

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

May 2025

Hello All

Many of you will already know the IDVA Service and the MARAC process has split, or “de-coupled” across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, there are also changes to the referrals which can be accepted by both services and different duty contact details – please see below.

The government have announced that there is a fund that services may be able to bid into – if you would like any support around this, please get in touch. More locally there is the A428 Social Improvements Fund.

Supporters from Living Keys will be completing a sponsored walk from Peterborough to Spalding – if you would like to join them, or would like to donate, the link is below.

Peterborough are running their third Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Conference, hosted by Bretton Baptist Church on 20th June – if you would like to attend, please email Vickie.crompton@peterborough.gov.uk

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



Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership Restructure and Decoupling

On Tuesday 6th May the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough DASV Partnership, including the Independent Domestic Violence (IDVA) Service and Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) separated across Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council.

In both areas the IDVA Service will have reduced referral pathways as below

Cambridgeshire DASV and IDVA Team.

In Cambridgeshire referrals to the IDVA Service should be sent to idva.referrals@cambridgeshire.gov.uk for the following:

- High risk MARAC Referrals (Professional Judgement, Repeat, Escalation or Visible High Risk (17+ on DASH))
- Referrals scoring 14-16 on DASH Risk Assessment with consent
- Housing referrals from a Housing Provider/Association/Team at any risk level
- Ethnic Minority referrals at any risk level
- Young People's referrals at any risk level*
- Stalking – high-risk*
- Non-Domestic Abuse Related Stalking at any risk level*

* Working across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

The service is no longer able to accept A8 (Eastern European) or Health referrals (unless meeting high risk criteria).

The Cambridgeshire service includes a Young Person's IDVA who will work across both **Cambridgeshire and Peterborough**. High risk referrals should be sent to the relevant team (Cambs or Peterborough). Medium or standard referrals should be sent to idva.referrals@cambridgeshire.gov.uk. The criteria for referrals has changed slightly and the YP IDVAs will now work with young people experiencing abuse in their own intimate relationships who fit the following:

- Aged 13-17
- Ex Looked After Children up to age 21

The Cambridgeshire team also includes two Independent Stalking Advocacy Caseworkers (ISACs) who work across the whole county. They can accept high risk domestic abuse stalking cases – these should initially be sent to the relevant geographical team. They also take non domestic abuse stalking cases at any risk levels. To refer such a case please initially contact idva.referrals@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

The Cambridgeshire Management Team is comprised of the following:

- Head of Service – Julia Cullum
- Safe Accommodation Programme Manager – Danae Evans
- Domestic Abuse and MARAC Manager – Lesley Rich
- IDVA Team Managers – Deirdre Reed and Shelley Morris
- Domestic Abuse Health Strategic Lead – Amanda Warburton

Cambridgeshire DASV Team will continue to coordinate Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews (DARDRs) on behalf of the six Community Safety Partnerships (CSP) in the county.

Cambridgeshire MARACs will continue to be held on Wednesday and Fridays.

Peterborough DASV and IDVA Team

In Peterborough referrals to the IDVA Service or MARAC should be sent to peterboroughidvas@peterborough.gov.uk for the following:

- High risk MARAC Referrals (Professional Judgement, Repeat, Escalation or Visible High Risk (17+ on DASH))
- Referrals scoring 14-16 on DASH Risk Assessment with consent
- Housing referrals from a Housing Provider/Association/Team at any risk level
- Eastern European referrals at any risk level

The Peterborough DASV Management team is as follows:

- DASV Partnership Manager – Vickie Crompton
- Senior IDVA – Annette Chandler

Peterborough MARACs will continue to be held on Tuesdays.

More details of specific criteria for each service can be found on the professionals' tab on our website at www.cambsdasv.org.uk

We're looking for a new Partnership Officer!

This is a great role combining communications, performance data, research and support to the DASV Partnership.

Closing Date: 26th May

Full details at <https://jobs.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/jobs/job/Domestic-Abuse-and-Sexual-Violence-Partnership-Officer/6426>

County Lines and Criminal Exploitation events for parents

The Ivison Trust (formerly known as Parents Against Child Exploitation (PACE)) are holding two evening seminars specifically for parents and carers in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough with a focus on County Lines and Criminal Exploitation. These seminars will be delivered with a parent whose child has been a victim of exploitation, sharing their experiences and advice on responding to risks.

The sessions will share what criminal exploitation is, with a focus on county lines and explore how to spot signs that it may be happening to your child or a child you know. They will also cover trends in the local area and where to get advice and support if you are concerned. For more information and to register a place visit [Parent webinars - county lines and criminal exploitation - Ivison Trust](#)

What you will learn

- Learn what county lines is
- Understand what is happening in your local area
- Learn how exploiters groom children
- Understand the signs that your child might be at risk
- Know where to access support and advice if you have concerns

Upcoming webinars

- Cambridgeshire 17th June 2025 7:00pm – 8:30pm – [Book your place](#)
- Peterborough 18th June 2025 7:00 – 8:30pm – [Book your place](#)

Children's Experiences of Domestic Abuse – new report highlights concerns

The Domestic Abuse Commissioner has published a [new report](#) examining children's experiences of domestic abuse.

Of the services spoken to by the Commissioner, over half (51%) stated they had had to place children on waiting lists due to the number of referrals they were receiving, while others were forced to turn them away entirely. In some cases, this may have left children in unsafe situations and at risk of further harm. The Commissioner raised concerns that the response to children experiencing domestic abuse has so far failed to meet this recognition.

Drawing on a survey of more than 260 domestic abuse services providing support to children, along with 168 statutory agencies responsible for commissioning domestic abuse services, the findings show the immense financial pressure specialist services are under and how children are paying the price.

Public Health Peterborough Impact for Good Survey

'Impact for Good' Survey 2025

Public Health at Peterborough City Council are embarking on some work across the Council and wider public sector in Peterborough to understand how they can work better with local voluntary, community and faith-based groups:

Understanding the needs and strengths of the local voluntary (VCSE) sector

We are keen to build on existing relationships and to improve our ways of working with voluntary organisations.

We understand that since the cost of living crisis, and Covid-19 pandemic, voluntary organisations have done more than ever to support local people and bring people together in local communities.

But we've also heard that since then many of your organisations have faced previously unseen challenges and need support in some areas and would welcome new ways of working with the Council and our Health partners.

Therefore, we would like to invite you to provide honest and detailed feedback in this survey. The insights you share will feed directly into our work to develop how we can partner with and empower the VCSE sector going forward.

Please complete the survey by Friday 30th May: <https://forms.office.com/e/aeTpsSyJ9Q>

Additional funding announced by Government

The Government has announced a £19.9 million investment in specialist services to support survivors of domestic abuse and sexual violence, including:

- £6 million to support nine national helplines.
- £5.3 million to eight national services supporting children affected by domestic abuse.
- £2.4 million to Southall Black Sisters for their work supporting migrant victims.
- £2 million to Women's Aid for Flexible Funding.
- £2.5 million for projects to help prevent and improve the response to violence and abuse against women and girls.

More information can be found at: [Vital support for victims in £20 million funding boost](#)

First Crime Survey data on older victims of DA published

For many years, the Crime Survey for England and Wales was age-capped at 59. The age cap was increased to 74 a few years ago and has now been removed. A team led by Professor Hannah Bows from Durham University has published a paper detailing domestic abuse crimes against people aged 60 – 74.

Key findings include:

- 11.9% of adults 60-74 reported lifetime intimate partner abuse 6% reported lifetime family abuse
- In the last year, 2.1% reported IP abuse and 1.1% family (3% total, compared to 6% 16-59 year olds)
- In the last year, 75% female victims for IP, but for family abuse it was 52.9% female and 47.1% male victims
- Older adults with bad or very bad reported general health with limiting disabilities or long term illnesses have three times higher DA risk – twice as likely for IP and 4 times for familial

The full article can be read at: <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/14773708251335388>

Serious Violence posters for parents

As part of the Cambridge Community Safety Partnership's work to develop educational campaigns to prevent violence, focussing on younger people to increase safety in our city centre, a series of posters for parents have been developed that include information and signposting on topics relating to their children and serious violence.

This series of posters is an extension of the existing county lines poster that Cambridge City Council Community Safety team worked on in 2023, and new topics include: drugs, knife crime, online abuse, and unhealthy friendships. These topics were unanimously chosen by small groups of parents the council's Community Safety team spoke with in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

These posters have been developed with partners and funded by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) / Home Office with Serious Violence Duty Funding.

The posters can be shared and used across both Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

[Resources For Practitioners | Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Partnership Board](#)

Freedom to be Me

In this 12 week course we look at the way that abusive men behave and what they believe about the roles of men and women in society.

The aim of the course is:

To help women who have experienced domestic violence make sense of and understand what has happened to them.

To recognise potential future abusers.

To help women gain self-esteem and the confidence to improve their lives, instead of the whole experience just feeling like a horrible mess.

This is a rolling, women only, programme running for 12 weeks.

These sessions look at:

How the abuser maintains control.

The tactics and beliefs of abusive men.

The effect of domestic violence and abuse on any children living in the home.

The sessions will also help women to understand that what has happened to them is not their fault, as well as providing them with the knowledge needed to protect themselves and their children from harm.

The Freedom Programme is a domestic violence programme which was created by Pat Craven who holds the copyright (all rights reserved) and evolved from her work with perpetrators of domestic violence. We provide information, not therapy. It is free of charge and open to all women, regardless of age, class, ethnic origin, disability, sexuality, nationality, religion or cultural beliefs. It is also open to women with or without children.

For more information, or to register/refer please contact me at:
gail@theedgecafecambridge.com



BRETTON BAPTIST CHURCH



Bretton Baptist Church is becoming part of the Restored Beacon Church Network, and we are changing the story for survivors of domestic abuse. We are seeking to be a place where survivors of domestic abuse (both men and women) are welcomed, accepted and supported.

We will be offering support to those who from within our church family and those who are of other faiths or none.

You are invited to join us for the launch of Restored Beacon Church

On Sunday 18th May 2025

10-10.30 Coffee, cake and chat

10.30 Service begins

12 noon Service ends

More information about Restored can be found at
www.restored-uk.org

Government launches call for evidence on men's health

The government is calling for men of all ages to come forward and feed into England's first ever men's health strategy.

The [12-week call for evidence](#) will gather vital insights from the public, health and social care professionals, academics and employers so the government can properly consider how to prevent and tackle the biggest issues facing men from all backgrounds.

It will ask for their views on what is working and what more needs to be done to close the life expectancy gap between men and women, as men in England die nearly 4 years earlier than women, on average.

[Men's Health Strategy for England: call for evidence - GOV.UK](#)

Funding available from A428 Improvements Social Value Fund

National Highways A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet Improvements social value fund is open to all non-for-profit groups or organisations in Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire, supporting initiatives that deliver positive value, lasting benefits, and a meaningful legacy for local people, communities, the environment, or the economy.

The £1.7 million Social Value Fund welcomes a wide range of proposals, offering grants between £15,000 and £200,000. To be eligible, applicants must demonstrate that their project or initiative is located near the proposed route and meets at least one of the following criteria:

- Economic prosperity – investing in new skills, jobs, supply chains and delivering improvements in Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire
- Improving the environment – making sustainable decisions that conserve natural resources and enhance ecosystems
- Community wellbeing – addressing health-related issues and improving connectivity, amenities, education, and heritage programmes for communities
- Equality, diversity, and inclusion – supporting the creating of a more equal society by increasing opportunities for under-represented group

With this fund, National Highways hopes to leave a positive legacy in the area that transcends asphalt, steel and concrete

For more information see

[A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet Improvements social value fund - GOV-UK Find a grant](#)

Living Keys Sponsored Walk – Peterborough to Spalding 18 miles

To Raise Awareness of Domestic Abuse and to Raise Funds for the work of Living Keys.

On 29th May at 10am, meeting in the Car Park of Morrison's on Lincoln Road, Peterborough - in fancy dress and buckets at the ready, to bring awareness and much needed funding for the running of Living Keys.

If you would like to donate/sponsor via Go Fund Me page: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/28bfw96v9c>

Domestic Homicide Project publishes latest report

The fourth annual report from the national Domestic Homicide Project which works across England and Wales was published in March 2025. The report examines all deaths identified by police as domestic abuse related to improve understanding of risk indicators, victim, and perpetrator demographics. For the second year in a row, suspected suicides following domestic abuse have overtaken the number of homicides involving current or previous partners.

Key findings from 2024 report:

262 deaths were recorded between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024:

- 98 suspected suicide following domestic abuse (SVSDA)
- 80 intimate partner homicides (IPH)
- 39 adult family homicides
- 28 unexpected deaths
- 11 child deaths
- 6 'other' (where the victim and suspect lived together, but were not related or intimate partners)

[Domestic Homicide Project - VKPP Work](#)

Funding news from The Kite Trust

The Kite Trust has been awarded a total of £1.7 million in funding from The National Lottery Community Fund, the largest community funder in the UK, which will help support our work to tackle the rise in hate and create brighter futures for LGBTQ+ young people!

This grant will allow us to connect and empower LGBTQ+ young people and organisations across the UK. - we'll be working nationally, building partnerships, removing barriers, and supporting LGBTQ+ youth to realise their full potential.

The Kite Trust have also been awarded £500,000 over three years by Reaching Communities England – this project is rooted in the East of England and Kite Trust will be developing new approaches to tackle hate-based bullying in schools and offering support for families with LGBTQ+ children — work many of you have helped to lay the foundations for through youth programmes and school partnerships.

PWCA Charity Ball

Saturday November 1st

The Holiday Inn Peterborough

Drink on arrival

2 course dinner

Raffle

Auction

Entertainment

£55

straightahead

Peterborough
Women's Aid 
Set yourself free

For tickets to the Peterborough Women's Aid Charity Ball on 1st November, please visit [Celebrating 50 years PWA Charity Ball at Holiday Inn Peterborough - West event](#)