



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

February - 2026

Welcome!

Please find details of services, training and courses both locally and nationally. There is lots on offer for those who are being subjected to domestic abuse and professionals, with courses on a range of topics available.

Claire, the Lived Experience Lead, is holding the first co-production group for anyone who would like to get involved who has lived experience. You may be working in one of the services in the area, everyone is welcome and your details will remain anonymous. Claire would like to hear from any of you who have experienced domestic abuse or sexual violence.

Last month we told you about the art and poetry competition, there were many entries of incredible poems and works of art. You can see them all at Peterborough Cathedral on Saturday 7th March, please come along. A book "The Art of Survival" will be produced which will include all submissions. Congratulations to CGL for continuing to deliver substance misuse services in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, please contact them directly if you have any questions or you can work with them to support service users.

Have a safe month, and if you would like us to include anything in this Newsletter, please let us know, we ALWAYS love to hear from you.

Best Wishes

Julia & Vickie

Julia Cullum, DASV Head of Service – Cambridgeshire

Vickie Crompton, DASV Manager - Peterborough



Local support service contact details

Cambridgeshire IDVA service:

Telephone: 01480 376200

Email: idva.referrals@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Monday – Friday 09.00 – 17.00 (16.30 on Fridays)

Peterborough IDVA service:

Telephone: 07983345580

Email: peterboroughidvas@peterborough.gov.uk

Monday – Friday 09.00 – 17.00 (16.30 on Fridays)

Cambridge & Peterborough Rape Crisis Helpline

Telephone: 01223 245888

Wednesday 19.00 – 21.30 & Sunday 10.00 – 12.30

Cambridgeshire domestic abuse outreach support - DASS:

Telephone: 0300 3731073 Monday – Friday 09.00 – 17.00

Peterborough domestic abuse outreach support – Peterborough Women’s Aid The Peacock Project:

Telephone 01733 894964 Monday – Friday 09.00 – 16.30 (16.00 on Fridays)

Living Keys



Living Keys supports women to recognise the warning flags of abuse, understanding that they are not to blame, and rebuild trust in themselves after trauma. They help women escape danger, violence and coercive control. For many Living Keys is not just a service – it's a lifeline.

Support services offered by Living Keys

Cherished Coffee Morning

(This is for all women, not necessary with experience of domestic abuse)

Monday 09.30 - 12.00 (term time only)

Held at Kingsgate Community Church, Murray Room on the Ground Floor.

Women's Drop in Service

Monday 1230 - 1730

George Alcock Centre, Stanground, Peterborough, PE2 8QS

Provide emotional support, CV updating, 1-1 support with a member of staff, support letters, signpost to other agencies, referrals to foodbank for those struggling with finance, referrals to Carezone for furniture and household items, support with getting Identification, appointments for those who do need further support with attending courts, or support to meetings with social care, workshops on budgeting, debt advise.

Family Support Group

Last Wednesday of the Month 18.30 – 20.00

Bretton Baptist Church, Copeland, Peterborough PE3 6YJ

Support group for Parents who have a teenager or adult child/ren experiencing domestic abuse.

Courses offered free of charge

- Freedom Programme: 12 week course – this is a rolling course, so women can join at any time.
- Domestic Abuse Recovery Toolkit: 12 week CBT based course for those struggling with confidence and self-esteem, how to challenge negative automatic thinking, positive self-talk, setting boundaries and more. ***This course is designed for those who have already left the relationship and have been separated for at least 6 months.***
- Hope2Recovery: A 6 week course about coercive control

A referral needs to be made for all courses either via an agency working with a client, or a self-referral.

The referral forms can be found on <https://www.livingkeys.co.uk> click **contact us** and it will take you to the application forms.

Upcoming Events

Galentine's Night

Friday 27th February 19.00 – 22.00

£6 (cash on the door)

George Alcock Centre, Stanground, Peterborough, PE2 8QS

Hand Massages, Nail Polishing, makeup artist, decorate your own cake, decorate your own mugs and take them home, quiz with a prize for the winner, raffle

SWAP SHOP

Friday 1st May 12.00 – 15.00

£5

George Alcock Centre, Stanground, Peterborough, PE2 8QS

Buffet and raffle

This is a great opportunity to clean out your wardrobes and take out what you no longer wear and bring them to the SWAP SHOP and simply swap them over for something you do like:

Women's clothing

Children's clothing

Baby Items

Toys

Household items (not electrical)

Corona House

Supporting Women to Heal, Connect & Thrive

Corona House in Cambridge offers self-contained flats alongside personalised support, helping women rebuild confidence, independence and resilience. The service operates within a trauma-informed framework where dignity, respect and choice are valued. They provide *safe, nurturing support* for women who have experienced homelessness, domestic abuse, mental health challenges, or other circumstances that have made life feel unsafe or overwhelming.

Corona House promotes *connection, creativity and community* through their *Corona Community Activity Programme*. This female-only programme can be accessed by women in Cambridgeshire who have support needs, including survivors of domestic abuse or sexual violence, to join in regular activities. They run activities designed to build skills, offer emotional and practical support, and encourage positive social connections and learning. Within the Corona Community, women can try creative activities in a safe, welcoming and friendly environment.

Activities include:

Creative projects – a wide range of arts and crafts, reading and poetry.

Cooking – most Tuesdays we learn to cook a meal and eat together

Trips out – have included day trips to the seaside, allotment, cinema, bowling, picnics, walks, museums, local events.

Others – games, sessions on wellbeing, boundaries, meditation and more.

To find out more about Corona House and the Corona Community Activity Programme, visit <https://www.chsgroup.org.uk/supported-housing/corona-house/>

You can view a past Activity Timetable to get an idea of the programme here:

<https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:EU:b69d2100-726c-4cad-8d5e-a87e0311894f>

SafeLives

Latest Statement

Seen, heard, and supported: why children need a whole family response to domestic abuse.

A new joint report by Ofsted, the CQC, HMICFRS and HMIP warns that children affected by domestic abuse are still too often overlooked and not consistently recognised as victims, despite the law being clear that they should be.

Change, Grow, Live (CGL)

CGL are pleased to announce that they have been successful in securing the contract to continue to deliver drug and alcohol treatment and recovery services in the County.

This new contract is 7 years in length with break clauses built in. This is a significant milestone and reflects the continued dedication and professionalism of everyone involved in delivering support across Cambridgeshire.

The new service and new model will be operational from April 1st 2026 and will build on the fantastic work that has been delivered over the past number of years by Change Grow Live in Cambridgeshire. Much work has been conducted with local partners to develop the new service offer and model which aims to make accessing the service easier. A realignment of staffing and roles and an increase in the community venues will mean they are able to see Service Users across the County.

Headline Changes

Our refreshed model includes:



Entry into Service

We'll introduce dedicated workers to enable quicker access to the right support from the right team.



Telehealth pilot (Year-1):

Low-level digital interventions for non-dependent use increasing choice/access for people who may need a different approach.



New Partnerships Manager

Building pathways that increase health equity among underrepresented groups/people.



Increased neighbourhood-based delivery

Via co-location/drop-ins from community and health venues.



Improving pathways

Introducing a young adults lead (18-25), and contribution to prison-to-community regional HMP Peterborough Worker.

Introducing a new Partnerships Manager will strengthen existing relationships across the health and social care system, providing consistent, strategic leadership in developing and maintaining key partnerships.

Part of the role will include:

- Develop partnerships to enhance community-based delivery
- Developing an annual calendar of training opportunities
- Contribute to increasing performance in all aspects of the service

Launch Events

To coincide with the launch of the new service and model two online events are available.

These will cover:

- An introduction to Change Grow Live
- An overview of Cambridgeshire's Drug and Alcohol Strategy
- The new service and model we will be providing
- The opportunity to meet some of the Change Grow Live senior managers
- How people can refer to the service
- Information on Cambridgeshire Council's drug and alcohol strategy
- Any questions you have about what will be delivered after the 1st of April 2026.

If you would like to attend either event, please follow the links below to book your place.

25th March 2025 10am – 11am

The event will be held online via MS Teams. Please follow this link to secure your place:

[Cambridgeshire SMS - Launch Event - Wednesday 25th March 2026 – Fill in form](#)

27th March 2025 1pm – 2pm

The event will be held online via MS Teams. Please follow this link to secure your place:

[Cambridgeshire SMS - Launch Event - Friday 27th March 2026 – Fill in form](#)

If you have any queries or questions about the launch events, please contact:

Scott.watkinson@cgl.org.uk

If you would like any more information about our service, please contact:

Paul.Pescud@cgl.org.uk

Alcohol Prevention Strategy

Both Cambridgeshire and Peterborough public health teams are continuing work on Alcohol Harm Prevention Strategies.

These strategies are intended to be system-wide, owned and delivered collectively across system partners.

They are seeking your views on where action is most feasible and where the main opportunities and barriers lie. This will ensure the strategic approach is practical and proportionate.

They are kindly asking for input via the short survey below.

[Alcohol Harm Prevention - Partner Input](#)

Druglink & Safer Places

Druglink are pleased to announce that Safer Places - specialist refuge for women experiencing domestic abuse alongside problematic drug or alcohol use - is now accepting referrals from external agencies.

This safe accommodation service run by Druglink in partnership with Safer Places, is specifically for women fleeing domestic abuse who are actively struggling with problematic drug and alcohol use. Trained specialists provide a structured, trauma-informed environment where women can stabilise, recover, and rebuild their lives.

They welcome referrals for women who:

- Are fleeing recent domestic abuse
- Are experiencing problematic drug or alcohol use, including those on OST (methadone up to 50ml / buprenorphine or Subutex up to 12mg)
- Can engage with a weekly structure of groups, activities, and recovery-focused support
- Have stable mental health, with no recent suicide or self-harm attempts
- Do not present with high or multiple complex needs that cannot be safely supported in a shared refuge setting

[Refer into Safer Places](#)

[Download Referral Form](#)

There is also a dedicated space for women in Cambridgeshire at The Nest - substance use safe accommodation refuge in Colchester

[The Nest | The Next Chapter](#)

[The Nest A4 leaflet April 25](#)

[The Nest - A5 Flyer 2025](#)

Cambridgeshire PSHE Service

Cambridgeshire PSHE Service are very pleased to have been funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner to update the Safer Corridors Action Toolkit (2021).

Many will be familiar with the original version of this pack, which has been used in schools across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to support the prevention of, and response to sexism, sexual harassment and sexual assault in secondary schools and sixth form settings.

As part of the review process, over 100 young people from Cambridgeshire and Peterborough schools have shared their views about sexism, sexual harassment and sexual assault in school. Their insight has guided the creation of new content and activity plans, which may be used in KS3/4/5 lessons or as part of whole school actions to prevent and address these topics. The toolkit has been brought in line with DfE RSHE statutory requirements for Sept 2026, KCSiE 2025 and the government's VAWG strategy.

The pack will be launched **18th March 2026 3.45-5pm By Teams**

Book here (select PSHE) : <https://cambridge.council.bookingbug.com/home/w2499204>

If you work with young people in Cambridgeshire or Peterborough in any capacity, you are very welcome to attend.

A link to the meeting will be sent nearer the time.

Please do share this invitation with any colleagues who might be interested. Multiple people from each school are welcome to attend, but each person must be booked on individually.

Following the briefing, all attendees will receive free access to the new toolkit and supporting materials.

Please contact Cathy Murphy for further information Cathy.Murphy@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Peterborough Co-Production Forum

Coproduction Forum – Women-Only Session

A safe, supportive and collaborative space for women to share lived experience and shape services together. Lunch will be provided.

Venue: Anne's House, 32 – 34 Cromwell Road, Peterborough, PE1 2EA

Date: Thursday 5th March 2026

Time: 11.15am – 12.45pm

If anyone has any questions or requires further information please contact Claire Thatcher

Claire.thatcher@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Tel: 07483 571831

Respect

MPs hold Westminster Hall debate on the NHS response to domestic abuse

Respect worked with partners Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse and IRISi to support a recent debate on the role of the NHS in preventing domestic abuse-related deaths.

[Learn More](#)

Respect's Make a Change Team has been working with delivery partner Coventry Haven Women's Aid and Coventry Live to share survivor Jaime's story.

Content warning: A survivor's account of domestic abuse, containing detailed descriptions of coercive control, physical and emotional abuse.

[Learn More](#)

Intimate partner abuse amongst 16-25 year olds - A resource for youth workers

The National Youth Agency (NYA) has worked in partnership with Tender and Refuge to create a new resource and guidance for youth workers working with 16 to 25 year olds. It addresses a growing concern about the abuse within young people's relationships.

[Learn More](#)

CAPVA

Respect uses the term Child and Adolescent to Parent Violence and Abuse (CAPVA) to describe the dynamic where a young person (8 years -18 years) engages in repeated abusive behaviour towards a parent or adult carer.

Abusive behaviour can include physical violence; emotional, economic or sexual abuse; and coercive control. It may also include damage to property and abuse towards other family members, particularly siblings.

CAPVA is known as a hidden harm. It's common for parents and young people to feel shame about this behaviour, and many are scared that their child will be criminalised or removed from the family.

As a result, CAPVA incidents often go unreported.

Adding to this, there isn't a universally agreed definition for CAPVA. This means that when families do report, the recording of incidents is inconsistent across agencies.

For more information visit the website [CAPVA | Respect](#)

Respect lists CAPVA support providers in a [specialist directory for parents and practitioners](#).

If you are a service provider and you are not on the map please contact YPS@respect.org.uk

CPSL Mind

CPSL Mind are excited to have received three years' funding from The National Lottery - Reaching Communities. This funding will help them to level up support across the Cambridgeshire area, in line with Peterborough.

For the first time the Connecting Muslim Mums course will be delivered outside of Peterborough and the Connecting Mums and Mums Matter courses will reach those mums across Cambridgeshire who have been asking for them. The courses will move around locations throughout the year to help reach all communities.

The fund also allows CPSL Mind to offer a substantial support package for dads for the first time across Cambridgeshire. The dedicated Dads Worker is supporting dads across Peterborough and Cambridgeshire, offering flexible support in Peterborough and one-to-one support in Cambridgeshire (daytime, evenings, face-to-face or online), alongside group sessions starting in Huntingdon with more launching throughout the year. To find out more, email perinataleservices@cpslmind.org.uk. CPSL Mind have launched two new Mindful Mums groups in both Littleport and Cambourne, in addition to the existing groups in Peterborough and Eaton Socon.

Mindful Mums support mums to share wellbeing skills and build ongoing friendship and peer support, delivered in Child and Family Centres that offer a safe, open-minded environment with suitable play spaces for children during sessions.

Peterborough Mindful Mums:

Fortnightly on Mondays from 10.00am - 12.00pm at East Child and Family Centre

Huntingdon Mindful Mums:

Fortnightly on Wednesdays from 10.00am - 12.00pm at Eaton Socon Child and Family Centre

Cambourne Mindful Mums:

Monthly on Wednesdays from 1.00pm - 2.30pm at Cambourne Child and Family Centre

Littleport Mindful Mums:

Monthly on Wednesday from 10.00am - 11.30am at Littleport Child and Family Centre

To find out when the next group is taking place, email perinataleservices@cpslmind.org.uk

Connecting Muslim Mums runs during term time across Peterborough and Cambridgeshire throughout the year.

To find out more, please email us at perinataleservices@cpslmind.org.uk

Connecting Mums and Mums Matter courses run during term time across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough throughout the year.

To find out when the next course is taking place, please email perinataleservices@cpslmind.org.uk

Connecting Mums is a six-week wellbeing course for expectant or new mums that supports emotional health, builds meaningful peer connections. It is particularly beneficial for those

experiencing loneliness, low self-esteem, or mental health challenges. DBS-checked volunteers are available to support childcare during the sessions.

Mums Matter is an eight-week perinatal mental health course that supports women experiencing anxiety, postnatal depression, or worrying thoughts by providing practical self-care tools and strengthening social connections. It has been developed by CPSL Mind in partnership with National Mind, informed by women with lived experience and best practice approaches.

Parents can self-refer by filling out a simple form on the website. Professionals like Health Visitors, GPs, or Midwives can also make referrals.

if you would like to discuss a referral over the phone, please call **0300 303 4363** or email us at perinataleservices@cpslmind.org.uk

[Visit the website](#)

Peterborough City Council

For Your Benefit Campaign

A new calculator to help people check if they're entitled to benefits - of which they may be unaware

The Better Off calculator asks a series of simple questions, before calculating whether participants may be eligible for Universal Credit, Pension Credit, Carer's Allowance and other benefits.

The calculator can be found here:

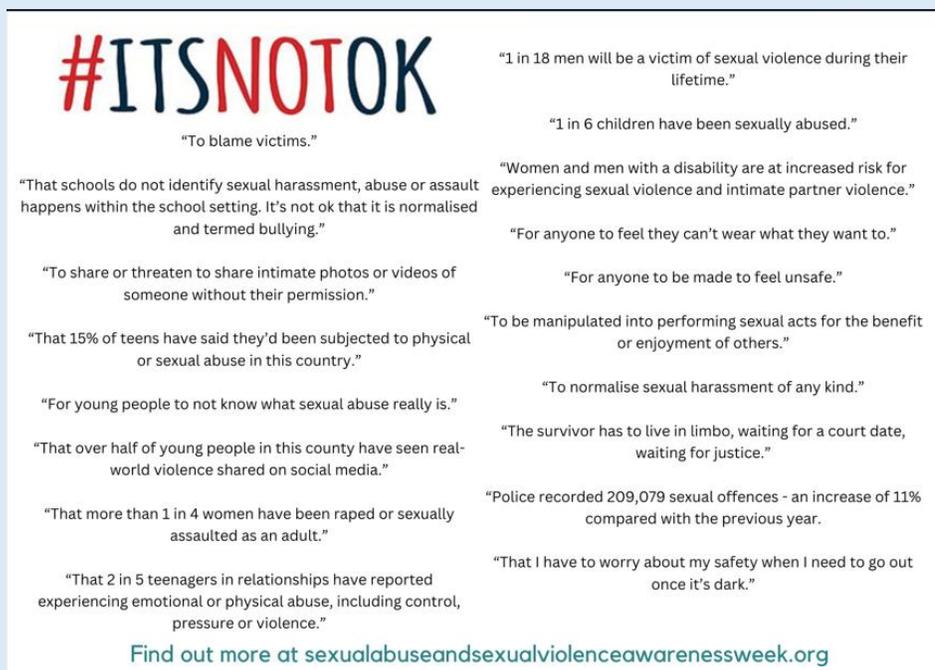
<https://peterborough.betteroffcalculator.co.uk/calculator/new/household-details>

Cambridge City Council

City Cambridge City Council Supports Sexual Abuse and Sexual Violence Awareness Week 2026 - Report by Louise Walker

Cambridge City Council marked [Sexual Abuse and Sexual Violence Awareness Week](#) 2nd – 8th February 2026 – a national week to raise awareness about the unacceptability of sexual abuse and violence.

To raise awareness, information was published on the council's website. Colleagues and Councillors were asked to provide messages around the campaign's theme of #ITSNOTOK. These were posted internally as a collage, and you can see some of these contributions in the image and below:



If People wanted to get involved, they were encouraged to:

- Join in on social media using the hashtag #ITSNOTOK
- Share social media posts by [Cambridge City Council](#), [Cambridge Rape Crisis Centre](#) and [Cambridgeshire and Peterborough DASV Partnership](#)
- Consider volunteering as local charity and council partner Cambridge Rape Crisis Centre is recruiting [emotional support volunteers](#) with training starting in April. Anyone interested, to email volunteering@cambridgerapecrisis.org.uk and be sent the application pack.

Help and advice

If you or someone you know are affected by sexual abuse or sexual violence, you can get help from:

- [Cambridge Rape Crisis Centre](#) - free specialist support for women and girls across Cambridgeshire who have been subjected to rape and sexual violence, no matter when the abuse happened.
- [Men's Advice Line](#) - helpline for male victims of domestic abuse.
- [Survivors UK](#) - specialist service for boys, men and non-binary people aged 13 and over who have experienced sexual violence at any time in their lives.
- [Galop](#) - UK's LGBT+ anti-abuse charity working with and for LGBT+ victims and survivors of abuse and violence.
- [Choices Counselling](#) – a confidential trauma-informed counselling service throughout Cambridgeshire and Peterborough for women and men who have experienced sexual abuse in childhood.
- [Childline](#) - access to every child for free, confidential support whenever they need it.

Safeguarding Children Partnership

Risk Outside the Home (ROTH)

If you are concerned that a child may be at risk of harm outside the home, please use these tools to help you consider the risks, record evidence and identify next steps.

Once you have completed the tool, please discuss with your manager or safeguarding lead for your organisation. If rated moderate or significant risk in any category, please complete a safeguarding referral to the relevant local authority and include this form as an attachment.

For children living in Cambridgeshire

Please complete the ROTH Assessment.

Risk Outside the Home (ROTH) Assessment - For Cambridgeshire

There is an accompanying [guidance document](#), which provides additional prompts, question by question, which can be found [here](#)

For children living in Peterborough

Please complete the Contextual Risk Screening Tool.

Contextual Risk Screening Tool - For Peterborough

Survivors Trust / British Transport Police

The Survivors Trust are excited to announce their partnership with British Transport Police (BTP) to become the first force to provide consistent, national support for victims of serious sexual violence. Through this partnership, they offer Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs) to be a single point of contact for victims of rape and serious sexual assault in England and Wales. With existing provisions in Scotland through Rape Crisis Scotland, BTP can now offer this service right across Great Britain. For more information please visit

[New partnership with British Transport Police - The Survivors Trust](#)

Locally there are also partnerships with transport providers

Buses and Businesses Against Abuse (BAA) scheme launched in October 2024. This has seen Stagecoach East, Cambridgeshire Constabulary and Rape Crisis, designate buses as safe havens for victims of abuse. Drivers are trained to identify, support, and assist people, particularly women and girls, who feel threatened. Providing a mobile, visible place of refuge across Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire.

Key Aspects of the Scheme

- **Safe Spaces:** Buses act as refuge points for anyone feeling unsafe or facing harassment.
- **Driver Training:** Staff are trained to recognise predatory behaviour and assist victims, with many drivers already experienced in spotting such situations.
- **Operational Support:** Drivers can be flagged down to help, provide safe transport, and contact police.
- **Signage & Collaboration:** Buses feature clear branding, and the initiative is part of a larger network of 300+ accredited businesses in the region.
- **Award-Winning Initiative:** The scheme won the [Collaboration award at the Cambridge Independent Business Awards](#) and the [CIHT & Atkinsrealis Collaboration Award](#).

The programme has already seen multiple successful interventions where drivers have protected women, providing a secure, visible deterrent against harassment in public spaces.

Poetry & Art Exhibition & Award Ceremony

Following the success of the Poetry & Art competition run by Living Keys & Peterborough Women's Aid please see the poster below with details of the exhibition and award ceremony



Catharsis:
the competition
For Domestic Abuse Survivors

**Poetry & Art Exhibition
& Award Ceremony**

Saturday 7th March at
Peterborough Cathedral

Public access
11.30 - 3.30
Ceremony:
2PM

In conjunction with:

 Living Keys
For Women's Health and Wellbeing

 PETERBOROUGH
CITY COUNCIL

 Peterborough Women's Aid

Please join us in the rear section of the cathedral to celebrate the entrants and view their work. Please be aware that the content contains difficult topics.

Learning Opportunities

Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Conference 2026

The Impact of Domestic Abuse on Children

Date: April 21st 2026

Time: 09.00 – 16.30

Venue: The Fleet PE2 8DL

Speakers include:

Dr Emma Katz

Luke Hart

Amanda Geraghty

Kate Mouldallal

For more details and to book a place please visit:

[Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Conference 2026](#)

Safeguarding Children Partnership Boards and Safeguarding Adult Boards

Understanding the Effects of Domestic Abuse

24th March 2026

09.30 – 11.30

Domestic Abuse – Using the DASH to Assess the Situation

30th April 2026

13.30 – 15.30

Domestic Abuse – Recognising and Responding to Coercive and Controlling Behaviours

13th May 2026

09.30 – 11.30

To book places log on to your Me Learning account:

<https://app.melearning.co.uk/auth/login>

For more details about courses visit:

[Multi-Agency Safeguarding Training | Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Partnership Board \(safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk\)](#)

Institute of Domestic Violence, Religion & Migration (IDVRM)

In 2024, IDVRM convened the Project dldl/ድልድል Annual Conference at SOAS, which brought together organisations and practitioners to share learning and reflect on culturally resonant, faith-sensitive, and community-led approaches to addressing domestic violence and abuse. Over the past year, they have been focused on establishing IDVRM as a non-profit institute so that this work can continue in a more sustained and structured way, alongside communities and frontline organisations. As we move into 2026, they feel this is an important moment to regroup as a sector - to reflect on how the landscape has shifted, and to discuss collectively the priorities, challenges, and pressures currently facing *by and for* organisations. While community-led expertise is essential, it remains under-supported and under-represented in research, policy, and funding spaces.

The workshop, **Building Capacity, Influence & Change Together**, will offer space to:

- reflect on current sector priorities and challenges
- share experiences and learning from frontline practice
- explore practical ways of strengthening organisational capacity, sustainability, and influence
- help guide how IDVRM can support community-led organisations going forward.

The session will be facilitated by Mayra Teck Ascurra, drawing on her experience as a frontline VAWG practitioner, alongside members of the IDVRM team. Their intention is to listen, learn, and work collaboratively.

Workshop details

Date: Thursday 5 March 2026

Time: 10:00–11:30

Location: Online

Registration:

<https://idvrn.charityhive.co.uk/tickets/1/building-capacity-influence-and-change-together-a-workshop-for-by-and-for-vawgdva-organisations>

For more information please see the website:

[Institute of Domestic Violence, Religion & Migration \(IDVRM\).](#)

Making Research Count

Cuckooing in the Context of Domestic Abuse and Domestic Homicide

Simon Kerss, Anglia Ruskin University

Thursday 26 March 2026 11.00 -12.30

Online via Zoom

To book a place, email: mrc@beds.ac.uk

For upcoming MRC events, visit: www.beds.ac.uk/mrc

The Family Mediation Trust

How Families Experience Family Law

Online training delivered by The Family Mediation Trust for professionals working with families exploring Mediation Information Assessment Meeting (MIAMs) and mediation, what happens if unsuitable, and the child arrangements court process. We have 2 available sessions to join:

- Wednesday 25th February 2pm-4pm
- Tuesday 10th March 10am-12pm

This short, practical session is designed specifically for professionals who support parents and children through separation, conflict, and private law family court proceedings. It brings together three essential strands:

1. How MIAMs and mediation can help families, what happens when mediation is unsuitable or unsuccessful, and a clear, demystified explanation of the child arrangements court process and the roles of professionals involved.
2. The focus is on helping practitioners feel more confident with the terminology families often reference, understanding the pathway families may move through.
3. Knowing how to support parents in ways that keep children's needs and wellbeing at the centre.

This training is free and is delivered via TEAMS.

Please email RPCTraining@cambridgeshire.gov.uk to book

Speakers

Jane Smith – PPC and Accredited Family Mediator

Jane is an accredited family mediator and PPC with over 20 years' experience as a family law solicitor (now non-practising), supporting separating parents with child arrangements and financial matters both within and outside the court process. She has worked exclusively as a mediator since 2016, gained Family Mediation Council accreditation in 2018, and qualified as a Child Consultant in Mediation in 2021. Jane brings a strong understanding of how cases move between MIAMs, mediation and court, drawing on her experience delivering the Cafcass Separated Parents Information Programme to support professionals in understanding child-focused decision-making and effective early intervention. Her approach is collaborative and practical, with a clear focus on keeping children at the centre of discussions.

Claire Molyneux – Family Law Specialist, Mediator and Parenting Co-ordinator

Claire qualified as a family solicitor in 2006 (now non-practising) and has extensive experience supporting parents in private child proceedings, including complex and long-running cases. She is also qualified as a family mediator, divorce coach and parenting co-ordinator, enabling her to support parents both to reach agreements and to implement court orders and parenting arrangements in practice. Claire's work focuses on helping parents move from conflict to a workable co-parenting

relationship in their children's best interests. Alongside her casework, she has also worked as a Professional Support Lawyer in child law, keeping fully up to date with family court judgments and practice, regularly training and presenting to family lawyers.

Tracy Sortwell JP – Magistrate and Family Justice Specialist

Tracy Sortwell JP has been a magistrate since 1995, sitting in both Family and Crime on the Cambridgeshire Bench, where she is currently Bench Chair. She brings extensive judicial experience of private family law proceedings, including how cases are managed, what decision-makers look for in evidence and safeguarding, and how out-of-court processes such as mediation fit within the wider family justice system. Tracy has chaired the Magistrates' Association Family Court Committee for six years, is a member of the Family Justice Council, and has served on the President's Private Law Working Group. Her contribution to training offers a clear court-based perspective to help practitioners better understand process, expectations and good practice.

Respect

Child and Adolescent to Parent Violence and Abuse - CAPVA-Recognise and Respond

12th March 2026

This course explains why CAPVA happens, what the risk factors are and what practitioners can do if they suspect a parent is being abused. This course will cover appropriate safeguarding responses and help practitioners navigate the complexities of an issue that straddles both adult and children's services.

[Book your place.](#)

SafeLives

Understanding Domestic Abuse: Introductory training for anyone who may come into contact with adult victim and survivors of domestic abuse (Online)

Application deadline: 19th April 2026

Course date: 19th May 2026

Learn more

Risk Assessment & Dash: Ideal for any professional or volunteer who may work, or come into contact, with victims affected by domestic abuse (Online)

Application deadline: 21st April

Course date: 21st May

Learn more

