



Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Newsletter

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

March - 2026

Hello!

Spring is finally here and we are starting to look forward to the summer and the exciting opportunities it will bring.

In the newsletter you will find details of the Safeguarding Board Conference, focusing on Domestic Abuse and Children on 21st April and the Peterborough DASV Conference on 24th June. Details also coming soon for a Cambridgeshire Conference focusing on young people, in partnership with Cambridge United Foundation (26th June) and our MARAC Development Day (9th July) – please save the dates.

There are also new services for survivors starting with community grants from the Office of the Police Crime Commissioner and Cambridgeshire County Council enabling group work for survivors of domestic abuse in every district in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. More details of the groups will follow shortly and will also be on our website.

Cambridgeshire has also been chosen to be part of the national roll out of Raneem's Law. This will see independent domestic abuse specialists embedded within the police force communications centre. These roles are now being advertised and details are below.

As always, please do keep in touch as 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)

DASV Champions

The next online DASV sessions will be in April 2026.

Vickie Crompton will be speaking about Parenting with an Abusive Ex-Partner and Clare Thatcher will be speaking about her role in Co-Production.

Dates:

15th April 2026 11.00 - 13.00

22nd April 2026 14.00 - 16.00

28th April 2026 13.00 - 15.00

Link to book tickets:

[DASV Champions - Parenting with an Abusive Ex-Partner & Improving Access to Support through Co-Production](#)

Introducing a new role within the Cambridgeshire IDVA Service

The Cambridgeshire IDVA Service is pleased to announce the introduction of an exciting new position: Domestic Abuse Proactive Support Specialist (DAPSS). This role has been established as part of Phase 2 of the national implementation of Raneem's Law, a significant development aimed at strengthening the police response to domestic abuse emergencies.

Four specialists will be appointed to provide dedicated domestic abuse expertise within the 999 Force Communications Centre, ensuring that safeguarding opportunities are identified and acted upon at the earliest possible stage. The role will also involve working within the IDVA Service, supporting victims and survivors directly and helping to inform broader system improvements.

This is a unique opportunity to contribute to a nationally significant initiative, enhance multiagency practice, and support the continued development of effective, survivor centred responses to domestic abuse.

To view the full job description, please click here:

[Recruitment Hub Jobs - Domestic Abuse Proactive Support Specialist](#)

PHSE Service

On the 18th of March the PSHE Service was pleased to welcome over 70 colleagues from schools and youth facing organisations in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough area to the launch of the newly revised Safer Corridors Action Toolkit. This work was funded by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and forms part of the response to the Preventative elements of the VAWG strategy.

The 'Safer Corridors Action Toolkit' supports school leaders in assessing the views of students in their school, building understanding of key issues, preventing sexual violence and harassment and responding to incidents. The Toolkit is entirely consistent with Department of Education (DfE) guidance and exemplifies approaches schools may take to preventing and reducing sexism, sexual harassment and assault. It enables schools to listen to pupil voice, build awareness amongst staff and pupils and engage in reflection as part of a whole school approach to preventing sexism, sexual harassment and sexual assault

Over 100 young people in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough schools were involved in the review process, sharing their experiences of sexism, sexual harassment and sexual assault, and their views on how to build safe spaces in school and the confidence of all members of the school community to respond supportively when incidents occur.

The resources are available to all Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Secondary Schools and can be accessed by contacting Cathy Murphy pshe@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Cambridgeshire SARC



From 23rd March 2026, the Cambridgeshire SARC (The Elms, Huntingdon) will become the regional SARC site delivering forensic medical examinations, crisis support, and safeguarding pathways for adults and children between the hours of 9pm to 9am. During normal SARC opening hours (9am to 9pm), survivors will continue to be seen at their local SARC provision.

This development strengthens the collective ability to provide timely, trauma - informed care and ensures, as a region, there is an offer of a level of service that provides parity with provision across the rest of the country, giving every survivor equitable access to specialist support whenever they need it.

What does this mean for partners?

- All regional SARCs will continue to operate as normal during their opening hours. The enhanced service, from 9pm to 9am, will be delivered from Cambridgeshire SARC ensuring all survivors across the region have access to a service that suits their individual needs.
- There is no change in the process of accessing the service: referrals should continue to be made through Mountain Healthcare (MHC), who manage triage and coordination for all cases across the region.
- The service remains fully accessible to self referrals, providing an important option for survivors who may not wish to involve the police initially. This development enhances the collective safeguarding response by:
 - Reducing delays to crucial medical and forensic care
 - Strengthening victim experience and wellbeing
 - Helping to keep the service consistent across the region, supported by the regular communication and coordination we have in place with our multi-agency partners.

Your continued role

Your partnership remains essential to ensuring:

- Timely information sharing
- Seamless safeguarding pathways
- Holistic, trauma-informed care for survivors

Please share this update within your networks and any online signposting to the service to ensure all frontline practitioners and clients are aware of the enhanced availability.

Cambridgeshire SARC:

Address:

The Elms
Hinchingsbrooke Hospital,
Huntingdon,
Cambridgeshire,
PE29 6NT.

The Elms is well signposted on the directional signs as you enter the hospital. It is accessed via the 2nd entrance on the right on the main road leading to the hospital. There is ample parking, specifically designated for those visiting The Elms. The front of the building is signposted but for ease, looks like the below. Access is via an intercom which will be responded to by onsite Mountain Healthcare staff.

SafeLives

Latest Statements:

Police Reform White Paper This is the biggest policing overhaul in nearly 200 years and sets out the government's intention to rebuild trust in policing and improve how police respond to harm, including domestic abuse and VAWG

[Police Reform White Paper must deliver real protection for victims and survivors - SafeLives](#)

Impacts from delivering a whole response strategy to domestic violence and abuse (DVA): an evaluation from the UK SafeLives Research Manager, Nanya Coles, co-authored this article. The paper evaluates Health Pathfinder across eight UK sites and demonstrates that joined up working between health and DVA services helps identify abuse sooner, widen access to support and improve responses. Read the whole article by clicking the link below

[Impacts from delivering a whole health response strategy to domestic violence and abuse: an evaluation from the UK in: Journal of Gender-Based Violence Volume 9 Issue 3 \(2025\)](#)

Domestic Homicide Review (DHR)

Please see the link for the latest DHR which was published recently. Scroll down to Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews and click the first one – Dan and Paul

[DHR Huntingdonshire Community Safety Partnership](#)

Living Keys



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)

Peterborough Women's Aid

Peterborough Women's Aid are delighted to be expanding into Fenland.

Our new group "Women Warriors Wisbech" begins on April 16th. All women are welcome, no need for a referral, just turn up! Professionals are welcome to accompany clients.

For more information contact Gina Espinosa gina.espinosa@wa-support.co.uk



On May 16th Peterborough Women's Aid are peacefully walking from Anne's House on Cromwell Road to the Town Hall in Peterborough where we will be greeted by Council Leader Shabina Qayyum. The purpose of the walk is to raise awareness of domestic abuse in the city. At the end of the walk, we will be picnicking on the cathedral green. Please do join us and wear something pink or purple!"





Peterborough Women's Aid have launched a new podcast. 'Keep Women Talking' is a series dedicated to amplifying women's voices and deepening public understanding of domestic abuse and its far-reaching impact.

The first episode "This is Simone's Story; don't let it be yours" explores how coercive control affects not only survivors but also the wider family network.

Central to the episode is the tragic murder of Simone by her boyfriend in Cambridgeshire in 2025, a case that underscores the devastating consequences of coercive control when it escalates unchecked. The discussion is handled with care and respect, focusing on learning, prevention, and the importance of recognising warning signs early.

This podcast can be used as a training aid to highlight the effects of coercive control and the domestic homicide timeline.

You can watch on You Tube [This is Simone's story; don't let it be yours](#)

OPCC & Cambridgeshire County Council

Place-based support is now available for local survivors of domestic abuse.

Three local charities have been awarded a share of £300k over two years, via a [community grant round](#), to expand the offer of face-to-face group work for up to 800 survivors of domestic abuse across all six districts.

This joint Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Cambridgeshire County Council work builds on the existing model of support and for the first time enables survivors to access help across the county including Huntingdonshire, Fenland, Cambridge, Peterborough as well as South and East Cambridgeshire.

In Peterborough and Fenland the well-established charity Peterborough Women's Aid will be delivering support while The Angels Foundation is taking on Huntingdonshire and East Cambridgeshire. The Meadows Children and Family Wing will continue their work in Cambridge and offer face-to-face work in South Cambridgeshire.

The funding will enable the delivery of both structured group work, delivering for example the Domestic Violence Freedom Programme, and unstructured group sessions with the charities also offering wellbeing walks and additionally in Peterborough and Fenland, monthly drop-in groups for male victims.

A small grant has also been awarded to The [Edge Cafe](#) in Cambridge to pilot group work in this community.

Police and Crime Commissioner Darryl Preston said he was keen to increase the availability of face-to-face support outside of the county's two largest cities. "One of the benefits of local commissioning is being able to respond to the needs of all victims. It is important to remove geographical barriers wherever possible and enable victims and survivors to speak to specialist support staff in real life. There is always a place for digital and telephone-based support, but this helps people make connections with others and create peer-support networks at the same time."

Cllr Alison Whelan, chair of the Communities, Social Mobility and Inclusion Committee at Cambridgeshire County Council, said: "I'm delighted that by working together locally we are increasing access to specialist domestic abuse group work in our county, with support now available in every district across Cambridgeshire. This important resource adds to the existing support available to victims of domestic abuse through the council's commissioned Domestic Abuse Outreach Service and in-house Independent Domestic Violence Adviser Service."

Mandy Geraghty, CEO of Peterborough Women's Aid said: "This funding will enable us to run specialist group programmes for survivors of domestic abuse, providing safe, supportive spaces where individuals can share experiences, rebuild confidence, and begin their journey towards recovery. The expansion into Fenland marks an important step in ensuring that more survivors across the wider region have access to vital support services. By extending our reach, we can ensure those

experiencing domestic abuse are not isolated and can access the help they need closer to where they live.”

Caroline Deeprise, Founder and CEO of The Angels Foundation UK added: “We are proud to be delivering specialist domestic abuse recovery workshops across Huntingdonshire and East Cambridgeshire, providing safe, supportive spaces for women who are ready to rebuild their confidence, identity and sense of self after abuse. We are particularly pleased to be expanding into East Cambridgeshire, where there is a clear need for accessible, community-based recovery support, and we look forward to working with local partners to ensure survivors can access the help they need.”

Michele Wright, Project Manager/Course Facilitator at the Meadows Children & Family Wing added “We are delighted to have received funding to provide specialist, place-based group support for survivors closer to where they live across Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire. This will enable us to provide safe, supportive spaces where survivors can connect with others, access specialist help, rebuild confidence and resilience, as part of their recovery journey.”

For more information about where to access support locally visit: www.cambsdasv.org.uk.

Crown Prosecution Service (CPS)

In late February, the CPS published fresh prosecution guidance

[CPS updates prosecution guidance](#)

Whilst so called ‘honour-based abuse’ itself isn’t a standalone offence, the guidance helps lawyers consider relevant offences - including coercive control, assault, forced marriage and other harmful practices – when building a case. It also gives clarity on how to approach evidence and context, so prosecutors can better understand the patterns and dynamics of harm that often hide within family or community pressure.

This guidance sits alongside the [CPS’s broader VAWG strategy](#), which aims to improve understanding and response to evolving abuse types.

Home Start – Bedfordshire

Home Start in Bedfordshire are shining a light on domestic abuse during pregnancy with their campaign ‘Mums the word’.

Their website has some useful information on why domestic abuse can start or get worse during pregnancy, signs of coercive control and some great myth-busting sections

[Mum’s the Word - Home-Start Bedfordshire](#)

New Domestic Abuse Posters

Please see below the new posters designed by the partnership.
They are also available on the DASV website to download:

[Cambridgeshire County Council DASV Partnership - Posters for free download](#)



A poster with a purple and blue background. In the center is a woman's face, split vertically down the middle. The left side of her face is purple, and the right side is blue. Surrounding her face are several white speech bubbles containing questions: 'Should I be wearing this?', 'Did I really forget again?', 'Maybe I shouldn't see my sister so much', 'Maybe it was my fault?', 'Did I miss a text?', 'Should I have bought that without asking?'.

**Are you feeling controlled?
Control is abuse.**

You can get support from your healthcare professional or call
0300 373 1073 (Cambridgeshire)
01733 894964 (Peterborough)



A poster with a blue and purple background. In the center is a woman's face, looking slightly to the right. She has her hand to her neck, as if feeling a pulse or pain. Surrounding her face are several white speech bubbles containing symptoms: 'Amnesia', 'Hearing loss', 'Memory problems', 'Vision problems', 'Voice changes', 'Swallowing difficulties', 'Headaches', 'Confusion'.

**Not all signs of
STRANGULATION are visible**

If you're concerned speak to your healthcare worker or contact:
0300 373 1073 (Cambridgeshire)
01733 894964 (Peterborough)
for domestic abuse support



Learning Opportunities

Peterborough Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Conference

Date: 24th June 2026
Time: 08.45 – 16.15
Venue: Sandmartin House, Peterborough, PE2 8TY

To book a place please follow the link:

[Peterborough Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Conference Tickets, Wednesday, Jun 24 from 8:45 am to 4:15 pm | Eventbrite](#)

Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Conference 2026

The Impact of Domestic Abuse on Children

Date: 21st April 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

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 \(safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk\)](#)

Making Research Count

Responding to Concerns About Domestic Violence and Abuse in Children's Safeguarding

Thursday 23 April 2026, 10.00am-11.30am

Supporting Older Survivors of Sexual Violence: Barriers and Best Practice

Amanda Warburton-Wynn, Independent Researcher

Thursday 30 April 2026 | 11.00am - 12.30pm

To book a place, on any of the above webinars, please email: mrc@beds.ac.uk

Further information: www.beds.ac.uk/mrc

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](#)