



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

**April - 2026**

Hello!

It was wonderful to see such strong attendance at the Children's Safeguarding Board Conference earlier this week, which focused on domestic abuse and its impact on children. The conference featured powerful presentations from Dr Emma Katz and Luke Hart, alongside deeply moving testimonies shared by survivors.

We also have a number of forthcoming events to highlight:

- Peterborough DASV Conference – 24 June
- Cambridgeshire Conference, focusing on young people and delivered in partnership with the Cambridge United Foundation – 26 June
- MARAC Development Day – 9 July

In addition, new support services for survivors are launching thanks to community grant funding from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Cambridgeshire County Council. This funding will enable group work for survivors of domestic abuse in every district across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Further details about these groups can be found below.

Later this year, Cambridgeshire will also be implementing the DRIVE perpetrator programme. As part of this rollout, both of our IDVA services will be recruiting IDVAs to support victims whose perpetrators are engaged with the programme.

As always, please do stay in touch - we *a/ways* value hearing 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 session 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.

Date:

28<sup>th</sup> 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](#)

## **SafeLives**

### **Statement on the Courts and Tribunals Bill**

SafeLives welcomes the government's commitment to improving the functioning of the justice system and addressing the significant court backlog. Survivors of domestic abuse often face long delays before their cases reach trial, which can prolong trauma and undermine confidence in the justice process. Any reforms must prioritise both timely justice and the safety and trust of survivors.

### **Statement on the national rollout of Child Focused Courts**

19<sup>th</sup> March the [Government announced the national rollout of Child Focused Courts across England and Wales.](#)

This is a significant moment for the family justice system and an opportunity to strengthen how children's voices are heard, recognising children and young people as victims of domestic abuse in their own right. What has happened to them must shape every decision that affects their lives. The model aims to deliver faster decisions while reducing trauma for families, but speed alone does not guarantee safer or better outcomes. Its success depends on strong multi-agency working and a court culture that is trauma informed and prioritises child safety and wellbeing, with robust, ongoing feedback and monitoring to ensure it is safe and effective for both child and adult victims of domestic abuse.

Every part of the family court system must be child focused. This rollout is an important opportunity to make that a reality, but it must be done carefully, with safety and long-term outcomes at its heart.

To be effective, Child Focused Courts and the processes and organisations that support them must work together to embed specialist domestic abuse expertise and trauma-informed practice at every stage. This includes respecting the insight and role of all involved, from Family Court Advisors, Social Workers and IDVAs to the Judiciary and child and adult victims themselves.

We need continued reform across the whole family justice system, where the impact of domestic abuse is too often overlooked. Professionals must be properly trained, building on values and beliefs that understand and never justify or minimise the impact of abusive behaviours on children and their protective parent. The IDVA and Cafcass partnership that this model creates must be developed and supported at a local and national level, alongside exploring how specialist support for children, such as Children's Domestic Abuse Advocates, can be integrated into the model.

The child focused court model and repeal of the presumption of parental involvement require a commitment to culture change and clear guidance for professionals to look jointly for reasons a child is not safe to have contact with a parent and what's in their best interests.

SafeLives continues to work within Cafcass and across partnerships such as domestic abuse specialist support services and the Domestic Abuse Commissioner's office, and are proud to contribute to the Stakeholder Reference Group supporting this work on child focused courts. They remain committed to working with government and partners to ensure these changes deliver safer, more consistent outcomes for children.

**They are victims in their own right, and this must never be overlooked.**

*'Going through the family courts as someone with lived experience of domestic abuse destroyed my childhood. The abuse both my protective parent and I had suffered was poorly understood and the process of the family courts took nearly 5 years of my life, with the abuse continuing in this time. Child Focused Courts/Pathfinder was not a thing when I went through the courts, but the model gives me hope for children, who are victims in their own right, to have their voices heard and to not have to fight for their experiences to be understood. Along with the recent commitment to repeal the presumption of parental involvement, and now the rollout of these specialist courts, children as victims in their own right is beginning to be realised in the family courts' – Young Person Lived Experience*

## **NCDV Highlights: Football, Alcohol and Domestic Abuse Prior to the World Cup**

Every national major football tournament brings safeguarding messages about domestic abuse, often suggesting that: Domestic abuse rises when England play, it's even worse when they lose.

The evidence is nuanced and occasionally, contradictory.

With the World Cup coming up in June, the NCDV did a deep dive into the research.

Early UK studies, analysing police data during World Cups, found increases in domestic abuse on England match days, particularly following losses. (1) (2)

However, the research has evolved:

A ten-year study of West Midlands Police data found the clearest rise after England wins. Specifically in alcohol related domestic abuse (3)

Non-alcohol related cases did not show the same pattern

More recent large-scale economic analysis similarly highlights the importance of alcohol exposure and match timing, suggesting longer post-match drinking windows may help explain spikes (4)

This is not confined to the UK:

A national Colombian study analysing medical examinations for Violence Against Women and Intimate Partner Violence during the 2014 and 2018 World Cups found significant increases on match days, with rises of up to 43%, and higher levels following wins than losses (5)

Across studies, several patterns emerge:

- Match days are associated with increased reported domestic abuse
- Alcohol appears to be a consistent aggravating factor
- Risk is not confined to losing matches
- Weekend fixtures often show the highest increases
- The association is international, not isolated to England

Researchers are clear: football is not a root cause of domestic abuse; alcohol is not a root cause. Abuse is a patterned behaviour rooted in coercive control (6), but tournaments may create environments where known risk factors intensify - alcohol, competitive masculinity, heightened emotion, and extended time together.

### **What this means for World Cup messaging**

If campaigns focus solely on “anger after a loss,” they risk oversimplifying the evidence.

The current research suggests:

- Celebration environments can coincide with increased harm
- Alcohol-aware messaging is critical
- Operational planning should anticipate risk around high-profile wins as well as defeats

- Messaging must avoid offering perpetrators excuses while still acknowledging elevated risk contexts

The timing of England games this year are potentially problematic for those already at risk, due to the potential for people to use alcohol post and prior to matches.

### Research References

- (1) Kirby, S., Francis, B. and O'Flaherty, R. (2014) 'Can the FIFA World Cup football (soccer) tournament be associated with an increase in domestic abuse?', *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*, 51(3), pp. 259–276.
- (2) Brimicombe, A. and Café, R. (2012) 'Beware, win or lose: domestic violence and the World Cup', *Significance*, 9(5), pp. 32–35.
- (3) Trendl, A., Stewart, N. and Mullett, T.L. (2021) 'The role of alcohol in the link between national football tournaments and domestic abuse – Evidence from England', *Social Science & Medicine*, 268, 113457.
- (4) Ivandić, R., Kirchmaier, T., Saeidi, Y. and Torres Blas, N. (2024) 'Football, alcohol, and domestic abuse', *Journal of Public Economics*, 230. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpubeco.2023.105031>
- (5) Kirby, S. and Birdsall, N. (2021) 'Kicking off: Is the association between the FIFA World Cup and domestic abuse an international phenomenon?', *The Police Journal*, 95(2), pp. 378–390.
- (6) Brooks-Hay, O. and Lombard, N. (2018) 'Home game: domestic abuse and football', *Journal of Gender-Based Violence*, 2(1), pp. 93–108.

## **Perinatal Trauma & Loss Service**

The Perinatal Trauma and Loss Service have now expanded their referral criteria to include perinatal loss or separation within the last 3 years (previously 2 years).

This is a service for Peterborough & Fenland to support women who have lost children through removal, where there are also mental health difficulties

For more information, please visit the website: [Perinatal Trauma & Loss Service](#)

## **Refuge**

The Scale of Post-Separation Abuse

Refuge data exposes scale of post-separation abuse amid widespread public misunderstanding

[Refuge data exposes scale of post-separation abuse amid widespread public misunderstanding](#)

## **Women's Aid**

On Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March Women's Aid published The Annual Audit 2026, the latest edition of Women's Aid's yearly publication, providing an in-depth picture of the provision, usage and work of domestic abuse services in England during the 2024 to 2025 financial year.

This report would not have been possible without the input from domestic abuse services and users of the Routes to Support and On Track database.

The report demonstrates that demand continues to outstrip capacity, and the proportion of referrals rejected by refuges is now at its highest level since 2019 to 2020. Systemic issues, such as poor commissioning practices, inadequate funding, and a lack of move-on accommodation are identified as widening the gap between survivors seeking safety and those able to access it.

While most specialist domestic abuse services are represented on local partnership boards, confidence in their decision-making, accountability mechanisms and oversight remains limited. Many services report mixed experiences of multi-agency working, ongoing power imbalances between statutory agencies and specialist providers, and lack of transparency in commissioning and governance processes.

**[You can read the full report, summary and On Track briefing here](#)**

On Wednesday 20th May, 11am to 12pm, Women's Aid will be holding a webinar exploring the findings of the Annual Audit 2026. You can register to attend [here](#).

**Some of the key findings of the report include:**

### **Demand**

- Almost two thirds (65.2%) of refuge referrals were rejected in 2024 to 2025 - the highest proportion since 2019 to 2020, and an increase of 5.1% since 2023 to 2024.

### **Provision**

- On 1st May 2025 there were 4,619 bedspaces across 286 refuges, an increase of 68 bedspaces since the previous year. Despite this small increase, there is still a substantial shortfall of 19.9% of the Council of Europe's recommendation of one refuge bedspace per 10,000 head of population.

### **Funding**

- At least one in eight (13.3%) refuge services receive no local authority commissioned funding at all.

### **Collaboration and accountability**

- Less than a third (29.7%) of organisations felt they were able to effectively hold their local authority to account for decision-making, and only 11.7% of organisations felt that accountability mechanisms in their local area were 'very effective.'

### **Emerging trends and issues**

- Almost a third (32.2%) of services reported that they had a written AI policy or were in the process of developing one.

If you have any questions or would like further information about the research, please contact [researchandpolicy@womensaid.org.uk](mailto:researchandpolicy@womensaid.org.uk)

To sign up to the Women's Aid bi-monthly Research Bulletin click [this link](#).

## **The Employers' Initiative on Domestic Abuse (EIDA)**

Domestic abuse affects 1 in 4 employees across the UK, meaning that virtually every workplace will employ both victim-survivors and perpetrators. Domestic abuse is a business issue; the cost of lost output to businesses in England alone is estimated at £17 billion per year. For someone experiencing domestic abuse, work may be their only safe place, and employers are uniquely positioned to raise awareness and support their employees.

The Employers' Initiative on Domestic Abuse (EIDA) is a free-to-join membership organisation supporting employers to take effective action on domestic abuse. EIDA has over 2000 employer members, collectively employing more than 25% of the UK's workforce. EIDA's mission is to equip employers to support their employees affected by domestic abuse and to share best practice with other employers. They endeavour to bring about constructive change, leading to a society where survivors thrive and domestic abuse is not tolerated.

EIDA membership is free and available to UK employers of all sizes and working in all sectors. Membership provides access to a host of practical resources, events, and networks. Join here: [www.eida.org.uk/membership](http://www.eida.org.uk/membership)

## **Institute of Domestic Violence, Religion & Migration (IDVRM)**

On 5 March 2026, IDVRM hosted **Building Capacity, Influence, and Change Together: A Workshop for 'By and For' VAWG/DVA Organisations**, bringing together 17 organisations from across the domestic violence and abuse (DVA) and violence against women and girls (VAWG) sector. Participants included 'by and for' organisations, generalist domestic abuse services, and organisations working at the intersection of migration, faith, and community advocacy.

The workshop provided a space to reflect on shared challenges, exchange frontline experiences, and identify priorities for strengthening sector responses to survivors from minoritised and migrant communities. Discussions highlighted persistent structural barriers, particularly around funding, access, recognition, and culturally and linguistically appropriate service provision.

Insights from the workshop have been compiled in a short report:

<https://idvrn.org/what-we-do/our-publications/event-report-march-2026/>.

Take a look at their [Evidence Bits](#) series, sharing practical insights, frontline reflections, and research from across the sector.

## The Nest



A reminder that Cambridgeshire County Council has funded a space at The Nest for local residents who require specialist domestic abuse and substance misuse support in a safe, supported, residential setting. They currently have a vacancy should you have a client that you think is suitable.

The Nest is located in North Essex and is delivered by Next Chapter, the commissioned domestic abuse provider, alongside Open Road who provide the substance misuse recovery support.

The Nest is an abstinent community, and new admissions need to have had a medical detox or be suitable for an ambulatory detox or have a bridging prescription if needed. A full assessment will be made on referral and any necessary arrangements put in place prior to admission. The Nest delivers a structured recovery programme of practical, emotional and educational support within a safe, homely and non-judgemental setting. They work towards improving physical and mental health, reconnecting residents with family and community and providing access to education, employment and onward safe housing. Over 75% of their residents who complete a programme of support go on to live fulfilling lives free from abuse and well into their recovery journey.

Further information is available on their website: [The Nest at Next Chapter](#) including an online referral form specifically for Cambridgeshire referrals.

Any questions please contact Lorna Preece – Accommodation Services Manager:  
01206 500585 / 07495408282

## Living Keys



### Upcoming Events

#### SWAP SHOP

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> 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)

#### Rum & Reggae evening

18<sup>th</sup> July – Dance the night away to the sounds of Bob Marley, Marcia Griffith, sang by the band "FYR"

£15 entry with a free raffle ticket and a free Rum Punch on arrival

### Groups

#### **Cherished Support Group for all women**

Monday's 9:30-12:00pm

Kingsgate Church

Murray Room

2 Staplee Way

Peterborough

PE1 4YT

#### **Drop-In service**

Monday's 1pm-17:30

George Alcock Centre

Stanground

Peterborough

## PE2 8QS

Offering emotional support, 121 support, arts and crafts, little pamper sessions, referrals to food bank or Carezone, referrals to other agencies

### Courses

- 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.

### The Meadows Children & Family Wing

The Meadows are pleased to announce that their *Life After Abuse* service for female survivors of domestic abuse is expanding following new funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

The following provision is now available:

**Monday:** Support session: 10:00am–12:00pm

Unity Centre

Northstowe

**Wednesday:** Support session: 1:00pm–3:00pm

The Meadows Centre

Cambridge

**Thursday:** Therapeutic session: 10:00am–12:00pm

The Meadows Centre

Cambridge

#### **Walk and Talk sessions:**

Thursday 1:00pm, held at various local outdoor locations

**Freedom Programme / Freedom Forever** courses will run term time only, subject to funding:

Tuesday 1:00pm–3:00pm (with crèche)

Wednesday 10:00am–12:00pm (no crèche)

April courses are fully booked. Further programmes will run from September 2026 onwards.

To make a referral, please contact [info@mcfw.co.uk](mailto:info@mcfw.co.uk).

## **The Angels Foundation UK**

Introducing Skylark, a new psychoeducational empowerment programme delivered by The Angels Foundation UK.

Skylark has been designed specifically for women who have already left an abusive relationship and are now navigating what comes next. It is not a crisis intervention, and it is not therapy. It sits at a distinct and often underserved point in the recovery pathway: the moment after safety has been established, when the practical pieces may be in place, but the internal work of rebuilding identity, confidence, and a sense of what is possible has only just begun.

From experience this stage is where many women are most at risk of returning to abusive relationships, not because they lack strength, but because they haven't yet had the space or the support to understand why they stayed, why leaving was so hard, and what they deserve now.

Skylark addresses this gap directly.

The programme runs across six structured sessions and covers:

- Understanding trauma and the nervous system, in plain language and without clinical distance
- Recognising patterns of coercive control and reclaiming a woman's own voice and sense of worth
- Attachment, boundaries, and what healthy relationships look and feel like
- Grief, self-compassion, and making peace with the past
- Rebuilding self-esteem, assertiveness, and a belief in her own decisions
- Identifying goals, whether personal, educational, or professional, and beginning to move toward them

Skylark is led by Anna and Karen, whose combined experience spans therapeutic practice and trauma recovery work, and who both bring lived experience of the issues they address. Their approach is warm, grounded, and genuinely human.

The programme is funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner and is completely free for women in Cambridgeshire.

If you are working with women who have left abusive relationships and are at a stage where they are ready to look forward, we would ask you to share the programme with them and encourage them to take part.

Cohort one kicks off with two different locations and times:

**[Mondays 10-12 in Ely – starting on Monday 20th April \(CLICK TO SIGN UP\)](#)**

**[Wednesdays 7-9pm in St Ives, starting on Wednesday 22nd April \(CLICK TO SIGN UP\)](#)**

Each course runs for 6 weeks – and there will be a series of courses running in different locations over the next two years.

If you have any questions at all, please contact: [support@angelsfoundation.org.uk](mailto:support@angelsfoundation.org.uk)

## Peterborough Women's Aid (PWA)

Join PWA for 3 days of activism in May highlighting domestic abuse in Peterborough.

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD AND STAND UP TO ABUSE. Everyone welcome!!



On May 16<sup>th</sup> Peterborough Women's Aid are peacefully walking from Anne's House on Cromwell Road to the Town Hall in Peterborough where they 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 them and wear something pink or purple!"



## Women Warriors Wisbech & March



This is Peterborough Women's Aid second podcast. Our CEO talks about the services we provide, and a survivor tells her story and how she is determined to help other victims

### [PWA Podcast 2](#)



Their radio show continues! Keep Women Talking is a bi-weekly show on Salaam FM for the women of Peterborough!! Tune in on YouTube or 106.2FM alternate Mondays 12-1pm



For more information on services provided by PWA please visit their website

[Peterborough Women's Aid](#)

## Survivor Focused Cervical Screening Toolkit

Many people find being invited for and having their cervical screening (a smear test) uncomfortable and distressing. If there is experience of sexual violence, they may find it particularly difficult or traumatic. Survivors of sexual violence have shared that it can be a source of anxiety. Many have not attended cervical screening because of their experience of sexual violence. Some felt forced or pressured to disclose their experiences. Others worried the examination might trigger a whole host of distressing physical and emotional responses. These are all normal and reasonable responses. However, cervical screening is an essential health check for our wellbeing and safety. And there is support available. Together, specialist nurses and survivors have built this toolkit specific to the needs of survivors of sexual violence, to support all survivors with a cervix to manage their cervical screening. This toolkit is BY survivors and FOR survivors...

[Cervical screening survivor toolkit 2026 | CPICS Website](#)

## Support for Children

WeMatter is a video-based digital service for children and young people (CYP) who have been affected by domestic abuse.

It provides specialist support to 8-17 year-olds who have been affected by abuse within their parent or carer's relationship, or within the family home.

It's not suitable for children and young people who are experiencing ongoing domestic abuse or for those who are still living with the alleged perpetrator.

WeMatter is available across the whole of England.



**VS VICTIM SUPPORT**

**WeMatter**  
An online group work programme for children and young people affected by domestic abuse

WeMatter is a totally digital service providing specialist support to children and young people aged 8-17 years old, who have been affected by domestic abuse. WeMatter delivers the CYP Domestic Abuse Recovery Toolkit, which offers a range of activities and discussions informed by Trauma Focused Cognitive Behaviour Therapy. This group programme is designed to help child and young people understand their own experiences, develop healthy coping strategies, increase levels of safety and achieve positive future relationships.

To contact the team please call: 0300 373 0258  
Email: [wematter@victimsupport.org.uk](mailto:wematter@victimsupport.org.uk)  
If you are in immediate danger call: 999

[victimsupport.org.uk](http://victimsupport.org.uk)

**ROCK POOL**

Published by Victim Support, Dundee Hill, The Priory Road, Perth, Perthshire, Scotland, PH1 1AA. Registered in Scotland, No. 2919. Scottish Charity No. SC015811. Registered in England, Limited by guarantee. Registered office at above. Charities Commission No. 2110706. Registered in England. Limited by guarantee. Registered office at above. Charities Commission No. 2110706. Registered in England. Limited by guarantee. Registered office at above. Charities Commission No. 2110706. Registered in England. Limited by guarantee. Registered office at above.

For more information and referral form please access the link below

[WeMatter - Victim Support](#)

## **Victims Survey**

The 2026 [Victims' Survey](#) was launched by The Victims' Commissioner for England and Wales, Claire Waxman OBE, on 8th April 2026 and is open until 6th May 2026

The Victims' Commissioner's Victim Survey is the only national, independent survey that gathers insights directly from victims across all crime types and stages of the justice process. These insights help the Victims' Commissioner understand what's working, where improvements are needed, and shape the recommendations she makes to improve outcomes for victims.

This year, the Victims' Commissioner has partnered with TONIC to deliver the survey.

It is anonymous, takes around 15 minutes, and is open to anyone aged 16+ who has experienced or reported a crime since January 2021.

Please share the survey link below, where appropriate, with victims and survivors that you support - <https://www.tonic.org.uk/victimsurvey2026>.

To request paper copies or telephone-assisted survey completion: contact [engage@tonic.org.uk](mailto:engage@tonic.org.uk)

## **Making Space - Volunteer Opportunities**

Making Space are currently recruiting face-to-face Volunteer Befrienders across Cambridgeshire for their [Community Navigator Team](#). This rewarding role involves spending approximately 2 hours per week with an individual who may be experiencing loneliness or social isolation. Through regular visits volunteers provide companionship, conversation, and a meaningful connection that can make a real difference to someone's wellbeing.

### **About the role:**

- Flexible commitment of around 2 hours per week
- Face-to-face visits within local communities across Cambridgeshire with a particular focus in Huntingdonshire, East Cambridgeshire and Fenland.
- Full training and ongoing support provided
- A chance to positively impact someone's life while building valuable experience

They are particularly keen to reach individuals who are compassionate, reliable, and able to commit to regular visits.

Please see the link to their vacancy page either on their website or the Support Cambridgeshire platform

[Making Space](#)

[Support Cambridgeshire](#)

## **Ministry of Justice Campaign – Tackling VAWG**

ET Casting, based in London, are currently casting for a new Ministry of Justice campaign focused on tackling violence against women and girls (VAWG).

They are looking for real-life stories from women and men aged 18–24 based in England & Wales who have been confided in by someone experiencing abuse.

We'll likely hear from more women, as these briefs are often female-led, but we're particularly keen to hear from men too.

By sharing real stories of disclosures, the campaign aims to improve the experience victims have when confiding in their network.

### **What they are looking for?**

They are seeking accounts from individuals who have been confided in by someone experiencing abuse (friends, family members, peers, etc.). This casting is focused on those who received the disclosure, rather than the survivors themselves.

These are stories only - no one will be asked to appear on camera and stories will be fully anonymised.

They are particularly interested in stories where someone who has experienced VAWG abuse has confided to someone in a public or semi-public environment (e.g. cafés, parks, public transport, university settings).

### **Topics may include:**

- Controlling or coercive behaviour
- Isolation from friends/family
- Control over clothing or appearance
- Sharing intimate images without consent
- Unwanted sexual images ("cyberflashing")
- Harassment or stalking

Please note: they are looking for people who have been confided in about a violent or abusive experience. The focus is on disclosure, not on victims themselves.

### **What to include in a submission:**

- Relationship to the person who confided in you
- Approximate ages and genders
- Where the disclosure happened
- What behaviour was disclosed
- How you felt and how you responded

### **How stories will be used:**

Selected stories will be adapted into campaign content (e.g. social films, radio or written pieces), always handled sensitively and with consent.

They do not require anyone to appear on camera - only stories of disclosure will be used in the campaign.

£250 per selected story

To share your story - [CLICK HERE](#) to fill out a short online form and to upload a voice memo.  
If you need any assistance with your applications, please contact: [zita@etcasting.com](mailto:zita@etcasting.com)  
As always, this casting is fully inclusive and there is no acting experience required.



**CASTING REAL STORIES**

**Have you ever been confided in by a woman who experienced abuse?**

Looking for people **18-24** years old, based in England or Wales, who've received a disclosure.  
No filming required. Fully anonymous.  
Disclosures that occurred in public or semi-public spaces.  
Stories to include instances of **control, isolation, image sharing, cyberflashing or stalking.**

**ALL INFORMATION ON THE PROJECT:**  
[www.etcasting.com/pages/events](http://www.etcasting.com/pages/events)

This is a PAID OPPORTUNITY

## Job Opportunity



**For women and children.  
Against domestic violence.**

Are you interested in working for Refuge as a Children's Support Worker. We have an exciting role available in Cambridgeshire.

We have a diverse team of incredible people who work together to provide an inclusive approach to ensure that every woman and child who needs support when facing domestic abuse, receives it.

We do this through a combination of frontline services offering immediate safety and support to women and their children. We also lead vital work to influence and change policies and practices that impact women and girls and use public engagement and campaigning to help change societal attitudes and norms.

We know that domestic abuse will never end until it is recognised by society as the crime that it is, and there is an understanding that it is underpinned by misogyny. We will not stop until we are able to challenge and shift harmful societal attitudes as well as drive policy and practice change that is needed to end Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG). It is only then that women and children will be free to live their lives in safety, with control over their choices and without fear.

Whatever your role at Refuge, you will have the opportunity to grow and develop as part of an amazing diverse and inclusive team of inspirational and talented people who provide vital and specialist services to women and children when their lives are in crisis. This is not always easy work, but it is essential, it is lifesaving, and it is life changing and you will be an integral part of what we do.

If you have the interest and commitment to contribute to our high-quality services, we hope you'll apply.

[Children's Support Worker | CIPHR iRecruit .](#)

## Learning Opportunities

### Cambridge United Football Club

Conference Focused on Young People and VAWG

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June

09.30 – 15.30

Cledara Abbey Stadium

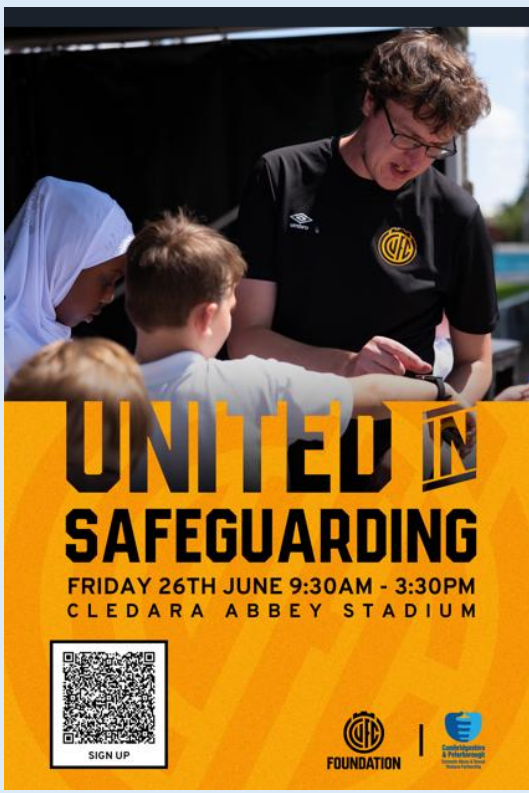
Newmarket Road

Cambridge

CB5 8LN

To book a place either scan the QR code on the poster or access the link below:

[United in Safeguarding conference](#)



## **Peterborough Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Conference**

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2026

08.45 – 16.15

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 Boards and Safeguarding Adult Boards**

**Domestic Abuse – Recognising and Responding to Coercive and Controlling Behaviours**

13<sup>th</sup> 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**

**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](mailto:mrc@beds.ac.uk)

Further information: [www.beds.ac.uk/mrc](http://www.beds.ac.uk/mrc)

## **Institute of Domestic Violence, Religion & Migration (IDVRM)**

IDVRM offer a range of specialised training courses grounded in their internationally recognised expertise in culturally resonant and faith-informed GBV research and interventions, drawing on years of frontline engagement and their Project dIdI/ድልድል Model®.

These are designed for practitioners, researchers, local authorities and community-based organisations working in complex, diverse, and faith-informed contexts.

Current training courses include:

- Ethical, Safeguarding and Power Considerations in Gender Based Violence Research
- Cultural and Religious Sensitivity in VAWG and Domestic Violence Services in Migration Contexts

More information on our training is available here: <https://idvrm.org/training/>.