



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

March 2021

Hi All!

Wow – February went by very quickly! With the announcement of dates for lockdown easing set out at the end of February, services are preparing themselves for a potential increase in referrals so we're expecting an even busier year ahead.

One of the positives of the last year has been the increase in available webinars, and opportunities for learning online at no cost. Throughout this newsletter there are a number of opportunities for further learning – please make the most of the expertise on offer (without having to travel anywhere!)

This month is International Women's Day (8th March) and the theme is **#ChooseToChallenge**

Choose to challenge and call out gender bias and inequality, choose to seek out and celebrate women's achievements. We can also choose to challenge attitudes to domestic abuse and sexual violence so we will be posting on our social media pages around this theme – please do follow us (links below) and share our posts.

We've also just had news that Cambridgeshire County Council have been accredited by White Ribbon for another three years – White Ribbon UK encourages men to speak out against male violence and a new action plan is in place so look out for events when the world returns to normal.

Take care of yourselves, thanks as ever for all the incredible work you do, and as always, if there is any way in which we can support your organisation's response to domestic abuse or sexual violence, please don't hesitate to get in touch with either of us.

Vickie Crompton & Julia Cullum
DASV Partnership Managers



New laws added to Domestic abuse Bill and extra support for victims confirmed in Budget

- New offence of non-fatal strangulation and strengthened 'revenge porn' laws added to ground-breaking Domestic Abuse Bill
- Controlling or coercive behaviour offence extended to include abuse where perpetrators and victims no longer live together
- £19m Budget package to pilot 'Respite Rooms' and programmes to stop abuse happening in the first place

A raft of new amendments to the Domestic Abuse Bill will be presented this week, providing greater protections for victims and further clamping down on perpetrators.

The proposals include making non-fatal strangulation a specific criminal offence, punishable by up to five years in prison. The act typically involves an abuser strangling or intentionally affecting their victim's breathing in an attempt to control or intimidate them. Today's announcement follows concerns that perpetrators were avoiding punishment as the practice can often leave no visible injury, making it harder to prosecute under existing offences such as Actual Bodily Harm (ABH).

The Government will also strengthen legislation around controlling or coercive behaviour (CCB) – no longer making it a requirement for abusers and victims to live together. The change follows a government review which highlighted that those who leave abusive ex-partners can often be subjected to sustained or increased controlling or coercive behaviour post-separation.

Meanwhile, so-called 'revenge porn' laws – introduced by the government in 2015 – will be widened to include threats to disclose intimate images with the intention to cause distress. More than 900 abusers have been convicted since revenge porn was outlawed but Ministers are determined to further protect victims, with those who threaten to share such images facing up to two years behind bars.

The measures confirmed today have been developed closely with peers, advocates and victims who campaigned on these important issues. They form a series of amendments being tabled to the landmark Domestic Abuse Bill which enters Report Stage next week, with Royal Assent expected in the Spring.

It comes as the Chancellor is expected to announce a £19 million package at Budget to further tackle domestic abuse. £15 million will double the amount being spent on programmes to work with perpetrators – designed to stop abuse from happening in the first place. A further £4m will help more vulnerable homeless women access specialist support in 'Respite Rooms' – providing up to 132 new bed spaces for around 1,100 homeless and extremely vulnerable women a year across London and nine other areas in England.

The Covid-19 crisis has highlighted the challenges of domestic abuse – with a 65% increase in calls to the National Domestic Abuse hotline over the first lockdown last year. The government has already provided over £27 million to organisations to help tackle the issue, as well as £125 million in the Spending Review for local authorities. In January, the Government launched the 'Ask for ANI' codeword scheme in over 4,000 pharmacies across the UK, to ensure victims of domestic abuse could access much needed support in a safe and discreet way.

The Government is also tabling a number of other amendments to the Domestic Abuse Bill which will:

- provide special measures in civil courts similar to those available in family courts. This could include the use of protective screens in court or the ability to give evidence via video links-to support vulnerable courts users.

- make it easier for victims who may prefer not to report abuse to avoid being cross-examined in person, by widening the list of evidence to prove abuse has occurred to include things such as a letter from a doctor or an employer.
- clarify the use of 'barring orders' in the family courts to prevent abusive ex-partners from repeatedly dragging their victims back to court – which can be used as a form of continuing domestic abuse.
- require public authorities conducting domestic homicide reviews to send a copy of their completed reports to the Domestic Abuse Commissioner – strengthening the opportunity to learn lessons and prevent future deaths.

Perpetrator strategy to be published by UK government later in 2021

The Government stated its intention Wednesday to publish a strategy on domestic abuse perpetrators as part of a wider domestic abuse strategy due later in 2021. The commitment came as Lords debated an amendment which would have put a legal requirement for a perpetrator strategy into the Bill.

This progress represents a significant victory for the campaign for a domestic abuse perpetrator strategy launched a year ago in parliament and backed by MPs and peers from all political parties as well as over 125 organisations and experts outside parliament including survivors of domestic abuse, academics, charities, local authorities and police and crime commissioners.

The amendment, tabled by Baroness Gabby Bertin, and supported by both the Labour and Liberal Democrat frontbenches, called for a fully-funded domestic abuse perpetrator strategy and the further rollout of evidence-based interventions to prevent and end domestic abuse by responding to perpetrators. Many who support the amendment hope this marks a turning point in government's ambitions to prevent domestic abuse in the first place, to hold those who are causing harm to account and support anyone who wants to change their behaviour with quality assured interventions.

Disabled people three times more likely to experience domestic abuse

Disabled people are three times more likely to experience domestic abuse, government figures reveal.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) published data analysing the outcomes for disabled people in the UK for the year ending March 2020 which covered areas including education, employment, social participation, housing, well-being, loneliness and crime.

The research showed that around one in seven disabled people aged 16 to 59 in England and Wales had experienced domestic abuse in the 12 months, compared with about one in 20 non-disabled people. Disabled women were more than twice as likely to experience domestic abuse in the year than non-disabled women.

Josephine Foubert, of the census and disability analysis team at the ONS, said: "An important part of the ONS's work is to identify inequalities in society. As today's findings show, there are some stark differences between the experience of disabled and non-disabled people, from education and work to the experience of crime, including domestic abuse."

Do you know the 5 Rs of asking about domestic abuse?

If not, Safe Lives have put together a briefing to support health professionals to safely ask patients about domestic abuse (DA) in virtual settings for example on the telephone or online. It can be applied in services which use routine enquiry, for example maternity services, as well as services using clinical enquiry, such as general practice.

<https://safelives.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/Domestic%20abuse%20guidance%20for%20virtual%20health%20settings-%20C19.pdf>

Support for domestic abuse survivors in Peterborough

Living keys will be starting a Freedom Course for Women who have experienced Domestic Abuse. It is a 12 week course that explores the tactics, beliefs of a dominator and how it effects women and children when living in a DA environment.

The course will start on Wednesday 10th March for 12 weeks (excluding school holidays) at 10am and finish at 12pm and will be completed via Zoom. If interested please visit <https://www.livingkeys.co.uk> click on the courses section and information on all courses can be found on the website and an Application form.

Living Keys are now taking names for our next Hope 2 Recovery course, both Men and women who have experienced DA/violence. We are planning our next course for the end of April, again, if interested, please go to website for more information and an Application form.

Please note that the Course for 9th March is now full and we are unable to take any further applicants.

Domestic Abuse, Complete Recovery Toolkit will be starting late April and we are now taking applications for this course, which can be found on our website.

This course is for men and women (separate courses).

Whole Housing Approach: Managed Reciprocals Webinar

This webinar on 17th March focuses on the Managed Reciprocal model, one of the interventions that form part of the Whole Housing Approach to Domestic Abuse.

Managed Reciprocals are a coordinated partnership between social landlords to support tenants fleeing domestic abuse to move to a place of safety while keeping their social tenancy.

Following the launch of the Whole Housing [Toolkit](#) last year, this webinar will explore in more details what Managed Reciprocals are and how they work, as well as providing practical advice and resources for local areas and social landlords to start their own reciprocal scheme.

It will also showcase learning and case studies from the two existing reciprocal schemes in London and Cambridgeshire.

Who is this webinar for?

This webinar is for commissioners, housing professionals, domestic abuse workers or anyone interested in learning more about supporting people affected by domestic abuse in the social housing sector.

To find out more and register, please visit [WebinarWhole Housing Approach: Managed Reciprocals - Safer London](#)

It Still Matters

The Home Office have launched a campaign aimed at encouraging survivors of sexual abuse or sexual violence to seek support – regardless of when it happened. The It Still Matters campaign is around support for the survivor, not reporting the abuse to police, and the website lists a range of organisations that can offer help to survivors.

National Male Survivor Helpline and Online Support Service: Operated by Safeline. A dedicated service for adults and children who identify as male in England and Wales affected by rape or sexual abuse and those that support them such as friends and family.

<https://www.safeline.org.uk/>

National Online Helpline for Male Survivors: Operated by Survivors UK. Supports men and boys (trans or cisgender) and non-binary survivors of sexual abuse. <https://www.survivorsuk.org/>

The Survivors Trust: Provides confidential information, advice and support for people who have experienced rape and sexual violence. www.thesurvivorstrust.org

NAPAC: Offers support to adult survivors of all types of childhood abuse, including physical, sexual, emotional abuse, narcissism, and neglect. <https://napac.org.uk/>

Galop: Provides a free, confidential and independent services for all LGBT+ people who have experienced sexual assault, violence or abuse, however or whenever it happened.

<http://www.galop.org.uk/>

Local Support is available from [Cambridge & Peterborough Rape Crisis Partnership – CAPRCP](#) and [The Elms SARC \(Cambridgeshire\) - Home](#)

Graded Care Profile Tool

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. You can find the following resources on the Safeguarding Boards website to support the introduction of the Graded Care Profile across the county:

- The Graded Care Profile Tool
- an interactive training resource (Sway) based on the workshops that were delivered on the Graded Care Profile
- a 'checklist' for Neglect, based on the format of the Graded Care Profile. This additional resource may be used by those agencies for whom it would not be appropriate to complete a full Graded Care Profile.

These tools and resources can all be found

here: <https://safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk/children-board/professionals/child-neglect/>

In addition, we are taking this opportunity to promote the use of:

- the Domestic Violence Risk Identification Matrix DVRIM to support assessment where domestic abuse is a safeguarding factor: [Domestic Violence and Abuse | Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Partnership Board](#) (safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk)
- and the Exploitation Risk Assessment and Management Tool to support assessment and intervention with young people vulnerable to exploitation: [Exploitation | Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Partnership Board](#) (safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk)

Free webinars

Standing Together Against Domestic Violence are presenting a free webinar on ***Fatal Adult Child to Parent Abuse*** – March 17th, 2pm-3:30pm [Register Here](#)

Against Violence and Abuse also have a number of free webinars during March, although they do book up very quickly. Visit their website to see what is available [Training - AVA - Against Violence & Abuse \(avaproject.org.uk\)](#)

DARNet virtual conference series

The [Domestic Abuse Research Network](#) (DARNet) has curated an exciting programme of free virtual events exploring themes in domestic abuse (DA) research, policy and practice. The series will premiere on 9 March 2021. Each of the events will explore different facets of DA, including community safety and collective responses to DA, stalking and the Victim's Right to Review, the connections between DA, mental health and addiction, bridging the gaps in DA provision for marginalised people and those 'under the radar' of mainstream services, technological innovations in service delivery, and child arrangement orders and family justice in the context of DA.

DARNet has been fortunate to attract an incredible range of speakers for the events, including Designate Domestic Abuse Commissioner for England and Wales Nicole Jacobs, Dr Roxanne Khan from the Honour Abuse Research Matrix (HARM), Professor Liz Kelly from the Child and Woman Abuse Studies Unit (CWASU), leading stalking expert Alison Bird, educator and advocate Bal Kaur Howard, Professor of Criminology Dr David Best and many more.

For more information about each event, including speakers and how to register, just visit these links:

[Collective Efficacy, Community Safety and DA, during and after COVID-19](#)

[Access to Justice, Stalking and the Victim's Right to Review](#)

[Exploring Domestic Abuse, Mental Health and Substance Misuse – Workshop](#)

[From Minoritised to Centralised Identities: Paradigms Shifts in Tackling DA](#)

[Virtually Supported: Innovations and Risks in DVA and SV Service Delivery](#)

[Delivery of Family Justice: Child Arrangement Orders and DA](#)

Online Freedom Programmes

We are aware that a number of organisations nationally are offering the Freedom Programme online to survivors of domestic abuse. The usual face-to-face delivery sessions for Freedom involve assessment of suitability to ensure the programme is right for the survivor and being delivered at the right time for them, as well as providing follow-up support. It can be damaging for a woman to be encouraged to discuss her experiences of abuse over an online platform which isn't able to assess suitability or provide necessary support post session, and women report the need to be feeling quite robust to undertake something like this online. We would encourage anyone who is signposting a victim to online Freedom to signpost first to Outreach and to discuss the content of the course and follow-up support with the survivor first.

Dogs Trust Freedom Project helping people and their dogs flee domestic abuse officially launches in Cambridgeshire

Today [Thursday 4 March], a Dogs Trust project that offers a temporary home for dogs to enable their owners to flee domestic abuse is officially launching in Cambridgeshire.

Pets can be a major factor in people not being able to escape domestic abuse, for fear of what may happen to their beloved companions if they're left behind. Dogs Trust research showed that almost half (49%)* of professionals working in the sector are aware of cases where the pet has been killed. With many refuges also unable to take animals, Dogs Trust's Freedom Project offers dog owners a vital lifeline.

Today's launch in Cambridgeshire means the service is now available to those who need it across the whole of the East of England.

The Freedom Project has continued to operate throughout the pandemic to support people and their dogs. Refuge's National Domestic Abuse Helpline logged 63% more incoming calls and contacts since lockdown began, showing that Dogs Trust's service and those offered by other specialist organisations the charity works with, both locally and nationally, have never been more important.

Sarah Rowe, Freedom Project Co-ordinator for the area, said:

"Alongside suffering physical abuse, we know that dogs are also often used by perpetrators as a means to coerce and control their partners. This is incredibly frightening for survivors and can range from perpetrators stopping their partner from accessing vet care for their dogs or spending money on dog food, through to repeatedly threatening to harm, kill or 'get rid' of their dogs. As many refuges are unable to accept pets, survivors are understandably concerned about their dog's safety when they need to escape.

"We appealed for people to apply to be Freedom foster carers in October; the response was amazing and we've already been able to help 20 dogs and their owners escape from domestic abuse.

"We now have 60 fantastic new volunteer foster carers in place across East Anglia and are ready to take in dogs at a moment's notice if needed. Thanks to them, we can continue our life saving work."

One of the people the project has already supported in East Anglia is Ella who said:** "When I had to use the Freedom Project, I was married with children. My ex was at home all the time and things were getting bad, it was becoming impossible to live with him. I was trying to get a refuge place, but I was worried about my dog, Socks, as I couldn't leave him behind. Women's Aid told me about the Freedom Project and said that they may be able to help us.



"Before leaving, my ex would only allow our dog in one room and he would often frighten him. Although I was upset to see Socks go into foster care, I saw him jump into the van and there was a new toy in there waiting for him. It was lovely seeing the updates of how he was doing and receiving the photos of him would brighten any bad day.

"When we were reunited it was amazing to have our dog home again. My children were waiting at the window all day and watching each car that went past. Socks came back so happy and had been really well looked after, they provided everything I needed and made the whole thing so much easier. It is such a great project and is helping so many people."

Claire is a new volunteer foster carer in Cambridgeshire. She said:** "It feels brilliant to know we have helped a family and their pet get to safety. Covid times make you feel that you cannot do what you want to do to help people, as we are all so distant.

"Fostering works well as I have supported someone who is fleeing domestic abuse and have made it easier for them by caring for their dog, whilst at the same time my family have massively benefitted from having a dog in our lives. We hope that we have made a positive step in their journey."

Julia Cullum, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Partnership Manager, said: “We are pleased to see this project expanding into Cambridgeshire. Knowing that their beloved family pet will be looked after by pet foster carers, if they have to leave home to seek safety, will help survivors of domestic abuse to feel more able to seek support. We look forward to working with Dogs Trust.”

Ray Bisby, Acting Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire, said: “I welcome the Freedom Project expanding into Cambridgeshire and offering domestic abuse victims the reassurance they need that their cherished pet is safe in the care of volunteer foster carers, while they access the support they require. This project is a fantastic example of organisations working together to support victims of domestic abuse in Cambridgeshire.”

Since its inception in 2004, Dogs Trust’s Freedom Project has helped almost 1,700 people fleeing domestic abuse and the service’s fosterers have cared for over 1,800 dogs. The service now operates across Greater London and the Home Counties, East Anglia, Yorkshire, the North East, the North West and Scotland.

The project needs foster carers to support this vital service. If you think you can help or would like more information on the service, please visit: www.dogstrustfreedomproject.org.uk Alternatively contact freedomproject@dogstrust.org.uk or call 0808 196 6240.

Next round of Innovate & Cultivate funding

Cambridgeshire County Council is pleased to announce that the next deadline for Innovate & Cultivate Fund applications is 1st May 2021. One-to-one pre-application advice will be offered on 18th and 23rd March (details below).

The aim of the fund is to support initiatives that strengthen our communities and reduce pressure on County Council services, thereby giving a return on investment. Council services that are inviting applications are adult social care and children’s services.

The fund is open to voluntary, community and social enterprise sector organisations based in and outside of Cambridgeshire, and public sector organisations in Cambridgeshire. Please note that projects serving Peterborough residents are not eligible.

The 1st May funding round is for ‘Cultivate’ grant applications (£2,000-£15,000) for projects that build community support networks for vulnerable people. Please note that the ‘Innovate’ funding stream (£15,000-£50,000) is suspended until further notice.

Pre-application advice

We strongly advise organisations to seek pre-application advice on their project ideas before submitting an application. Bookings are now open for telephone advice appointments on Thursday 18 March and Tuesday 23 March. These 15 minute 1-1 appointments must be pre-booked and are available on a first come first served basis. Please [book here](#).

Cultivate Project Ideas

Do you want to do something for your community but need some inspiration to start a project? We’ve developed application guidance for 3 new Cultivate project ideas - **Mobile Warden Schemes, Community Youth Worker and Digital Inclusion Projects** – that can help people to remain independent and active within their community, encourage volunteering and complement more costly Council services. We also continue to invite applications for **Timebanks, Good Neighbour Schemes, Dementia-Friendly Communities and Men's Sheds**. You can find guidance on how to apply for a start-up grant for each of these projects [here](#).

Applications and further information about fund priorities and criteria may be found on the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation (CCF) [website](#).