

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

January 2025

Hello All

Welcome to 2025 – and already there is so much happening with Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence.

Thank you to everyone who attended our 16 Days of Action webinars in November and December – we had 150 individuals attending across all the webinars – with many attending more than one. We have sent out a feedback form and will be using the feedback to plan future events.

Congratulations to Cambridge City on becoming a Purple Flag City, making every effort to make the City a safer place to visit, details in the Newsletter.

Sexual Violence Awareness Week takes place from 3rd to 9th February – keep an eye on our social media as we'll be sharing messages from local and national support services throughout the week.

Hourglass (Safer Ageing) held a webinar at the end of January where they talked to a number of experts about sexual assault and violence against older people – you can watch the recording of the webinar at [The Sexual Abuse of Older People: 2025 Webinar](#)

You will find links to lots of information and research, we hope you get a chance to have a read.

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

Vickie & Julia

Vickie Crompton, DASV Partnership Manager

Julia Cullum, DASV Head of Service



New report from the Domestic Abuse Commissioner

The DA Commissioner has released a new report *Shifting the scales: Transforming the criminal justice response to domestic abuse*. The report presents findings including:

- Only 12% of victims and survivors who'd reported domestic abuse to the police (or had it reported), got the response they wanted.
- 80% of victims and survivors do not seek a criminal justice response.
- Just 4% of alleged domestic abuse perpetrators in the police workforce are dismissed.
- Victims routinely face a lack of specialist service referrals, poor enforcement of protective orders, court delays and early release of abusers as they seek safety and justice.

The report sets out clear recommendations for improvements across the sector.

Dame Nicole Jacobs said *"My report highlights examples of excellent practice – this must now become the standard across all criminal justice agencies, including our 43 police forces. Change is never easy, but the dedication and commitment of those already driving progress gives me great hope. Now is the time to act – decisively and collaboratively – so that all domestic abuse victims get the right response, every single time."*

Read the [Full report](#) or the [Executive summary](#).

Study on Domestic Abuse in Older People

Many older people in the UK are affected by domestic abuse and are at increased risk of negative health outcomes, yet our understanding of the support they need remain poor due to limited visibility from the public and opportunities to participate in research. Dr Vasiliki Orgeta, Dr Phuong Leung and Lawrence Fong, a research team from University College London Division of Psychiatry, are conducting a qualitative study focusing on understanding the support needs of this cohort, and the barriers they face in accessing services.

The team are planning to recruit older adults aged 60 or above who have experienced or are experiencing domestic abuse (from an intimate partner or family member(s)). The study is also recruiting professionals (aged 18 or above) who are involved in domestic abuse incidents of older victims or support older survivors of domestic abuse as part of their work. Interested participants can choose between an individual interview or focus group - both last ~45 minutes and can be conducted in-person (London) or online. They will be asked questions about their experience of accessing services (older adults) / supporting older victims (professionals).

Older adult participants will receive a gift voucher (£25) for participating in the study.

Posters for this study can be found [here](#) (for older adults) and [here](#) (for professionals).

If you are interested in participating or would like more information, please contact Dr Phuong Leung at phuong.leung@ucl.ac.uk or 07435 561949.

DASS Outreach Support

DASS are commissioned by Cambridgeshire County Council to provide a service that focuses on empowering and supporting males and females that are, or have experienced domestic abuse.

A dedicated team of Domestic Abuse Support Coordinators provide one to one support, tailored to the needs of those in need of help that do NOT reach the criteria for an IDVA or MARAC.

With our trauma informed approach, person centred support and safety planning, we motivate individuals and empower them with the knowledge and tools they need to live safe from fear and independently. We work in partnership with external professionals to provide a coordinated, wrap around package of support tailored to individual needs and aspirations.

Support includes:

- Support with housing
- Appropriate signposting to mental health/financial and debt
- Signposting to legal support
- Court attendance throughout Peterborough, Cambridgeshire and online
- Support with meetings throughout Peterborough, Cambridgeshire and online
- Home security
- Source emergency accommodation
- Safety planning
- Empowerment through knowledge and client led support
- Advocacy
- Drop in sessions in Peterborough, Huntingdon and coming soon to Northstowe and Cambridge

We welcome the opportunity to attend events and meet with teams and organisations to share our service and raise DA awareness.

We have removed every barrier possible to make our referral process accessible to all. We accept referrals from victim survivors directly and also from professionals (consent required), The referral form can be found at <https://impakt.org.uk/dass/> along with our self referral form. We can also be contacted on 0300 373 1073 or by email on dassreferrals@impakt.org.uk

Once we receive a referral, we aim to make contact within 48 hours and our opening hours: Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm, we are closed bank holidays.

If you have any questions or need general advice about your situation or someone that you know, please do reach out to DASS.

Research round-up

Physical and Emotional Impacts of Intimate Partner Violence and Abuse: Distinctions by Relationship Status and Offence Type – Blom et al., 2024

Using data from the Crime Survey for England and Wales (2001–2020), the study reports that offenses perpetrated by current partners are more likely to involve physical violence compared to former partners, and that for female victim-survivors, physical violence or economic crimes by current or former spouses/partners result in more severe emotional impacts than those by boy/girlfriends. Published in *Journal of Family Violence* click [here](#).

Designing from the margins: Neurodivergent-led Organisations on Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Programmes

The report draws on the accounts of representatives of neurodivergent-led organisations in the UK, whose services have been developed by and for neurodivergent people. This builds upon research undertaken with neurodivergent (Autistic/ADHD) male domestic abuse perpetrators and international domestic abuse perpetrator programme practitioners, and enhances our knowledge about how provision can be more neuroinclusive by design. <https://collections.durham.ac.uk/files/r1pr76f348b>

Managing Masculinity When Growing up With a Violent Father: A Qualitative Study of Boys' Experience

Drawing on interviews with 31 boys, this paper explores the accounts of their relationships with their perpetrator fathers, focusing particularly on the implications of boys' understanding of these relationships for their sense of burgeoning masculinity. Three themes are considered: in (a) relational ambiguity; (b) performing masculinities, managing violence; and (c) envisioning alternative futures and re-visioning the past. The findings highlight the importance of interventions for boys that facilitate the expression of their often complex and ambivalent feelings and fears about their father's violence, and what it means for them and their future. [Managing Masculinity When Growing up With a Violent Father: A Qualitative Study of Boys' Experiences - Jane E. M. Callaghan, Lisa C. Fellin, Stavroula Mavrou, Joanne H. Alexander, Vasiliki Deliyianni-Kouimtzis, Judith Sixsmith, 2025](#)

WAVING YOUR PURPLE FLAG

FOR A SAFE NIGHT OUT

CAMBRIDGE
**Purple
Flag™**



STAY TOGETHER

**Keep
a
Full
Battery**



**OPEN
SPACE**



GUARDIANS

Making public parks
and open spaces a
safe place

**LOOK
OUT FOR**

NIGHTLITE

At Downing
Place URC,
a safe
space open
to all



Need
help in a
venue?

**ASK FOR
ANGELA**

TAXI MARSHALS

Will help you get a
licensed taxi from
St Andrews Street
and **Rose
Crescent**



STREET PASTORS

are there to care, listen
and help anyone! Trained
Volunteers supporting you
and the City

GREEN STRIPE TAXI

Cambridge's trusted taxis.
Look out for the SILVER
car with GREEN stripe

cambridgebid
loving cambridge.



In partnership with, Cambridge City Council,
Cambridgeshire Police, Trinity Hall College (Cambridge
University), Anglia Ruskin University, Street Pastors and
Nightlite, MASH and Kiki, Wetherspoons (The Regal),
Huntingdonshire District Council and Cambridge City
Council Shared Services CCTV, Century Security,
Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue, Lion Yard, Stagecoach,
Addenbrookes Hospital.

For More Info
Scan Here



Institute of Domestic Violence, Religion & Migration (IDVRM)

January saw the launch of the [Institute of Domestic Violence, Religion & Migration](#), which will aim to respond to the urgent need for evidence-based responses to domestic violence and interconnected forms of violence in migrant, religious and ethnic minority communities.

The mission is to develop **innovative, robust and scalable research and intervention approaches** to address domestic violence within religious, migrant and ethnic minority contexts.

What We Do:

- Conduct and share open-access research to inform programmes and advocacy.
- Offer advisory services to design culturally informed interventions.
- Bridge research, practice, and policy to create a global community of practice.

Stay Connected:

- Subscribe to our [Newsletter](#) on our website.
- Follow us on [LinkedIn](#) and [Instagram](#).
- Visit our website <https://idvrm.org/>

Tech abuse podcast

Refuge's Tech Abuse team talk to Galop about the unique challenges faced by LGBT+ survivors of abuse in the digital age, focusing on the growing issue of tech-facilitated abuse. From online harassment to doxing, this important conversation sheds light on how technology can be weaponised against LGBT+ individuals. Importantly, the episode highlights actions to take, and the vital role that organisations can play in combating these issues and supporting survivors. [Listen now on Spotify](#), for an eye-opening conversation that empowers listeners to be part of the solution.

Sisters Through Boxing programme

The Sisters Through Boxing programme runs for 6 months and is completely free, and fully funded through fundraising. Group sizes are relatively small, up to 12 people per group.

The group meet every week for two hours, which will be starting Tuesday 28th January 5 – 7pm. The programme is for young women, or those that identify as a woman, aged 15 – 25.

Each session includes an hour for check ins, and chat about all different topics that affect young women. This is a therapeutic time with a safe environment to encourage peer support, and a space to bring up any issues and work through them together.

This is followed by an hour of physical exercise, based around boxing/circuits. It doesn't matter what your fitness is, it's just about taking part, and pushing yourself that little bit. Exercise is great for mental health and wellbeing.

The programme includes a one night residential towards the end of the program, a couple of social events which the group will choose from a selection of activities, and sometimes other services come in and talk about different things that they specialise in.

Sessions are held at Yaxley.

For more information on how to sign up or any questions please email– rowen.lovell@boxing-futures.org.uk or phone Rowen on; 07985564717 also if you'd rather text any questions.

The EDGE Café – Zoom and F2F Groups 27Jan – 9th Feb 2025

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
27Jan – 2 Feb	<p>12.00 -13.00 EDGE Recovery Support Group Peer led support group for addiction recovery.</p> <p>13.30 – 15.00 Womens Create and chat,</p> <p>17.00 – 18.00 Online Create and chat ID 880 9643 1088 p/w 965700</p> <p>18.30 – 20.00 EDGE Family and Friends Group – for people who have someone they love experiencing addiction issues</p>	<p>10.00 -12.00 Oblique Arts beginners guitar and songwriting workshop – FREE. Book your place at: mail@obliquearts.co.uk or phone 07950656799</p> <p>13.00 – 14.30 – Woolly Wonders – Crochet, knit, pompoms..... here at The EDGE</p> <p>14.00 – 15.00 Mens Friendship Group</p> <p>18.30 – 20.00 Drumming Circle</p>	<p>Cheap Wednesday – lunch for £3</p> <p>9.30 – 10.45 Cambridge Online, supporting with access to the internet</p> <p>13.00 – 15.00 – Games Club, open to all (over 16's) board games, cards, Scrabble + hot drink.</p> <p>18.30– 20.00 NA meeting @ The EDGE</p>	<p>13.00 – 14.30 Woolly Wonders @ Fulborn</p> <p>13.15 -15.00 Art Wellbeing Group, All welcome (over 16) all abilities!</p> <p>1.30 – 3.30 PoHwer Session – drop in and find out more about advocacy</p> <p>19:15 -20.15 Cambridge Primary Purpose Meditation meeting of A A</p>	<p>10 – 11 Online Womens coffee morning with Gail ID: 860 3591 0273 NEW</p> <p>10.00 – 12.00 Good Mood Cafe @ The EDGE, drop in for a friendly chat</p> <p>13.00 -14.00 Seated Tai Chi with Sam, on Zoom ID 840 0843 5061</p> <p>14.15-15.15 EDGE Recovery Writing - Hybrid f2f @ The EDGE ID 892 5883 6870 Password: writing</p>		<p>13.00 – 14.00 Seated Tai Chi with Sam at The EDGE</p> <p>16.00 –17.00 NA meeting @ The EDGE</p> <p>19.30- 20.30 SAA meeting @ The EDGE</p>
3 -9 Feb	<p>12.00 -13.00 EDGE Recovery Support Group Peer led support group for addiction recovery.</p> <p>13.30 – 15.00 Womens Create and chat, Weekly safe space for women</p> <p>18.30 – 20.00 EDGE Family and Friends Group – for people who have someone they love experiencing addiction issues – a safe space</p>	<p>11.00 -13.00 Oblique Arts beginners guitar and songwriting workshop – FREE. Book your place at: mail@obliquearts.co.uk or phone 07950656799</p> <p>13.00 – 14.30 – Woolly Wonders – Crochet, knit, pompoms..... here at The EDGE</p> <p>14.00 – 15.00 Mens Friendship Group</p>	<p>Cheap Wednesday – lunch for £3</p> <p>9.30 – 10.45 Cambridge Online, supporting with access to the internet</p> <p>13.00 – 15.00 – Games Club, open to all (over 16's) board games, cards, Scrabble + hot drink.</p> <p>18.30– 20.00 NA meeting @ The EDGE</p>	<p>13.00 – 14.30 Woolly Wonders @ Fulborn</p> <p>13.15 -15.00 Art Wellbeing Group, All welcome (over 16) all abilities!</p> <p>19:15 -20.15 Cambridge Primary Purpose Meditation meeting of A A</p>	<p>10 – 11 Online Womens coffee morning with Gail ID: 860 3591 0273 NEW</p> <p>10.00 – 12.00 Good Mood Cafe @ The EDGE, drop in for a friendly chat</p> <p>13.00 -14.00 Seated Tai Chi with Sam, on Zoom ID 840 0843 5061</p> <p>14.00-15.00 EDGE Recovery Writing - Hybrid f2f @ The EDGE ID 892 5883 6870 Password: writing</p>	<p>1- 4pm DnD Are you interested? Contact Sky: 07918 991 352 to find out more</p>	<p>13.00 – 14.00 Seated Tai Chi with Sam at The EDGE</p> <p>16.00-17.00 NA meeting @ The EDGE</p> <p>19.30- 20.30 SAA meeting @ The EDGE</p>

All EDGE Café groups and workshops are free of charge.
Contact Gail@theedgecafecambridge.com for more information