



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

**May - 2026**

Hello!

Summer seems to have finally arrived!

Lots of information in this month's newsletter, including the guidance for those trying to parent with an abusive ex-partner. Guidance for professionals will be available shortly – if you would like to be sent this, please email [Lydia.mack@peterborough.gov.uk](mailto:Lydia.mack@peterborough.gov.uk).

Agencies continue their excellent work on Domestic Homicide Reviews, please read the “Fiona” review in this newsletter.

We have several forthcoming events to highlight:

- Peterborough DASV Conference: 24<sup>th</sup> June. The conference is full however we are hoping to live stream the event
- Cambridgeshire Conference, focusing on young people & VAWG delivered in partnership with the Cambridge United Foundation: 26<sup>th</sup> June
- MARAC Development Day: 9<sup>th</sup> July

As always, please do stay in touch - we *always* 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 sessions will be in July

Anam Fatima will be speaking about barriers to support for minority ethnic survivors of domestic abuse and Amanda Warburton will be speaking about supporting older survivors of sexual violence.

Dates:

7<sup>th</sup> July 13.00 – 15.00

14<sup>th</sup> July 11.00 – 13.00

16<sup>th</sup> July 10.00 – 12.00

Please use the link below to book:

[July DASV Champions: Barriers to Support for Minority Ethnic Survivors & Supporting Older Survivors of Sexual Violence](#)

## **Domestic Homicide Review (DHR)**

Please see the link below to the latest DHR which was published recently.

[Overview report - Fiona](#)

## **Information for Friends and Family of victims of domestic abuse**

Please see the link on the DASV website for information on how to support friends and family who disclose domestic abuse

[Cambridgeshire County Council DASV Partnership - Information for Friends and Family](#)

## **Parenting with an Abusive Ex-Partner**

### **Guidance on Parenting with an Abusive Ex-Partner**

We are pleased to share that Vickie Crompton and Lydia Mack have been working collaboratively with domestic abuse services, internal colleagues and those with lived experience of domestic abuse to co-produce new guidance designed to support parents managing communication with an abusive ex-partner in relation to parenting.

The guidance has been developed in response to an identified gap in existing provision with a significant number of parents seeking support around communication with an ex-partner but unable to access Reducing Parental Conflict (RPC) services due to domestic abuse, both current and historic.

There will be specific guidance for professionals published in the coming weeks, which will include outlining how professionals can effectively use the guidance to support their work with parents. To further support professionals, we are offering six face-to-face *Parenting with an Abusive Ex-Partner (For Professionals)* training sessions in Peterborough aimed at staff supporting families experiencing ongoing abuse post-separation. The training explores how coercive control can continue after a relationship has ended, its impact on parenting and the implications for children's safety and wellbeing. For more details email [Lydia.Mack@peterborough.gov.uk](mailto:Lydia.Mack@peterborough.gov.uk)

To access the document on the DASV website please click the link below:

[Cambridgeshire County Council DASV Partnership - Parenting](#)

There are 3,000 printed copies of the parent guidance available. Please contact Lydia Mack if you would like to request hard copies for your team [Lydia.Mack@peterborough.gov.uk](mailto:Lydia.Mack@peterborough.gov.uk)

## **Family Law**

[Proudmans | Family Law Firm](#)

## **Child Maintenance Service**

Gingerbread has published a joint briefing exploring the experiences of victim-survivors of domestic abuse with the Child Maintenance Service (CMS). Developed in collaboration with Surviving Economic Abuse, Women's Aid, and victim-survivors, it highlights serious gaps in support and safeguarding.

For more information click the link below:

[“Maintenance is used as a weapon all of the time” - read our new joint briefing | Gingerbread](#)

## **Embrace**

### **Trauma Informed Support for Children Affected by Domestic Abuse in Cambridgeshire**

Embrace CVoC is providing vital emotional help to children and young people in Cambridgeshire who have been affected by domestic abuse.

The service offers short-term emotional support and counselling, delivering up to 10 sessions for children and young people aged 7 to 18 years. The support is designed to help young people understand and process their experiences, build emotional resilience and improve wellbeing.

Children are eligible for the service provided they are not in direct contact with the perpetrator of the abuse, ensuring that support is delivered in a safe and appropriate environment. All referrals received by the service are carefully triaged to assess suitability, helping to ensure that children receive the right level of support at the right time.

Referrals can be made by the following professionals - **social workers, Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs)** and the **Victim & Witness Hub**. This professional referral pathway helps identify children who may be struggling with the emotional impact of domestic abuse and would benefit from early intervention.

Referrals can be made here <https://embracecvoc.org.uk/refer-a-child/>

Please ensure you have gained parental consent to refer prior to making a referral to us for support.

Domestic abuse can have a significant and long-lasting effect on children and young people. This service recognises the importance of early emotional support in helping to reduce trauma and promote healing.

By offering a safe space to talk and access structured emotional support, the service aims to help children and young people regain confidence, develop coping strategies and move forward positively.

## **Shared Lives Project**

The Cambridgeshire Shared Lives Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (DASV) Project supports adults with learning disabilities and/or autism who have experienced domestic abuse. The project provides flexible, trauma-informed support through the Shared Lives model, shaped around individual needs, choices, and circumstances.

Support options include short break respite, long-term Shared Lives placements, day support, and access to services such as the Cambridgeshire Outreach Service, which offers one-to-one support in the community. These services are offered based on individual needs and may change over time, with a focus on safety, wellbeing, and independence.

During 2025/26, the Shared Lives DASV Project supported 11 people across Cambridgeshire. The project's impact has been recognised nationally, with the service named a finalist in the Local Government Chronicle (LGC) Health and Social Care Award.

### **Case Study: Ben – A Fresh Start and a Brighter Future**

*Ben is a 36-year-old man whose life has changed hugely since joining the Cambridgeshire Shared Lives Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (DASV) Project. Before coming into the project, Ben had spent many years living in a situation where he experienced abuse, neglect, financial exploitation, and isolation. He hadn't been receiving support from services and told us he couldn't remember the last time he had been able to go out of his local area.*

*Ben's journey into Shared Lives began with respite support, which gave him short, regular breaks in a safe and welcoming home. He was matched with Cath, a Shared Lives Domestic Abuse Carer, and began staying with her for two nights every fortnight. These stays gave Ben time away from an unsafe situation and, just as importantly, helped him feel safe, cared for, and listened to.*

*This gentle and supportive start allowed Ben to build trust at his own pace. During his respite stays, Ben was able to relax, enjoy being cared for, and experience consistency and kindness — things that had been missing from his life for a long time.*

*At the same time, Ben was supported through the DASV Project to access the Cambridgeshire Outreach Service during the week. This gave Ben one-to-one support in the community, helping him get out and about, try new activities, and slowly rebuild his confidence. Ben still accesses the Outreach Service today, which continues to support him to stay active, social, and engaged in his volunteering placement.*

*As Ben's confidence grew and professionals better understood his experiences, it became clear that returning to his family home full time was not the right option for him. With careful planning and support, Ben moved from respite into long-term Shared Lives support.*

*In February 2025, Ben moved into Grace's home, a long-term Shared Lives Domestic Abuse Carer. This move marked a huge turning point. Ben continues to receive respite through the Shared Lives*

*service, meaning he still stays with Cath from time to time, keeping an important relationship that helps him feel safe and reassured.*

*Ben describes moving in with Grace as “a fresh start” and often talks about how “amazing” his life feels now.*

*Today, Ben is doing incredibly well. He has become much more independent and now managing his own medication, showers independently, shaves his own beard and taking pride in his appearance.*

*Ben enjoys a busy and fulfilling life. He loves going on days out, going for walks, and spending time outdoors. He has discovered a new love for gardening, which gives him a sense of achievement and enjoyment. Since moving, Ben has also been able to buy an iPad, giving him more ways to relax, learn, and stay connected.*

*With the right support around him, Ben made the brave decision to stop contact with his parents. This was an important step for Ben and has helped him feel safer, calmer, and more in control of his own life. Since making this decision, Ben says he feels happier and more hopeful about the future.*

*Ben continues to be supported through both Cambridgeshire Shared Lives and the Cambridgeshire Outreach Service, receiving kind, understanding, trauma-informed support from people he trusts. His future is very positive. He is growing in independence, enjoying new hobbies, building meaningful relationships, and engaging confidently with the world around him.*

*Ben’s story shows how the Cambridgeshire Shared Lives DASV Project can change lives — starting with respite, building trust, and creating the opportunity for people to move on from harm and build a life filled with choice, safety, and hope.*

## **The SARC**

The Elms SARC are having some open days in 2026 for professionals only.

Please access the link below to book a place

[SARC Open Day Tickets, Multiple dates | Eventbrite](#)

## Coproduction

The first Cambridgeshire DASV Coproduction forum will be held on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> at The Meadows Community Centre



**Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Coproduction Forum**

Women only

You are warmly invited to join our next coproduction forum!

A safe, supportive and collaborative space for women to share their lived experience and shape services and systems together

**Date:** Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> June 2026  
**Time:** 10:15am - 11:45am  
**Venue:** The Meadows Community Centre, 299 Arbury Rd, Cambridge, CB4 2JL

For any questions or queries, please contact:  
**Claire Thatcher - Coproduction Facilitator**

Email: [Claire.Thatcher@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Claire.Thatcher@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)  
Phone: 07483 571831

## Living Keys



## Upcoming Events

### 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

For more information on the support they offer please visit their website: [Living Keys](https://www.livingkeys.org.uk)

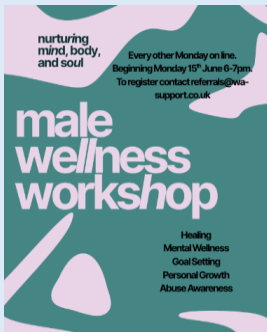
## Peterborough Women's Aid (PWA)

PWA are running an online group for male victims of abuse focused on abuse awareness & wellbeing

The group will be held other Monday 6pm-7pm, beginning Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June

To register contact [referrals@wasupport.co.uk](mailto:referrals@wasupport.co.uk)

Please share with any male victims you are working with.



This is PWA's latest Podcast focusing on abuse in the Lithuanian Community

### [PWA Podcast 3](#)



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](#)

## **The Meadows Children & Family Wing**

For information on the support they offer please visit their website:

[The Meadows Children & Family Wing | Providing a fun, safe and stimulating environment.](#)

## **The Angels Foundation UK**

For information on the support they offer please visit their website:

[The Angels Foundation UK](#)

# Learning Opportunities

## MARAC Development Day

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough MARAC Development Day will take place on 9th July 2026 at the Lady Olivia Centre in Brampton.

Programme for the Day:



**Cambridgeshire  
& Peterborough  
Domestic Abuse & Sexual  
Violence Partnership**

**MARAC DEVELOPMENT DAY**

An event to share learning, reflection and best practice  
9<sup>th</sup> July 2026 – Lady Olivia Centre, 85 Central Avenue, Brampton, PE28 4QL

**Programme**

09:00 – 09:30	Arrival and registration
09:30 – 09:45	Welcome: Cambridgeshire and Peterborough DASV Partnership
09:45 – 10:15	Lived Experience Coproduction: Claire Thatcher
10:15 – 10:45	Survivor Voice
10:45 – 11:15	Supporting victims with NRPF status: Anam Fatima
11:15 – 11:30	Coffee break
11:30 – 13:00	Our Remit in a MARAC Context: Core Partners
13:00 – 13:45	Lunch and networking
13:45 – 14:15	DRIVE (DA Perpetrator Programme): Jo Crisall, Cambs Police
14:15 – 15:15	Group Exercise: "From Risk to Result"
15:15 – 15:30	Coffee break
15:30 – 16:00	Feedback from Group Exercise
16:00 – 16:15	Reflections and close

Timings may vary

**RSVP please to [dasv@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:dasv@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)**

To book a place please email:  
[dasv@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:dasv@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

## Cambridge United Football Club

United in Safeguarding Conference

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June

09.30 – 15.30

Cledara Abbey Stadium

Newmarket Road

Cambridge

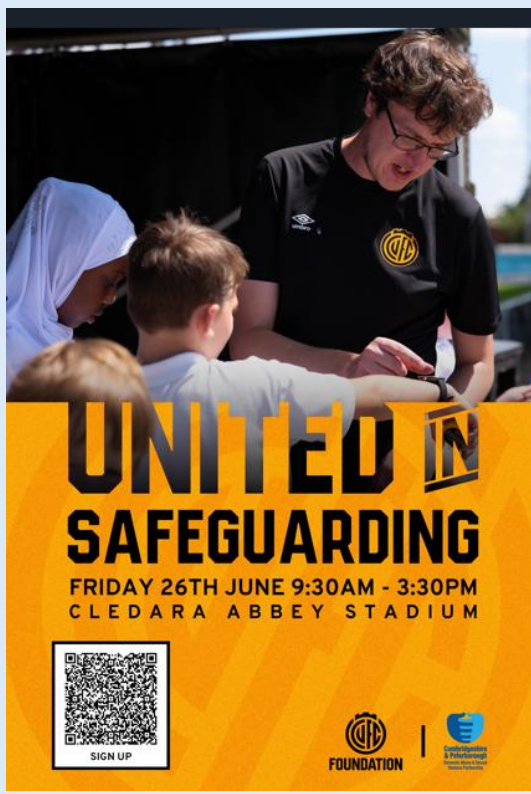
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For more information on content of the day and speakers for the day please click the link below:

[United in Safeguarding Conference 26th June 2026](#)

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

[United in Safeguarding conference - booking link](#)



## **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](#)

## **North Cambridge Collective Professionals Event**

Do you help shape how children and families in North Cambridge experience support?

Do you want a clearer understanding of the support available to families across North Cambridge, and the role of the North Cambridge Children and Families Collective?

Do you work directly with children and families in North Cambridge?

When families' needs don't sit neatly within one service, do you know where the gaps - and opportunities - really are?

If these questions resonate, the North Cambridge Collective would love to invite you to a professionals' event bringing together statutory and voluntary sector colleagues working to improve the lives of children and families in North Cambridge.

This event is hosted by the North Cambridge Children and Families Collective, a partnership of four well-established charities working across early help, community support, and targeted family provision. Home-Start Cambridgeshire, King's Hedges Family Support Project, Meadows Children and Family Wing, and The Red Hen Project

Is this event for you?

You will find this event particularly useful if you:

- Want a clearer picture of what community-based provision offers – and how it fits alongside statutory services and other services
- Work directly with children, parents, or families in North Cambridge
- Are involved in Early Help, Family Hubs, Best Start, or Targeted Support
- Hold responsibility for decision-making, commissioning, or service development
- Would like to put faces to names and make stronger links with the four charities over a tasty lunch!

What the event is about

This is a professional space to:

- Build a clearer picture of who is doing what locally, and why
- Explore how services fit together across the full spectrum of need – from prevention to targeted support
- Share learning about how statutory and voluntary sector services can work alongside each other, not in silos
- Strengthen relationships that make collaboration, referrals, and joint working easier in practice

Children and families rarely need just one service. This event is about understanding the whole jigsaw, and how different parts fit together.

What to expect on the day

- A short introduction from the Collective
  - who we are and how we work together
  - why you need to know about us
- A relaxed, café-style marketplace where you can talk informally with:
  - staff from each organisation
  - parents and volunteers with lived experience of services
- Space for conversation, questions, and professional networking over lunch

Please select session 1 or 2, depending on what time works best for you - lunch will be provided.

Practical details

Date: Monday 15 June

Times:

12:00 am - 2:00 pm (session 1)

*or*

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm (session 2)

Venue: The Meadows Community Centre, North Cambridge

Lunch: Provided, served 1:00–2:00 pm

Why this matters

As professionals, you share responsibility for improving outcomes for children and families. Stronger understanding of local provision helps:

- Families experience smoother journeys between services
- Professionals make clearer, more confident referrals
- Families to access longer-term, local support and community connections
- All our organisations use time and resources more effectively

This event presents an important opportunity to create deeper connections and clearer collaboration across North Cambridge.

Please share with your colleagues and pass on to other organisations – anyone who cares about children and families in North Cambridge is welcome.

Places are limited, so book early.

Please RSVP [here](#) by 1st June to reserve a space

## **Empowera**

Empowera are pleased to share details of their upcoming free webinar on post-separation abuse.

Designed for professionals and survivors, the session provides an introduction into the ongoing impact of abuse after separation and aims to support informed, effective responses across services.

Separation doesn't always mean safety.

This engaging and compassionate webinar unpacks the realities of Post Separation Abuse. Exploring the tactics, impacts, and support pathways for those affected, as well as what friends, professionals, and communities can do to help.

Whether a survivor, a solo parent, a frontline worker, or simply seeking greater awareness, this webinar offers vital insight into an often-overlooked form of abuse.

Friday 22nd May 2026 | 11:00 | Online | [Click here to reserve your FREE space](#)

Thursday 18th June 2026 | 11:30 | Online | [Click here to reserve your FREE space](#)

## **You My sister**

You My Sister help survivors of abuse take back control of their mental health. They do this through short courses, created and led by trainers with lived experience.

For more information on the free online courses they run please visit their website:

[You My Sister – Supporting Survivors of Abuse](#)

