



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

**July 2022**

Hi All

Welcome to the July edition of our DASV Newsletter. Thank you to all those who attended the Summer DASV Champions sessions where we looked at DA and Dementia, and the findings from 10 years of DHRs. If you missed these, the presentations are available on our website – [www.cambsdasv.org.uk](http://www.cambsdasv.org.uk)

Within the newsletter you will find a wide range of articles and links, both local and national. There are a number of vacancies available in the sector at the moment, and Cambridge Women's Aid are looking for a new trustee. It has been a year of new opportunities in the sector.

In July almost 70 of you attended training by AAFDA to become more Effective DHR Panel Members, this was incredibly powerful training which we hope improves the effectiveness of our DHR Panels going forward.

The DASV Partnership and White Ribbon Ambassadors will have a stand at the Cambridge Folk Festival in Chery Hinton at the end of the month, so if you are there, please pop by and say "hello".

This has been an incredibly busy and productive year for us in the partnership, and we are looking forward to some well-earned holiday time over the next few weeks, but one of us will always be available to respond to any queries or questions you may have.

We hope you get some time to rest and recuperate over the holiday period, and our next newsletter will be in September.

Best Wishes

*Vickie & Julia*

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



## **New self-service portal for male DA victims**

Respect's Men's Advice Line (<https://mensadviceline.org.uk/>) has launched a new self-service portal, providing contact details for local domestic abuse support services, male victim refuges and specialist services offering help with a range of issues, from poor mental health to insecure immigration status.

Learn More (<https://respect.force.com/mensadviceline/s/>)

## **New reports from the Victims' Commissioner**

The Victims' Commissioner has launched two new reports this month. The first is the result of research undertaken in early 2022 to understand victims' experiences of online abuse (<https://victimscommissioner.org.uk/document/the-impact-of-online-abuse-hearing-the-victims-voice/>). The second, the Commissioner's Annual Report (<https://victimscommissioner.org.uk/news/annual-report-2021-22/>), reflects on the obstacles and issues faced by victims of crime in the justice system.

## **Police perpetrated domestic abuse report**

HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS), the College of Policing and the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) have published a report in response to the super-complaint submitted by the Centre for Women's Justice on police perpetrated domestic abuse. The super-complaint raised concerns about how police forces in England and Wales respond when police officers and police staff are accused of domestic abuse.

The report includes a series of recommendations aimed at better investigations and better protection of victims in these cases. There are recommendations for chief constables, as well as for the Home Office, the Ministry of Justice and police and crime commissioners. There are also actions for the College of Policing and the IOPC. These are focused on ensuring national

guidance and legal requirements are consistently followed, as well as growing an evidence base for effective practice.

The full report and recommendations can be read at [Police perpetrated domestic abuse: report on the Centre for Women's Justice super-complaint \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

## **Domestic Abuse resources for churches**

Restored have created a whole host of resources to equip churches to change the story for survivors of domestic abuse.

You might have heard about the Church Guide, designed to empower churches to challenge domestic abuse and walk with survivors; Survivors' Handbook, written to help women as they navigate the challenges of leaving an abuser. Restored also have a whole range of resources for individuals and for churches, including men's Bible studies, a poetry anthology written by survivors, and a resource for children [Restored \(square.site\)](https://restored.square.site)



### **What is Birth and Beyond Community Support?**

NCT has been successful in securing funding from the CCG, Public Health and Cross Keys Homes to continue the BBCS service until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023. The funding has been awarded to train local women to become volunteer peer supporters, to offer support to mothers during the all-important first 1,000 days to make social connections and reduce isolation, improve emotional wellbeing and increase access to local services.

### **Who is this service for?**

This service is available to pregnant women and mothers with a child under the age of 2 living in Peterborough or Wisbech (and the surrounding areas) who may benefit from additional support.

The types of support our volunteers will be offering include:

- 1-2-1 support in a public place or in a group setting
- Providing information about the local area
- Signposting to services
- Accompanying to local groups and/or appointments

### **What happens once I make a referral?**

Online referrals can be made here: <http://www.nct.org.uk/bbcs> or an email can be sent directly to the Service Delivery Manager, Kerry Smith ([birthandbeyondeast@nct.org.uk](mailto:birthandbeyondeast@nct.org.uk)).

Once she has received the referral she will make contact with the woman to establish her needs and explain what the service can offer. If the service is suitable the woman will then be matched with a volunteer Community Supporter who will make contact with the woman and arrange to meet them. This service does not offer home visits. All meetings will take place in public places or at appropriate groups.

If the mother is not suitable for the service, the reasons will be explained to her and the Service Delivery Manger will signpost her to more appropriate support.

## **Cambridge Women's Aid Trustee Vacancy**

### **Vacancy Description**

Cambridge Women's Aid has been supporting women and children affected by domestic abuse for over 40 years. We are currently searching for new trustees to join our board.

Effective governance is key to the success and sustainability of our organisation. As a trustee, you will be able to use your experience, energy and creativity to shape our approach and help us to achieve our mission. There is no such thing as a 'typical' trustee, and you don't necessarily need previous board experience; we welcome women with a diverse range of backgrounds, skills and life experiences, who can commit and contribute to the success of our work.

At the moment, our Board of Trustees is particularly looking to build expertise in Legal, Finance, HR. However, we welcome applications from all women with a commitment to our work, and are interested in hearing about full range of skills applicants can bring.

As a trustee, you will receive training to carry out your role, have opportunities to represent CWA in the community, and be part of a supportive and welcoming board. Being a trustee gives you the chance to gain experience in strategic planning, develop skills in new areas, and add significant value to a thriving charity.

### **Commitment**

Trustees are expected to attend four board meetings per year, plus one away day and one Annual General Meeting. Most trustees will get involved in the work of sub-committees, such as the Employment or Finance groups, and will attend around six sub-committee meetings per year. The minimum commitment is 3 years.

### **Location**

Cambridge city, with all meetings being conducted remotely for the time being.

### **Remuneration**

This is a voluntary position, but expenses are reimbursed.

### **How to Apply**

For more information about the trustee role, and to apply, please email to request an application pack from Sophie Meuwissen: [sophie@cambridgewa.org.uk](mailto:sophie@cambridgewa.org.uk).

CWA values diversity, promotes equality and challenges discrimination of all forms. We encourage and welcome applications from women of all backgrounds. We particularly welcome applicants from minoritised women and younger women. We also welcome applicants with lived experience of VAWG services (though we ask that applicants have not accessed our service within the last two years).

This service is run by women for women and is therefore restricted to women applicants under the Equality Act 2010, Schedule 9, and Part 1. Section 7(2) e of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 apply. The post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act.

A standard DBS (Disclosure Barring Service) disclosure will be required for this role.

## **Women's sector calls on Government to ratify convention without conditions**

This month marked 10 years since the UK Government signed the Istanbul Convention, committing to tackle violence against women & girls. They are now ready to make it law, but with dangerous exceptions that create a two-tier system.

Respect have joined over 80 organisations to call on the Government to ratify the convention without exceptions.

Learn More (<https://icchange.co.uk/allwomenletter>)

## **Are you part of a men's' group?**

Surviving Economic Abuse and Durham University are looking for groups of men, from cycling clubs to friend groups, to take part in online conversations about how they learned what is or isn't abusive when it comes to sharing resources in heterosexual relationships. Each group will receive £200 for their participation.

For more information get in touch with Zuzana (<mailto:zuzana.zilkova@durham.ac.uk>) .

## **Faith communities briefing on coercive control**

Bristol University and partners have produced a briefing for faith communities and for practitioners working with victim-survivors of coercive control.

The purpose of this work is not to single out religious practice in general, or one faith in particular, as coercive. Rather, this research explores how faith can be used as a tool of coercion by some individuals, including intimate partners, family members, religious leaders, and by communities, to threaten, manipulate, silence and dominate victims, as well to suppress or punish those who seek to help them.

The briefing is available to download from our website at [Cambridgeshire County Council DASV Partnership \(cambsdasv.org.uk\)](https://cambsdasv.org.uk)

### **LGBTQ+ Youth and Mental Health – Report Launch!**

The Kite Trust explored the factors that help and hinder LGBTQ+ young people in accessing the mental health support they need, when they need it. Their new report details methodology, findings and recommendations from this year-long research project. Read the report at [Report: LGBTQ+ Youth and Mental Health | Resources \(thekitetrust.org.uk\)](https://thekitetrust.org.uk)

## **Kite trust looking for trustees**

We are looking for some skills and expertise, but we're also looking to increase the diversity of representation of the Board too. We'd like to hear from people with:

- Safeguarding experience
- Communications experience
- Legal expertise
- Experience of using The Kite Trust services

[Current Vacancies - The Kite Trust](#)

## **Child Sex Trafficking Workshop**

Anglia Ruskin are hosting a free workshop on 5<sup>th</sup> September. It has been created to help rationalise the application of the law and how child protection should work in accordance with legislation; and the provisions which will help close the gaps in knowledge regarding Child Sex Trafficking.

The workshop is open to those working with child protection across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough such as Social Workers, Early Help Services, Schools, Colleges, other educational settings, Health professionals, Community services, Youth Offending Teams, and Police Officers.

Book tickets through <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/child-sex-trafficking-in-england-and-wales-tickets-372180049547>. The workshop is available in person at Anglia Ruskin University in Cambridge or can be streamed online (those attending in person will receive tea/coffee on arrival and a catered lunch). The workshop will also be repeated in Huntingdon and Peterborough later this year.

## **Disclosure and Barring Service launches its 'Making Recruitment Safer' campaign**

The campaign aims to promote the support that the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) can provide to employers. The campaign highlights the free advice and training that DBS can offer to organisations and groups of all sizes, at both a national and regional level.

Training and support covers DBS checks, and the legal duty or power to make a barring referral. If appropriate, it can also include the opportunity to access tailored, DBS training workshops and resources. To help promote the campaign, DBS is working with key high-profile partners in the charity, faith, and education sectors, including the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC), Strengthening Faith Institutions, the National Youth Agency, and the Professional Association for Childcare and Early Years. These partners will promote the support and training available from DBS to organisations and groups in their networks who employ staff and volunteers.

More information at [DBS launches its 'Making Recruitment Safer' campaign - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

## **Cultivate Cambs funding launch**

Cambridgeshire County Council's Innovate & Cultivate Fund has been updated and has a new name – **Cultivate Cambs!** We're pleased to announce that the first deadline for Cultivate Cambs grant applications is **16 September 2022**. Pre-application advice appointments will be offered in July.

**Cultivate Cambs awards grants of £2,000 to £15,000 for new initiatives that support adults & older people with care and support needs, and children, young people & families, to live independently, safe and well in thriving and inclusive communities.**

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

### **Pre-application advice**

We encourage you to seek pre-application advice on your project ideas before submitting your application. Appointments to discuss projects supporting vulnerable adults are offered 5 - 7 July and appointments for projects supporting children, young people and families are on 14 - 15 July. Please pre-book your 15-minute telephone or virtual advice appointment [here](#).

### **Cultivate Ideas**

Do you want to do something for your community but need inspiration to start a project? [Cultivate Ideas](#) offer guidance and support for setting up the following community-led initiatives – **Enhanced Community Food Projects, Care Micro-enterprises, Community Warden Schemes, Community Youth Worker, Timebanks, Good Neighbour Schemes, Dementia Friendly Communities and Men's Sheds.**

Cultivate Cambs grant applications and information may be found on the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation [website](#).

## **Free event on Women's Bill of Rights and the DA Act**

### **Women's Bill of Rights and the Domestic Abuse Act with Dr Jocelyne A. Scutt.**

About this event [The Law: Women's Bill of Rights and the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 Tickets, Fri 29 Jul 2022 at 18:00 | Eventbrite](#)

Jocelyne Annette Scutt is an Australian feminist lawyer, writer and commentator. She is one of Australia's leading human rights barristers, was instrumental in reform of the laws on rape and domestic violence, and has served as Anti-Discrimination Commissioner of Tasmania and as a judge on the High Court of Fiji. Jocelynn will speak about the Women's Bill of Rights and will discuss the achievements and deficits of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

There will be a Q&A session. You will be able to type your questions in the Zoom's chat box or you can send them in advance to [ana@cambridgewa.org.uk](mailto:ana@cambridgewa.org.uk)

## **Review of Domestic Homicides in Cambridgeshire**

A new report has been produced by the DASV Partnership to provide an overview of a decade of local Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) and to identify themes and similarities that have arisen. This analysis provides a set of key findings and recommendations to help inform future strategies and policies.

The domestic homicides/suicides addressed in this report took place between August 2011 and February 2021.

These include:

- 13 intimate partner homicides.
- 2 familial homicides. - One of which the perpetrator was the victim's son, and the other where the perpetrator was the victim's step-father.
- 1 homicide – suicide case (included in the intimate partner homicide typology)
- 5 suicides – all of which the perpetrator was an intimate partner.

This report provides an overview of themes that are present in these domestic homicide and suicide cases. This includes but is not limited to, victim and perpetrator characteristics, relationship history, risk assessment, mental health and substance misuse.

The report can be downloaded from our website at: [Cambridgeshire County Council DASV Partnership \(cambsdasv.org.uk\)](https://www.cambsdasv.org.uk)

## **Ukrainian sexual violence Self-Help Guide**

Cambridge Rape Crisis have shared with us a new Self-Help guide which has been translated into Ukrainian thanks to our the Rape Crisis Centre in Somerset and Avon. The booklet is available to download from our website at [Cambridgeshire County Council DASV Partnership \(cambsdasv.org.uk\)](https://www.cambsdasv.org.uk)

## **HMIC inspects forces' responses to DASV**

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) inspected how the Royal Navy Police (RNP), the Royal Military Police (RMP) and the Royal Air Force Police (RAFP) deal with Rape and Serious Sexual Offences and domestic abuse.

The inspections found that these investigations were all done to a comparable or higher standard than most civilian police forces – in part, because investigators had a lower caseload – and recommended that the specialist investigation branch took on all domestic abuse cases.

However, victims across all three forces told inspectors they did not feel properly supported, with many feeling ostracised from their units or suffering abuse on social media. Opportunities to make early arrests were sometimes missed, resulting in unnecessary delays. There was also little governance in place for the Ministry of Defence to hold the forces to account when it came to performance. Training was inconsistent and not overseen thoroughly. Inspectors identified areas for improvement and made over 80 recommendations across the three services.

[Service police forces need to improve how they handle rape, serious sexual offences and domestic abuse - HMICFRS \(justiceinspectors.gov.uk\)](https://www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk)

## **Why relationship counselling isn't suitable for domestic abuse**

We have worked with the DA Leads at Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Foundation Trust to create the below quick guidance on why practitioners shouldn't be recommending relationship counselling where there is domestic abuse. The guide can also be downloaded from our website at [Cambridgeshire County Council DASV Partnership](http://Cambridgeshire County Council DASV Partnership) ([cambsdasv.org.uk](http://cambsdasv.org.uk))

**Embrace Child Victims of Crime sets up new young victim and witness services in Cambridgeshire**

Embrace Child Victims of Crime will be providing support for more young crime victims and witnesses in Cambridgeshire thanks to £205,000 funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner.

The Peterborough-based charity took over the running of the Cambridgeshire Specialist Young Victims and Witness Support Service from 1 July 2022. The service provides emotional and practical support to young crime victims and witnesses up to 18 (or up to 24 with additional needs) and their families to help them recover from the effects of crime.

The team also provides an advocacy service for young crime victims and their families to help them access support from other organisations, charities and agencies where appropriate.

Anne Campbell, Chief Executive of Embrace Child Victims of Crime, said: “We believe all crime survivors have a right to receive the support they need to overcome their trauma, rebuild their confidence and self esteem and fulfil their full potential. “We prioritise the needs of young people and tailor our services to meet their individual circumstances to ensure they receive the right support at the right time. We provide face-to-face, telephone and online counselling and emotional support as well as practical help to overcome disadvantage and poverty. We listen to each child’s experiences and give them the support they need to heal. We are delighted to have won the contract to provide services for young crime victims and their families in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough over the next three years. This funding, from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, Darryl Preston will enable us to support more young people to recover from the effects of crime across Cambridgeshire.”

Police and Crime Commissioner, Darryl Preston added: “Ensuring young victims and witnesses of crime can access the support they need, and in a way that they want, was our aim when we designed this new service. A total of 175 young people helped us shape the model of support now available. The journey of support can be a long one and this new service means young people can start and end that journey with Embrace CVOC. The charity was already delivering therapeutic support and will now extend that offer to emotional and practical help as part of a tailored package of help for each victim or witness.”

**Please refer children and families for support via the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Victim and Witness Hub on 0800 781 6818.**

For more information about Embrace Child Victims of Crime please visit [www.embracecvoc.org.uk](http://www.embracecvoc.org.uk) or call the helpline on 0345 60 999 60 from Monday to Friday between 10am and 4pm.



**Job Vacancies**

## We are recruiting for a Domestic Abuse Officer in Peterborough!

This is an exciting opportunity to working closely with the DASV Partnership Team where you will assist in the embedding of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 into everyday working practises, improving the response to domestic abuse for those living in Peterborough. You will be responsible for ensuring services meet duties in relation to the Act and there is an effective response to staff, residents and our communities who are at risk of or who are experiencing Domestic Abuse. The role will focus on education, awareness raising and early intervention working primarily towards prevention and protection.

[Domestic Abuse Officer - Peterborough City Council - Peterborough Council – Jobs and Careers](#)

## Cambridge University - Sexual Harassment & Violence Adviser

The role of the Sexual Harassment and Violence Advisor will be part of a newly formed team under the Head of the Student Sexual Harassment and Violence Support Service. The service provides specialist, impartial advice, emotional and practical support and policy guidance to any student within the collegiate University who has been subjected to any form of sexual violence, recently, or in the past.

The role will involve providing one-to-one support to students. It will also include running workshops for staff from time to time, and offering staff consultation when requested to those across the collegiate University who have pastoral responsibilities for student welfare.

[University Sexual Assault and Harassment Adviser - Part-time \(Fixed term\) - Job Opportunities - University of Cambridge](#)

## Self Employed Trainers (rolling recruitment)

Diverse is recruiting Self Employed Trainers to help to deliver our Trainings and our Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) sessions in schools.

If you have a knowledge of sexual health and relationships and sex education (RSE) and you understand the importance of these subjects, then we'd love to hear from you.

For job description and application form please visit [Vacancies – Diverse](#)

## White Ribbon Campaign Stall – Report and photograph provided by Louise Walker, Cambridge City Council Community Safety Partnership Support Officer

A Cambridge City Council White Ribbon stall was held at the Abbey People’s Big Lunch on Sunday 26th June. It was a well organised outdoor community event with a friendly atmosphere bringing together over 500 local residents for a range of intergenerational activities. The [White Ribbon campaign](#) aims to engage men in ending all forms of violence against women and girls.

There was much support for the White Ribbon stall attended by Cambridge City Mayor Councillor Mark Ashton, Mayoress Barbara Ashton, City Councillor Naomi Bennett, three County Councillors; Hilary Cox Condron, Alexandra Bulat and Neil Shailer, as well as Sam Gomarsall, Manager of Cambridge United Community Trust, who brought along Cambridge United Mascot, Marvin the Moose, to join the fun.

Simon Wall, Community Engagement Manager of Cambridge United Community Trust, said: “It was fantastic to see so many Abbey Ward families come out to celebrate their community, enjoy the sunshine and learn about the different organisations and charities that are available to help and support them, such as Abbey People, Cambridge United Community Trust and White Ribbon.”

Cambridge City Mayor Councillor Mark Ashton said: “It was a pleasure to be invited to attend the ‘Big Lunch’ in Abbey ward on Sunday 26 June. There was such a wonderful atmosphere with so many local people involved in organising the event as well as running some great stalls and information stands. I was pleased to see our council’s ‘White Ribbon’ stand. It is important for everyone to understand that Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) is unacceptable and we need to join together to tackle this crime. Please look at the website [www.whiteribbon.org.uk](http://www.whiteribbon.org.uk) to find out how you can help.”

Sam Gomarsall, Manager of Cambridge United Community Trust, also a Cambridge City Council White Ribbon Ambassador said: “We were delighted to head along to the Big Lunch. It was great to come with our inflatable penalty shout-out and see the smiles on the kids (and often, adults!) as they set out trying to get the best score. But it was more pleasing to see the whole Abbey community come together and see so many organisations and people on the day. In that light, it was great to see the White Ribbon Campaign out in the community as ever raising awareness for the campaign and highlighting the fantastic work of the City Council on this issue.”



Pictured from left to right: Sam Gomarsall, Manager of Cambridge United Community Trust / City Council White Ribbon Ambassador, County Councillors Alexandra Bulat and Neil Shailer, Louise Walker, City Council Community Safety Team, Cambridge City Mayor Councillor Mark Ashton, Cambridge United Football Club Mascot, Marvin the Moose, Mayoress Barbara Ashton, City Councillor Naomi Bennett, and Simon Wall, Community Engagement Manager of Cambridge United Community Trust.