



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

July 2021

Hi All!

In June we have been busy working with a range of organisations to gather data and compile a Safe Accommodation Needs Assessment, as required as part of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. Many thanks to all who contributed to this, but in particular to Heather Williams, who was working with us as part of the County Council Graduate Scheme – Heather left us to go and work with Cambridge Rape Crisis as a ChISVA and we wish her all the very best with her career in the sector.

We have also been incredibly busy recruiting, we have a number of new staff starting over the next couple of months. We are currently recruiting for a Safe Accommodation Programme Manager to lead our work to ensure safe accommodation is available for all, as well as a few IDVA posts – the links are on page 3 – please forward to anyone who may be interested.

Feedback from those who have sought support for domestic abuse or sexual violence is always welcome, it is incredibly helpful to know about the experiences of those who need to use our various services. We have recently commissioned “Stevenage Against Domestic Abuse” to gather independent feedback from adults and children who have suffered domestic abuse and have used Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Services – not just our specialist services, but also, police, children’s services, housing and others. More information to follow.

Have a safe summer, take care of yourselves and others

Vickie Crompton & Julia Cullum
DASV Partnership Managers



DASV Champions Network – October sessions

The next sessions will be held in October, over Teams, the sessions will feature 2 presentations, one from CLG about substance misuse and PEGS ([About Us | Pegs Support \(pegsupport.co.uk\)](#)), to talk about Child to Parent Abuse and how parents can be supported.

The dates of the sessions are below. To book a place, please email DASVChampions@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

19th October – 10am – 11.30am

21st October – 2pm – 3.30pm

26th October - 2pm – 3.30pm

Priority for people homeless due to domestic abuse

From 5 July 2021 victims who are homeless due to domestic abuse will be prioritised for accommodation from their council.

Under the government’s landmark [Domestic Abuse Act](#) councils will have to find accommodation for people made homeless through domestic abuse, helping to ensure victims do not remain with their abuser for fear of not having a roof over their head.

Previously, victims had to be assessed as being ‘vulnerable’ as a result of domestic abuse to be identified as having a priority need. Under the new legislation, domestic abuse will be a standalone reason to qualify as needing this support.

The aim of the policy is to give those who are homeless as a result of being a victim of domestic abuse priority need for homelessness assistance and accommodation secured by the local authority.

Local authorities have a duty to secure accommodation for a number of groups who are deemed to have a ‘priority need’ if they were to become homeless. Pregnant women and households with dependent children are automatically in priority need but there are several other groups who are in priority need if they would be vulnerable if they were to become homeless – victims of domestic abuse must currently fulfil this “vulnerability test”.

This policy seeks to remove the consideration of vulnerability for victims of domestic abuse. This should allow more victims without dependent children to access accommodation and prevent the fear of homelessness for victims seeking to flee abuse.

Our Vacancies

We are looking to recruit a **Safe Accommodation Programme Manager** to lead a key programme of work, ensuring those who are suffering domestic abuse and can no longer stay in their own homes can receive support and access to safe and appropriate accommodation. More details are at the link below, closing date for applications is 4th August at midday.

[https://www.publicsectorjobseast.co.uk/Safe Accommodation Programme Manager-Chord Park - Godmanchester?jobId=23743&JobIndex=54&categoryList=&minsal=0&maxsal=150000&workingpattern=&keywords=&employee=-1&postcode=&Distance=0&AdvertiseOn=0](https://www.publicsectorjobseast.co.uk/Safe%20Accommodation%20Programme%20Manager-Chord%20Park%20-Godmanchester?jobId=23743&JobIndex=54&categoryList=&minsal=0&maxsal=150000&workingpattern=&keywords=&employee=-1&postcode=&Distance=0&AdvertiseOn=0)

We are also recruiting **three IDVAs** – one to work with local housing providers, one to support male victims and a third to support BAME victims. Links to the jobs are below, all close on 29th July at midday.

[https://www.publicsectorjobseast.co.uk/Housing Independent Domestic Violence Advisor-Chord Park - Godmanchester?jobId=23643&JobIndex=103&categoryList=&minsal=0&maxsal=150000&workingpattern=&keywords=&employee=-1&postcode=&Distance=0&AdvertiseOn=0](https://www.publicsectorjobseast.co.uk/Housing%20Independent%20Domestic%20Violence%20Advisor-Chord%20Park%20-Godmanchester?jobId=23643&JobIndex=103&categoryList=&minsal=0&maxsal=150000&workingpattern=&keywords=&employee=-1&postcode=&Distance=0&AdvertiseOn=0)

[https://www.publicsectorjobseast.co.uk/Male IDVA-Chord Park - Godmanchester?jobId=23646&JobIndex=87&categoryList=&minsal=0&maxsal=150000&workingpattern=&keywords=&employee=-1&postcode=&Distance=0&AdvertiseOn=0](https://www.publicsectorjobseast.co.uk/Male%20IDVA-Chord%20Park%20-Godmanchester?jobId=23646&JobIndex=87&categoryList=&minsal=0&maxsal=150000&workingpattern=&keywords=&employee=-1&postcode=&Distance=0&AdvertiseOn=0)

[https://www.publicsectorjobseast.co.uk/BAME IDVA-Chord Park - Godmanchester?jobId=23645&JobIndex=172&categoryList=&minsal=0&maxsal=150000&workingpattern=&keywords=&employee=-1&postcode=&Distance=0&AdvertiseOn=0](https://www.publicsectorjobseast.co.uk/BAME%20IDVA-Chord%20Park%20-Godmanchester?jobId=23645&JobIndex=172&categoryList=&minsal=0&maxsal=150000&workingpattern=&keywords=&employee=-1&postcode=&Distance=0&AdvertiseOn=0)

Vacancies with Refuge

Refuge are recruiting for two Outreach Workers and a part-time refuge worker. More information is at the links below and applications close on 18th July.

<https://refugecareers.ciphr-irecruit.com/Applicants/vacancy/3674/Outreach-Worker-x-2>

<https://refugecareers.ciphr-irecruit.com/Applicants/vacancy/3654/Refuge-Worker---Part-Time>

A doctor's view on sexual consent

Cerys Barratt, a 25 year old doctor working in Glasgow, is part of a podcast "Life After Sexual Assault" by BBC Sounds. Dr Barratt is joined by three other women (a dominatrix, a sex therapist and the Rape Crisis Scotland Media head) having a frank conversation about sex, consent and sexual assault/rape. It is only 30 minutes long, but covers a lot - from acceptance of the event, to finding sexual pleasure afterwards.

Apple podcasts: <https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/tricky/id1530794385?i=1000522119386>

Spotify: <https://open.spotify.com/episode/5puyfNuGSRX7hJuT7yL4Ly?si=a6b8f92d70884cbd>

BBC Sounds: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p09hg47n>

Feedback from user of Refuge Outreach support

A survivor who received support from the Outreach Service provided in the north of the county by Refuge, has shared some really positive feedback:

My life is now not comparable to the one I had before I was directed to your services. You have literally saved my life because what I was doing before was not living. I did whatever I was told because I didn't have the courage to say no. You gave me that courage. I know I never would have been able to get through any of the things I had to do without you beside me. And you always were beside me, when I had to go to court, write reports for courts and through our long telephone calls where you would make me believe that I could get through it and I should go through it. I know I would have given up if it wasn't for you. You never made me feel like I was bothering you, even when I was going over the same things, in different conversations, you always listened and made me feel supported. You were there for me like no one else was or could be. You believed me when others didn't, I never had to explain you just knew.

Refuge provide Outreach support in Fenland, Huntingdonshire & Peterborough 07787 255821

Cambridge Women's Aid cover Cambridge City, East Cambs and South Cambs 01223 361214

Peterborough Women's Aid Helpline 08454 103123

What works for children and families after domestic abuse?

Researchers from UCL are hoping to improve understanding of 'what works' for children and families who have experienced domestic violence and abuse and/or child maltreatment. They would like to invite you to take part in an online survey to rate the importance of outcomes that they have identified by reviewing evidence and by talking to different people (e.g. survivors, practitioners/clinicians and professionals responsible for policy and commissioning services). They are looking for experts in domestic violence and abuse or child maltreatment which includes being a survivor of or working (e.g. practice, policy, research, commissioning) in domestic violence and abuse or child maltreatment. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Claire at c.powell@ucl.ac.uk.

Trauma and its relationship to mental health podcast

This podcast features guests Sally Armour (Child Health Commissioner for NHS Highland), Dr Neha Shah (Public Mental Health Research and Evidence Lead at Public Health England) and Laura Fischer (artist, activist, lecturer, consultant and researcher). They discuss what psychological trauma is and how it relates to mental health. To listen to the full podcast click [here](#).

Technology-facilitated abuse in relationships: Victimisation patterns and impact in young people

This study examines the impact of technology-facilitated abuse in relationships (TAR) in youth participants. To read the full paper in *Computers in Human Behaviour* click [here](#).

New tool for under-18s to report nude photos of themselves online

Under-18s who want nude pictures or videos of themselves removed from the internet can now report the images through an online tool.

The service - from the Internet Watch Foundation and Childline - aims to help children who have been groomed, or whose partners have posted photos of them online. The IWF will examine the images and try and remove them if they break the law. It says the tool is a "world first" and could help many worried children.

The IWF works to remove child abuse material from the internet. The charity says there are a number of reasons a young person might send nude images or videos without knowing they will be posted online, including grooming and coercion. Some may have also sent images for fun, or to a boyfriend or girlfriend who has since shared them without their consent.

In recent years, the IWF says it has noticed more and more of these types of images online that have been created by children themselves. In the first three months of this year, 38,000 self-generated images were reported - double the amount in comparison to the same time last year. But now for the first time, people under the age of 18 who are concerned that a nude photo of them is online - or could potentially end up there - can now flag up the content using the Report Remove tool on the NSPCC's Childline service's website.

If a picture or video has already appeared online, they can share the URL and the charity will examine the images. If the pictures break the law, the IWF will work to have them removed. And if the content has not yet appeared online but a person is worried it might, the charity can create a digital fingerprint for the picture - known as a hash - which will be shared with tech companies and law enforcement around the world to help prevent it from being uploaded and shared.

Young people can report the images anonymously, as long as they verify their age, or they can leave their details and get support from Childline.

Anyone who makes a report should expect to receive feedback on the outcome in one working day.

Never just a ‘domestic’

If you’ve ever wondered what happens when the police are called to an incident of domestic abuse, you can now find out on our website! Please do share this and the video from Cambridgeshire Police if you are working with anyone that is reluctant to contact police https://www.cambsdasv.org.uk/website/calling_the_police/563196

Domestic abuse-related suicide research

In a new police initiative, introduced during the pandemic, women who take their own lives due to experiencing domestic abuse are being counted for the first time. Professor Jane Monckton-Smith has been funded by the Government to carry out research into these hidden victims and early findings released by the police watchdog show 20 per cent of all deaths related to domestic abuse are suicides.

[The hidden victims of domestic violence – the women who take their own lives – Channel 4 News](#)

Professor Monckton-Smith is also launching a campaign to raise awareness around this subject which we will include in a future newsletter.

Why don’t you just leave?

If a domestic abuse survivor confides in someone about what’s happening to them, they may well be faced with the ‘why don’t you leave?’ question. Clearly, if it were that simple domestic abuse and domestic homicide wouldn’t be such a serious issue! Research has proven that the point of separation is the most dangerous for a domestic abuse survivor and their children – it’s the point at which the abuser has lost some of their power and control over their victim so they will sometimes choose to re-gain that power by extreme means.

We have a new page on our website offering advice to survivors on things they might need to consider if they are thinking of leaving, and things to think about after they have left. Of course, every person and case is different so it’s not a blanket cover-all for all survivors.

Safety planning page [Welcome to Cambridgeshire DASV Partnership \(cambsdasv.org.uk\)](#)

Epidemic of violence against women under way in England and Wales

Women and girls are being subjected to an epidemic of violence that requires a “radical and bold” shift in how authorities in England and Wales tackle crimes that disproportionately affect female victims, a police watchdog has warned. In an interim report, Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) calls for councils, schools, health and social care bodies and all areas of the criminal justice system to work together to address the problem, as police “cannot solve this alone”. In March, the inspectorate was asked to inspect the effectiveness of police engagement with women and girls. A number of recent cases involving violence against women and girls have raised the profile of such offending, including the death of 33-year-old Sarah Everard; that of Julia James, a police community support officer in Kent, allegedly killed while out walking her dog; and the murders of the sisters Bibaa Henry and Nicole Smallman in a park in north-west London in June 2020.

- [The Guardian](#)

Food vouchers scheme to run over school holidays

A scheme to provide food vouchers to families struggling in the pandemic will be continued over the school summer holidays through funding from Cambridgeshire County Council.

This follows the successful Winter Support Grant which provided support to vulnerable families during the Christmas break and the COVID Support Grant during the February half term holiday.

Cambridgeshire County Council's Children and Young People's Committee voted at its meeting on 29 June to allocate approximately £1.6m for the COVID Support Grant scheme, which will be in the form of supermarket vouchers.

A supermarket voucher will automatically be allocated to parents or carers whose child meets the following criteria:

- In receipt of Early Years Pupil Premium
- Children that access funded two-year-old education
- Children eligible for Free School Meals
- Students eligible for 16+ bursary

Each eligible child or young person will be issued with vouchers to cover weekday lunch costs during the school summer holiday. Vouchers will be sent by email and text and will equate to £3 for each weekday of the holidays. Further information will be sent to parents on the operation of the scheme in the coming weeks.

Running alongside this, the Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programme will provide some support over the school summer holidays.

The HAF scheme enables local authorities to coordinate free holiday childcare, which includes healthy food and enriching activities for children who receive benefits-related free school meals.

The programme will be delivered by approved holiday scheme providers and childminders, co-ordinated by Cambridgeshire County Council. More details can be found at [Holiday Activities and Food Programme - Cambridgeshire County Council](#)

Adults Safeguarding Referral Form

For Cambridgeshire cases only, the electronic referral form is now accessible to all agencies and you will be able to upload this onto your system. If you do not have access to a computer you can refer by phone. There is an expectation that a phone referrer will be able to provide the same information that is on the multi-agency Safeguarding Adults referral form.

Please note this only applies to professional referrals - there is not an expectation that members of the public would know all detailed information.

A link to the referral form can be found at <https://safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk/concerned/>

The telephone number is 0345 045 5202

YOUUnited – new partnership to support children and young people with mental health and wellbeing

YOUUnited offers help to children and young people with their emotional wellbeing and mental health registered with a GP in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. It is available to those up to the age of 25 and offers a range of support including therapies, counselling and guided self-help. Referrals can be made to YOUUnited by a GP or any professional working with children or young people. Referral information can be found on the CPFT website and on the next page of this briefing. All referrals are triaged and assessed by specialist staff from YOUUnited who then work with children and young people, as well as their family or carers if necessary, on the best pathway to support their needs. The YOUUnited referral hub only accepts professional referrals. Young people between 17 and 25 can self-refer to Centre 33. YOUUnited is a partnership involving: Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust, Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust, Centre 33, and Ormiston Families. Young people have been instrumental in helping co-design the service.

Independent Review of Children's Social Care

In 2019 the government's manifesto committed to reviewing the children's social care system to make sure children and young people get the support they need.

This Review is a chance to look afresh at children's social care. It will look at issues through the perspective of children and families throughout their interactions with children's social care, from having a social worker knock on the door, through to children being in care and then leaving care.

The Review is keen to hear from those who might recognise their role as being part of children's social care, such as social workers and early help practitioners, as well as other professionals who work with children, in paid and unpaid roles. This includes independent visitors, health practitioners, those who work in education and early years, the police and youth justice.

To find out more and sign up for updates, please visit [Home - The Independent Review of Children's Social Care \(independent-review.org.uk\)](https://www.independent-review.org.uk)

Child to Parent Violence Training Day

PartnershipProjects and Helen Bonnick are excited to co-host an ONLINE Study Day on Child to Parent Violence & Abuse (CPVA) – Across The Lifespan

We have gathered together 8 presenters including a parent, researchers and practitioners who all have experience of this widely misunderstood problem, that affects the lives of millions of families across the world.

Morning sessions will focus on scoping the problem while the afternoon will focus on therapeutic interventions for families. Both morning and afternoon sessions will conclude with a panel discussion, during which the presenters will respond to questions submitted by participants.

If you book before 31st July, the cost is reduced to £66 per place

[UK National Study Day on Child to Parent Violence & Abuse | PartnershipProjects UK](https://www.independent-review.org.uk)

Update on the Swan project.

The Swan project aims to work with women who have suffered domestic violence.

Currently the Swan project yoga sessions have now started on Thursdays at the Oasis centre in Wisbech and we are open to referrals/bookings.

Thursdays, 12- 1.30pm (12-1pm is yoga and 1-1.30pm is a chance to have a socially distanced chat/coffee/tea).

This is free for participants but we do require spaces to be booked so we know who is attending. Sessions can be booked via email to activefenlandbookings@fenland.gov.uk or by calling 01354 622498 for information (bookings will take a few days to process). We can also provide yoga mats if required.

Later in the year we will also be offering some confidence courses.

(Re) Introducing the Respond to Abuse Advice Line

Last August, Hestia launched the Everyone's Business Advice Line, offering phone support to HR teams and managers who are looking for information and advice on how to respond to domestic abuse.

In May, the decision was made to rename the advice line as the [Respond to Abuse Advice Line](#), to sit alongside the Respond to Abuse app. Both offer free support and guidance to any employer that is supporting an employee who is enduring domestic abuse.

All contact information for the advice line remains the same.

Employers who are seeking advice can call 07770480437 or 0203 8793695 or email Adviceline.EB@hestia.org between 9am-5pm Monday to Friday for support

Coproduction Resources

Against Violence and Abuse (AVA) recently launched a Women's Voices Learning Hub, sharing learning from their Haringey Women's Voices Project. The hub is a one-stop-shop of articles, webinars and other materials to support organisations working with women who have experienced domestic abuse and homelessness, with a particular focus on co-production and survivor-led approaches. Resources include: a co-designed set of trauma-informed peer support principles and zine 'My Voice Matters', a digital resources page of articles and toolkits, and a peer research paper on women's homelessness.

Access the hub [here](#).

Peterborough Women's Aid are looking for Trustees!

PWA is excited to announce the opportunity for two brilliant women to join our Board of Trustees.

You could help to shape our future and ensure that we continue to deliver our vital, life-saving work supporting survivors of violence against women and girls (VAWG). We recognise the critical role that intersectional and structural discrimination play in society and welcome women with a strong commitment to addressing these issues throughout our work.

It's not just about strategy, governance and finance, though these are important. It's about bringing a wealth of different voices, skills and experiences to the table, and harnessing your energy, creativity and commitment to make a real difference.

We think this could be you. We strive to continuously improve, innovate and work towards ending VAWG, and to do this we need your help.

Our Board of Trustees is particularly interested in building expertise around Legal, Policy, HR and Fundraising. Applicants with qualifications and experience (paid or unpaid) in these areas are encouraged to apply.

This is a voluntary position, but expenses are reimbursed. You will be required for a minimum of 8 meetings and two away days per year. All meetings and away days are currently being held online via video-conferencing, however this will change once restrictions lift.

We aim to ensure that the environment for all of our volunteers at PWA is as safe as possible. Therefore, due to the nature of some discussions and work that trustees may be asked to contribute to, we ask that those applicants with lived experience, have not accessed VAWG services for at least two years.

COMMITMENT: 8 meetings Board meetings and two away-days per year. Three-year term, with a maximum of two terms.

To find out more about the role please take a look at the recruitment pack at [Join us – Peterborough Women's Aid](#)