



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

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

February 2022

Hi All!

Welcome to our February DASV Newsletter, we are really grateful to you all for taking the time to read this and learn more about DASV matters across the county and beyond. Please forward to your colleagues across the county and encourage them to sign up!

Those who have suffered domestic abuse and sexual violence must always remain central to our work, individually and collectively, we have the ability to improve (and save) the lives of many individuals and their families. Therefore, their voices must be amplified and heard. We are actively looking for people to share their experiences in order that things can be improved – and there are details of both SADA and the Rape Survivors Panel in the newsletter.

As ever, there are a number of opportunities for training, and our next DASV Champions sessions will be focusing on two topics – “How to Support Children still Living in a Home where there is Abuse” and “Abuse from Adult Children” – all are welcome as ever.

The IDVA Team are looking for more staff – if you are interested, or know others who might suit one of these vital roles – please apply.

As ever, it is our job to support you in your roles in relation to DASV, if we can help in any way, please don't hesitate to contact us

Vickie Crompton & Julia Cullum
DASV Partnership Managers



Spring DASV Champions Sessions

For our April sessions we are really lucky to be joined by Thien Trang Nguyen Phan, a Doctoral Researcher at Anglia Ruskin University, who will be talking about familial violence where the abuser is an adult child. Vickie Crompton will also be talking about how to support children still living in a household where there is abuse.

28th March 14.00 – 16.00

5th April 10.00 – 12.00

8th April 12.00 – 14.00

To book on a session, please email DASVChampions@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

New IDVA services now taking referrals

We're really excited to tell you about our new specialist IDVA roles. The team has been boosted by new roles to support people experiencing child to parent abuse, and IDVAs who work with housing providers plus an enhanced team of Health IDVAs who take referrals from any Health partner in the county. Our Eastern European and Young People's support have additional team members and our Male Victim's IDVA continues to support male victims at all risk levels.

Here's all you need to know, including risk levels and how to refer:

Health IDVAs - accept referrals at all risk levels from any Health agency (including hospitals, GPs, CPFT and community Health services). Please use the Health IDVA referral form on our website to make a referral. Professionals can contact the Health IDVA on: Mobile 07713 919229 or email advacamb@nhs.net

Housing IDVAs offer a direct service to victims/survivors who attend a housing service. They offer advice on safety planning and risk management. They may also offer support to clients who are seeking housing assistance due to suffering Domestic Abuse. They will also offer support to those in temporary local authority accommodation due to domestic abuse. Accept all risk levels.

Child to Parent Abuse IDVA - The CPA IDVA works with parents/carers who are experiencing abuse from a child aged 16 or under where there has been police involvement. The CPA IDVA accepts referrals from all professionals. Please complete the CPA IDVA Referral Form on our website, which includes a risk assessment - please don't risk assess using the standard DASH form.

Eastern European (A8) IDVA - The A8 IDVAs work with victims from Eastern European A8 countries and speak a variety of languages. The A8 IDVAs accept referrals at all risk levels but those scoring under 17 must have victim consent to refer. To refer to the A8 IDVA, please complete the form on our website.

Young People's IDVA - To make a referral to the Young People's IDVA, please complete the YP IDVA Referral and Risk Indicator Checklist on our website. The YP IDVAs work with young people aged 13-19 (24 for YP with additional needs) who are experiencing abuse in their own intimate relationships, work with all risk levels.

Male Victims IDVA works with men aged 19 and over who are experiencing domestic abuse those under 19 will be picked up by the Young People's IDVAs. The Male Victims IDVA works with survivors at all risk levels - to refer to the Male Victims IDVA please complete the form on our website.

The rest of the IDVA Service work with high risk victims, as assessed on the DASH Risk Assessment Checklist.

To make a referral to any of our IDVAs, and for information about referring to MARAC, please visit

[Welcome to Cambridgeshire DASV Partnership \(cambsdasv.org.uk\)](http://cambsdasv.org.uk)

PS – look out further in the newsletter for recruitment news

Upcoming multi-agency safeguarding training from the Safeguarding Adults and Children Partnership Board

Date	Course	Time
31st January 2022	Introduction to Child Exploitation	10:30 – 12:30
3rd February 2022	Hoarding and Safeguarding Adults at Risk	10:30 – 12:30
7th February 2022	Domestic Abuse and Adults	09:30 – 11:30
8th February 2022	Introduction to Child Neglect	10:30 – 12:30
17th February 2022	Domestic Abuse and Young People	09:30 – 11:30
1st March 2022	Introduction to Domestic Abuse	09:30 – 11:30
10th March 2022	Working Together to Safeguard Adults	10:30 – 12:30
15th March 2022	Working Together to Safeguard Children	10:30 – 12:30
17th March 2022	Modern Slavery - Working together to identify and support victims	10:30 – 12:00
22nd March 2022	Self-Neglect and Safeguarding Adults at Risk	10:30 – 12:30
23rd March 2022	Introduction to Young Carers	13:30 – 15:00
29th March 2022	Safeguarding Adults & the Mental Capacity Act	10:30 – 12:30

For more details about the courses and to book a place on any training, please visit [Multi-Agency Safeguarding Training | Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Partnership Board \(safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk\)](https://safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk)

Please help us to get feedback

The SADA service has been commissioned by Cambridgeshire County Council to work on a project that allows us to collate and share feedback from children and adults who have experienced domestic abuse within Cambridge and Peterborough.

The project is an opportunity for both survivors of domestic abuse and children who have been affected by domestic abuse to share their experiences. We will be working with survivors and children directly, completing assessments on a 1:1 basis looking to gather information about their experiences of services they were in contact with and to communicate their responses back to the Domestic Abuse Partnership Board. If you would be interested in working with us or finding out more, please can you provide our contact details to service users you are working with to enable them to feedback on their experiences of services or you can contact me directly to discuss the project further.

Chloe Stewart 01438 242666 or 07923 253332

SADAFedbackproject@stevenage.gov.uk
chloe.stewart@stevenage.gov.uk

Victims' Commissioner: survey of victims of online harms

The Victims' Commissioner has today launched a new survey of victims of so-called 'online harms' in England and Wales. The survey seeks to better understand the lived experience of victims of online abusive and harmful behaviours. It comes as the government is set to introduce its landmark Online Safety Bill in Parliament in the coming months.

The survey is open to all victims of any form of online abuse and harassment. It explores the prevalence of different types of online abuse, the impact these have on the victim, and the reporting behaviours of victims. The results and findings will be published on the Victims' Commissioner website with a view to putting forward the victim perspective and informing public debate as the Online Safety Bill progresses through Parliament.

The [survey](#) is available on the Victims' Commissioner's website (closing date 20 February).

We're recruiting!

We're looking for two IDVAs to work with victims/survivors of domestic abuse.

Full details are at the link

We are seeking to recruit 2 new Independent Domestic Violence Advisers – one to work with high-risk victims of domestic abuse and one to work with those specifically going through the criminal justice process and to link in with our Specialist Domestic Abuse Court.

IDVAs are key in working with individuals who are victims of domestic abuse, in order to support and advise clients in order to increase their safety and reduce harm.

You would work as part of a large experienced and committed team of IDVAs, who work across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough supporting clients. We would provide you with full support including in working towards the Safelives IDVA qualification.

“Being an IDVA is a challenging but very rewarding, if your goal is job satisfaction then become an IDVA and help to make a difference” – Cambs IDVA

You will be experienced in supporting people who are experiencing difficulties in their lives, and work in a trauma informed way, being mindful of the range of challenges your clients may be facing. Along with a passion for supporting victims of domestic abuse, you will have a range of transferrable skills. You will be joining a dynamic and experienced team of IDVAs and be working within the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership Team.

Closing date 20th February

Interview date Wednesday 2 March 2022.

<https://www.publicsectorjobseast.co.uk/Independent%20Domestic%20Violence%20Advisor-Chord%20Park%20-%20Godmanchester?jobId=25774&JobIndex=93&categoryList=&minsal=0&maxsal=150000&workingpattern=&keywords=&employee=-1&postcode=&Distance=0&AdvertiseOn=>

Older People's DASH pilot extended

If you are working with a victim of abuse who is aged 60 or over, please do consider using the Older People's DASH Risk Indicator Checklist that we are piloting. We are extending the pilot to the end of July 2022. Remember that your professional judgement of the risk of harm is just as important as the 'score' on the DASH – even if the score is low, you may still have evidence that the victim is a high risk so please do refer to the IDVA Service or contact the Duty IDVA for an informal discussion and advice idva.referrals@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

If you have used the OP DASH and would like to share any feedback, even if the case didn't go to IDVAS or MARAC, please contact Amanda.Warburton@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Safe Lives update on Your Best Friend project

In 2021, hundreds of girls, young women, and non-binary people spoke to the [#YourBestFriend project](#) about their friendships and relationships.

Read exactly what they said in the [Your Best Friend Discovery Report](#)

Key findings:

- Coercive and controlling behaviours are so common in young people's social circles, they consider them normal.
- They experience constant, inappropriate comments on their looks and bodies, and are asked for explicit photos.
- Young people are already talking to their friends to try to help them with toxic relationships.
- Damaging their friendships, self-doubt and fear are key barriers to young people stepping in to help
- Young people are extremely reluctant to involve adult professionals due to a lack of trust and lack of belief that adults improve situations or understand them.
- Young people need a clear route to 'trusted adults' and resources at their fingertips that are accessible to all

Armed with this knowledge, Safe Lives and a group of young people are launching a campaign in February called **#FriendsCanTell** to address this. Please help spread the word.

Rape survivors are offered a chance to shape Cambridgeshire police services

Rape victims who have reported to the police will be given the opportunity to feedback at key points of their criminal justice experience.

The new and innovative victim engagement project was designed and jointly funded by Cambridgeshire Constabulary and the Police and Crime Commissioner Darryl Preston. It aims to ensure the victim's voice shapes the service provided by both the Constabulary's officers and support services.

Lime Culture, a national sexual violence and safeguarding organisation, were awarded the 16-month contract to run the project.

Through an anonymous survey they will be capturing survivors' experiences of the communication and support provided. The responses will be fed back monthly to enable real-time consideration of the views they share and processes to be reviewed.

The Commissioner, Darryl Preston, says we must listen to the views of all victims of crime and act on their feedback. "Every survivor's experience is different. It's extremely important to capture their feedback and for the police and services to respond to it."

Head of Protecting Vulnerable People and Detective Superintendent, John Massey has championed the project which has been driven by DCI Sherrie Nash. He said: "Understanding the views of survivors through this partnership project is a pivotal element of our Violence against Women and Girls strategy and shows our commitment to all survivors of serious sexual assaults. Survivors' voices will help improve our response; inform our investigative processes and ensure we deliver the most effective and compassionate service possible."

Stephanie Reardon, CEO at LimeCulture, said: "LimeCulture is delighted to be working with Cambridgeshire Police and the Independent Sexual Violence Advisor Service to ensure victims' voices are at the forefront of shaping a better service for victims and survivors of rape across Cambridgeshire."

Cambridge and Peterborough Rape Crisis Partnership has been part of the development of the project.

The Use of Sexual Violence as an Attempt to Convert or Punish LGBT+ People in the UK - Galop

Galop's report on *The Use of Sexual Violence as an Attempt to Convert or Punish LGBT+ People in the UK* shows that 1 in 4 LGBT+ respondents to a sexual violence survey experienced sexual assault intended to convert or punish them for their identity.

The UK's LGBT+ anti-abuse charity [Galop](#) asked 935 LGBT+ survivors of sexual assault: "*At any age, have you experienced sexual violence that you believed was intended to convert you to heterosexuality or your assigned gender at birth, or to punish you for your gender or sexual identity?*", and almost 1 in 4 (24%) reported back that they had.

This figure increased when the victim was asexual (34%), non-binary (32%), a trans man (35%) or a trans woman (30%).

Stop Abuse Together: Campaign

It is estimated that one in ten children in England and Wales will experience sexual abuse before they turn sixteen. The majority of these children will not tell anyone at the time of their experiences.

The UK Government has launched the Stop Abuse Together campaign. The campaign aims to empower parents and carers to take steps to help keep their children safe from abuse. The website <https://stopabusetogether.campaign.gov.uk/> enables parents to:

- Learn about the potential signs of abuse
- Build trust by speaking to their children regularly, which can help prevent abuse
- Find further support, including through the NSPCC helpline (0808 800 5000)

All children have a right to be safe from sexual abuse, and we all have a role to play in keeping them safe. Let's #StopAbuseTogether.

Ask for ANI celebrates first anniversary

On the first anniversary of its launch, the Home Secretary Priti Patel today hails the success of the innovative scheme which enables those at risk or suffering from domestic abuse to discreetly signal their need for help from the safety of their local pharmacy.

In its first year, the scheme has provided emergency support to at least 100 victims across all four corners of the UK, with the figure expected to be higher due to voluntary reporting.

The DASV Partnership provided pharmacies across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough with information about Ask for ANI and we have also partnered with libraries across the county to make them 'safe spaces' for victims of domestic abuse. Libraries can signpost to national or local support services and, where available, library computers and telephones can be used for free to contact services.

Domestic Abuse Survivor Programmes

Living Keys next Freedom Programme starts on in April and they are taking applications for all courses now.

They will be running a new Hope 2 Recovery course on Tuesday 15th March which will be an evening zoom course over 6 weeks.

They will also be running their Complete Domestic Abuse Recovery Toolkit in April (dates for freedom and DART will be run on a Tuesday and a Wednesday, one will be via zoom and the other face to face)

Living Keys still have spaces for all of these courses, and ladies can self refer by applying via the website <https://www.livingkeys.co.uk>

RSE poll findings are worrying

the Sex Education Forum launched the findings of their recent poll (October 2021) which asked young people about their experiences of RSE at school and at home. Key findings include:

- Compared to a survey run by SEF in 2019, there has been no overall improvement in school RSE
- For around 1:4 young people there has been no RSE from parents or carers
- Only 1:6 had regular discussions with parents or carers about RSE
- During Covid, almost half of young people received no RSE at school or at home during Covid lockdowns

Asked about the topics covered in RSE:

- Close to 3 in 10 (28%) of young people had not learnt about 'how to tell if a relationship is healthy, including online', with a further 31% feeling they had not learnt enough about this topic.
- Almost 3 in 10 (29%) had learnt nothing about 'How to recognise when someone is being groomed for sexual exploitation'.
- More than a quarter (26%) had learnt nothing about the 'attitudes and behaviour of men and boys towards women and girls'
- Thirty-seven percent reported learning nothing about 'Power imbalances in relationships.'
- One in three (33%) didn't learn 'how to access local sexual health services', despite this is a basic, mandatory part of statutory RSE.

There is a rich set of data which you can read in the [full report](#). The report also has a foreword by two parliamentarians who championed the fight for statutory RSE and remain committed to effective implementation, the Rt. Hon Maria Miller MP and Sarah Champion MP.

Please do share widely with relevant colleagues.

New refuge opens in Stevenage

SADA House – Stevenage Refuge is now open and ready to take referrals.

Referral is by contacting SADA@stevenage.gov.uk to request a referral form.

Bed space as follows:

1 x female plus child (if male child up to 11 years of age)
1 x female plus child (if male child up to 11 years of age)

1 x Single female
1 x Single female

Shared kitchen and bathroom facilities throughout the refuge – all bed space is on the first floor so please be aware if you have clients with mobility issues.

13 behaviours that abusers use in relationships

This Valentine's Day, the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership is reminding people that some behaviours used in relationships are not love and many are illegal.

A phrase often used by abusers is 'it's because I love you' but the behaviours below are not part of a healthy relationship. The list below doesn't include all types of abusive behaviour, but if you recognise that you are using or experiencing these behaviours, support information is included below.

1) Gaslighting

This is done over time, sometimes months or years, and is when someone leads you to doubt yourself and your state of mind. It might be small things like telling you what they want for dinner and then later saying they said something else, and they will tell you that you must have forgotten. This is a form of control.

2) Repeatedly putting you down

Persistent name calling, mocking behaviour or saying things that make you feel bad is emotional abuse.

3) Preventing you from seeing friends or family

If your partner isolates you from the people you love, telling you that you cannot see friends or family for whatever reason, this is another form of control.

They might listen in to your calls or not let you visit friends and family and refuse to let them visit your home. They will often come up with reasons why such as "they aren't good for you" or "we don't need anyone else".

4) Depriving you of basic needs

A partner could deprive you of certain foods or clothes, they can even stop you accessing medical help, but this is all illegal. This type of abuse is often used against people who need support in their daily living activities due to disability or ill health. It can start off as seeming to be caring, but can end up with them withholding things you need such as medication or help with personal care.

5) Controlling your finances

Some abusers insist on controlling all the money in the relationship, even the victim's own wages or benefits – this is economic abuse. Sometimes they will provide an 'allowance' to purchase food or items for children but this is deliberately not enough and they will then punish the victim for not being able to keep within the budget.

Often this is done whilst they spend large amounts of money on themselves. Some abusers will use pressure to make someone take out a loan but the money must be handed to the abuser or they will take out credit cards in the victim's name without their knowledge.

6) Removing your freedom

This could be when a partner takes over aspects of the other person's everyday life such as where they go, when they can go and even when they can sleep. They may also accompany you to certain places such as medical appointments and insist on speaking for you.

7) Threats

If a partner threatens you to hold power over you, this is illegal. Common threats include reporting you to social services and that your children will be removed from you, or threatening to 'out' a same sex partner to work colleagues and family when they want this information kept private.

8) Sharing explicit images of you

New laws surrounding 'revenge porn' make it against the law for someone to share intimate photographs of you with anyone, whether that is on or offline.

9) Scaring you

Abuse is not always physical violence, but if they are doing something which frightens you then they are committing an offence.

This can include angry gestures, shouting down to you, threatening you, destroying your possessions or using their physical size to intimidate you.

10) Damaging your property

This includes when the abuser breaks your items such as your phone. Not only can this be part of coercive control, but it is also a criminal damage offence.

11) Forcing you to do things you don't want to do

A partner may force you to do things you do not want to do such as committing crimes, not allowing you to tell anyone about your relationship or even forcing you into sex.

12) Committing sexual acts

Committing sexual acts on anyone, including your partner, while sleeping is illegal.

13) Tracking devices

Using tracking devices on mobile phones or setting up spyware on laptops is illegal. You might not even know the software has been installed.

If you recognise any of these signs in your own behaviour, confidential help with abusive behaviour is available from Respect on its free helpline on 0808 802 4040.

Parents with Learning Disabilities research

My name is Siobhan Hunt and I am a Phd Student at the University of Kent.

I am undertaking research on Parents with learning disabilities and the Child Protection System in the UK. I have many years' experience of working as a Care Act and Independent Mental Capacity Advocate with adults with learning disabilities. I have also supported parents with learning disabilities in child protection proceedings.

I am currently looking for parents with learning disabilities who have been involved in Child Protection Proceedings, to take part in a one-to-one interview by video call or telephone with me about their experience of the process. I am aware of the restrictions imposed by s.97 Children Act 1989 and s.12 Administration of Justice Act 1960 and these provisions will be fully taken into account in the course of the interviews and the study as a whole.

If you are either:

- a parent with a learning disability who would be interested in taking part in an interview or
- you are a professional working with parents with learning disabilities and know of someone who might be interested in taking part, please contact me for further information.

Email: smc58@kent.ac.uk

I can provide further information about the interviews in Easy-read format if required.

SARC Awareness Campaign

On 6th February 2022, the NHS announced the launch of a new national campaign to raise awareness of sexual assault referral centres (SARCs), in line with the beginning of Sexual Abuse and Sexual Violence Awareness Week 2022. The strategic aim of the SARCs campaign is to increase use of SARCs by people who need them.

The communications objectives of the campaign are:

1. **Awareness:** Increase the percentage of the target audience who know that SARCs exist
2. **Knowledge:** Increase the target audience's knowledge of the range and services of SARCs and how to access them
3. **Behavioural intent:** Increase the percentage of the target audience who claim they would access a SARC if they had a need to
4. **Outcome:** Increase the number of survivors of sexual assault and abuse supported through a SARC

Target audience

This campaign seeks to raise awareness of SARCs and drive positive action amongst the following groups, who are underrepresented in SARCs and at greater risk of sexual assault and abuse:

- Women from ethnically diverse backgrounds aged 18-33
- Men aged 18-25
- LGBTQ+ communities 18-33
- The over 18 adult population of the South-East region