



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

January 2022

Hi All!

Happy New Year! We hope you managed to get some well-earned rest over the holidays.

There continues to be an immense amount of work nationally and locally in tackling domestic abuse and sexual violence – we will continue to highlight some of this each month throughout 2022. Please forward this newsletter to your colleagues and professional networks. If you would like to include something, or have more information on a particular topic, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

The pilot of the “Older People’s DASH” has been extended. As far as we are aware, we are the only area in the country to do this – so please contribute where you are able to.

One of the many awareness events we're involved in is Sexual Abuse & Sexual Violence Awareness Week which takes place 7-13 February. There are banners for social media available to download from the website [#ITSNOTOK - SEXUAL ABUSE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE AWARENESS WEEK - Sexual Abuse and Sexual Violence Awareness Week](#) and look out for messages from support services across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough across social media.

As a partnership team, we are here to support you and your organisations to improve the response to domestic abuse and sexual violence, don't hesitate to get in touch, we love hearing from you.

Wishing you a peaceful start to a New Year.

Vickie Crompton & Julia Cullum
DASV Partnership Managers



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

Latest Honour Based Abuse data

The Government have published the latest data on so called Honour Based Abuse crimes which includes forced marriage and female genital mutilation.

For the year ending March 2021, there were 2,725 HBA-related offences recorded by the police in England and Wales which included 78 reports of Female Genital Mutilation and 125 reports of Forced Marriage. This was an increase of 18% compared with year ending March 2020. The reason for the increase could be down to a variety of reasons including more people coming forward to report but also improvements in police recording of these crimes.

[Statistics on so called 'honour-based' abuse offences, England and Wales, 2020 to 2021 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Monitoring Family Courts

The Domestic Abuse Commissioner has published a proposal for a mechanism to monitor and report on domestic abuse in private law family proceedings which would cover the Family Courts.

The paper sets out: the background and context for this work; the overarching vision for the mechanism; a number of specific aims; proposed key priorities for monitoring; and initial proposals for the design of the pilot phase of the mechanism. These are informed by a series of roundtables held by the Domestic Abuse Commissioner with the judiciary, legal sector, academics, children's organisations and the Children's Commissioner's Office, Cafcass and Cafcass Cymru, domestic abuse service organisations (including those specifically supporting male survivors), support workers such as IDVAs (Independent Domestic Abuse Advisors), survivors and campaigners and the Family Justice Young People's Board.

The proposed project will ensure that children's needs and the impact of domestic abuse are central considerations, survivors feel able to raise domestic abuse and children and survivors of domestic abuse feel listened to and respected.

[Improving-the-Family-Court-Response-to-Domestic-Abuse-final.pdf \(domesticabusecommissioner.uk\)](#)

Join the new DA team at Herts CC

Adult Care Services at Hertfordshire County Council – are recruiting for five Project Managers (M1) to support the delivery of our domestic abuse strategy and the development of a county-wide response to all forms of violence against women and girls.

This is an exciting opportunity, within the SPT, who work with a range of internal and external partners to deliver both Hertfordshire's Domestic Abuse Strategy and work closely to align with the Hertfordshire Supporting Adults with Complex Needs Strategy.

Closing date: 23 January 2022. **Interview Date:** W/C 31 January 2022.

For informal discussion, contact Danielle Davis – Danielle.davis@hertfordshire.gov.uk

For more information visit [Project Manager Apply No \(hertfordshire.gov.uk\)](#)

New Guidance – Supporting CYP living with Domestic Abuse

The DASV Partnership has worked with Against Violence and Abuse (AVA) to develop new guidance for professionals around Supporting Children and Young People Living with Domestic Abuse. The guidance was commissioned by Cambridgeshire County Council to help shape local guidelines and best practice in providing support for children/young people who are living with conflict, abuse, and violence at home.

This guidance draws on three key sources:

- Focus groups with young people and professionals/ practitioners supporting children and young people based in Cambridgeshire;
- Best practice identified across AVA's in-house resources and
- Rapid literature review on needs of children/young people experiencing domestic abuse at home.

This guidance focuses on highlighting approaches on how to practically work with children and young people who are still living with the domestic abuse perpetrator and consists of eight key sections.

- Section 1: Outlines information on aims and structure and provides information on data collection
- Section 2: Provides information on policy context and outlines relevant statistics
- Section 3: Provides information on how children/young people experiencing abuse at home might present
- Section 4: Provides guidance on how to communicate with the child/young person to encourage disclosure
- Section 5: Provides guidance on appropriate responses once disclosure has been made
- Section 6: Provides guidance on risk assessment and safety planning
- Section 7: Provides guidance on how to support the non-abusive parent
- Section 8: Provides information on multi-agency work, signposting and referrals.

Keeping children/young people safe is everyone's responsibility. All organisations and professionals working with children/young people are in a vital position when it comes to identifying those who may be experiencing domestic violence/abuse and providing support, whether immediate or long term.

Access the guidance [here](#)

Update from Department of Work & Pensions

People at risk of losing their home are set to benefit from enhanced legal support following a [consultation](#). The Housing Possession Court Duty Scheme (HPCDS) offers free 'on-the-day' legal advice to anyone in danger of being evicted from their home or having their property repossessed, regardless of their financial circumstances. The Ministry of Justice has worked to develop a package of measures to improve the sustainability of this vital scheme.

Rape Review Progress

The Government published an update on the Rape Review in December, key points are:

- £185m for victims' support services by 2024/25, which will increase the number of Independent Sexual Violence Advisers (ISVAs)
- Plans to develop the content of the Victims' Bill in close consultation with victims and those that represent them, and publish the response to the consultation in May.
- A 24/7 support service for victims of rape and launch of a consultation with victims' groups on enhancing support and legal advice for victims on disclosure decisions
- Piloting a new approach with focus on the suspect, not the victim, in 5 police force/CPS areas: Avon and Somerset/CPS South West, the Met/CPS London South, Durham/CPS North East, West Midlands and South Wales/CPS Cymru
- Plans to deliver training to rape investigators and prosecutors and appoint 70 Rape Review Progress experienced staff into RASSO posts in the five pilot Operation Soteria areas within the next three months
- Victims' mobile phones will only be taken where necessary and for short periods of time, and a pilot to give victims a replacement phone if police need it for more than 24 hours
- Plans for full roll out of Section 28 processes (enabling victims of sexual abuse to pre-record evidence)

[The end-to-end rape review report on findings and actions \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

Talking to children about online sexual harassment

The Children's Commissioner published a new [guide for parents](#) on how to talk to children about online sexual harassment. The guide includes tips from young people about how parents can open up earlier conversations about sexual harassment, nudes, sexualised bullying, photo editing, body image and peer pressure. A list of organisations is provided for further help and support.

Parents with Learning Disabilities

Parents with learning disabilities may experience a range of needs and difficulties, including a physical or sensory impairment and/or long-term health condition, mental health problems, domestic violence, substance abuse problems. A study of the US child protection system found that parents with learning disabilities are slightly more likely to experience psychological or emotional abuse than other forms of domestic abuse.

Guidance from the University of Bristol and the Working Together With Parents Network, released in 2021, is now on our website [Welcome to Cambridgeshire DASV Partnership \(cambsdasv.org.uk\)](https://cambsdasv.org.uk)

Safeguarding Boards Training Update

Date	Course	Time
20th January 2022	Self-Neglect and Safeguarding Adults at Risk	10:30 – 12:30
27th January 2022	Early Help – Back to Basics	13:00 – 16:00
27th January 2022	Safeguarding Adults & the Mental Capacity Act	10:30 – 12:30
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
22nd February 2022	Fabricated and Induced Illness	09:30 – 12:30

To book a place please visit <https://safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk/availabletraining/>

We have also created a new virtual briefing (Sway) in collaboration with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership on 'Completing a DASH Risk Indicator Checklist' which is available at the following link [Virtual Briefings \(Sways\) | Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Partnership Board](#) (safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk)

News from the Domestic Abuse Commissioner's Office

National Domestic Abuse Survivors Survey – please share!

The Domestic Abuse Commissioner has launched a survey for victims and survivors of domestic abuse, which asks about their experience in trying to access services where they live.

This is a hugely important piece of work and will contribute to national mapping work so they are keen to ensure that they get a good response from each area of England and Wales and from younger victims and survivors who are currently underrepresented.

Please do share amongst your networks – It is open to anyone over the age of 16 in England and Wales who has accessed, tried to access, or considered accessing services in the last 3 years. It's been translated into 13 languages including BSL and a version is also available in Easy Read, which you can find at the links below. The survey closes on 31st January.

The link can be found [HERE](#) and more information about the survey is on our website [HERE](#).

Serious Violence Prevention Duty – changes to the Policing Bill

Many organisations have been calling for a change to the definition of serious violence for the proposed Serious Violence Prevention Duty contained within the new Bill. The proposal was to explicitly include domestic abuse and sexual violence in the definition on the face of the legislation to make clear to local areas that they should be included within their prevention strategies

The Government has taken action, and laid its own amendment to the Bill, to explicitly include domestic abuse and sexual violence in the serious violence definition.

The proposed Serious Violence Prevention Duty will require a range of public bodies including the police, health authorities, schools and other criminal justice agencies to work together to prevent and tackle serious violence, with the aim of reducing the number of victims and perpetrators of crime. This represents a critical opportunity to implement an early intervention, public health

focused approach to tackling serious violent crime, rather than relying solely on traditional criminal justice levers, which only come into play in the aftermath of an offence.

Victims Bill consultation – please respond!

The Ministry of Justice has now opened their consultation on the Victims Bill. The consultation can be accessed [HERE](#) and closes on 3rd February at 11.59pm.

The consultation is a critical opportunity to influence the upcoming Victims Bill, and future victims policy and the funding landscape for many years to come.

The DA Commissioner's Office will be strongly advocating for greater provision of community-based services through a new and funded statutory duty, with dedicated funding provided for specialist 'by and for' services. They will also be developing a high-level summary of their calls for a new statutory duty for Community-Based Services in advance of submitting a detailed, formal response – if you would like to see a copy of this to help inform your responses, please do get in touch with Hannah Gousy on Hannah.Gousy@domesticabusecommissioner.independent.gov.uk

New framework for police VAWG work

A new framework announced in December has set out the action required from every police force designed to make all women and girls safer. The framework will include a stronger focus on multi-agency responses and the increased use of tagging to monitor high-risk men on release from prison.

The framework has been developed under the leadership of the new National Police Coordinator for violence against women and girls (VAWG), Deputy Chief Constable Maggie Blyth and informed by experts in policing, government and the VAWG sector.

The framework focuses on action police can take now to make significant improvements within the next year, with focus on the wider criminal justice community and partnership approaches needed to deliver sustainable change to radically reduce the prevalence of VAWG to begin in 2022.

Under the framework, all police forces must work to challenge sexism and misogyny in policing and to build women and girls' trust and confidence in police culture, standards and approach VAWG.

Forces will be obliged to communicate clearly and frequently that misogynistic, sexist and sexualised behaviour will not be tolerated by anyone in policing and strengthen a 'call it out' culture where men act as upstanders, not bystanders.

They will respond unequivocally to allegations of police-perpetrated abuse, learning from mistakes and best practice with an urgent review of all current allegations of sexual misconduct, domestic abuse and other VAWG-related offences against officers and staff, ensuring that they are being investigated fully and quickly.

Every police force will be required to expand and enhance their processes for listening to women and girls — whether they're reporting a crime or a place where they've felt unsafe — and actively seek the views of those who have little or no trust in policing. Women's voices will then shape police action plans and police forces will involve them in scrutinising their performance on VAWG.

Increased use of protective and preventative tools and orders, such as domestic violence protection orders and stalking protection orders, will be more widely deployed against violent men who harm women and girls.

Police forces have been told to take immediate action and develop local action plans by March 2022, setting out their activity against this framework.

By March 31, 2022, the National Police Chiefs' Council and College of Policing will publish an outcomes and performance framework developed in consultation with the VAWG sector, this will set out expected outcomes and performance measures for the framework.

Groups at The Edge

The Edge Recovery Café have a range of groups available for anyone to attend. Some are held online and others are in person. Offers include yoga, creative writing, arts groups and also support groups for people in recovery from addiction or mental health issues plus support for friends and family. Find out what's going on at [Calendar of Events – Cambridgeshire Recovery Service \(campsrecoveryservice.co.uk\)](#)

Whole Housing Approach Year 2 Report

The Whole Housing Approach (WHA) is a framework for addressing the housing and safety needs of victim/survivors in a local area. It brings together under one umbrella all the main housing tenure types alongside the housing options and support initiatives needed to help people experiencing domestic abuse to either maintain or access safe and stable housing.

Cambridgeshire was a key partner at the start of the Whole Housing Approach and housing providers in the county continue to work towards DAHA Accreditation.

The lead organisations have released the latest report on year two of the project, which can be read at [whole-housing-project-report_year-two_final.pdf \(dahalliance.org.uk\)](#)

Latest report on DA and Covid-19

DAHLIA-19 (Domestic Abuse: Harnessing Learning Internationally under Covid19) is an international research study funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC). The study is exploring domestic abuse policy and practice for survivors, children and perpetrators during the Covid-19 pandemic. The research is being undertaken in four countries: the UK, Australia, Ireland and South Africa. The UK team is led by Professor Nicky Stanley and is based at the University of Central Lancashire and the University of Edinburgh.

The latest report highlights some of the successes of working differently due to the pandemic including Government funding being used flexibly and online MARACs, but also some of the negative effects like delays to court hearings.

The full report can be read at [Innovation, Collaboration and Adaptation: The UK Response to Domestic Abuse under Covid-19. - CLOK - Central Lancashire Online Knowledge \(uclan.ac.uk\)](#)



Perpetrators of domestic abuse against older adults

Call for participants for 30-minute interviews!

If you are a professional who works with victims or perpetrators of domestic abuse and have experience of domestic abuse involving adults aged 60 or older we want to hear about your views and experiences of this group!

About the study

Researchers at Durham University & University of East Anglia are conducting a rapid Home Office funded study examining perpetrators of domestic abuse against older adults. We have very little knowledge about this group and it is critical we build evidence quickly to inform the development of domestic abuse prevention strategies, policies, practice.

Taking part in the study

We are looking for professionals from any background (statutory or non-statutory) with experience of working with victims and/or perpetrators of domestic abuse against older adults (aged 60 and over). We are using the official definition of domestic abuse which includes perpetrators who are family members, as well as partners. If this is you, we would like to invite you to take part in a short, **anonymous** telephone/Zoom interview.

We will be asking you about your experiences, the profile of perpetrators, opportunities and challenges associated with working with perpetrators of domestic abuse against older adults. Your contribution will be anonymised.

How to take part

If you're happy to take part, or have any questions, please email Dr Hannah Bows who is leading the study hannah.bows@durham.ac.uk

Ethical approval for the study has been granted by Durham Law School (Durham University) Ethics Committee.

Cambridge Rape Crisis Centre is recruiting!

1. A Children and Young Peoples Independent Sexual Violence Advocate (ChISVA)

To support and empower children and young people who are survivors of rape, sexual abuse and sexual violence. The ChISVA role is part of a countywide ISVA team providing a pro-active service to children, young people and adult survivors of sexual violence within and outside of the criminal justice system.

2. Volunteer Manager (maternity leave cover)

To recruit, support and manage volunteers to deliver safe, professional and accessible helpline, email and Live Chat support services for survivors of sexual violence in accordance with CRCC policies, quality standards and strategic objectives. And to support CRCC to develop recruitment campaigns leading to diversification of our volunteer base and to develop, manage and deliver volunteer training.

For details of the above roles and an application pack please follow this link

<https://cambridgerapecrisis.org.uk/recruitment>