

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

March 2025

Hello All

It has been amazing to see all the work different agencies are doing to raise awareness of domestic abuse and sexual violence, and the events celebrating International Women's Day.

So good to see everyone promoting support services, and a special mention to A2B Taxis who now have DA Support information in all their vehicles.

There are links throughout the newsletter relating to mental health, please take some time out of your day to have a look.

For those of you who like a podcast, the latest File on 4 podcast about Femicide is well worth a listen
[BBC Radio 4 - File on 4 Investigates, Femicide](#)

We are still in the midst of a restructure – your patience is appreciated – please note the changes to the referrals currently accepted by the IDVA service.

Anything you need from us here at the Partnership Team, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Best Wishes

Vickie & Julia

Vickie Crompton, DASV Partnership Manager

Julia Cullum, DASV Head of Service



Changes to Health and A8 IDVA referrals

Due to the ongoing restructure and decoupling of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough IDVA Service, we sadly will need to suspend some of our referral pathways, pending the result of the current consultation period.

From Friday 15th March, the IDVA Service will suspend the following referral pathways and will not be able to accept the following referrals:

- All non- high risk Health referrals.
- All non- high risk A8 (Eastern European) referrals for Cambridgeshire only.

High risk referrals can still be made by Health professionals and all for A8 victims accompanied by a DASH risk assessment indicating high risk on professional judgement or 14 + ticks.

We will keep you updated with any changes to our service as soon as possible, our sincere apologies for any inconvenience.

This is a temporary suspension of referrals. Referrals can still be made to DASS outreach services 0300 3731073 or email DASSReferrals@impakt.org.uk

If you have any comments or views on the restructure of the IDVA Service, then please send them to staffconsultation@cambridgeshire.gov.uk (consultation doc available at [Cambridgeshire County Council DASV Partnership - The DASV Partnership](#))

Spring DASV Champions

We have moved our booking system for the DASV Champions to Ticket Tailor. **All sessions will need to be booked on Ticket Tailor now, including CCC staff.** <https://buytickets.at/cambridgeshirepeterboroughdomesticabusesexualviolencepartnership/1588669>

Our Spring Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Champions sessions are now all taking place in May due to Easter timings.

We will be hearing from the **Department of Work & Pensions** about how they can support and work with people who are experiencing domestic abuse, including safety measures they can implement regarding benefits information.

Our second topic for these sessions will cover support to **unpaid carers** who are being subjected to domestic abuse from the person they care for - setting out some of the complexities and also some of the options for support.

Report reveals shocking numbers of women killed by men

To mark International Women's Day, the latest Femicide Census report was released, dedicated to the memory of 2000 women killed by men since the first report in 2009. But this is only the number for whom criminal justice processes have completed – many more have not got justice. [2000-Women-full-report.pdf](#)

Key findings:

- The majority of women killed by men (73%) were aged between 20 and 60, 5% were teenagers and 22% were aged 60 and over
- 61% of women were killed by a current or former partner, 9% were killed by their son, 6% were killed by other family members. Only 9% were killed by a stranger
- Thirty-seven women were killed alongside 53 children, most commonly by the father of the children
- Children witnessed at least 162 femicides

Ofcom draft guidance for tech firms to tackle VAWG

Ofcom published draft guidance for tech firms to tackle online harms against women and girls. The proposed recommendations cover online misogyny, intimate image-based abuse, online domestic abuse and harassment. However, the proposals are voluntary, meaning tech companies won't be required to adopt these good practices unless Ofcom make the recommendations into a code of practice. Ofcom are inviting feedback and further evidence on their draft guidance, with the deadline for responses closing on 23rd May 2025. Responses can be submitted via email to OS-Section54@ofcom.org.uk, using the following response form:

<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/siteassets/resources/documents/consultations/category-1-10-weeks/consultation-on-draft-guidance-a-safer-life-online-for-women-and-girls/consultation-response-form.odt?v=391671>.

Peterborough City Council Employees – Mandatory Domestic Abuse Awareness

Over 75% of Peterborough City Council employees have completed online DA training provided by the DASV Partnership. Feedback has been very positive, with comments received from both those who had little previous knowledge of domestic abuse and survivors of domestic abuse, expressing appreciation for the content. Additionally, the course has driven increased traffic of over 1000% to the Council's Domestic Abuse Insite pages in less than 30 days.

End Furniture Poverty

End Furniture Poverty is a campaign to raise awareness of furniture poverty, (including appliances, floor and window coverings), and then to provide solutions.

As well as work to increase crisis support available through local authorities, they are also working hard to encourage and support the social housing sector to provide more furnished tenancies and are also lobbying Government to legislate for this.

They are keen to find out the views and experiences of those affected by domestic abuse and organisations who are there to support them and gather data to demonstrate the lack of support available. They will use this in their campaigning work to push for more support.

The links to the two surveys are below:

For the VAWG Organisation Workers survey [click here](#).

For the VAWG Survivors survey [click here](#).

If you would like more information about the campaign, visit www.EndFurniturePoverty.org, or if you would prefer to speak to the team directly, email Claire.Donovan@EndFurniturePoverty.org

Housing Support Fund deadline approaches

Do you have clients who are struggling to pay for food or bills in Cambridgeshire?

There's still time to sign up to receive financial support from our #HouseholdSupportFund before Monday 31 March.

Find out whether you're eligible here:

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/communities/support-with-the-cost-of-living/household-support-fund>



Raising Awareness: ARU Domestic Abuse Support at the Welcome Fair

At the January 2025 Welcome Fairs organised by the Student Union, the ARU Domestic Abuse Ambassadors and Action Group took a vital step in supporting new domestic and international students by setting up stalls across our Cambridge, Peterborough, and Chelmsford campuses. Our mission? To raise awareness, provide essential and diverse resources, and spark meaningful conversations about domestic abuse and related wellbeing support.

Our stalls featured a wide range of flyers from both internal and external organisations, ensuring that students and staff had access to crucial information. We encouraged people to not only take these valuable resources with them, but also to share them with their coursemates and colleagues, fostering a caring, open environment where no one has to feel alone in these unfortunately common struggles and experiences.



One of the most heartening aspects of the day was the conversations we had. Students and staff alike shared their thoughts, experiences, and questions, reinforcing the importance of open discussions around domestic abuse, healthy relationships, individual safety and community activism. We were also proud to collaborate with the Sexual Violence Advocacy team, strengthening our shared commitment to creating a safe, inclusive and supportive university environment.

This is just the beginning. Moving forward, we will continue to host recurring stalls to ensure that awareness remains high and that members of the ARU community and beyond know where to turn for help. Our goal is to make support services more visible, accessible, and approachable. If you missed us at the fair, don't worry—you'll have plenty more chances to connect with us at future stalls and events! Together, we can foster a campus culture where everyone feels heard, supported, and empowered.



Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews Published

Three local Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews (the new name for Domestic Homicide Reviews) have been published recently following Home Office approval:

Louise was 29 when she took her own life. Recommendations from this review include increased professional awareness of the links between domestic abuse and suicide and the use of alcohol as a coping mechanism by people subjected to abuse, increasing professional curiosity, and improved information and awareness to the public about domestic abuse and Clare's Law. You can read the full report at <https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/media/mt1p2d1v/domestic-homicide-review-2025.pdf>

Val was 27 when he took his own life in March 2023. Due to previous incidents and recordings of domestic abuse involving Val and his partner, the partnership felt there would be valuable learning from undertaking this review. You can read the full report at: [Published Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews for Norfolk](#)

The learning coming from the review highlighted that:

- agencies need to ensure staff can recognise and respond appropriately to domestic abuse in male victims;
- there are opportunities to strengthen safety planning for those who self-harm or are having suicidal thoughts or ideation;
- despite all organisations being aware of the importance of "Voice of the Child", in practical terms the children are not always spoken to, and their voices are not heard; and
- the sharing of information across borders and between agencies faces many barriers that can cause unnecessary delays and an escalation of the situation.

Siobhan was an Irish Traveller who took her own life, aged 32.

This case raised the importance of agencies not assuming literacy – do you hand out leaflets or direct people to websites without asking if they need any support with this or considering they may be embarrassed to disclose reading and writing problems?

Another key element was the need for all agencies to work more closely with the Gipsy, Roma, Traveller community and to build up trusting relationships. You can read the full report at [Community Safety Partnership - South Cambs District Council](#)

CCC White Ribbon event brings together male employees to challenge VAWG

On Friday 7th March, men from across Cambridgeshire County Council came together as part of the White Ribbon Accreditation, to talk about how they can challenge men's abuse against women and girls within the organisation as well as in their personal lives. It was a powerful and emotional event, where those present were able to speak about the issue and their part in making change.

The session was led by Cllr Shailer and Graeme Hodgson, facilitated by Rizwan Rahemtulla. All the men present felt that all men working in Cambridgeshire County Council would find the session beneficial and have suggested the session is repeated in November as part of White Ribbon Day.

If you would like to know more about this work, and how you can sign up as an ambassador or champion, please visit [Ambassadors and Champions — White Ribbon UK](#)



SARC awareness message from NHS England

NHS England has launched a national campaign to raise awareness of sexual assault referral centres (SARCs) and encourage survivors of sexual assault and abuse to seek help. These specialist services, which are available 24/7 across England, offer dedicated care and support to anyone who has been raped, sexually assaulted or abused at any time in their life. This includes crisis care, medical and forensic examinations, emergency contraception and testing for sexually transmitted infections. They can also arrange access to an independent sexual violence advisor, as well as referrals to mental health services and emotional and psychological support, such as counselling.

Despite these specialist services being available across England, many sexual assault and abuse survivors do not know where to go or who to turn to for help. We also know that some people are put off seeking help due to thinking they need to speak to the police. Help is available from a SARC without having to talk to the police or report what happened.

Forensic medical examinations

If someone has been recently raped or sexually assaulted, they will be offered a forensic medical examination. This is where a doctor or nurse collects evidence, including swabs, from someone's body and clothes. If someone decides to have a forensic medical examination, the SARC will ensure that any evidence gathered follows national guidance for the collection and storage of DNA evidence. If an individual is unsure about reporting to the police, they can have the examination and the evidence can be safely stored, giving them time to decide what to do. If they decide to report to the police in the future, this evidence can be shared with them.

Preserving evidence

When someone contacts a SARC, they will be given advice on what they can do to help preserve evidence before a forensic medical examination. Using a self-swab kit is not recommended, as this could impact the ability of the SARC to capture a DNA sample and provide the required evidence to the police. The risks of doing this are set out in a joint position statement on self-swabbing kits, which has been published by the Faculty of Forensic and Legal Medicine.

Getting help from a SARC

Access to a SARC is by appointment; individuals can contact their nearest SARC by visiting www.nhs.uk/sarcs. A SARC's service finder is also available here.

Promoting SARCs

To raise awareness of SARCs via your own channels, please see here for downloadable assets (you will need to register for free access, which is quick and easy to do). We would welcome your help in promoting these services students are aware of this support. In particular, please note this SARC information animation from a young person's perspective.

If you have any questions regarding this or would like a representative from your local SARC to host an information session or visit, please email england.saasadmin@nhs.net

Queensgate Centre celebrates International Women's Day

The Queensgate Shopping Centre in Peterborough marked International Women's Day with an event celebrating inspirational women. Women from a range of organisations including Peterborough Women's Aid, Living Keys, Cambridgeshire Constabulary, PCVS and Cambridgeshire Deaf Association were interviewed live in the shopping centre, followed by a fashion show. Some photos from the event are below.



Pegasus Scheme

Have you heard of the Pegasus Scheme? It is designed for anyone who has a disability or illness that may make it hard for them to communicate with the police.

Anyone who has previously registered with the Pegasus Scheme will have their pre-registered information saved on police systems, meaning they can access it quickly if you call - and you won't need to repeat all your details or communication needs. This can be helpful in situations involving domestic abuse or sexual violence.

Do you know someone who could benefit from knowing about this scheme?

Registration for the Pegasus Scheme is free and can be done anytime using the form on Cambs Police website <https://orlo.uk/yui59>

New short film about strangulation

To mark International Women's Day we are sharing a short video that the Institute for Addressing Strangulation have produced in collaboration with survivors.

This video is a message to all victims/ survivors of strangulation that you can reclaim your voice and know that your experiences are valid and your voice is important.

The video explores themes around feelings of shame and isolation following strangulation, an acknowledgement of the impact that strangulation can have and the importance of reclaiming one's voice for themselves and others.

Please share so as many survivors see this as possible!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YPUiKkWz8o&feature=youtu.be>

News from Living Keys

2025 Timetable



Cherished:

Monday
9:30 am – 12:00 pm
Kingsgate



Drop-In:

Monday
12:30 pm – 5:00 pm
Safe location



Domestic Abuse Recover Toolkit

Thursday: Peterborough
In Person



NEW SERVICE!

HOUSING SUPPORT AND ADVICE

Every 2nd Monday of the month at 13.00pm
with Danielle Milieza

The Freedom Programme



The Freedom Programme

Tuesday: Boston in-person & Online
Wednesday: Online
Friday: Peterborough In-Person

**APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN FOR
APRIL**

HOW TO APPLY

Visit www.livingkeys.co.uk
Click "Contact Us"

Fill in your details and select your
chosen courses

**For more information please call
07507269081**

**CHECK US OUT
ON FACEBOOK:
LIVING KEYS,
FREEDOM FROM
DOMESTIC ABUSE**

NEW SERVICE! **MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS WORKSHOP**

Every 3rd Monday of the month at 13.00pm
with Bianca Cammarata

Topics covering:

Emotional regulation & stress management
Therapeutic journaling
Grief & Loss
Reclaiming sensuality and improving body
image
Financial empowerment
Future visioning

INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY

SATURDAY 8TH MARCH -

QUEENSGATE, PETERBOROUGH

Join us for a day packed filled with speeches, 121
opportunities and community.
Celebrating women and raising awareness!

All courses are held in a safe and secure location that will not be disclosed
until applications have been approved.

CWRC Peterborough Centre reopens

Cambridge Women's Resource Centre (CWRC) is delighted to announce the reopening of its Peterborough Centre following extensive renovations to the roof and interiors. This milestone marks a significant step forward in the charity's mission to provide a much-needed safe space with dedicated services for vulnerable women in the Peterborough community.



“It is thanks to the generosity of our supporters and hardworking team that we can reopen this vital space for women. CWRC Peterborough is proud to be returning to providing resources, support and advice to some of the most vulnerable women in our community,” said CEO Harriet Morgan. “This achievement demonstrates CWRC’s commitment to the health and wellbeing of women in Peterborough. We are looking forward to forging new partnerships with other community services in the city.”

The official opening will take place on Tuesday 4th March, with guests invited to celebrate a new era for CWRC Peterborough. Harriet said: “We are proud to welcome women back to our centre and look forward to announcing our pioneering ‘Thrive’ service and introducing our new team of support workers”

While building repairs have safeguarded the important centre location, full refurbishment work is not yet complete. CWRC is reaching out to the community for support and donations to help create a safe and welcoming space. This could include items from everyday essentials and equipment to furnishings and fundraising. All contributions, no matter the size, will make a meaningful difference to the lives of women who may be facing homelessness, poverty and trauma.

For more information on how you can support CWRC and help this vital charity complete its transformation, please visit their [campaign page](#).

CWRC Peterborough Centre is located at 58 Broadway, Peterborough PE1 1SU.

E: peterborough@cwrc.org.uk W: <https://www.cwrc.org.uk>

New report focuses on violence, mental health and minoritised victims

The University of Warwick has released findings from a research project aimed at understanding how the co-occurrence of violence-abuse and mental ill-health is experienced by minoritised victim-survivors. The research was advised by seven experts with lived experience through an Advisory Group facilitated by Imkaan and Women and Girls Network.

The report makes seven recommendations, including

1. A call to resource specialist Black and minoritised-led by and for VAWG organisations
2. For all staff working in healthcare and other statutory settings to be trained in VAWG-related trauma and intersectionality
3. The NHS, Home Office and the Department for Health and Social Care should convene a working group with Imkaan and specialist Black and minoritised-led by and for VAWG organisations to map and monitor mental health inequalities, on an ongoing basis.

[WEB V Mental Health Digital](#)

New report on impact of DA and Mental Health

On 10th March, Woman's Trust published their latest report – Living Without Hope focuses on the impact of domestic abuse trauma for survivors and for those women who sadly feel they have no option but to end their own lives.

The report provides an overview of the current research, legislative and policy landscape, highlighting gaps in support for survivors and how limited awareness and inadequate responses perpetuate harmful and often life-threatening outcomes. The report also makes several recommendations and presents an overview of Woman's Trust's person-led, trauma-informed model of therapeutic support.

Key findings

- Half of all suicide attempts by women are linked to domestic abuse
- Domestic abuse is a key driver of women's mental ill health, self-harm and suicides
- The lack of mental health support for domestic abuse survivors has devastating consequences

The full report can be read at:

[Living without hope: The case for improving the mental health response for survivors of domestic abuse - Woman's Trust](#)

The person most likely to kill a victim of domestic abuse is... themselves

This is the title of new research by Tim Woodhouse who, supported by the Churchill Fellowship and the Samaritans, carried out research in various countries around domestic abuse related suicide.

Tim's report sets out personal stories, data and recommendations to reduce domestic abuse related suicide. The recommendations are set out around key themes, including

- Teaching young people to value healthy relationships
- Provide better support – including mental health support – to people to have been abused
- Increase expertise within DA and mental health services
- Delivering a more effective criminal justice response

The full paper can be read at:

[The person most likely to kill a victim of domestic abuse... is themselves](#)

A2B Taxi's support local DA Support Service

A2B have very kindly donated £500 to DASS, providers of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Domestic Abuse outreach service, and are placing stickers with DASS details in the rear of over 300 taxi's covering Peterborough and Cambs. The team are hugely grateful for this support and hope it will be another way to encourage survivors to seek support.

