



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

June 2026

Welcome to the June Newsletter

We hope you are all enjoying the football, or able to avoid it if that is your preference!

We would like to highlight that the Domestic Homicide Reviews for Ava and Miles have recently been published. These are available to read on the Peterborough City Council and Huntingdonshire District Council websites.

We also have a couple of important upcoming events to share:

- **Peterborough DASV Conference – 24th June**
This will be live-streamed via the Peterborough City Council YouTube channel
- **MARAC Development Day – 9th July**

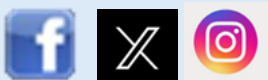
As always, please do stay in touch—we greatly value hearing from you.

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

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 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:

7th July 13.00 – 15.00

14th July 11.00 – 13.00

16th 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 access the link below and scroll to the bottom of the webpage for summaries of 2 recently published DHRs

[Ava & Gloria - DHR summaries](#)

Learning from Domestic Homicide Reviews: A Government Response

The Home Office provided the Domestic Abuse Commissioner (DAC) with funding to launch the Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) Oversight Mechanism pilot in 2024. The pilot has now concluded, and the report is now available [Learning from domestic homicide reviews: government response](#)

Suzy Lamplugh Trust

Fatal Fixation: The Link Between Stalking & Homicide

This report shines a light on the escalation of stalking behaviours and the potentially devastating impacts of stalking, including homicide and suicide. Research highlights systemic gaps in data collection, perpetrator risk management and multi-agency coordination. Victims continue to be let down by public bodies and agencies, resulting in their exposure to unacceptable risk.

The report provides an urgent call to action to ensure that the links between stalking and homicide and victim suicide are fully understood and acted upon by professionals across the criminal justice, health, domestic abuse and safeguarding agencies. It also calls for strengthened research, improved data collection and the introduction of a dedicated stalking-related death review process, to ensure that lessons are systematically captured from stalking-related deaths, including homicides and victim suicides, to drive more effective prevention.

To read the full report [click here](#)

To read the executive summary [click here](#)

Anglia Ruskin University (ARU)



ARU's gender-based violence work is recognised

ARU is among the first institutions in England to receive an important national award recognising its work to tackle gender-based violence (GBV).

Alongside the University of Warwick, ARU has been awarded the EmilyTest Charter Award by the Scottish charity [EmilyTest](#).

The EmilyTest Charter was created in memory of Emily Drouet, an 18-year-old student who was subjected to a sustained campaign of GBV from a fellow student and later took her own life.

Determined to ensure no other victims are left unsupported and at risk like Emily was, her mother Fiona established the EmilyTest charity, which developed the world's first GBV Charter for universities and colleges.

The Charter outlines standards for sexual and gender-based violence prevention, intervention and support, and helps institutions check that their policies, practices and procedures would have saved Emily's life: 'Would they pass the Emily test?'.

Already awarded to a number of universities and colleges in Scotland, the Charter was piloted in England last year to ensure alignment with the English higher education system. Following this successful pilot, ARU is now among the first institutions in England to achieve the Charter Award, reflecting its sector-leading work in this area.

ARU has taken a comprehensive, university-wide approach to tackling GBV. Alongside its Counselling and Wellbeing Service, which provides confidential counselling, mental health advice and wellbeing support, ARU has partnered with Sharon Livermore MBE of [Domestic Abuse Education](#).

Through this partnership, a group of trained student domestic abuse ambassadors play a vital role in raising awareness and guiding fellow students towards appropriate internal and external specialist services.

ARU has also implemented a dedicated domestic abuse policy, hosted conferences on the topic, delivers specialist domestic abuse training for staff, and promotes the White Ribbon campaign, which actively engages men and boys with the aim of challenging harmful attitudes that can escalate to violence.

In addition, ARU has marked Domestic Abuse Awareness Month through impactful public art exhibitions on campus, helping to foster open conversations and increase the visibility of support services.

For the full information visit [ARU's gender-based violence work is recognised - ARU](#)

Raising awareness of the White Ribbon Campaign - Cambridge City Council

The Cambridge City Abbey Big Lunch took place on Sunday 14 June - an event which brings together local residents of different generations for a range of activities. A variety of council teams attended the event including Active Lifestyles, Enabling Communities, Equalities, Housing Development, and Independent Living.

The public safety stall raised awareness about the [White Ribbon campaign](#) which aims to engage men in ending all forms of violence against women and girls. The council has its own official White Ribbon accreditation for work since 2015 to help further the campaign's aims, and individuals can also make a pledge to support it.

With the 2026 Men's World Football Cup underway, the stall promoted available services including Cambridgeshire and Peterborough [Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership](#) and [Respect](#) phoneline, which is aimed at perpetrators of domestic abuse. There was much support for the stall, including by the Mayor of Cambridge, ward councillors, and [Cambridge United Foundation](#).

The Mayor, Councillor Maria Cleminson said: "The work that the White Ribbon Campaign does in preventing violence against women and girls feels as desperately important now as it ever was and I am so proud to be part of a council that has worked so hard to achieve White Ribbon status. It was great to see my colleagues promoting their work at a White Ribbon stand at Abbey People's 'Big Lunch', a joyous community event that creates space for such important messages and outreach, and I look forward to supporting their vital work in the future."

Cambridge United Foundation Community Engagement Manager Simon Wall said: "Events like Abbey People's Big Lunch demonstrate the power of partnership and community action. Cambridge United Foundation was delighted to support the White Ribbon campaign alongside local organisations, using the event as an opportunity to encourage positive conversations around respect, equality and creating safer communities."

Photograph: Louise Walker (City Council Community Safety Officer) with Cambridge United Foundation Jake Potts (Community Engagement Officer), and Simon Wall (Community Engagement Manager).

Empowering Women Everywhere

Empowering Women Everywhere presents the Know Your Worth Walk – Peterborough

Empowering Women Everywhere is an independent, women-led registered charity supporting women experiencing homelessness, trauma, addiction, poor mental and physical health, exploitation, domestic abuse and multiple disadvantage.

Founded by Lucille Weir, British Empire Medal (BEM), and built on over 20 years of frontline experience, Empowering Women Everywhere was created to ensure that women facing some of life's toughest challenges have someone to walk alongside them. Without support, many simply wouldn't cope - and some wouldn't survive.

Through trauma-informed outreach, advocacy, practical support and access to healthcare, they help women who are too often unseen and unheard. Their approach is simple: build trust, walk alongside women and never give up on them.

The Know Your Worth Walk is more than fundraising. It is about women coming together in solidarity and sending a powerful message that every woman has value, dignity and worth, regardless of her circumstances or past experiences.

Below are the details of the walk:

Saturday 27th June 2026

The Boathouse, Thorpe Meadows, Peterborough

Meet at 7:30pm for an 8:00pm start

As darkness falls, they will walk back using torches and phone lights as a reminder that even in difficult times, no woman should walk alone.

The walk will be approximately 60–90 minutes

Every woman deserves to know that she matters.

SafeLives

Statement

SafeLives are concerned by recent comments and media coverage around false domestic abuse claims and the immigration system. Migrant victim-survivors must be able to seek safety without fear that they will be disbelieved, punished or treated as a suspect because of their immigration status.

Click here for more details: [Harmful narratives around migrant victims of domestic abuse](#)

First Recorded Teenage Suicide linked to Domestic Abuse

In April of this year the first recorded teenage suicide was linked to domestic abuse in England and Wales. It also confirms a wider and urgent pattern that for the third year running suicides following domestic abuse are higher than domestic homicides.

SafeLives [research](#) has shown that young people experience some of the highest rates of domestic abuse, but too many are still invisible to the systems meant to protect them.

Teenage relationship abuse is serious:

Coercive control, threats, isolation, digital abuse, strangulation, sexual pressure, abuse shaped by violent pornography and misogynistic online influencers.

And for young people under 16, abuse in intimate relationships is still not recognised within the legal definition of domestic abuse.

That gap matters. It shapes what professionals look for. It shapes what services are funded to provide. It shapes whether a young person is believed and supported early enough.

Their [Too Soon Too Late](#) research shows that young people can feel unheard, unsupported and unsure where to turn, too old for children's services, but too young for adult domestic abuse services.

Five Years on from the Domestic Abuse Act, Little has Changed for Survivors

The law, introduced in April 2021, was seen as a major step forward. It created a definition of domestic abuse, recognised children as victims in their own right, and gave local authorities new responsibilities to support those affected. But in reality, little has changed for victims and survivors of domestic abuse, and progress in law has not translated into consistent safety and support in practice.

[Five years on from the Domestic Abuse Act, little has changed for survivors](#)

Legislative Updates

Several important pieces of legislation have now received Royal Assent, marking significant progress for the domestic abuse sector.

The focus now shifts to implementation, and ensuring reforms are properly funded, trauma-informed, and informed by specialist expertise.

Crime and Policing Act 2026

A major win for the sector: the Act introduces a statutory definition of 'honour'-based abuse (HBA), alongside a commitment to develop statutory guidance. This is a crucial step towards better identification and support for victim-survivors.

The definition placed into statute aligns with the long-used CPS/policing definition. It is:

“An incident or crime involving violence, threats of violence, intimidation, coercion or abuse (including psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional abuse) which has or may have been committed to protect or defend the honour of an individual, family and/or community for alleged or perceived breaches of the family and/or community’s code of behaviour.” (college.police.uk), (cps.gov.uk)

Key points to note (in practice)

It covers a wide spectrum of behaviours: violence, coercion, controlling behaviour, and all forms of abuse. (college.police.uk)

The motivation is central: the abuse is linked to protecting or restoring perceived “honour” after a real or alleged breach of expected behaviour. (college.police.uk)

It explicitly recognises that abuse can be: collective, family/community involvement, based on perception rather than actual behaviour (cps.gov.uk)

The legislation sits alongside, not replacing, existing offences—there is still no single standalone offence of HBA; prosecutions rely on underlying crimes, e.g. assault, coercive control, forced marriage. (cps.gov.uk)

Making Relationship & Sex Education Mandatory to age 18

Alistair Strathern Labour MP for Hitchin, is launching a Private Members Bill (PMB), dedicated to extending relationships and sex education into Further Education.

Alistair Strathern is one of 20 MPs who have been selected in the [Private Members Bill ballot](#) and is Chair of the Labour group for men and boys. [Quoted by LBC](#), he said: "For too long, children in further education have missed out because of gaps in provision of relationships and sex education. At a time when the worst corners of the internet are preying on teenagers, with their own harmful takes on what makes a healthy relationship, we surely owe young people far better than this".

Here's the [press notice](#) issued by End Violence against Women Coalition, which includes quotes from Faustine Petron, the founder of the Make it Mandatory campaign, and Lucy Emmerson from Sex Education Forum.

A Sex Education Forum briefing on the case for extending RSE to 18 is [here](#).

Women's Aid

Research projects

Author: Gingerbread

Date: April 2026

[“Maintenance is used as a weapon all of the time”: Domestic Abuse and the Child Maintenance Service](#)

Too many victim-survivors of domestic abuse are being failed by the Child Maintenance Service (CMS). Children are pushed further into poverty, and families are left without the support they need – all because the CMS isn't safe or working effectively.

This new briefing, developed with Women's Aid, Surviving Economic Abuse and victim-survivors sets out practical recommendations to reform the CMS and protect families.

Author: Dr Katharine Hoeger, Dr Carolina Gutierrez-Munoz, Dr Rachel Tisi, Adam Sadullah, Grace Gudgeon and Angela Whitaker

Date: April 2026

[Domestic Homicides and Suspected Victim Suicides 2020-2025 - Year 5 Report](#)

The fifth annual report from the national Domestic Homicide Project examines domestic abuse related deaths identified by police to improve understanding of risk indicators, victim and perpetrator demographics. The unique dataset provides detailed information on these deaths not available from any other source.

For the third year in a row, suspected victim suicides following domestic abuse have overtaken other categories to become the most commonly recorded type of death. This reflects increased awareness and progress in identifying the links between domestic abuse and suicide.

[Click here to access more Women's Aid's research and reports](#)

Embrace

Exciting news from Embrace about their new name & branding

Following careful consideration, they have decided to change their charity name from **Child Victims of Crime to Child Survivors of Crime**. This change is based on listening to the lived experience of young survivors' voices. Their commitment to listening to the voices of service users has been reflected in a move to language that is empowering and recognises the strength, resilience, and potential of the children and families they support.

They believe the new name aligns with the charity's values and the positive outcomes they achieve for the children and families they work with.

Alongside their new name, they have also introduced a refreshed brand identity including a new logo and website. Their new visual identity reflects their renewed focus, values, and commitment to those they support.

You will begin to see this new branding across their communications, materials, and channels in the coming days and weeks.

The new website can be found at [Embrace](#), and contains all the information regarding their services, impact and governance.

Email addresses have also changed to firstname.surname@embracecsoc.org.uk, info@embracecsoc.org.uk and accounts@embracecsoc.org.uk

Despite the change of name and branding Jo Proctor, CEO, wants to reassure everyone that services, delivery, and commitment remain unchanged. They will continue to provide the same high-quality support to children and families affected by crime, and their focus on achieving meaningful, measurable impact remains at the heart of everything they do.

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.](#)

Trauma Bonding Article

What Is Trauma Bonding?

Understanding the emotional and physiological pull that keeps survivors attached

Amanda Kippert

May 11, 2026

Trauma bonding is a powerful attachment created by cycles of abuse and reward. It's not weakness - it's a psychological and physiological response that abusers reinforce.

Brain chemistry and manipulation keep survivors emotionally hooked. Intermittent kindness, gaslighting and dopamine surges make leaving feel confusing and difficult.

Breaking a trauma bond takes awareness, distance and support. Recognizing the pattern, creating space and reconnecting with yourself are key steps toward healing.

This is an American article originally published in 2011 and has been updated in May of this year.

To read more click the link below – as it is American not all information will be relevant to the UK

[What Is Trauma Bonding?](#)

Living Keys



Upcoming Events

Rum & Reggae evening

18th 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](#)

Peterborough Women's Aid (PWA)

Due to exceptionally high demand, Peterborough Women's Aid is temporarily pausing new referrals to the Healing Together Programme through the E-scape Project. They are committed to delivering a high-quality service to those already enrolled.

Podcast 4

Join Mandy and Vickie talking about parenting with an abusive ex-partner and their views on domestic abuse and the Word Cup [PWA Podcast 4](#)



For more information on services provided by PWA please visit their website [Peterborough Women's Aid](#)

The Angels Foundation UK

Former Assistant Chief Constable continues public service through domestic abuse charity leadership role



The Angels Foundation UK is delighted to announce the appointment of Martin Brunning as a Trustee, bringing with him more than three decades of distinguished service in policing and a lifelong commitment to supporting people affected by crime and harm.

Having recently retired as Assistant Chief Constable, following a career spanning over 30 years, Martin has consistently placed people at the heart of his leadership. Throughout his policing career, he championed the needs of victims and survivors while also leading nationally to improve the wellbeing and support available to investigators and police staff across the country.

Martin's career has seen him lead some of the most complex and challenging investigations, including murder inquiries and operations targeting some of the most serious offenders. Despite witnessing the devastating impact of crime throughout his career, his focus has always remained on helping those affected to rebuild their lives and find hope.

As he begins this new chapter, Martin has pledged to continue supporting those affected by domestic abuse through his role at The Angels Foundation UK, joining a dedicated team of trustees and volunteers committed to providing life-changing support to survivors.

Commenting on his appointment, Martin said:

"I know how domestic abuse affects individuals and entire families. I am in a privileged position where I can give time, care and support to the critical work undertaken by The Angels Foundation, and I had no hesitation when Caroline offered me the opportunity to be part of her team."

"The Foundation creates an extraordinary sense of hope for people, and that's what I set out to do throughout my policing leadership. Joining The Angels Foundation is a natural next step for me. I can't wait to get started and help make a difference for others."

Caroline Deeprise, Founder and CEO of The Angels Foundation UK, welcomed Martin's appointment:

“We are absolutely delighted to welcome Martin to our Board of Trustees. His exceptional leadership experience, deep understanding of the impact of domestic abuse, and unwavering commitment to supporting people through trauma will be invaluable to the Foundation. Martin’s values align perfectly with our mission, and we are excited to work alongside him as we continue to expand our support for survivors and their families.”

The Angels Foundation UK is dedicated to helping individuals and families recover from the devastating impact of domestic abuse. Through practical support, including addressing furniture poverty, specialist counselling, and tailored pathways to recovery, the charity empowers survivors to rebuild safe, independent futures. Martin’s appointment further strengthens the Foundation’s governance and strategic leadership as it continues to expand its life-changing support across the region.

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

[The Angels Foundation UK](https://www.theangelsfoundation.org.uk/)

Domestic Abuse Group Programmes – Cambridgeshire & Peterborough

Domestic Abuse Group Work Support for Survivors in Cambridgeshire & Peterborough		
PROVIDER	DISTRICT	DETAILS
The Angel's Foundation	Huntingdon	- Specialist post-crisis and post-IDVA Recovery Support for adult women (aged 18 and over) delivered over a six-session recovery programme structure: - Running every Wednesday evening, in six-week blocks, in St Ives from 19:00 – 21:00 - Self-referrals accepted 6 Week Recovery Programme The Angels Foundation UK
The Angel's Foundation	East Cambs	- Specialist post-crisis and post-IDVA Recovery Support for adult women (aged 18 and over) delivered over a six-session recovery programme structure: - Running every Monday, in six-week blocks, in Ely from 10:00 – 12:00 - Self-referrals accepted 6 Week Recovery Programme The Angels Foundation UK
The Meadows	Cambs City	- Face-to-face Freedom Programme with and without creche facilities at the Family and Children Centre: - Running every Tuesday from 13:00 – 15:00 and every Wednesday from 10:00 – 12:00 - Professional referral required via Support For You The Meadows Children & Family Wing
The Meadows	South Cambs	- Face-to-face structured 'Life After Abuse' Support Group session delivered by volunteers with lived experience of DA (current or ex-service users), plus a playworker to support young children, and a specialist IDVA worker, facilitated: - Every Monday at the Unity Centre, Northstowe from 10:00 – 12:00 - Professional referral required via Support For You The Meadows Children & Family Wing
Peterborough Women's Aid	Peterborough	- Face-to-face 'Own My Life' Group 12-week Programme for all adult women aged 18+ affected by DA: - Face-to-face 'Women Warriors' group for all adult women aged 18+ affected by DA - Face-to-face 'Drop-in' Group for adult male victims/survivors 18+ of DA in Peterborough - Self-referrals accepted – visit Our Services Peterborough Women's Aid or email referrals@wa-support.co.uk
Peterborough Women's Aid	Fenland	- Face-to-face 'Own My Life' Group 12-week Programme for all adult women aged 18+ affected by DA: - Face-to-face 'Women Warriors' group (<i>running 48 weeks a year</i>) - Face-to-face 'Drop-in' Group for adult 18+ male victims/survivors of DA - Self-referrals accepted – visit Our Services Peterborough Women's Aid or email referrals@wa-support.co.uk
The Edge Café	Cambridge	- Face-to-face 'Freedom to be Me' Group Programme for all adult women aged 18+ affected by DA, delivered over 12 weeks: Running every Monday at The Edge Café from 10:30 - 11:45 - Online 'Freedom to be Me' Group Programme Running online every Wednesday from 10:45 – 12:15 - Self referral accepted gail@theedgecafecambridge.com 07848 871 323

Learning Opportunities

SafeLives

Non-fatal strangulation (NFS)

Developed in partnership with the Institute for Addressing Strangulation, this training will help you identify the risks, understand the impact, and support victim-survivors of strangulation effectively.

Free Online Introductory webinar (90 mins):

7th July 10:00-11:30

22nd July 14:00-15:30

Introductory eLearning (approximately 45 mins):

Complete anytime

Sector-specific advanced sessions (1 day):

Domestic abuse professional: 7th July

Young people professional: 10th June & 30th July

Probation professional: 15th September

Social care professional: 24th June

Please use the link for more information and to book a place [NFS training for professionals - SafeLives](#)

BKH Training

Incels - A deep dive into extreme misogyny 1st July 2026, online

Book a ticket here: [Incels - A Deep Dive into Extreme Misogyny](#)

Manosphere and misogyny 9th July 2026, online

Book a ticket here: [Manosphere & Misogyny](#)

Centre for Women's Justice (CWJ)

Centre for Women's Justice is pleased to invite practitioners in frontline women's specialist services to take part in an online workshop focused on the role of frontline practitioners in supporting and advocating for victims of violence against women and girls (VAWG) who are accused of offending.

The meeting will open with a presentation by **Pragna Patel**, co-director/co-founder of Project Resist, and author of CWJ's newly published research report, "***They don't understand abuse***" - **Insights from survivors of VAWG and women's specialist services about police and prosecution practice when survivors are accused of offending.**

Read the press release [here](#)

[Download the full report](#)

[Read the accompanying Policy Briefing](#)

Rosie Lewis, co-director/co-founder of Project Resist, who will also share learning from their work to support and strengthen strategic partnerships and networks with frontline BME women's organisations to resist inequality, racism and patriarchal control.

This will be followed by a discussion about the role of frontline women's specialist services in developing improved models of practice to end the inappropriate criminalisation of victims of VAWG. They will consider the challenges involved for women's services in providing effective support and advocacy at the point of need, and potential solutions.

Please register [here](#)

