



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

**April 2022**

Hi All

Oh my goodness, the world of DASV and funding opportunities is really exciting at the moment.

Please find details of the Ministry of Justice Fund for Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Support services on p3– the deadlines are really tight – this is a central government timescale, not a locally set one. Please consider how this fund could add to the work you are doing.

We are also about to start tendering for the Domestic Abuse Advocacy Service and for the Domestic Abuse Dispersed Accommodation – details on p2.

Thank you for your commitment to supporting those subjected to domestic abuse and sexual violence, wherever you are across the system. We wish you a peaceful Easter break.

We are here if you have any questions, ideas, thoughts or if there is anything we can do to help.

*Vickie & Julia*

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



**Funding confirmed for very special dozen**

A total 12 specialist posts supporting the county's most vulnerable victims and survivors have secure funding until March 2025.

The news comes as part of a package of announcements from Government as part of its pledge to ensure continued support for victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence.

Locally five specialist IDVA and seven ISVA posts will be able to continue to offer support to victims. This includes posts dedicated to young people, men and boys, seldom heard from communities, stalking victims and a senior IDVA post navigating the system for victims with multiple complex needs.

The posts were all successfully bid for by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner in partnership with the local authority and Rape Crisis Partnership over the past two years.

## **New Community Engagement and Inclusion ISVA posts**

Cambridge and Peterborough Rape Crisis Partnership have two new ISVA posts to provide support to survivors from ethnic minority backgrounds as well as a dedicated ISVA for male survivors in the County. Ummay Chowdhury and Shamila Mushtaq will be providing ISVA support to survivors from BAME communities and Charlotte Bailes will offer support to male survivors. Alongside providing direct ISVA support to survivors from these groups, the roles are designed to place a stronger emphasis on outreach and community engagement work, which it is hoped will increase access to support for survivors who currently may not engage with CRCC or PRCCG's services.

*“As a BAME Community ISVA, my role is to support those from Black, Asian and Ethnic Minority backgrounds who have experienced sexual violence. A key aspect of my role primarily focuses on outreach work and community engagement, targeting organisations across Cambridgeshire that specifically provide support for the BAME community, as well as developing great links with various organisations for signposting opportunities”* Ummay Chowdhury

## **Tender opportunities – Dispersed Safe Accommodation and Mobile Advocacy Service**

As part of the Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy, Cambridgeshire County Council are going out to tender for the following contracts:

Dispersed Safe Accommodation – bids from Registered Housing Providers or District Council Housing Providers to provide various units of accommodation across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough for individuals and their children subjected to domestic abuse, who will be supported by the Housing IDVAs.

Domestic Abuse Mobile Advocacy Service – provision of a single service offering advice, information and support to individuals subjected to domestic abuse across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, to enable the to remain safe in their own accommodation or support to live elsewhere, accessible by self referral.

The full tender documents for both will be on the Cambridgeshire County Council opportunities website from 20<sup>th</sup> April [Opportunities - Search results \(due-north.com\)](#)

## **MARAC Coordinator Vacancy**

We are looking for a MARAC Coordinator to join the team on a fixed term basis. We need someone with good admin skills and attention to detail who can work with a small team of MARAC Coordinators and the wider IDVA and Partnership to ensure the processes for MARAC are carried out. The closing date is 19<sup>th</sup> April

[https://www.publicsectorjobseast.co.uk/MARAC Co-ordinator-Chord Park - Godmanchester?jobId=26494&JobIndex=1&categoryList=&minsal=0&maxsal=200000&workingpa](https://www.publicsectorjobseast.co.uk/MARAC-Co-ordinator-Chord-Park-Godmanchester?jobId=26494&JobIndex=1&categoryList=&minsal=0&maxsal=200000&workingpattern=&keywords=marac&employee=-1&postcode=&Distance=20&AdvertiseOn=2)  
[ttern=&keywords=marac&employee=-1&postcode=&Distance=20&AdvertiseOn=2](https://www.publicsectorjobseast.co.uk/MARAC Co-ordinator-Chord Park - Godmanchester?jobId=26494&JobIndex=1&categoryList=&minsal=0&maxsal=200000&workingpa)



## Supporting victims and witnesses

### Ministry of Justice Funding for Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Support Services

**April 2022**

The Ministry of Justice (“MoJ”) has announced ringfenced funding of £15.7m for 22/23 for organisations which provide tailored support services to help victims of domestic abuse, rape, sexual violence or sexual abuse and their families cope with the impacts of crime, and, as far as possible, recover from the harm they have experienced.

**The funding will be distributed via Police and Crime Commissioners and their offices through local processes. Successful recipients will be provided with three-year funding ending March 31,2025.**

Organisations do not need to be a registered charity, a charitable incorporated organisation, or a social enterprise to be eligible for this funding, however, must provide support to victims who live in the county.

The MoJ is keen to encourage bids from small organisations that support victims with protected characteristics.

Detailed guidance on how to apply is available at: <https://www.cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk> There is a button on the home page making the page easily accessible.

All would-be bidders are urged to read the detailed Application Guidance before they start the Application Form. Bidders are asked to email an Expression of Interest before starting to complete the form.

**The deadline for submission of bids is 9am on Tuesday May 3. The timeline has been imposed on the OPCC by the Ministry of Justice and we acknowledge the pressure this places on services. Despite representations from OPCCs across the country the MoJ are unable to change timeframe.**

**If you have any questions regarding this funding opportunity please contact:**

**Nicky Phillipson, Director of Commissioning, via email: [nicky.phillipson@cambs.police.uk](mailto:nicky.phillipson@cambs.police.uk)**

## **Family Court pilot**

Victims of domestic abuse will receive better support as part of a new approach being piloted in the family courts.

The new pilot launched at family courts in North Wales and Dorset aims to improve information sharing between agencies such as the police, local authorities and the courts. This could include local domestic abuse professionals sharing risk assessments with the court to spare victims and parties in the case the trauma of having to unnecessarily repeat their experiences.

Crucially, it will also boost the voice of children at every stage of the process, ensuring they are listened to and their views are taken into account when decisions are made about their futures. It will see children given more opportunity to explain how they feel and, following a court order, to say whether it is working for them.

The pilots work by allowing judges to review gathered information and request more documentation before a case gets to court. It avoids the circumstances of the case being debated in the courtroom, which can often exacerbate conflict between parents. The pilot will also encourage proceedings to be less adversarial so that more emphasis can be put into investigating and addressing allegations of domestic abuse and other harmful behaviours – rather than allowing confrontation in the courtroom to take place.

Between three months and a year after a ruling is made, in most cases the courts and the agencies involved will carry out a review to ensure decisions made are working well. This includes assessing whether court orders are being followed and whether additional support is needed.

[Pioneering approach in family courts to support domestic abuse victims better - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

## **New guidance on working with Gypsy, Roma & Traveller families**

The Traveller Movement has published a Good Practice Guide: Improving service provision for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller domestic abuse survivors

Local Traveller support organisation One Voice for Travellers were involved in developing the guidance and it's available to download from the Cambs DASV website.

[Welcome to Cambridgeshire County Council DASV Partnership \(cambsdasv.org.uk\)](http://cambsdasv.org.uk)

## **Working with older LGBT survivors of Domestic Abuse**

The Dewis Choice project has developed guidance for practitioners working with older survivors of domestic abuse who identify as LGBTQ+. They have also released a short film to accompany the guidance which can be viewed at [HIDDEN VOICES PRACTITIONER FILM - YouTube](#)

The guidance is available on the DASV website and we encourage all practitioners working with older people to use it. We are working with The Kite Trust to develop some awareness sessions based on the guidance for our DASV Champions Network in October so look out for more information in our next newsletter.

[Welcome to Cambridgeshire County Council DASV Partnership \(cambsdasv.org.uk\)](http://cambsdasv.org.uk)

## Meet the team taking on “Tinder Swindlers”

FRAUD by con artists, rogue traders and “Tinder Swindler” romance scammers costs Cambridgeshire residents a whopping £1.5 - £2 million a month.\*

Netflix smash hits like “The Puppet Master” and “Tinder Swindler” show the devastating effect that fraud can have on victims. The popular documentaries also make clear how difficult it can be for police forces to fight fraud, especially when victims are not even aware that they are victims.

Cambridgeshire Constabulary is pioneering new ways to fight fraudsters and are increasing support for the victims of this heartless crime. They have a unique, two-pronged approach to fraud and cybercrime. They have established one team which investigates reports of fraud and another team which works to prevent it from happening in the first place.

They work closely with Action Fraud to individually contact each victim of fraud in Cambridgeshire that has been identified. The team offer support and advice to help victims cope in the wake of the crime and to protect themselves in the future.

They also work closely with banking groups to identify potential victims and provide swift intervention. Banks provide the team with reports when they identify someone making unusual withdrawals of money (known as SARs) for the team to follow up on. This work has enabled them to spot and support victims of romance fraud and even young people who are being used as money mules for drug trafficking.

“We are implementing a wrap-around approach of prevention, intervention and support for victims,” explained DI Tom Rowe, who heads up the team. “We mustn’t forget that fraudsters spend long periods of time grooming their victims and tricking them into thinking they are in a relationship before asking for cash. Victims are not only losing life-altering amounts of money but also have to deal with the emotional cost of realising their relationship was all a scam.”

Darryl Preston, Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough added: “In Cambridgeshire, we are working hard to stamp out fraudsters of all kinds. Thanks to the investment made by the public through the policing part of council tax in 2021, this trailblazing team is able to enhance support to people falling foul to this heinous crime.”

To find out tips for protecting yourself from scammers you can visit the [Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Against Scams website](#). If you have been a victim of fraud you can report it via [Action Fraud](#) on 0300 123 2040.

## Family Lawyers understanding of DA

Save Lives say: Family lawyers’ understanding of the dynamics of domestic abuse is a mixed picture, varying across types of legal professional, between urban and rural areas, and types of legal proceedings. A new report ["Hit and miss" – Family lawyers' understanding of domestic abuse \(safelives.org.uk\)](#) has been published and a full evaluation report will be produced along with a set of recommendations for legal professionals and policy makers to support all those in the family justice system to be better equipped to identify and respond to domestic abuse and to restore trust in the family courts. al, between urban and rural areas, and types of legal proceedings.

## Updates from the Home Office

### Domestic Homicide Review Themes

A themed review of Domestic Homicide Reviews has been published presenting key information from 124 DHRs which were reviewed by the Home Office quality assurance process for the 12 months from October 2019.

Across all the reviews there were 127 victims (of which 14 were, or appeared to be, victims of domestic abuse who died by suicide). The age of victims was from under 18 to 94 (the average was 41 years old). Eighty percent of the victims were female and 20% were male. For perpetrators, 83% were male and 17% female.

Analysing the relationships between the victims and perpetrators shows that for 73% of the victims the perpetrator was a partner or ex-partner. For 27% of the victims there was a family relationship between the victim and perpetrator.

Fifty cases were analysed in more detail to ascertain the key themes, which were:

- Contact: the need for greater contact with victims and recognition that the perpetrator can control the victim's contacts with agencies.
- Assessment: the need to improve risk assessments, carer's assessments, or mental health assessments.
- Records: information can be missing and not shared between agencies.
- Support: for staff whose work involved cases of domestic abuse and cases where support for victim was not identified or, where the need for support was identified, but there was no plan to provide it.
- Information: the need to improve information sharing between agencies, to hold accurate information and then use it effectively to manage risk.
- Risk: the right risk level needs to be identified, with information held by other agencies included.
- Referrals: are not always made when needed.
- Training: the need to update training and make it accessible.
- Policy: occasions when action taken was not in line with policy and there were agencies without a domestic abuse policy

Analysis of ownership of recommendations themes was also done, with around a quarter being the responsibility of Community Safety Partnerships and another quarter for Health services.

We encourage anyone involved in DHRs – panel member, IMR authors etc – to download and read the full document at [Domestic Homicide Reviews \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

### Male Victims statement

The Home Office have published a policy paper setting out the position on supporting men and boys who are the victims of crimes considered violence against women and girls

The policy draws on responses to the Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Call for Evidence, relevant data, and a comprehensive literature review and complements the Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy and Tackling Domestic Abuse Plan, which apply to all victims of these crimes. It replaces the 2019 male victim's statement.

[Supporting male victims of crimes considered violence against women and girls - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)



## Tackling Domestic Abuse Plan

The government's plan will drive down the prevalence of domestic abuse and domestic homicide and provide victims and survivors with the support they need.

Using responses to the [Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Call for Evidence](#), relevant data, and a comprehensive literature review, the plan outlines the government's approach to tackling domestic abuse through prioritising prevention, supporting victims, pursuing perpetrators, and building a stronger system.

It delivers on the government's statutory duty to deliver a strategy for the prosecution and management of domestic abuse perpetrators.

[Tackling Domestic Abuse Plan - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

## Relationships resources for foster carers

The Sex Education Forum has worked with The Fostering Network to launch a new digital resource to help foster carers navigate relationships and sex education conversations.

The guide conveys a 'can do' message from young people with care experience, and is steeped in practical tips and advice from foster carers.

This new resource is free to download and will be relevant to foster carers, parents, social workers, virtual school heads, school nurses and educators.

[Advice & Guidance | sexeducationforum.org.uk](#)

## Preventing unwanted contact from prisoners

Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS) operate a national helpline and email contact service to prevent any unwanted contact from prisoners, including to stop domestic abuse perpetrators contacting victims and survivors from inside prison. This service can be used by any agency or organisation supporting victims or survivors to contact HMPPS on their behalf. We want to ensure that everyone who needs to, is making use of this service.

Contact the HM Prison and Probation (HMPPS) Victim Helpline if you get unwanted letters, phone calls, texts or messages from a prisoner. You can also contact the helpline if you're worried about someone being released from prison. HMPPS Victim Helpline [victim.helpline@noms.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:victim.helpline@noms.gsi.gov.uk)  
Telephone: **0300 060 6699** Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm

## Revised CPS Guidance on prosecuting Domestic Abuse

The Crown Prosecution Service has published revised legal guidance on prosecuting domestic abuse crimes to tackle misleading myths and stereotypes head-on.

It lists a number of ways that victims can appear in a domestic abuse setting to help prosecutors challenge misconceptions and build the strongest possible case.

The guidance also contains a major change meaning any child who witnesses domestic abuse will also be treated as a victim.

In addition, the CPS is seeking the public's views on its first [domestic abuse public-facing policy statement](#). This sets out the CPS's ambition to secure justice in every possible domestic abuse case and the steps being taken to increase the volume of prosecutions and improve outcomes for victims.

More information is at ['There is no typical victim of domestic abuse' CPS says, as it revises its legal guidance to challenge damaging myths and stereotypes | The Crown Prosecution Service](#)

## Women's Aid release latest report

The Domestic Abuse Report is a series published by Women's Aid that brings together the most comprehensive set of data on domestic abuse in the country.

### Key Findings

- **Most women accessing services have children:** 60% of service users in community-based services (CBS) services had children and 5.9% were pregnant. 59.7% of women in refuge services had children and 7.3% were pregnant. There were 42,598 children of service users in the sample, averaging 1.2 children per service user across all services.
- **Immigration status and the associated challenges in accessing benefits continue to be significant barrier for women who are trying to access support:** 30% (1,223) of those who weren't British nationals did not have access to public funds and 9.5% did not know if they had recourse to public funds.
- **Abuse can take a range of different forms and can last for a significant length of time:** The length of abuse experienced ranged from less than a month to 66 years; the average was six years.
- 88% of a sub-sample of service users had experienced emotional abuse and 66.6% had experienced jealous or controlling behaviour.
- 37.6% of service users disclosed having support needs around their mental health; for service users in CBS, this was 36.3% and for those in refuge services this was higher at 49.2%.

[The Domestic Abuse Report - Womens Aid](#)



# Improving the mental health of women intimate partner violence survivors: Findings from a realist review of psychosocial interventions

This paper looks at ways to improve the mental health of female IPV survivors by extracting evidence from 60 reviews and triangulated in expert consultations.

Findings suggest that psychosocial interventions to improve the mental health of women survivors of IPV have the greatest impact when they take a holistic view of the problem and provide individualised and trauma-informed support.

To read the full paper click [here](#).

## Updates from the Safeguarding Boards

### Multi-Agency Risk Management Guidance Launch

The Multi-Agency Risk Management (MARM) process provides professionals from all agencies with a framework to facilitate effective multi-agency working with adults (aged 18+) with care and support needs at risk of harm **who are deemed to have mental capacity** for specific decisions that may result in serious harm/death through severe self-neglect or risk taking behaviours, and refuse or are unable to engage with services.

The Safeguarding Partnership Board have revised the guidance, which will be launched on 9th May 2022 along with a Sway (Virtual Briefing) providing a basic overview of what the MARM is and how to use it.

We will also be hosting a number of workshops facilitated by a range of agencies commencing the 19th May, please see the [Safeguarding Training](#) section for more details.

Following the conclusion of the workshops, a resource pack will be produced to include a standard slide set with trainer notes for agencies, FAQs, case studies as well as the updated guidance and Sway.

---

### Child sexual abuse

The Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse has created a series of 12 short films to accompany their practitioner guides, to give professionals the knowledge to identify concerns of child sexual abuse, and the confidence to respond to the abuse, and work with the child and their family.

**Access the resources:** [Supporting practice in tackling child sexual abuse film series](#)

**Watch the films:** [Introduction to our videos \(01/12\)](#)

For parents and carers, discovering that their child may have been sexually abused is one of the most devastating events they can experience. This new guide helps professionals provide a confident, supportive response when concerns about the sexual abuse of a parent or carer's child have been raised or identified.

**Access the resources:** [Supporting parents and carers: A guide for those working with families affected by child sexual abuse](#)



## Online safety and relationships

Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command have created a new website for children aged 11-18 that has information on online safety and relationships. It has also updated its toolkit of activities that schools, youth work and other educational settings in the UK can use to educate young people about online safety.

**Visit the webpage:** [The internet, relationships & you](#)



## Forced Marriage

HM Government have issued new multi-agency statutory guidance and practice guidelines on forced marriage for agencies in England and Wales. It highlights the importance of treating forced marriage cases as a child protection issue, the need for early identification of risks children could face and awareness of the potential harm to the child when involving the family.

**Visit the webpage:** [Forced marriage: access guidance and training](#)

**Download the guidance:** [HM Government multi-agency practice guidelines: handling cases \(PDF\)](#)

