



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

September 2025

Hello Everyone

So already we are heading into Autumn with the nights starting to draw in. The newsletter this month includes lots of events and opportunities coming up during the coming months, including the IDVA Service advertisement for a new fixed term role in Cambridgeshire.

October will also mean the start of the new domestic abuse outreach contracts across the county. In Cambridgeshire this will continue to be the Domestic Abuse Support Service (DASS) delivered by IMPAKT. In Peterborough this will move to the Peacock Project, delivered by Peterborough Women's Aid. Contact details for both services can be found on our website.

We also have our DASV Champions sessions running in October which will focus on updates around local domestic abuse services.

These will be as follows:

6th October 2025 10.00 - 12.00

16th October 2025 14.00 - 16.00

21st October 2025 12.00 - 14.00

Please use the link to book a place:

[DA Champion October sessions](#)

As ever please let us know of any updates or developments in your services that we can include in future newsletters.

Best Wishes

Julia & Vickie

Julia Cullum, DASV Head of Service – Cambridgeshire

Vickie Crompton DASV Manager - Peterborough



Peterborough Rape Crisis

New Therapeutic Service Launched for Young Survivors of Sexual Violence in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

Peterborough Rape Crisis Care Group (PRCCG) is delighted to announce the launch of a new Therapeutic Emotional Support Service for young people aged 14 and over across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. This exciting new project has been made possible through additional funding from the Cambridgeshire Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC).

Police and Crime Commissioner Darryl Preston said:

“Throughout my time in office I have created opportunities to listen to the voices of victims and survivors and the specialist staff who support them. I am pleased to be able to fund this pilot service to extend the help available to young survivors and give them the time and space to begin to recover from their experiences.”

We are grateful to Mr Preston for working closely with PRCCG CEO Jacqui Campey to bring this initiative to life. The service will run as a pilot project from 1st July 2025 to 31st March 2026.

Developed by adapting our existing SENSE model, the new programme offers up to eight fortnightly emotional support sessions. These sessions provide a safe, supportive space where young people can explore the impacts of sexual violence. Working with a specialist caseworker, they will focus on stabilisation, grounding techniques, and building connections with trusted support networks. The aim is to foster recovery, resilience, and renewed hope - reminding each young person that what happened to them was not their fault, and it does not have to define their future.

Referrals

- For young people under 18, we are only accepting professional referrals to ensure safeguarding remains our highest priority.
- For adults (18+), we accept both self-referrals and professional referrals.

Referring professionals can access the referral form via our website:

👉 <https://prccg.org.uk> – click "Professional Referral".

Adults wishing to self-refer can visit our website:

👉 <https://prccg.org.uk> – click "Self-Referral".

For further information, please contact:

📧 Steph Whyman, Therapeutic Manager – steph@prccg.org.uk

Domestic Homicide Review Publications

2 DHRs have been published recently. These are both from very old deaths, 15 years and 5 years respectively. If you scroll down the page when you click the link they are for Anna & Deborah

<https://www.peterborough.gov.uk/residents/saferpeterborough/domestic-abuse-related-death-reviews>

<https://www.scams.gov.uk/community-and-people/keeping-your-community-safe/community-safety-toolkit/community-safety-partnership>

Cambridgeshire County Council

Please see the poster below with information for a Bikeability course for children affected by domestic abuse. This is a 4-day course which would also include a ride to Grafham Water, an overnight stay and a ride back the following day

Criteria:

- Huntingdon area / able to get to Huntingdon Youth Centre
- Child must be in year 6 or year 7
- There is or has been conflict or domestic abuse between parents (whether together or separated)

Ridesilience Course - October 2025

Has your child been impacted by conflict between you and your partner or ex-partner?

- Would your child benefit from participating in a course where they can improve their biking ability, build confidence and enjoy a half term full of activities including an overnight stay at Grafham Water?
- Please express your interest for your child to attend this course by completing the form accessed through the QR code

Criteria and Commitments

- ✓ There is conflict between you and your partner or ex-partner, and your child would benefit from intervention to support them with this conflict
- ✓ Your young person is in either Year 6 or Year 7
- ✓ All students must commit to all 4 days of the course
- ✓ Your child needs to have a basic cycling ability (looking behind, riding one-handed, maintaining control) before they start the course on Monday 27th October.

MONDAY 27TH OCTOBER – THURSDAY 30TH OCTOBER 2025 (HALF TERM)

HUNTINGDON YOUTH CHILD AND FAMILY CENTRE (HYCFC), SALLOWBUSH RD, HUNTINGDON PE29 7AF

DEADLINE FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST: FRIDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER 5PM.
FOR MORE INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS PLEASE EMAIL - RECLEAD@CAMBRIDGESHIRE.GOV.UK

Cambridgeshire County Council
Ridesilience Course - October Half Term 2025
Child and Family Centres

Cambridgeshire County Council Targeted Support Team

The CCC Targeted Support Team have just launched a Healthy Communications booklet (digital version attached) that can be used to support families where there is conflict between parents. They can be handed out to families or left in communal areas for members of the public to take.

Please send requests for digital or hard copies to lydia.mack@peterborough.gov.uk and she will organise sending these out to your organisation.

Refuge

Intimate Image Abuse (IIA) has represented an insidious form of abuse for many years, but advances in technology are producing new iterations of tech-facilitated abuse. IIA refers to the sharing or threats to share sexually intimate images or videos of another person without the person's consent, often with the aim of causing them distress or harm. Sharing of intimate images represents a criminal offence under section 33 of the Criminal Justice and Courts Act 2015.

Following Refuge's successful Naked Threat Campaign, launched in 2020, the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 also made it a criminal offence to threaten to share an intimate image. As caseloads across specialist services continue to grow in response to IIA, notable underreporting persists, so the true scale remains unknown (Mortimer, Phippen, and Wright, 2025) Advancements in AI-generated imagery also mean that deepfakes constitute a newer threat to those experiencing tech-facilitated abuse. **A deepfake is a video or image of a person in which their face or body has been digitally altered so that they appear to be someone else.** Typically, a lot of the discourse around this issue has been focused on the threat to democracy due to the spread of misinformation. However, a 2023 Report by Security Hero found that **sexual content makes up 98% of all deepfake videos online, whilst 99% of the individuals targeted in these are women.** These statistics demonstrate how vital it is for domestic abuse support services to lend our voices to this debate, as the prevalence of deepfake abuse with the context of domestic abuse is expected to proliferate further in the coming years unless we take significant action.

It is also evident that often marginalised communities and individuals can be more vulnerable to the harm of IIA. For instance, research by Glitch (2024) and other organisations starkly illustrates that Black women are disproportionately harmed by online abuse at large, whilst LGBTIQ+ survivors of intimate image abuse can experience increased risks due to the threats of 'outing' posed by intimate image abuse. That is why within our team we advocate for a more expansive definition of what constitutes an 'intimate' image, which factors in a survivor's individual identity and experiences. For example, were an image of a woman without her hijab to be posted online, this may not traditionally be considered an 'intimate' image, but could very much represent one for that individual, and could lead to an increased risk of harm.

The negative impacts of IIA cannot be underestimated, and can lead to severe emotional distress, economic exploitation, and even self-harm and suicide. Survivors within our service often report feeling isolated, distressed and crippled by fear when they have been subjected to IIA. The rise in 'sextortion' also demonstrates this impact and is often targeted against children and young people. **Sextortion is the shortened term for financially motivated sexual extortion**, often based upon an abuser possessing intimate images of a victim. Just one of the tragic cases which illustrates this, Murray Dowey was a Scottish 16-year-old boy who took his life in December 2023 after he was subjected to sextortion tactics. IIA is an abhorrent form of abuse which we must act now to tackle, so that more victims are not subjected to the wide array of harm that it causes.

So how exactly should we seek to tackle IIA and its impact?

- **Encourage a focus on education-based interventions**, particularly within school settings.
- **Increase awareness of IIA** and work to deconstruct all victim-blaming narratives and stigmas which continue to act as barriers to accessing support.
- **Utilise legal mechanisms** and advocate for improved responses to IIA reports by police and other professionals.

- **Upskill professionals** to respond with sensitivity and specialist insight to IIA.
- **Hold social media companies to account** when they fail to tackle IIA perpetrated on their platforms.
- **Signpost to specialist services and tools** such as [Revenge Porn Helpline](#), [StopNCII.org](#). and the Internet Watch Foundation's [Report Remove tool](#).
- **Apply an intersectional lens to IIA and** focus on restorative forms of justice alongside legal mechanisms.
- **Invest in specialist services** – this should also encapsulate a focus on vital by-and-for services. Intimate image abuse is a pervasive and harmful issue in our society, and it is only by working together with the above goals in mind that we can work to tackle it.

Co-Ordinated Community Response (CCR)

CCR Network Webinar - Journey Mapping with Changing Futures

Tue, 7 October 2025, 11am-12pm

Welcome to the CCR Network webinar with Changing Futures. Join us for an insightful session exploring how journey mapping can transform the way we understand and respond to the experiences of survivors of domestic abuse.

Journey mapping helps us see services through the eyes of those who use them—capturing the real-life pathways, barriers, and emotional touchpoints that shape a survivor's experience. By adopting this approach, we can design more responsive, trauma-informed, and effective support systems.

There will also be an opportunity for a Q&A/discussion at the end.

Tickets are FREE to ALL using the code: CCROCT2025

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1542327937379?aff=oddttdtcreator>

RCE Wellbeing Hub

The RCE Wellbeing Hub are excited to announce the launch of their **NEW Autumn timetable** and information pack for **sessions from September – December 2025**. You can find their timetable by visiting their website [RCE | CPFT NHS Trust](#)

They offer a range of courses, which are FREE and open to anyone aged 18 and over who has an interest in health and wellbeing.

All the courses are designed and delivered by people with lived experience of health challenges, together with professionals from health and education.

They aim to make the learning sessions accessible and engaging and are proud to get great feedback from their students. The courses are offered, online via Microsoft Teams.

They have some new online courses that have been added to the timetable, these include:

- **Brave Boundaries** (3 session course starting Monday 6th October at 1:30pm)
- **Overcoming Shame** (Thursday 9th October at 10am)
- **Bitesize sessions** (30min sessions)
- **Diagnosis Now What?** (Thursday 2nd October at 1:30pm)
- **Movement and Me** (Thursday 23rd October at 1:30pm)

Please book the courses at your earliest convenience to ensure you have secured your place!

If you are already enrolled as a student, please just send an email RCEWellbeingHub@cpft.nhs.uk to book onto your preferred sessions. Or if you are a new student to the Hub you can find our short enrolment form here - [Expression of Interest Capture Form](#)

Chrysalis Centre & Work With Offenders

[The Chrysalis Centre](#) and [Work With Offenders](#) invite you to a groundbreaking conference on **23 October 2025 in Harpenden, Hertfordshire**, designed to explore evidence-based, culturally responsive and trauma-informed approaches to domestic abuse perpetrator interventions.

Whether you're a commissioner, practitioner, or frontline leader, this event offers a chance to:

- Hear impact data, lived experience and research on what's driving change
- Explore the future of commissioning and intervention strategy across systems
- Reflect on real-world challenges like disguised compliance and resistance to change

With a programme that blends strategic insight and practitioner-led workshops, this will be a space for collaboration and innovation.

For more information, please contact stephanie.edwards@rsg.ltd

To find out more [visit our website here.](#)

To register click below.

Register for conference

Anglia Ruskin University (ARU)

Launch of ARU's new reporting platform for violence and abuse.

The 18th July saw the launch of ARU's new reporting platform, Report and Support.

Going forward, anyone from the ARU community, or external to ARU can now report using this platform.

It provides a confidential way to raise ARU's awareness of an incident either anonymously, or with the reporter's contact details for ongoing support.

It can be used by staff, students and visitors to our campuses. You can report an incident that has happened to you, or happened to someone you know, requesting just to inform ARU, or to request support, or support and formal reporting.

Tell us what happened and get a response within 5 working days.

Tell us anonymously. While we may not be able to take direct action or respond to you individually, the information you share helps us identify and address broader trends. If you'd like to have a two-way conversation while staying anonymous, there's a unique messaging feature that allows us to communicate with you directly.

Reports are confidential and only passed onto relevant staff on a strictly need-to-know basis.

This is all part of ARU's wider strategy to address harassment, sexual misconduct, and other forms of abuse at ARU, and provide important support to those affected. For further information visit [Report + Support - Report + Support - Anglia Ruskin Report + Support](#)

Art Against Abuse

The Domestic Abuse Ambassadors at ARU are pleased to be holding another Art Against Abuse exhibition on 30th September. This year the event is open to the public. Any questions please contact Sharon Livermore: sharon@domesticabuseeducation.co.uk

**ARU's Domestic Abuse Ambassadors present:**

Breaking the Silence: Art Against Abuse



Our exhibition 'Breaking the Silence: Art Against Abuse' is back for the second year.

Come and explore powerful artwork created by survivors of domestic abuse as they share their experiences through a variety of art forms.

Local support services and ARU's Counselling and Wellbeing team will be there to chat, offer advice and share resources for students, staff and the wider community.

Here, feel and share our stories, in a **safe, inclusive and welcoming space.**

Exhibition Date & Location
30 September 2025
Helmere Street and Science Building
Atrium - ARU Cambridge Campus

Exhibition Time (Science Atrium)
11:00 - 16:00

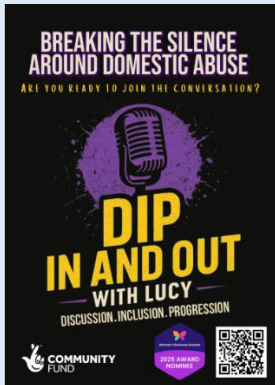
Stalls Time (Helmere Street)
11:00 - 15:00

Artwork by Jennifer Zabek

Free and Open to the General Public and ARU Students and Staff.

Podcast – Dip In And Out with Lucy

Sitting down with professionals, victims and survivors who are open and honest, and talking frankly about the challenges faced by those impacted by domestic abuse and post separation abuse. This podcast opens up the discussion and turns it into a conversation. From Cyber Stalking to Domestic Homicide, Lucy leaves no stone unturned. No intimidation.....just conversation



Living Keys

Please see poster below about drop-in sessions for families of adult children in abusive relationships



2022 Femicide Census Key Findings:

On 2nd September 2025 the 14th Femicide Census was released. This reports data on women killed by men in the UK in 2022.


Despite years of government interventions to address men's violence against women, girls and children the rate of femicide remains remarkably consistent

- 122 women killed by men
- 51% were killed by a current / former partner
- 40% of women killed by a current / former partner had left or were planning to leave
- More women were killed by their own son than by a stranger
- The vast majority of women were killed in their own home
- Evidence of gratuitous violence (unnecessary, excessive, lack of purpose, harmful/upsetting) was found in just over 2/3 of killings
- 71 of the men were known to have histories of violence against women and/or were subject to monitoring or restrictions by a statutory agency at the time they killed
- 84% of all men who killed, 97% of those charged, were charged with murder, double or multiple murder
- In 17% of killings men used the brute force of their bodies by kicking, hitting and stamping a woman to death

For the full report please access the link below:

[2022-Femicide-Census-Report.pdf](#)

Family Hubs free Healthy Relationship Courses



Free Healthy Relationship courses for parents

All relationships have their ups and downs, but if parents are regularly arguing in front of their children, it can have negative and lasting consequences. Help is available for parents who want to communicate in a healthier way. Family Hubs are running courses to support parents who would like to improve the relationship with their partner or ex-partner. Courses bookable directly via the QR code.

2025 workshop booking form

****OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2025****

Improve the communication with your partner to support your children

Face to Face Cambridge: The Green Room, The Fields Cambridge City Child and Family Centre, 9 Galford Rd, Cambridge CB5 8ND. Thursday 16th October, 9:30 - 11:30am

Face to Face Peterborough: The Sandalwood Room, Gladstone Park Community Centre, 927 Bourges Blvd, Peterborough PE1 2AN, Wednesday 22nd October, 9:30 - 11:30am

ONLINE: Online via Teams: Wednesday 19th & Wednesday 26th November, 12:00 - 1 pm

Improve the communication with your ex-partner to support your children

Face to Face Cambridge: The Green Room, The Fields Cambridge City Child and Family Centre, 9 Galford Rd, Cambridge CB5 8ND. Thursday 16th October, 12:45 - 14:45pm

Face to Face Peterborough: The Sandalwood Room, Gladstone Park Community Centre, 927 Bourges Blvd, Peterborough PE1 2AN, Wednesday 22nd October, 12:45 - 14:45 pm

ONLINE: Online via Teams: Tuesday 18th & Tuesday 25th November, 12:00 - 1 pm

Cambridge Family Hubs logo, Peterborough Family Hubs logo, and Child and Family Centres logo.

Shared Lives Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Project

The Cambridgeshire Shared Lives Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (DASV) Project has had a fantastic second year and has just published their 'Year Two Interim Progress Report'. The report highlights a 267% increase in the number of people supported compared to year one. Survivors with learning disabilities and/or autism have been able to access safe, caring environments through Shared Lives Domestic Abuse carers and the Cambridgeshire Outreach service. Giving survivors the chance to feel secure, build confidence, and take positive steps towards the future. Highlights from the second-year report include powerful personal stories, like Ben's journey, where support from his carer has enabled him to grow in independence, reconnect with his community, and start planning for a safe and fulfilling new chapter in life.

This progress has only been possible thanks to the dedication of Shared Lives Domestic Abuse carers and the strong partnerships developed across Cambridgeshire. With ten carers now trained and approved, and over 400 professionals reached through specialist training in the past year, the project is making a real difference both to individuals and to wider professional practice. If you are interested in becoming a Shared Lives Domestic Abuse carer, or if you are working with someone who may benefit from this unique support, please contact

cambridgeshiresharedlives@cambridgeshire.gov.uk to find out more. You can also request a full copy of the report by emailing Libby.Swannell-Bell@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Peterborough Women's Aid

Please see below poster with training opportunities

TRAINING WORKSHOP
Exclusive

All session delivered on Teams

Our expert-led sessions provide practical insights, and valuable learning to help you support survivors from the South Asian Community.

14th October
9.30am or 1.30pm
Honour Based Abuse and FGM

21st October
9.30am
Coercive Control and Stalking

11th November
9.30am or 1.30pm
Honour Based Abuse and FGM

27th November
9.30am
Coercive Control and Stalking

Contact amanda.geraghty@womensaid.org.uk with the time and date of the session you would like to attend

Peterborough Women's Aid
Set yourself free

SafeLives Updates

We are proud to partner with the Army Benevolent Fund (ABF) on a three-year initiative to improve the response to domestic abuse within the armed forces community.

Military life creates unique dynamics that can make abuse harder to identify and address. Survivors often live within tight-knit, hierarchical systems where rank, dependency, and community culture can mask abuse and discourage reporting.

This project is designed to deliver a tailored, sustainable training and support model that meets the unique needs of serving and veteran Army families, including survivors, their children, and military personnel. [Learn more](#)

'Responding to domestic abuse within military communities' training programme

Sponsored by the Army Benevolent Fund, this free, one day specialist training is for domestic abuse professionals supporting victim-survivors in military communities. [Register your interest for training](#)

SafeLives welcomes £53 million boost for Drive Project

The **Drive Partnership** receives a four-year investment from the Home Office to expand the Drive Project across England and Wales, addressing the behaviour of high-risk domestic abuse perpetrators.

Victim-survivors tell us that they want and need better responses to the people causing harm in their lives. They need them to be visible, held accountable, and stopped. We are proud to be part of The Drive Partnership - working to end domestic abuse and protect victims by disrupting, challenging, and changing the behaviour of those who are causing harm. The Drive Project combines intensive perpetrator intervention with dedicated support for victims and survivors.

At SafeLives, we've long called for a Whole Picture approach, where prevention, risk reduction, and recovery go hand in hand. Addressing the root causes of abuse is essential if we're serious about ending it. The Drive Project's impact in reducing abuse shows what's possible when agencies act together with clarity and purpose

Boxing Futures

Boxing futures are starting a new Sisters Through Boxing and a Brothers Through Boxing programme.

It will be starting the end of September. The Brothers will be on a Thursday 5 till 7 and the Sisters will be Tuesday 5 till 7.

If you have any young people that would be interested, please contact Sarah Huebler:

E-mail Sarah.huebler@boxing-futures.org.uk

Website www.boxing-futures.org.uk

Vacancies

Cambridgeshire County Council IDVA Service

The Cambridgeshire IDVA service is advertising a fixed term vacancy in the IDVA Team.
Please access the link below for more details – closing date 21st September

[Fixed term IDVA vacancy](#)

Anglia Ruskin University (ARU)

ARU are advertising for a Harassment and Sexual Misconduct Caseworker on a 6 month fixed term contract

<https://jobs.aru.ac.uk/vacancy/harassment-and-sexual-misconduct-caseworker-reported-students-595762.html>

The Meadows Children and Family Wing

Please see link below for an opportunity to work at The Meadows Children and Family Wing

We are a small, registered Charity based in Cambridge providing support to female survivors of domestic abuse and their children from across Cambridgeshire.

This application is *ONLY* open to female applicants as *Part 1 of Schedule 9 of the Equality Act 2010* outlines exceptions for occupational requirements, allowing certain discrimination based on protected characteristics if it is a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim.



We have the following vacancy

- *Domestic Abuse Support worker*

This post is an 8 hour per week post working Wednesday and Thursdays

If you would like further information or an informal [chat](#) please contact us on info@mcfw.co.uk

[Successful applicants must undergo an Enhanced DBS check]

Cambridge Women's Aid



Cambridge women's aid
Supporting women & children since 1977

[We are looking for trustees to join us](#)

Cambridge Women's Aid provides dedicated and specialist services to women and children affected by domestic abuse.

cambridgewa.org.uk

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](#)

