well maybe

It's only a little whether drink fat or food

You should do it for him, to lighten his mood.

He's insecure but it's only because of his ex.

She took all his money and used him for sex.

She only has kids to be spiteful and use

To trap this poor man in her awful abuse.

He's only allowed supervised once a week

While dictating your parenting and how they should  
speak.

It's only one sock on the floor, no big deal

Yet soon it is laundry and cooking each meal

We do all the shopping, yet we can't get it right

Any excuse so he can start a fight.

He asked you for ketchup, not mayonnaise

Only this changes again with the passing of days

It's only a plate, when his dinner he flings

But drop one while cleaning, you're destroying his  
things.

It's only a thing that got broken not you  
The latest confusion you are working through.

Holding you hostage, one way or another

You wonder how you turned into his mother.

Coercion now normal, he took all control

With each passing day eating more of your soul.

"It's only emotions or words" they will say  
While you cover your bruises or he locks you away.

"He's only one man, if he's that bad you'd leave"

But the reigns are so tight that you can't even breathe.

You've hidden so long now, you're not sure what for

And you started to flinch at the phone and the door.

It was only one time, one punch, one kick

Only an accident that will never stick.

"If he was guilty you'd not stay and he'd pay"

But it's only "Your word against his", they will say

Finances, children, fear, guilt and shame

"I'll tell them you're crazy" he begins to exclaim.

Degraded, dejected, confused and forbidden

They've taken you over and kept it all hidden.

Only seen when you're black and blue battered

None of the build up to it even mattered.

You tried to seek help, but got turned away,

"Why don't you just leave", again they would say.

You can't hold on much longer, you're scared that you  
blew it

Cause you spoke out to who hasn't been through it

It's only a feeling or only a word

You're not only a mother, or only his bird

First times a mistake, now you know he's addicted

If only we knew what those red flags predicted.

When it starts with small changes, very few will have  
read

Only one step further could wind you up dead.

**This poem is dedicated to Linda Huskisson  
and all the amazing volunteers at Living Keys,  
I have had the pleasure to work alongside!**

## ONS Publishes Updated Domestic Abuse Statistics

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has published new prevalence data using improved questions that better reflect the full spectrum of domestic abuse, including coercive control and psychological harm.

It shows that **8% of adults aged 16 and over**—around **3.9 million people**—experienced domestic abuse in the last 12 months. This includes **9.5% of women** and **6.5% of men**. These figures are not directly comparable to previous years due to the updated methodology, but they offer a more accurate picture of the scale of harm. So it's not an increase, just wider inclusion criteria which is a better reflection of the real prevalence.

[Redevelopment of domestic abuse statistics - Office for National Statistics](#)

## Your views needed for new Youth Zone in Peterborough

There has long been an aspiration to get a Youth Zone delivered in Peterborough and an external engagement strategy has been developed to support aspirations for a Youth Zone in the city. This is to stimulate interest in the project once more as well as generate support for the proposed location. Public engagement is underway from 2<sup>nd</sup> June – 14<sup>th</sup> July to generate support for a Youth Zone in Peterborough and understand people's views on its proposed location, on the Embankment.

A survey has been developed which you can [access here](#), feedback is really important as your views will shape the future of the project. Please share this with your family, friends and community.

Whilst this project is extremely exciting, it is still in its early stages. There is lots of work to still be done, but you can find out more about Youth Zones by visiting [Peterborough Youth Zone: inspiring the next generation | Peterborough City Council](#).

If you would like to discuss the above or find out more information please contact [Jane.Wilkinson@peterborough.gov.uk](mailto:Jane.Wilkinson@peterborough.gov.uk) or [lewis.cooper@peterborough.gov.uk](mailto:lewis.cooper@peterborough.gov.uk)

## Short film on improving cervical screening for survivors of abuse

Cervical Screening Awareness Week runs from 19-26<sup>th</sup> June this year and Healthwatch Essex have made a brilliant short film highlighting how the process can impact survivors of abuse and how healthcare professionals can help to make the procedure less traumatic.

Including tips such as not being dismissive of concerns, not rushing and explaining the equipment used, the film was initiated by a trauma ambassador and includes advice from a nurse on improvements that healthcare colleagues can make.

You can watch the film at [Cervical Screening as a Trauma Survivor](#)

We use the trauma card initiative across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough so let us know if you would like some by emailing [dasv@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:dasv@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

## Support for DASV Survivors in the Armed Forces – new report

Aurora New Dawn have just released a new report - ***Invisible Battles – Strengthening Advocacy and Support for the Armed Forces Community Affected by Domestic Abuse, Sexual Violence, and Stalking.***

Rooted in Aurora's deep experience working with armed forces personnel, this report sheds light on the often-overlooked experiences of victims and survivors within the armed forces community. It explores the barriers they face when seeking help and the urgent need for specialist services that truly understand and meet their unique needs.

Drawing on insights from survivors, frontline professionals, and specialist advocates, Invisible Battles outlines seven key principles – essential foundations for any frontline service supporting armed forces personnel and their families.

[Released Today: 'Invisible Battles' Report - Aurora New Dawn](#)



## Raising awareness of the White Ribbon Campaign – Cambridge City Council

A Cambridge City Council public safety stall was held at the Abbey People's Big Lunch on Sunday 8 June. It was a well organised outdoor community event with a friendly atmosphere bringing together residents for a range of intergenerational activities. A variety of city council teams attended to speak to people about the wide range of activities and services available to Abbey residents, these included in the areas of Sports and Recreation, Community Development, Streets and Open Spaces, and regeneration projects with Housing Development. The public safety stall raised awareness about the [White Ribbon campaign](#) which aims to engage men in ending all forms of violence against women and girls. There was much support for the stall, including by the new Leader of Cambridge City Council, Councillor Cameron Holloway, and the new Deputy Mayor, Councillor Richard Swift. The council has its own official White Ribbon accreditation since 2015 for work to help further the campaign's aims, and individuals can also make a pledge to support it.

The Leader of Cambridge City Council, Councillor Cameron Holloway said: 'It was great to see a whole range of City Council teams out spending time with residents at the Big Lunch. I was particularly glad to see the support for the public safety team and their work on the White Ribbon Campaign. At Cambridge City Council, we are committed to making sure everyone in our city feels safe, and much of that work starts with supporting women and girls in the face of male violence and misogyny. We need action across the whole of society to bring about the necessary change in men's attitudes and behaviours towards women and girls and to stamp out male violence. It's a huge task, but community events like this are a really important part of that work.'

Deputy Mayor, Councillor Richard Swift said: 'I spent the afternoon at the Abbey People Big Lunch on Dudley Road Park: what a great community atmosphere! Cameron Holloway (Leader of the City Council and White Ribbon Ambassador) and I visited the White Ribbon Campaign stand, and spent some time talking with Louise Walker about the important work this organisation does. Misogynistic attitudes and behaviour towards women and girls start early. I fully support the White Ribbon movement which is at the forefront of finding ways to address this problem caused by men.'



Pictured left to right: Leader of Cambridge City Council, Councillor Cameron Holloway, Louise Walker, City Council's Community Safety Partnership Support Officer, and Deputy Mayor, Councillor Richard Swift.

# Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Healthy Relationships Group

Do you know about this supportive network meeting for Professionals in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough?

## ***Who are we?***

A group of professionals working with young people in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. We all support young people, directly or indirectly, to develop and maintain healthy relationships. Our areas include supporting young people and those who work with them around domestic abuse, LGBTQ+ identities, sexual health, PSHE lessons, mental health, safeguarding, VAWG etc. We represent various PCC and CCC departments and local voluntary organisations and charities.

## ***What is the group for?***

We share data, discuss national and local developments and outline information about our services and provision.

## ***What do attendees find useful about the group?***

As members of this group, we value the opportunity to:

- Share local data and discuss its implications for our service with colleagues.
- Engage in discussion with our peers working in the same field and facing some of the same challenges as us.
- Celebrate positive developments and achievements with our peers.
- Gain a broader understanding of the provision on offer locally, which enables us to signpost our young people to the services that best meet their needs.
- Create a network of professionals supporting each other in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough for the benefit of our young people.

## ***How often do we meet?***

We meet online, twice a year in May and November. The next meeting dates are:

20<sup>th</sup> November 2025 10-11.30am

20<sup>th</sup> May 2026 10-11.30am

## ***How do people join the group?***

Email [Amanda.Warburton@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Amanda.Warburton@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) to be added to the invitation list.

If you have any queries about the group, contact [cathy.murphy@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:cathy.murphy@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

# Women's Wellness Café

## St Neots One Leisure Centre

Join us for the launch of a welcoming new community space where women can come together for support, empowerment, and well-being.

The Women's Wellness Café offers a relaxed, friendly environment to meet others, access professional guidance, and explore topics that matter to you—like menopause, mental health, nutrition, self-care and more.

Free  
Entry!



- ✚ Peer Support & Conversation
- ✚ Q&A with a Doctor
- ✚ Expert-Led Health Talks
- ✚ Holistic Wellness Resources
- ✚ Free Refreshments & Warm Company



Wednesday 18 June 2025



13:00-15:00



One Leisure, Barford Rd, Eynesbury,  
St Neots, PE19 2SA

For more information about our  
Women's Wellness Café please get in contact at  
[activelifestyles@huntingdonshire.gov.uk](mailto:activelifestyles@huntingdonshire.gov.uk)



**FREE OFFER**  
Cambridgeshire Residents



## New Stop Smoking Offer for Cambridgeshire Residents

**Free** access to the premium features of the Smoke Free app, including 24/7 support from live advisors, a free vape and e-liquids\* to help you quit, and the option to request nicotine replacement products\*\*

Simply download the app using the QR code:

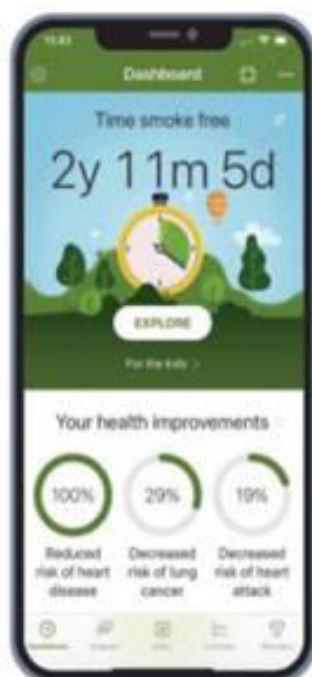


Or by using the link below:

<https://link.smokefreeapp.com/cambsres>

Need help? Email us at:

[support@smokefreeapp.com](mailto:support@smokefreeapp.com)



\*Strictly over 18's only for a vape

\*\*Prescription charge may apply for nicotine replacement products



[smokefreeapp.com](https://smokefreeapp.com)

June 2025

# Service Update

Phone: 0345 60 999 60

Email: [support@embracecvoc.org.uk](mailto:support@embracecvoc.org.uk)

Website: [www.embracecvoc.org.uk](http://www.embracecvoc.org.uk)



## Counselling & Emotional support for Children Affected by Domestic Abuse

- Ages 7–18 years
- Must live in the Cambridge Local Authority area
- Referrals accepted from: Police | IDVA | Social Care | Victims' Hub
- Referrals accepted subject to referral criteria.

## National Support for Children Affected by Serious Crime

- Funded counselling & emotional support for children affected by serious non-domestic abuse crimes (e.g. sexual violence, assault, exploitation).
- Who can refer: Police | Social Care | ISVA | Victims' Hubs | Safeguarding professionals
- Subject to availability

## You Are Enough™ National Peer Support for Parents

A CBT-based peer programme for parents and carers of children affected by sexual abuse, including online harm.

- Safe, professionally facilitated online group sessions
- Confidential, empathetic environment
- Evidence-based & trauma-informed
- Licensed in the UK by Embrace CVoC
- Referrals can be through professionals or self-referral

**You Are  
Enough™**

"Being able to share with a group makes me realise I am not alone." — You Are Enough™ Participant

## Merlin Family Days Out

In partnership with Merlin's Magic Wand, Embrace offers families impacted by serious crime the opportunity to enjoy a free day out at one of Merlin Group's UK attractions.

Referral Criteria:

Children aged 0–18

Siblings and up to 2 guardians

One-time offer only


Travel not funded

Referrals can be made by: Teachers | Police | Professionals



## COMING SOON..... Embrace TOYBANK

Toybank is an innovative initiative that focuses on delivering joy and learning opportunities to children through toys. Toybank aims to ensure that no child is deprived of the developmental benefits and happiness that comes from playing with toys. Offering a child a chance to choose toys that spark their interest and imagination. This approach empowers them with choice, fostering a sense of inclusion and community. Toybank is helping to ensure that all children have access to resources that promote their wellbeing and growth.

Referrals can be made via:  [www.embracecvoc.org.uk/referrals](http://www.embracecvoc.org.uk/referrals)

YAE Parental support - <https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=AF52e10Yz0qVDXvmn14iHKMCe3S40MNDIgcQ-BNDGkiUOVJTWUIONTZOTTJVT0RaR0I3MDI0TUNXVC4u&route=shorturl>