



Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Newsletter

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

August 2026

Welcome to the August Newsletter

As we move through the summer, we are pleased to bring you another edition of the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership newsletter, packed with updates, learning opportunities, research, and resources to support your work with victims and survivors across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

This month, we highlight several significant developments that professionals may wish to explore, including the publication of new clinical guidelines on paediatric non-fatal strangulation, updates on the rollout of Domestic Abuse Protection Orders (DAPOs), and key findings from the scrutiny of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. These articles offer insight into emerging practice, policy developments, and ongoing challenges within the domestic abuse sector.

We also encourage you to engage with opportunities to learn from the upcoming champion sessions and the safeguarding conference in October.

Alongside professional learning, you can find a wide range of support, recovery programmes, community activities, and family-focused opportunities available locally, helping to collectively improve outcomes for those affected by domestic abuse and sexual violence.

Thank you for your continued commitment to supporting individuals, families, and communities affected by domestic abuse and sexual violence. We hope you find this newsletter informative and useful, and we encourage you to share relevant opportunities and resources with colleagues and networks.

As always, please do stay in touch.

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)

Cambridgeshire Victim Services (Victim & Witness Hub):

Support Directory: [Victim Services | Cambridgeshire & Peterborough](#)

Telephone: 0800 781 6818

Email: victimandwitnesshub@cambs.police.uk

DASV Champions

The next online sessions will be in October.

Vickie Crompton will be speaking about Victim Blaming and Sarah Fines will be speaking about Learning From Recently Published DHRs

Dates:

1st October 10.00 – 12.00

6th October 14.00 – 14.00

8th October 13.00 – 15.00

Please use the link below to book:

[October DASV Champions Sessions: Victim Blaming & Learning From Recently Published DHRs](#)

DASV Annual Reports

Please access the link below to read both the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough DASV Annual Report's

[Cambridgeshire County Council DASV Partnership - Strategic Documents](#)

Domestic Homicide Review (DHR)

Please access the links below for summaries of recently published DHRs for Jessica and Chloe.

Jessica will be part of the presentation at the October DASV Champion sessions.

[Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews - Cambridge City Council](#)

[Community Safety Partnership - Huntingdonshire.gov.uk](#)

Institute For Addressing Strangulation (IFAS)

Guidelines for clinical management of paediatric (under 16) non-fatal strangulation - published July 2026:

These guidelines have been developed by a UK wide Intercollegiate Working Group, convened by IFAS, in response to the increased understanding of the dangers and incidence of Non-Fatal-Strangulation (NFS), as well as the prevalence of long-term consequences, in Children and Young People (CYP). The guidelines are based on the evidence base, where available, as well as expert opinion and consensus

These guidelines are new and as more evidence becomes available will be reviewed.

[Guidelines for clinical management of paediatric \(under 16\) non-fatal strangulation - Institute for Addressing Strangulation](#)

Prison Early Releases Scheme

The UK's prison early release scheme, introduced under the Sentencing Act 2026, to tackle overcrowding, will see roughly 5,000 prisoners released early. On the 23rd of July the Prime Minister announced that implementation of the progression model has been paused to allow for the policy to be reviewed.

As a result of this, the first tranche of releases won't go ahead as planned on 2 September 2026.

For more information visit [Progression model: changes to prison release arrangements - GOV.UK](#)

Post-Legislative Scrutiny of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021

To read the full document please visit:

[Post-legislative scrutiny of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 \(accessible\) - GOV.UK](#)

Summary below:

Definition

CPS raised the definition operates as intended in most cases. However, in some cases, such as those where honour-based abuse is present where harmful behaviour may involve extended family or community networks, abuse is not fully captured by relationships prescribed under the Act.

Police raised applying this definition to contemporary relationship dynamics presents challenges.

Situations may involve limited or no sexual intimacy, online-only interactions, or relationships formed via dating platforms, all of which can be difficult to categorise consistently.

DA sector raised that there are ongoing individual and institutional gaps in the understanding of domestic abuse, particularly for some victim cohorts, such a LGBT+ victims, older victims, and Black and other minoritised ethnic groups.

More understanding of economic abuse needed across all sectors

Children as victims

Despite the changes in legislation through the Act, local strategic leaders do not fully recognise the needs of children who are victims.

The CPS has raised that the extended two-year charging time limit for common assault only applies when the statutory definition of domestic abuse (Part 1 of the Act) applies, which requires both parties to be aged 16 and over. Cases involving younger victims revert to the standard six-month limit; this means the same behaviour may not be charged purely because of the victim's age. The Home Office is currently conducting a scoping review into the age limit in the statutory definition of domestic abuse to improve the response to children's experiences of domestic abuse, including teenage relationship abuse. This will conclude in 2026.

DAPOs and DAPNs

Operational feedback received by the Home Office and the Ministry of Justice from policing, courts and sector partners and the DAC indicates that legislative barriers are limiting the use of positive requirements within DAPOs. In particular; where a DAPN is issued, the court is required to determine a DAPO application within 48 hours. While appropriate for ensuring swift protection, this timeframe creates practical barriers to identifying suitable programme providers, completing assessments, and presenting supporting evidence to the court. As a result, hearings are routinely adjourned, leaving victims protected only by a DAPN, a notice that cannot be enforced as a criminal offence if breached.

Op Encompass

Findings showed that Operation Encompass is widely valued for improving timely support and safeguarding for children affected by domestic abuse. However, there is variation in how the scheme is delivered and in the detail of notifications provided.

Safe Accommodation Duty

The Duty has made a meaningful difference, helping survivors feel safer, rebuild their lives, improving support for children and multi-agency working. It also found that the duty has improved local planning and enabled local authorities to sustain and expand services, with better value for money where survivor voices shape planning. Children's needs are now better identified and provided for. Capacity constraints are the most frequently cited reason for households not being supported, accounting for around 30% of unmet need in 2024-25.

Access and outcomes remained unequal, with survivors who had additional needs, complex family circumstances or belonged to underrepresented groups continuing to face significant barriers

Protections for victims in legal settings

Lack of data to support the assessment and anecdotal evidence, from the courts and the domestic abuse sector, indicates that there is an effort to implement the provisions, but this effort is limited due to wider constraints.

The CPS has raised that whilst victims now have automatic eligibility to apply for certain special measures, this still requires the court to decide whether and which measures are granted.

Controlling & Coercive Behaviour

CCB legislation remains underused in comparison to legislation regarding physical abuse.

CCB may also be subsumed within other offences, such as assault, or recorded as a series of isolated incidents rather than as a course of conduct offence. Charging decisions may be influenced by prosecutorial practice, including the prioritisation of offences carrying higher maximum sentences, with CCB not always charged as the lead offence. The CPS has updated its guidance to assist prosecutors in selecting the most appropriate charge where overlapping offences may apply, including harassment, stalking or CCB.

The CPS has noted that as more offending takes place online, prosecutors face challenges in evidencing coercive control patterns, particularly where the abuse takes place over multiple platforms, involves anonymous accounts, or disappearing messages.

Strangulation and suffocation

The domestic abuse sector shared reflections that the introduction of this standalone offence has helped shift understanding of strangulation from being treated as a form of common assault to being recognised a high-risk indicator of escalating abuse and violence.

There are limitations arising from the grouping of strangulation and suffocation into one offence, including the inability to disaggregate police or court data relating specifically to strangulation as distinct to suffocation.

Ongoing challenges remain around public and jury understanding, particularly the fact that strangulation does not require a minimum level of pressure or force, nor any visible injury. Updated CPS guidance, informed by recent case law, now clarifies these issues

DVDS (Clare's Law)

Evidence from operational reviews, stakeholder feedback and learning recommendations has highlighted ongoing challenges in the implementation of the DVDS, including variability in practice across police forces, delays in processing applications, and inconsistencies in the application of statutory guidance. Policing partners have highlighted sustained operational pressures arising from a combination of increased public awareness of the DVDS, resulting in higher volumes of applications, and challenges associated with meeting statutory expectations around the timeliness of disclosures.

Homelessness DA Duty

Feedback from wider stakeholders, including the domestic abuse sector, has raised that there is not consistent practice in how the duty is discharged and there is a need from improved inclusive practice to meet the needs of the diverse range of victims, particularly older, disabled, and LGBT+ victims.

Secure tenancies where there is DA

Overall, the assessment of the Government, local authorities and other stakeholders such as the domestic abuse sector is that section 79 has been implemented and is helpful for people fleeing domestic abuse, but that it is not always used in a consistent way. Awareness of the duty varies between areas, and some local authorities find it hard to identify when it should apply or to record cases properly.

SafeLives

Are you a professional supporting victim-survivors of domestic abuse?

SafeLives are inviting those working across housing, healthcare, mental health, education, policing, social care and local government to take part in a short survey commissioned by the Home Office.

The survey explores how needs assessments are used in practice.

Your experience will help improve understanding of current approaches across sectors.

It takes around 10 minutes and is secure and anonymous

Please share with colleagues and networks who work with victim-survivors of domestic abuse.

[Needs and risk assessment Survey](#)

Bikeability

Lydia Mack is running the Bikeability course again this year in October half term.

Although the course was originally developed to support families experiencing parental conflict, she is happy to accept referrals for children who have been affected by domestic abuse within the home, provided they meet the eligibility criteria outlined in the poster.

Whilst the programme is not intended as a therapeutic intervention, it offers children a positive and enjoyable opportunity to build confidence, develop new skills and take part in activities during the school holidays.

The programme includes two days of Bikeability training at Huntingdon Youth, Child and Family Centre, followed by an overnight stay at Grafham Water, where children will have the opportunity to participate in a range of fun and engaging activities.



**Bikeability Course-
October Half Term 2026**
4 days with an overnight stay at Grafham Water!

BEST START IN LIFE **FAMILY HUBS**

Expression of interest deadline: 10th October half term 2026

- Would your child benefit from participating in a course where they can improve their biking ability, build confidence and enjoy a half-term full of activities including an overnight stay at Grafham Water?
- Please express an interest for your child to attend this free course by completing the form accessed through the QR code

Criteria and Commitments

- ✓ Your child is in either Year 5 or Year 6
- ✓ There is, or there has been conflict between you and your partner or ex-partner
- ✓ Your child must commit to all 4 days
- ✓ Your child needs to have a basic cycling ability (looking behind, riding one-handed, maintaining control) before they start the course on Monday 26th October
- ✓ Your child doesn't have a bike? No problem, we can help

MONDAY 26TH OCTOBER TO THURSDAY 29TH OCTOBER 2026 (OCTOBER HALF-TERM)

**HUNTINGDON YOUTH, CHILD AND FAMILY CENTRE,
SALLOWBUSH RD, HUNTINGDON PE29 7AF**

Cambridgeshire County Council

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS:
PLEASE EMAIL:
BCLEAD@CAMBRIDGESHIRE.GOV.UK

To register an expression of interest please use the link below:

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/BRksd0SRD4>

Domestic Abuse Protection Notices (DAPN) and Domestic Abuse Protection Orders (DAPO)

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 introduced new DAPNs and DAPOs which represent a significant strengthening of the protections available to victims and survivors of domestic abuse. They are a joint Home Office (HO) and Ministry of Justice (MoJ) policy. The Government has now made a commitment to roll them out across all courts and police forces in England and Wales from the end of November 2026. This national rollout will support the Government's ambition to better protect victims and survivors, improve the management of perpetrators, and contribute to its mission to halve violence against women & girls (VAWG) within the decade.

Once DAPNs and DAPOs are fully implemented and embedded, the existing Domestic Violence Protection Notice (DVPN) and Domestic Violence Protection Order (DVPO) will be repealed. Other existing protective orders, such as non-molestation orders (NMOs) and restraining orders (**ROs**), will remain in place so they can continue to be used in cases which are not domestic abuse related.

Main features of DAPO

- DAPO is the first protective order available across all court jurisdictions – criminal, family and civil – ensuring victims can receive protection wherever their case is being heard.
- DAPOs can be used to protect victims across the full spectrum of all domestic abuse, including controlling and coercive behaviour and economic abuse.
- Unlike the previous DVPO which only lasts 28 days, the DAPO does not have a minimum or maximum duration, which allows victims to obtain the protection they require for as long as the court views necessary and proportionate.
- Courts can impose a range of restrictions on perpetrators, including no-contact conditions and exclusion zones to prevent further abuse.
- In addition to imposing prohibitions, DAPOs can impose positive requirements such as attendance on perpetrator behaviour change programmes.
- DAPOs can include electronic monitoring requirements, to support compliance with other conditions of the order such as exclusion zones or curfews.
- Individuals subject to a DAPO are required to notify police of their name and address as well as any changes to their name or address, supporting effective monitoring and enforcement.
- Breach of a DAPO is a criminal offence, punishable by up to 5 years' imprisonment, a fine, or both.
- The requirements which can be imposed by a DAPO and the consequences for breach are the same regardless of the court in which the DAPO is made.

Ongoing evaluation of the pilot aims to assess the effectiveness of DAPN / DAPOs at reducing reoffending and re-victimisation.

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.](#)

Living Keys



Family Festival

A day of games, activities, food and music for the whole family to wrap up the summer holidays.

Thursday 27th August

10.00 - 14.00

Peterborough Athletics Track

PE1 5BW

If you have any questions, please email familyhubprogramme@peterborough.gov.uk

Cherished Support Group will be having a break until Monday 14th September

Applications are being taken for the next:

Freedom Programme

Domestic Abuse Recovery Toolkit

Parenting After Domestic Abuse

To apply please visit the website: <https://www.livingkeys.co.uk>

Coming in September:

Monday Afternoon's 15.00 – 17.00

Body Beauties

Healthy eating and exercise – weigh in is optional

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

Peterborough Women's Aid (PWA)

Dahlia Project Training Workshops – Please contact Mandy Geraghty to book a place



Own My Life Inspired 12-week online session starting:
15th October
18.00



The next male group online is 25th August 18.00hrs – 19.00hrs. They run every 2 weeks

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

[Peterborough Women's Aid](https://www.peterborough-womens-aid.org.uk/)

The Angels Foundation UK

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

[The Angels Foundation UK](#)

HerHaven



HerHaven, is a women's safety and wellbeing app created specifically to support survivors of abuse created by a woman with lived experience.

HerHaven provides accessible information, educational resources, wellbeing tools, a moderated community forum and signposting to specialist and emergency services. The purpose of the platform is to help survivors access information and support in one accessible and confidential space, both during and following experiences of abuse.

Visit the website for more information: [HerHaven - A Safe Space for Healing](#)

Follow HerHaven on Instagram [herhavenapp](#)

Cambridge Digital Support Sessions

Cambridge Online runs friendly, informal Digital Support Sessions across Cambridge, providing opportunities for people to ask questions, build confidence and develop digital skills for everyday life.

Support is available with:

- Basic computer skills
- Using phones, tablets and iPads
- Online banking and shopping
- Staying safe online
- Emails and messaging
- Booking appointments
- And much more!

Sessions are available at a range of community venues across Cambridge, with new locations being added regularly.

No booking is required.

Visit the Cambridge Online website for the latest venues, dates and times.

<https://cambridgeonline.org.uk>

If you know someone who could benefit from digital support, please share this information. A little help can make a big difference in helping people feel more confident, connected and independent online.

Anglia Ruskin University (ARU)

Open call for art for the exhibition on 22nd September 2026 at ARU Cambridge Campus



Open Call For Art



Artwork: The Meadows Children & Family Wing **Picture:** Sebastian Tobisiak

Apply to display your art at the 3rd iteration of **Breaking the Silence: Art Against Abuse** exhibition at ARU in collaboration with charities and survivors to raise awareness on **domestic abuse**. We particularly welcome diverse perspectives.

Exhibition Date & Location 22nd September 2026 @Helmore Street Reception and Atrium ARU Cambridge Campus 11am - 4pm	Art Submission Deadline 8th September 2026 Application email should include: • "Open Call" in the subject of the email • Type(s) of art (poetry, painting, digital, etc.) • Brief description and/or concept abstract • Any media/pictures of the artwork • Size and display requirements Artwork drop-off: 8-10am on day of event Artwork pick-up: 4-5pm on day of event  alison.hunte@aru.ac.uk
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“The personal nature of the art made it very emotional. It was a beautiful and thought provoking exhibit. Profound and important.”

-Attendee on previous exhibition

Inspired to Own My Life

A pilot for an exciting new course for young women who have experienced abuse from a current or ex-boyfriend is running between w/c 15th September and December 2026 in Cambridge City Centre Central Library (exact dates to be confirmed)

This is a new adaption specifically for young women based on the current Own My Life material [Own My Life domestic abuse](#) an evidence-based programme aimed at supporting female victim/survivors of an abusive partner.

The course will be run over 12 weeks with 2-hour sessions. Refreshments and crafts will be available during each session.

For further information and a referral form please email idva.referrals@cambridgeshire.gov.uk – ‘for attention of young person’s IDVA’



Women of the World (WOW) Festival March 2027

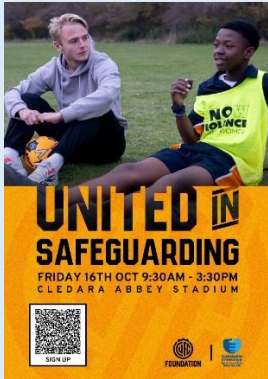
The world’s biggest festival celebrating women, girls and non-binary people is back in London for 2027.

Early Bird Day Passes for [Friday](#), [Saturday](#) and [Sunday](#) and tickets to [Gisele Pelicot & Tarana Burke In Conversation](#) are on sale now.

For more information click the link: [WOW London 2027 | The WOW Foundation](#)

Learning Opportunities

Cambridge United Foundation Safeguarding Conference



Cambridge United Foundation are delighted to announce the new date for their inaugural 'United in Safeguarding' Conference in partnership with the Cambridgeshire DASV partnership

Friday 16th October 2026

Cledara Abbey Stadium

Cambridge

10.00 – 15.30

United in Safeguarding will bring together education, local authority, sport, policing, and community partners to address emerging safeguarding risks affecting young people.

The focus of the event will be as follows:

- Domestic Abuse & Coercive Control -
- Lived-Experience Insight
- Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG)
- Online Safety, Social Media & AI Risks/Digital Safeguarding Awareness
- Early Intervention Pathways
- Practical Policy Guidance

Speakers for day will include:

- Sanara Training
- Cambridgeshire PSHE Services
- Cambridge United Foundation
- White Ribbon Ambassador
- Nick Gazzard (Hollie Gazzard Trust)
- Rape Crisis

Please click on the link below to book a place:

[United in Safeguarding Conference 2026](#)

PEGS

Click the links below to book an hour session, delivered by PEGS, on Child to Parent Abuse Awareness

Thursday 12th November

16.00 – 17.00

[PEGS - Child To Parent Abuse Awareness Session Thursday 12th November](#)

Thursday 17th December

10.00 – 11.00

[PEGS - Child To Parent Abuse Awareness Session Thursday 17th December](#)

Wednesday 6th January 2027

16.00 – 17.00

[PEGS - Child To Parent Abuse Awareness Session Wednesday 6th January 2027](#)

Tuesday 2nd February 2027

12.00 – 13.00

[PEGS - Child To Parent Abuse Awareness Session Tuesday 2nd February 2027](#)

Monday 15th March 2027

10.00 – 11.00

[PEGS - Child To Parent Abuse Awareness Session Monday 15th March 2027](#)

Full day session

Thursday 14th January 2027

[PEGS - Child To Parent Abuse Full-day training session Thursday 14th January 2027](#)

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.

It's free and online

Introductory webinar (90 mins)

10 September: 14:00-15:30

Introductory eLearning (approx 45 mins)

Complete anytime!

Click [Here](#) for more information and to book

Making Research Count

'Cuckooing' in the Context of Domestic Abuse & Domestic Homicide

Simon Kerrs, Anglia Ruskin University

Thursday 15 October 2026,

11:00 -12:30

For more information click [Here](#)

To book places, please contact Gemma Wilson, MRC Events Organiser at the University of Bedfordshire, at: mrc@beds.ac.uk.

