



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

**February 2021**

Hi All!

Welcome to the February edition of the DASV Newsletter.

Here at Partnership HQ we have been doing lots of DA Awareness sessions for a range of organisations, including a homelessness charity, suicide helplines, well-being groups, and Human Resource departments. Doing this work online is much easier for us to fit into our diaries, and as it is our job to make your jobs easier in relation to domestic abuse, please don't hesitate to get in touch if you think we might be able to help.

Unfortunately, there has already been a domestic homicide in the county this year, for which a Domestic Homicide Review will begin. Many of you will have been involved in DHR's across the county, and we thank you for your input, in order to understand what we all need to be doing to try to prevent homicides, and suicides driven by domestic abuse.

A key member of our team, Jo D'Arcy, leaves this month, after 17 years with the partnership and we wish her all the best, and thank her for all her hard work over the years.

If there is anything we can help with, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

**Vickie Crompton & Julia Cullum**  
**DASV Partnership Managers**



**DASV Champions Sessions continue virtually**

The next DASV Champions Sessions are being held in April and the topics will be Non-Fatal Strangulation and Sexual Violence. We'll be joined by a nurse from the SARC and also Cambridge Rape Crisis to talk about the impact Covid-19 has had on survivors of sexual violence.

The dates for these sessions are below – please email [DASVChampions@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:DASVChampions@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) to book a place

20<sup>th</sup> April 13.30 – 15.00  
23<sup>rd</sup> April 10.00 – 11.30  
29<sup>th</sup> April 11.00 – 12.30

## **Crime data to include people 75+**

After campaigns from several organisations, including Age UK, the Government will start monitoring Domestic Abuse figures among people over 75 years from 2022.

Age UK revealed that more than 80,000 older people aged 60 to 74 have suffered from domestic abuse since November 2019. A Safe Lives Spotlight on Older People and Domestic Abuse in 2016 estimated that 120,000 people over 65 experience domestic abuse every year in the UK.

Caroline Abrahams, charity director at Age UK said: 'Domestic abuse affects people of all ages so it's high time that the oldest victims are recognised and brought in from the cold in this way. What gets measured gets done' they say, so this shift offers the hope that in future, services to prevent domestic abuse and help its victims will become much more sensitive to the needs of very old people.

'It also opens up opportunities to raise the awareness of professionals who are well placed to identify older people who may be affected by domestic abuse, such as hospital doctors and nurses. Sometimes, for example, domestic abuse first comes to notice when an older person is admitted to hospital, and it becomes clear they are frightened to go home.

'We look forward to working with the Office for National Statistics to help design research approaches that effectively capture the experiences of 75s and over and enable their voices to be heard.

## **Whole Housing Approach Toolkit launched**

The Whole Housing Approach was inspired by early conversations between innovators in the domestic abuse and housing sectors who were improving practices related to housing and domestic abuse and recognised the need to connect their efforts. The National Policy Group for Housing and Domestic Abuse formally endorsed the Whole Housing Approach to help promote the range of housing-related options required to address domestic abuse. A Toolkit has now been produced to assist areas that use the WHAP to deliver services that create earlier intervention and better outcomes for all people experiencing domestic abuse.

**Whole Housing Approach Toolkit:** <https://www.dahalliance.org.uk/what-we-do/whole-housing-approach/whole-housing-toolkit/>

## **Helping men to understand domestic abuse**

Community Interest Company No Feart have launched an online course for men based around the Freedom Programme. Men do not share their personal stories on this course. They participate by role playing tactics, beliefs and environments that shape beliefs. Everyone is respectful and mannerly. A good rapport with encouraging atmosphere is experienced by all who attend

Contact [info@nofeart.org](mailto:info@nofeart.org) for details or questions you may have about the course and how it works.

<https://www.freedomprogramme.co.uk/men.php>

## **A message from the Safeguarding Boards**

As some of you may already be aware, a decision was made last year to move to a single assessment tool for child neglect across Peterborough and Cambridgeshire. Research was undertaken and a decision was made at the Safeguarding Children Partnership Board that the Graded Care Profile would become the single tool for assessing neglect across the county.

From **1st March 2021**, the Graded Care Profile will become the single tool available for use to assess neglect in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, replacing the Quality of Care tool currently used by Peterborough based practitioners.

To support the roll out of the Graded Care Profile, we have put together some workshops on the tool and attached is the flyer for these workshops.

To book a place onto the workshops, please visit our website: [www.safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk/availabletraining/](http://www.safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk/availabletraining/)

## **Police Professional Standards Department and DA**

Following the recent super-complaint concerning police perpetrators of DA made by the Centre for Women's Justice to the IOPC (full text and details available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/police-super-complaints-force-response-to-police-perpetrated-domestic-abuse>), Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire collaborated Police Professional Standards Department (BCH PSD) are working with Cambridgeshire police to remove potential difficulties in reporting by victims and improve trust and confidence in subsequent investigation processes. A refresh of PSD DA policies and procedures is ongoing and BCH PSD and Cambridgeshire Police are keen to work with partners on ways to improve the potential barriers to reporting and improving the quality of investigations where there are allegations of police perpetrators of domestic abuse.

All suggestions for improvement in the process are welcome and can be made to DA Strategic Support DI Dave Savill at [david.savill@cambs.police.uk](mailto:david.savill@cambs.police.uk) / 07736 086966 or BCH PSD DCI Ben Martin at [ben.martin@cambs.police.uk](mailto:ben.martin@cambs.police.uk) / 07850 142 649

In more broad terms, BCH PSD are keen to improve contact from partnerships to report allegations of police officer or staff misconduct or any risk or vulnerability factors that have been identified surrounding our employees and are now expanding their PSD champions network to drive this work forward. Richard Wall at BCH PSD leads on this area of work and is keen to hear from anyone who would like more information in this regard – Please contact [BCHPSDChampions@herts.pnn.police.uk](mailto:BCHPSDChampions@herts.pnn.police.uk)

BCH PSD welcome reports of any issues raising concerns about police officer and staff behaviour – reports can be made confidentially at <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/> or 0800 555111 or sent direct to [PSD.AntiCorruptionUnit@Bedfordshire.pnn.Police.uk](mailto:PSD.AntiCorruptionUnit@Bedfordshire.pnn.Police.uk) Alternatively, any of the above contacts mentioned above would be happy to have a conversation about concerns at any time.

## Job Centre opening hours update

To help keep customers and colleagues as safe as possible in the latest phase of the pandemic, Jobcentre opening hours will be 10am to 2pm as from Monday, 18th January 2021. This temporary change means they can continue providing safe, essential services for those who need to come into the Jobcentre and who are unable to interact on the phone or digitally. The opening hours of the phone lines remain as they were. In addition, the Relay UK service and the Video relay service are both still available.

If anyone presents themselves to any offices within normal office hours needing support urgently, staff will still engage with them in the most appropriate manner.

## DWP Senior Safeguarding Leaders

Lisa Barraclough is DWP's Senior Safeguarding Leader for East Anglia, covering Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

DWP has recently created a central team within its Customer Experience Directorate to focus on strategically supporting our most vulnerable customers. This includes appointing 31 new Senior Safeguarding Leaders. The role is to provide coverage across Great Britain to ensure claimants in all areas are supported, whilst also building local relationships with partners in our own regions.

Lisa's role as Senior Safeguarding Leader for East Anglia is integral to DWP's reach across communities, to underpin strong relationships with other organisations that can provide support for our customers. Whilst DWP does not have a statutory duty of care, we recognise the positive impact a joined-up approach to safeguarding can have where there are concerns for the wellbeing of a person who is claiming benefits or using DWP services. The Department is working to better understand how we can provide greater support for our most vulnerable customers, across all product lines and services.

As a Senior Safeguarding Leader, responsibilities include:

- Representing DWP at Local Authority Safeguarding Adult Reviews in Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, in order to take account of any individual customer's experiences during their DWP claimant journey.
- Providing support, guidance and coaching to DWP colleagues in my area, enabling us to deliver a consistent service for customers who require additional support across all product lines.
- Actively participating in multi-agency boards and working with local agencies to ensure all stakeholders are clear about DWP's role and accountabilities and how we support vulnerable customers.

The Department is keen to continue to learn from partner organisations, and Lisa would welcome the opportunity to discuss how we can work collaboratively to support our most vulnerable customers.

If you'd like to get in touch with Lisa to discuss a specific case or for more information about the Safeguarding Team please email her **Email: [lisa.barraclough@dpw.gov.uk](mailto:lisa.barraclough@dpw.gov.uk)**

## **Update from NSPCC**

Thank you for your patience with us over the past few months, in terms of our referral pathways. The current pandemic has impacted significantly on the services that we have been able to deliver, and we have spent the latter part of 2020 allocating referrals received during the initial national lockdown. We are currently working to capacity and therefore have limited resources in respect of taking on new pieces of work. We are also trying to work remotely, as far as is possible, to reduce the risks to children, families, our staff and other professionals. However, we understand that the needs of children and families have, if anything, increased during this time, and we want to be available to support our external colleagues as much as possible.

We are therefore asking that if you have a child or young person that you wish to refer to our services, that you contact us in the first instance to discuss the case. Though we might not be able to accept a referral for direct work, we may be able to consider a virtual offer to the child/family, or professional consultation to prepare for progression to a case when we are able to resume our full face-to-face offer.

We appreciate your understanding at this time, and look forward to working with you.

Please email a brief outline of your enquiry and contact details to [peterborough@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:peterborough@nspcc.org.uk) and we will arrange for a duty worker to contact you.

## **Criminalising Coercive Control**

The latest edition of CC Chat Magazine looks at coercive control and discussing the importance of it being recognised as a crime.

<https://www.yumpu.com/en/document/read/65184797/ccchat-magazine-issue-20>

## **Do you teach young people about domestic abuse?**

A study is being conducted by a student at the School of Psychology at the University of East London part exploring teachers' feelings, attitudes and needs in relation to teaching about domestic abuse in Relationships Education and managing related disclosures.

With the introduction of statutory relationships education, domestic abuse is now a sensitive topic that teachers are required to teach about in secondary schools, with foundational knowledge and skills being delivered at primary school. We are interested in both primary and secondary phase teachers' confidence and comfort in teaching about this, and their needs to support delivery of lessons and management of disclosures. If you are interested, please click on the link for more information and to access the survey.

**Complete the questionnaire**

## Clare's Law research – seeking victim/survivor perspectives

A study funded by the British Academy is looking at **Clare's Law and Domestic Violence Disclosure Schemes: Victim/Survivor Perspectives**.

Clare's Law was implemented following the murder of Clare Wood by a man with a known history of violence. Domestic Violence Disclosure Schemes (DVDSs) were rolled out in 2014 which allow police to disclose normally confidential information about a person's criminal history to someone deemed at risk for future abuse, with the view that this will help them make more informed choices about their safety. Clare's Law also gives victims a right to ask the police to disclose information about someone who they suspect may have a criminal history.

However, there has been no research to date which involved **asking victim/survivor** about **their** experiences of accessing DVDSs or the barriers they face.

The research hopes to address this gap by **speaking to women from a wide range of backgrounds** who are:

- Women who have used Clare's Law.
- Women who chose not to access information available via Clare's Law or may never even have heard of Clare's Law but feel this could have benefited them but have/would face barriers.
- Practitioners/family members/ friends working with victim/survivors who have accessed Clare's Law for someone they work with/care for.

A short **survey** which can be completed by victim/survivors, practitioners, and family/friends which should take no more than 10 minutes to complete is available at

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=DQSIkWdsW0yxEjajBLZtrQAAAAAAAAAAAO\\_\\_dLFuTRUNK5CTDVNMEhNRkRKTEdTR0RSTEdaREhTSi4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=DQSIkWdsW0yxEjajBLZtrQAAAAAAAAAAAO__dLFuTRUNK5CTDVNMEhNRkRKTEdTR0RSTEdaREhTSi4u)

## Domestic abuse support for Deaf people

SignHealth provides advice and support for Deaf adults and young people experiencing domestic abuse. and delivers prevention workshops as well as closed groups for Deaf survivors.

They have a number of excellent short films on their website covering a number of issues relating to domestic abuse and all the videos feature subtitles as well as British Sign Language.

[Domestic Abuse BSL Videos - SignHealth](#)

## Impact of covid on DA victims

As COVID-19 spreads across the globe and into our homes, domestic abusers are finding new ways to exercise coercive control. This short video describes how abusers can exploit social distancing and shelter-in-place policies to achieve power and control over household members.

<https://vimeo.com/411077713>



## **Ensuring justice for Cambridgeshire victims**

Cambridgeshire's Acting Police and Crime Commissioner Ray Bisby has today announced extra funding to ensure the county's criminal justice system runs as efficiently as possible in these challenging times.

The funds totalling £90k will provide 18 months of additional resource in the Victim and Witness Hub. The staff play a crucial role in supporting victims and witnesses to give their evidence, whilst liaising with courts and the Crown Prosecution Service to help ensure hearings and trials can go ahead.

This includes checking that any special measures are in place, that victims and witnesses know where they need to be and when, have transport, childcare and support available.

The work in this area has almost doubled during the pandemic as trials have had to be rearranged, often at very short notice. This means the total number of cases and the victims and witnesses needed to be liaised with increases. This all places significant pressure on an already busy team.

"It is critical that we keep our criminal justice system operating and these staff are key to ensuring victims and witnesses are at court when they are needed, are kept up to date and engaged with the process," said Acting Commissioner Bisby.

"My role is to ensure an efficient and effective criminal justice system. At our Criminal Justice Board in December colleagues in the Constabulary highlighted the risks to effective justice. I am really pleased to be able to make this funding available," he added.

Police and Crime Commissioners are also responsible for commissioning support services for victims of crime. In the past year Mr Bisby has accessed £790k of additional funding which has been allocated to domestic abuse and sexual violence charities supporting victims. This has enabled charities to bolster resources and in many cases continue to accompany victims to court to provide valuable support.

Mr Bisby added: "We must all work together to ensure victims of crime can access justice. In Cambridgeshire I am really proud of the way all criminal justice agencies have worked tirelessly to keep courts open and services running. I am also continually impressed with the dedication of local victim support agencies who continue to offer emotional and practical life lines of support to victims."

## Shaping men's responses to women – article published focusing on understanding domestic violence

An article published in the Courier newspaper in Scotland highlights the importance of understanding domestic violence more fully. The author Jon Brady interviewed Professor Liz Gilchrist about her work on domestic violence over a number of years, she highlights there is no single cause behind why a young male perpetrator may abuse his partner. She also points out the importance of early years experiences in how some men respond to women in their adulthood, particularly that an individual's ability to navigate situations can be very difficult if they are not raised in a nurturing environment. Children who are not nurtured to feel secure see the world as a negative place and are not able to manage as well their temperament, set goals and discover interests of their own. This can result in adults over monitoring and trying to control their partner's behaviour (particularly when they feel vulnerable or when they believe their partner is leaving them).

Two interventions are described: the first being **The Intervention Initiative**, originally developed by the University of the West of England in 2014, which focuses on university students; to educate them how and when to intervene in situations that could indicate sexual harassment, coercion or an abusive relationship. The second intervention is the **ADVANCE** intervention set within the ADVANCE study. The intervention focuses on a male substance using population who are receiving ongoing treatment with a keyworker (within their local NHS or third sector agency). The study is researching the links between substance use and domestic abuse and how to support both victims and perpetrators. The ADVANCE intervention is now being repurposed with adaptations for the Covid-19 pandemic to be delivered across the UK online and supported remotely by facilitators. This adapted version of the intervention comes after successful trials in England.

You can access the article [here](#).

## PIER Lectures team up with Women's Aid

Join Anglia Ruskin University via Teams Live for their fourth **FREE** webinar of the PIER Public Lecture Series on '**Crime and Policing in a Pandemic**' on **Wednesday 24th February, 5.30-7pm** to hear **Jacqui Kilburn, Women's Aid National Training Centre Manager** speak on:

### **'A Perfect Storm' Supporting Victims/Survivors of domestic abuse through the Pandemic**

Jacqui will be looking at the understanding of coercion and control and the increase of its use during the Pandemic, drawing on the most recent piece of Women's Aid research 'A Perfect Storm' and sharing survivors experiences of living with an abuser during lockdown. Jacqui will also look at new horizons within the 7 parts of the new Domestic Abuse Bill.

Jacqui manages the National Training Centre at Women's Aid and is a qualified teacher, trainer and assessor. Jacqui's career for almost 30 years had been at the operational level in direct Women's Aid services. Jacqui was also key in the creation of a new multi-agency team, encompassing a Specialist DA Police Unit, Children's Social Workers, Housing Officers, Health Practitioners and Specialist Support workers, which she went on to manage in Hull. Jacqui is an associate trainer for the College of Policing and is also qualified to chair Domestic Homicide Reviews.

Tickets can be booked via [Eventbrite](#).

If you have any questions or would like to subscribe to our mailing list to hear about future events, please email [PIER@aru.ac.uk](mailto:PIER@aru.ac.uk)



## Human Rights and Domestic Abuse

The British Institute of Human Rights have launched a tool for women survivors of domestic abuse to help advocates and survivors use the language of human rights to get the support they need from public services

<https://www.knowyourhumanrights-domesticabusesurvivors.co.uk/>

## Changes to Legal Aid for home owners

New legal aid 'mortgage cap' rules now in force New legal aid rules came into force on 28 January 2021. If you have been refused legal aid recently due to the value of your property, you should check again to see if you are now eligible.

**Background** A challenge brought by the Public Law Project on behalf of a domestic violence survivor led to an important change in the legal aid rules that mean more homeowners on low incomes will qualify for legal aid. The rule change applies to all areas of civil law (not criminal law). Legal aid is subject to means testing of both income and capital. Before the rule change, the average homeowner would not qualify for legal aid even if they earned under the income threshold and could not afford to pay for a lawyer. PLP's client 'Rebecca' was denied legal aid for family proceedings because she owned her own home. The old rules artificially increased the value of her home because they did not allow the full amount of a person's mortgage to be deducted when calculating the value of their property. Rebecca failed the eligibility test even though there was almost no equity in her home – certainly not enough to fund her legal costs.

**What has changed?** As a result of Rebecca's judicial review case the Government agreed to change the rules to end 'imaginary capital'. The new regulations change how property value is calculated for the purposes of the legal aid means test. They get rid of the 'mortgage cap', so the true value of a person's mortgage will now be deducted. Actual equity

**Why does this matter?** More homeowners will be eligible for legal aid as a result of this rule change. These are people who would not be able to pay for legal representation on their own. This is important because access to legal aid is vital for upholding access to justice. The old rules were completely out of touch with reality. The £100,000 cap was introduced following a consultation in 1994 and was never increased despite a five-fold hike in average house prices since that time.

**What steps should be taken if legal aid has been refused before the rule change?** The new rule came into force on 28 January 2021. If you have been refused legal aid recently due to the value of a property, you should check if you are eligible now. You can apply again after 28 January 2021 based on the new rules.

**Who will be impacted?** This change will be particularly important for people who need legal aid, have a mortgage, and own a low percentage of the equity in their home. For example, those that live in areas with high property prices, or victims of domestic violence that have remained in their marital home but are on a low income.

**How can I check whether I now qualify for legal aid?** A legal aid lawyer who specialises in the area of law that you need help with can tell you whether you qualify for legal aid for your issue. The rules around means testing are complicated and the exact limits depend on your circumstances and the nature of the case.

## Reducing Parental Conflict Training

Please see below some information about training being offered by the Parental Conflict Programme. The programme has been developed by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and Cambridgeshire is one of four local areas chosen to run the programme.

It's important to remember that domestic abuse requires a specialist intervention and this is made clear in the Parental Relationships Spectrum that forms part of the project.

For more information on the Parental Conflict Programme please visit [Welcome to Cambridgeshire DASV Partnership \(cambsdasv.org.uk\)](https://www.cambsdasv.org.uk)

### Do you want to develop your skills and confidence in identifying and responding to parental conflict?

We are offering 2 different opportunities with availability starting immediately!

#### Option 1 - E-learning only - approximately 1½ hours of e-learning in total

- Module 1 - Parental conflict and its impact on child outcomes
- Module 2 - Recognising and supporting parents in parental conflict
- Module 3 - Working with parents in conflict

The e-learning can be done at your own pace and in your own time

## Options 2 - E-learning plus bitesize group teaching and reflection

In this option you will:

- Complete modules 1 and 2 of the e-learning
- Attend Bitesize sessions 1 - a 1½ hour session with a trainer and others who have completed the e-learning to explore the difference between domestic abuse and parental conflict and reflect on your learning
- Complete module 3 of the e-learning
- Attend bitesize session 2 - a 1½ hour session with the same group to explore the tools and how you might use them

This option will be run in cohorts with the bitesize session dates as follows:

	Cohort 1	Cohort 2	Cohort 3
Bitesize 1	17 Feb 9.30-11.00	16 March - 9.30-11.00	15 April - 1.30- 3
Bitesize 2	3 March 9.30-11.00	30 March 9.30-11.00	29 April 1.30 - 3

You will need to ensure you can attend both of the dates relevant to your cohort.

Further dates will be made available later in the year.

## How to apply

Please email [RPCTraining@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:RPCTraining@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) with your name, role and contact phone number and whether you wish to undertake the E-learning only or e-learning plus bitesize. And if you are applying for the bitesize which cohort you wish to attend

**HE LOVES ME...**

WE DON'T NEED  
ANYONE ELSE

PUT EVERYTHING  
IN MY NAME -  
I'LL TAKE CARE  
OF YOU

WEAR THAT ONE  
INSTEAD - IT'S  
MY FAVOURITE

**HE LOVES  
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I MISS MY  
FRIENDS

I'VE NO MONEY  
OF MY OWN

I'VE LOST  
WHO I AM

**Control is not love – it's abuse**

**If you are experiencing domestic abuse please  
visit our website for support and information**

**[www.cambsdasv.org.uk](http://www.cambsdasv.org.uk)**



**Cambridgeshire  
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Violence Partnership



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