



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

May/June 2022

Hi All

Welcome to our bumper sized newsletter! This issue is packed with information and resources you can access to increase your understanding of domestic abuse and sexual violence.

If you have any articles or information you have come across and wish to share, please don't hesitate to contact us, or Amanda (Amanda.warburton@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

Coming up soon are the DASV Champions sessions The topics for July are:
Domestic Abuse & Dementia and Findings from local Domestic Homicide Reviews.

4th July 10.00 – 12.00
11th July 14.00 – 16.00
21st July 12.00 – 14.00

Please contact DASVChampions@cambridgeshire.gov.uk to book a place and we look forward to seeing you there.

As ever, if you have any queries, questions or issues to raise, please get in touch – we really love hearing from you.

Vickie & Julia

Vickie Crompton & Julia Cullum
DASV Partnership Managers



New non-fatal strangulation offence comes into force

On 7 June 2022 the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 amended the Serious Crime Act 2015 and introduced two new sections which will create a new and specific criminal offence of non-fatal strangulation and suffocation.

The practice typically involves a perpetrator strangling or intentionally affecting their victim's ability to breathe in an attempt to control or intimidate them.

It followed concerns that perpetrators were avoiding punishment as the act can often leave no visible injury, making it harder to prosecute under existing offences such as Actual Bodily Harm (ABH). [Studies](#) have shown that victims are seven times more likely to be murdered by their partner if there had been non-fatal strangulation beforehand.

The new offence, which carries a sentence of up to 5 years imprisonment, will also apply to British nationals abroad. It means perpetrators can be prosecuted in England and Wales for offences committed overseas – ensuring there is no escape for abusers.

We covered the topic of non-fatal strangulation in our DASV Champions sessions recently – you can download the presentation from the left hand side of this page [Cambridgeshire County Council DASV Partnership \(cambsdasv.org.uk\)](#)

Draft Victims Bill

Includes measures that will:

- amplify victims' voices and make sure victims are at the heart of the criminal justice system;
- improve support for victims to cope and recover from the impact of crime and enable them to engage with the criminal justice system;
- strengthen transparency and oversight of criminal justice agencies at local and national level so that victims' experiences support them to engage, and remain engaged with, the criminal justice system.

These measures will help victims to have confidence that there is the right support available and that if they report crime, the criminal justice system will treat them in the way they should rightly expect.

The Government is also publishing a wider package of measures that put victims firmly at the heart of the criminal justice system. These are set out in the [Government's response](#) to the consultation "Delivering justice for victims - a consultation on improving victims' experiences of the justice system".

DA in Gypsy and Traveller Communities

Peabody Trust have recorded a webinar on Responding to Domestic Abuse in Gypsy and Traveller communities with contributions from Janie Codona and the Traveller Movement, which is available on YouTube

[Responding to domestic abuse in Gypsy and Traveller communities webinar - YouTube](#)

Tackling Domestic Abuse Plan – Domestic Homicide Reviews

Along with a host of other commitments, the plan contains several that will impact on the work of domestic homicide reviews (DHRs). These include commitments to:

- Improve understanding of, and response to, suicides that follow domestic abuse
- working with domestic abuse leads in the police to identify best practice in identifying appropriate suicide cases to be referred for DHRs, and working with the NPCC and the College of Policing to implement the recommendations in the VKPP and NPCC report into [Domestic Homicides and Suspected Victim Suicides During the COVID-19 Pandemic 2020- 2021](#).
- Reform the DHR process. Specifically committing to:
 - Refresh the existing Statutory Guidance, including giving clearer information on conducting DHRs where the victim has died by suicide.
 - A more intense compulsory training plan for DHR Chairs.
 - Drive systematic change across Government to implement lessons learnt from DHRs at a national level.
 - The creation of a stronger oversight mechanism by bolstering the role of the Quality Assurance panel, giving the Domestic Abuse Commissioner responsibility for identifying key themes and learning opportunities from DHRs and advising the Government on where to make improvements at a national level, and exploring introducing a formal role for Police and Crime Commissioners.
- Build an online repository of all DHRs to enable far greater analysis of patterns, trends, and risk factors for domestic homicide.

Trauma-Informed Practice Webinar

Simon Kerss, Anglia Ruskin University
Tuesday 4 October 2022
11am-12:30pm

Simon Kerss is a criminologist and Visiting Research Fellow with the Policing Institute for the Eastern Region (PIER), Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge. He specialises in evaluating agency responses to VAWG and other forms of Serious Violence. He is also an Independent Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) Author, and Home Office-appointed DHR Reader. For ten years, Simon was the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership Manager for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. He has also worked in a variety of roles across Children's Services in Suffolk and Cambridgeshire.

In this webinar, Simon will set out the key concepts of and approaches to trauma-informed practice and discuss: how trauma is experienced; how we respond to and cope with it; and how professionals can Image courtesy of respond effectively to it.

Local authority bookings may need to be made via your Learning and Development Department. For all other bookings, please email: mrc@beds.ac.uk

Older LGBT+ victims of domestic abuse

An [new film](#) spotlighting the issue of domestic abuse among older LGBT+ people has been released by Dewis Choice. The film features two men and two women speaking about their own experiences of domestic abuse, which include emotional, physical, verbal and sexual violence.

While three of the people talk specifically about abuse in same-sex relationships, the film also includes a bisexual woman who was forced to have sex with her male partner after he discovered she was leaving him to be in a same-sex relationship.

Director Christian Gordine and older domestic abuse research service [Dewis Choice](#) spent a year and half travelling around England and Wales meeting with survivors of LGBT+ abuse to create the film, which aims to raise greater awareness of the issue, describing the testimonies as “stories that are often never told”.

Cambs DASV are working with the Kite Trust to develop a presentation on older LGBT+ victims for our DASV Champions sessions in October – look out for details in a future newsletter!

LGBT+ People's Experiences of Domestic Abuse

Blog post by Rachael Atkinson Millmoor of *Victim First*

June is Pride Month – the perfect time to celebrate. However, it is also the perfect time to bring to light elements related to the experiences of those who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender in addition to identities including queer, intersex, asexual, demisexual, non-binary, gender fluid, pansexual, polyamorous, questioning and many more (LGBT+).

These experiences are often forgotten or overlooked and often areas such as LGBT+ domestic and sexual violence are not spoken about in as much detail. Therefore, Rachel was asked by UK SAYS NO MORE to put together a short blog post on elements of domestic violence that are unique to LGBT+ people.

You can read the full blog at: [Domestic Abuse and the LGBT+ Community - UK SAYS NO MORE](#)

St Peter's School takes a stand against sexual harassment

After the government released the review of Sexual Harassment in schools, two members of staff at St Peter's School in Huntingdon decided to carry out their own piece of research and interviewed over 300 students about their experiences with sexual harassment, name calling etc and found that students reported similar experiences to this in the government report and found some similar findings. A follow-up was then done with school staff to find out what they thought about sexual harassment, and how they would respond to allegations of it.

Anni Matthew told us that she and her colleague Louise Clover, along with a group of sixth form girls, decided that they wanted to do something about some of the things that were happening, predominantly the normalised name calling that takes place in school and the wider community. Anni said "About 20 girls in year 12 and 13 have been trained up by Rape Crisis to act as *champions* for boys/girls who have experienced sexual harassment in school, and we have set up a safe space for younger students to go and talk to the sixth form about how they are feeling. (We have also combined this with some mental health training that some of the students have also completed). "

"We have delivered assemblies to all year groups, and staff have been trained about sexual harassment too. In April we are starting a 5 week programme targeting years 7 – 10 and this will be delivered by our sixth form champions. They will be covering: name calling, sexual harassment, feelings associated with negative sexualised language, online behaviours and healthy relationships."

A poster (below) was also designed and created by the students, and it is displayed in classrooms and offices to remind students that sexualised behaviour is not accepted in school, and that students can reach out to any member of staff.



St. Peter's School

DOES **NOT** TOLERATE



Groping, Pinching or Smacking someone's body

Sexualised Language

Body Shaming

Brushing up against someone's body.

Name Calling

Unwanted Remarks

Pushing Boundaries

Invading Personal Space



NO MEANS NO

If you see any of these actions, please contact any member of staff

EXPECT RESPECT

COMMUNITY FIRST
PETERBOROUGH



The Freedom Programme

A free 12 week course for women who want to build a safer future.



Starts May 5th. Every Sunday 4pm till 6pm.

Childcare available

To book email

helen.walkinshaw@communityfirstpeterborough.org.uk

NEAR
NEIGHBOURS
BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

Job Vacancies

Cambridge Women's Aid are currently recruiting for an outreach worker (25-37 hours per week) at Cambridge Women's Aid, with an application deadline of Tuesday 28th June. Full info and application pack can be found here: <https://cambridgewa.org.uk/blog.php>

Change, Grow, Live have several vacancies including Recovery Coordinator, Consultant Psychiatrist, Clinical Administrator, Homelessness Outreach Worker and Team Leader [Vacancies at Change Grow Live \(icims.com\)](#)

Plea for meeting spaces

Following Covid, the IDVA service is seeing more and more clients face to face. I'm hoping you can help us by letting us know if you have any spaces an IDVA might be able to use to meet with someone they are working with.

If you have a space that may be suitable, please contact Vickie.Crompton@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Women's Wellbeing Circle

Free2BYou are running a Women's Wellbeing Circle every Friday at the Allia Future Business Centre from 11-1pm. You can book your place here: <https://free2byoufoundation.eventbrite.co.uk/>

It's FREE to attend - donations are welcome to help keep this project sustainable and support all women. https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/free2byou-foundation?utm_term=ZV59vxWBD

Here's a brief behind the scenes

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/CeqXbVODjlo/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=>

Shameless! Festival talks now online

Six months ago, nearly 1,000 people joined the first ever London [Shameless! Festival of Activism Against Sexual Violence](#). The festival sold out and we know not everyone who wanted to be there could be, so we're so pleased to announce a number of the day's talks are [now available to watch on our YouTube channel](#) (all captioned by Stagertext).

Created in collaboration by Birkbeck's [SHaME project](#) and WOW - Women of the World, the one day festival aimed to revolutionise conversations around sexual violence and burst open inherited ideas of shame.

You can now watch 11 of the events, panels and talks from the day [here](#). They feature activists, experts and artists tackling subjects including why the UK court system is failing victims, what it is like to be a male survivors, everyday sexism and what we can do about it, and how we can all help bring about a rape free world.

Cambridge City Council support for campaigns to end violence against women and girls

Towards the end of last year, 25 November, Cambridge City Council marked the United Nations International Day to Eliminate Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) also White Ribbon Day, with two events.

There was a session for staff to raise awareness about the White Ribbon Campaign, which was chaired by Chief Executive Robert Pollock and featured three guest speakers – Head of Housing David Greening, Mayor of Cambridge Councillor Russ McPherson, and family law practitioner Adam Moghadas. For more information about White Ribbon visit www.whiteribbon.org.uk

On the same day, the council organised a public online conference on domestic abuse. This marked the [United Nations International Day for Elimination Violence Against Women and Girls](#) and the start of 16 Days of Action to Human Rights Day on 10 December. The conference was opened by Chief Executive Robert Pollock and chaired by Executive Councillor Alex Collis.

Guest speakers were Angie Stewart of Cambridge Women's Aid, Norah Al-Ani of Cambridge Rape Crisis Centre, Stef Martinsen-Barker of Cambridge Women's Resources Centre, and Councillor Anna Smith, Leader of Cambridge City Council.

A video of the conference is available for the public at <https://youtu.be/wSQMRt5QPG4> (Length 47:45 minutes)

In addition to this, the day was also marked with orange uplighters on the Guildhall, on 25 November, to match the Orange the World theme of International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls.

If you or someone you know may be affected by domestic abuse, there is lots of information on the City Council about where to get help and support available at [Advice for people affected by domestic abuse - Cambridge City Council](#).



Independent Review of Child Social Care

The Independent Review of Child Social care have now published their final report, a set of wide-ranging recommendations and a plan to radically improve the children's social care system.

<https://childrensocialcare.independent-review.uk/>

The report is accompanied by a set of supporting documents:

- a children and young person's toolkit

https://childrensocialcare.independent-review.uk/YoungPeople_Toolkit

- detailed information on each of our final recommendations

<https://childrensocialcare.independent-review.uk/RecommendationAnnexes>

- a costings technical report, setting out the methodology used to determine the costs, benefits and savings associated with our recommendations

https://childrensocialcare.independent-review.uk/CostAnalysis_TechnicalReport

- a children's rights impact statement, which assesses the potential impact of our recommendations on children and young people

<https://childrensocialcare.independent-review.uk/ChildrensRightsStatement>

- a summary of our local "deep dives"

https://childrensocialcare.independent-review.uk/LocalArea_DeepDiveSummary

Please let government know what you think of the recommendations and when the time comes support their implementation over the coming weeks and months. We understand there will be an initial response from Government later today and a full response in the coming months.

You can continue to contact the review by emailing:

review.childrensocialcare@education.gov.uk

On a related point, Respect (who run the Men's Advice Line and support for perpetrators who want to stop abusing) are concerned that the review missed a vital opportunity to specifically address Child & Adolescent to Parent Violence & Abuse (CAPVA).

Read More (<https://www.respect.uk.net/articles/respect-reacts-to-publication-of-the-care-review>)

Survivor groups at Living Keys

Our next **Freedom Course** will also be running from 14th September and will also be face to face. Dependant on the volume of applicants, we might also provide an evening course for those who are working, but this will be done on zoom only.

Domestic Abuse Recovery Toolkit starts on 14th September and will be a 12 week course – a pre course interview would also be required as this course is for those who have been out of the abusive relationship for at least 6 months.

Both courses accept self-referral or referral from any agency via <https://www.livingkeys.co.uk/courses>.

Hope2Recovery will be a zoom course which is free and men or women can apply (those who are victims of abuse only). There will be separate courses for men and women. This is a 6 week course and also a pre interview would need to be completed for Risk Assessment purposes. We are aiming to start this on a Tuesday and it will start 13th September from 11am – 13.30pm.

Living Keys will also be providing a **Drop In Service** on a Monday afternoon at Kingsgate Conference Centre from September 12th at 12.30-5pm. Last appointment will be at 4.30pm. (this will be done via appointment to ensure privacy and that room is not double booked) To book appointment please call Linda@livingkeys.co.uk.

We are hoping to get funding to train and facilitate the Freedom Forever Course which is a follow up to the Freedom Programme and is good to run as it goes through non molestation orders, how to apply without solicitor costs, their rights in housing etc.

We will then invite those who have already completed the Freedom Programme to complete the course to help them. (This can be people we have had on our programme or has done the programme elsewhere. We will have to ask them for proof of completing the Freedom Programme course though.

Understanding Coercive Control

Coercive control is now recognised as the behaviour that underpins domestic abuse. It is a pattern of behaviour which seeks to take away the victim's sense of self, minimising their freedom of action and violating their human rights.

Polly Neate, CEO of Women's Aid discusses coercive control, but, in particular, how this impacts an adult with care and support needs. Her presentation also gives really helpful guidance for adult social care workers with their practice in how to spot the signs and how to safely work with the adult. You can watch this 30 minute [video here](#).

If you are an adult social care worker and would like to refresh your knowledge and skills in this area, please consider attending the Safeguarding Adults and Domestic Abuse Webinars (3 modules available) which you can book via [BookingBug](#) under Adult Social Care – Other.

If you work in children's social care, and would like to refresh your knowledge and skills in this area, please consider attending the Safeguarding Children & Young People Webinar) which you can book via [BookingBug](#) under Children's Social Care.

Mental Health & Wellbeing Plan Consultation

The Department of Health and Social Care have launched a [consultation on their mental health and wellbeing plan](#). A discussion paper and call for evidence has been launched to ask the public a range of questions to help develop the new plan.

This discussion paper is asking people:

- how can we all promote positive mental wellbeing? (chapter 1)
- how can we all prevent the onset of mental ill-health? (chapter 2)
- how can we all intervene earlier when people need support with their mental health? (chapter 3)
- how can we improve the quality and effectiveness of treatment for mental health conditions? (chapter 4)
- how can we all support people living with mental health conditions to live well? (chapter 5)
- how can we all improve support for people in crisis? (chapter 6)

We want to hear everyone's views on these questions. This includes:

- children and young people, adults, and older adults who have experienced mental ill-health
- people who have cared for someone affected by mental ill-health
- people who work or volunteer in health and social care services who support people with their mental health
- people who work or volunteer in places where they meet people who are affected by mental ill-health (such as schools, job centres and housing associations)
- academics and experts who work on mental health

This discussion paper is published by the Department of Health and Social Care, and has been informed by conversations with stakeholders, people with lived experience and government departments.

The easiest way to participate in the call for evidence is by completing the [online survey](#) by 11:45pm on 7 July 2022.

Domestic Abuse and Cancer

A new report looks at the issues affecting domestic abuse victims who have cancer. This report, led by Standing Together, is the outcome of the first phase of a two-phase project with the overarching aim of improving the cancer workforce's response to patients and their partners and family members who are experiencing domestic abuse. The project aims to ensure that the cancer setting offers a safe space and time for victim-survivors of domestic abuse to get the support they need, from skilled and confident healthcare workers and other professionals who work in cancer. The project is funded by Macmillan Cancer Support and is coordinated by Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse.

To read the full report please visit "[Cancer made me weaker to abuse and abuse made me weaker to cancer](#)": Enhancing the cancer workforce response to domestic abuse ([squarespace.com](#))

Calls for code of practice to tackle online VAWG

A coalition of experts including the End Violence Against Women Coalition, Glitch, Refuge, Carnegie UK, NSPCC, 5Rights and Professors Clare McGlynn and Lorna Woods have come together for the first time to create a **ready-to-use set of guidelines, or 'Code of Practice' to tackle violence against women and girls online.**

If adopted, the code would mean that for the first time, social media companies would be regulated to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls perpetrated on their platforms, including domestic abuse, stalking, and online grooming of girls, and Ofcom would have the power to hold them to account.

The coalition of experts call on the Government to amend the Online Safety Bill and introduce this Code of Practice, making tackling online violence against women and girls a priority.

As it stands, the Bill – which is currently before Parliament and an attempt by the Government to regulate social media platforms – does not even mention women, misogyny, or violence against women and girls.

Police & Crime Commissioner announces new funding for DA and SV Services

LOCAL organisations in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough are set to get a share of just under £900k over the next three years to fund community-based support services for survivors of domestic abuse and/or sexual violence. The money which totals £295k a year will enable the Commissioner to enhance services for vulnerable people in the community.

“This money will mean those fleeing domestic abuse can be helped to find new homes and be able to access specialist emotional and practical support. Survivors of sexual violence can now be offered a safe space to talk things through,” said Darryl. “It is crucial that people who have experienced such crimes are provided with the help they need to begin to regain control over their own lives. This money will do just that,” he added.

The funding will be prioritised for local charities who do not have access to other funding streams. Organisations such as Choices Counselling Service, Peterborough Women’s Aid, One Voice 4 Travellers and The Meadows Children and Family Wing will receive extra funds over the next three years.

This recent award brings the total extra funding brought into the county by the Commissioner and his team since April 1st 2022 to £1.1m. This includes more than half a million pounds for specialist support services staff called Independent Domestic Abuse Advisors and Independent Sexual Violence Advocates. Between April 2021 and March 2022 staff within the Commissioner’s office, working with colleagues in other agencies, successfully bid for £1.8m of extra funding. This was used to improve the support offered to victims of crime, make the streets safer through environmental improvements and provide training for security industry staff to help them spot the signs of predatory behaviour.

Darryl said: “Cambridgeshire and Peterborough may be a small shire county but we certainly have a proven track record of working in partnership to secure extra resources to help the people who live here. “In my Police and Crime Plan I pledged to support victims and we are doing just that,” Darryl said.

Dads Matter

Being a new Dad can be tough, Dads matter is an 8 week, free, informal and friendly course where you can meet new people, build your confidence and keep yourself emotionally healthy.



**Held for 8 weeks from:
Wednesday 13th July -
Wednesday 31st August
12pm – 2pm**

**100 Chesterton Rd,
Cambridge
CB4 1ER**

**To book please email
perinatalervices@cpslmind.org.uk**



Reg. Charity Number 265087

