

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

October 2024

Hello All

We are running a series of webinars in November, highlighting first Supporting Male Victims of Domestic Abuse Day on 7th November then throughout the 16 Days of Action on VAWG from 25th November to 10th December – details and booking links are on page 2.

There will be White Ribbon flag raisings across the 5 councils on the 25th November, please attend if you can – details will be in the November Newsletter.

On the 29th November, we are bringing together male leaders from across the public sector to consider how men across the partnership can tackle male violence against women and girls, and their contributions as men in positions of leadership.

This newsletter is packed full of information and free resources for you to all be using for your roles.

We really appreciate all your hard work to tackle domestic abuse and sexual violence, and we hope to see you at some of the events over the coming weeks.

Have a lovely Autumn!

Vickie & Julia

Vickie Crompton & Julia Cullum
DASV Partnership Managers



November webinars

We're running a series of webinars in November – details and booking links are below.

- [Supporting Male Victims of Domestic Abuse](#) – 7th November, 12.00 – 13.00
- [Domestic Abuse and Cancer](#) – 26th November, 11.00 – 12.00
- [Supporting survivors of DA with Visual Impairment](#), 28th November, 10.00 -13.00
- [Post Separation Abuse](#) – 2nd December 10.00 – 11.00
- [Supporting survivors with Learning Disabilities](#), 3rd December 12.30 – 13.30
- [Controlling and Coercive Behaviour](#) – 5th December. 12.00 – 13.00
- [Economic Abuse of Older People](#) – 9th December, 10.00 – 11.00
- [Harmful Practices](#) – 10th December, 13.00 – 16.30

“It starts with **Men**” – **Event** – 29th November 2024, 9am-11.30am, Lady Olivia Memorial Centre, Brampton

This event is specifically for men in public sector leadership roles, and White Ribbon Ambassadors across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

With both the National Police Chiefs Council and the Labour Government declaring that male violence against women and girls is a national emergency, this event will be held during the 16 days of Activism against Gender Based Violence.

This event will consider:

- Tackling Male Violence Against Women and Girls as an Issue that needs to be led by men, about men.
- What does gender equality mean for your organisation and those you serve?
- In your role how can you facilitate the work to prevent male violence?

The event will be facilitated by Rizwan Rahemtulla, who currently works within Cambridgeshire Constabulary where he is responsible for the Operational Leadership courses for Police Sergeants and Inspectors representing Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire Constabularies. Additionally, Rizwan delivers training on Honour Based Abuse, Female Genital Mutilation, Forced Marriages and Community Cohesion. He currently serves as the Vice President of the Husaini Islamic Centre and works with and supports the Dahlia Project (Women's Aid) on a voluntary basis. In March 2023, Rizwan received his commission of appointment to the role of Deputy Lord Lieutenant representing the Lord Lieutenant in performing public duties when required

We request all attendees to sign up as Ambassadors: [Ambassadors and Champions — White Ribbon UK](#)

Support for Children Living in Severe Poverty

Grants are now available to support children and young people in the UK experiencing a crisis or emergency. The grants which are made available through the BBC Children in Need Emergency Essentials programme supports families with children up to the age of 17 who are living with financial, health and social difficulties by providing items that meet children's most basic needs such as:

- cookers
- furniture
- kitchen equipment and small appliances
- children's beds and bedding (including cots)
- washing machines and tumble dryers
- fridges, freezers and fridge-freezers
- baby equipment
- clothing

Applications must come through a registered referral agency supporting the family or young person. It is recommended that applicants read the tiered strategy guidance so that referrers can check for any changes to this tier allocation before making an application. The aim is to process applications within 10 working days.

Applications can be made at any time.

<https://www.familyfundservices.co.uk/emergency-essentials/>

Free webinar on Non-Fatal Strangulation

Standing Together are holding a National Webinar: Enhancing the Health and Domestic Abuse Response to Non-Fatal Strangulation on 15th October from 10.00 – 12.00.

The webinar will explore how health partners and the domestic abuse sector should respond to ensure survivors receive the best possible health care and emotional support.

Date and Time Tuesday **15th October 2024 10:00 to 12:00**

To register for the webinar please use the link and then a Microsoft Teams event will be sent to your calendar: <https://bit.ly/crosspathnfs>

Smart cars

In the latest Refuge Tech Safety Newsletter, the issue of smart car technology being used in domestic abuse was highlighted.

Smart cars are nothing new. From as early as 1996, manufacturers were beginning to find ways to connect vehicles in one way or another. Initially growing out of a safety and assistance movement, we now live in an era where our vehicles are almost as connected as our mobile phones. Whilst having the reassurance that your vehicle could call emergency services in the event of an accident was a development for good, we know that where there are advancements in technology, abusers will look for ways to turn technology into a tool of abuse.

In 2015 a [wired journalist worked with hackers in America](#) to see what they could do with a smart car. Needless to say, the hack was a success, with hackers able to control interior setting and reportedly, even cut the engine. Typical functions of a smart enabled vehicle include being able to control the cars climate from afar to being able to identify where your car has been parked in whatever megastore you've just visited. Conveniences for most, but for survivors these are all potential routes to abuse.

Survivors fleeing domestic abuse may not be aware that their smart enabled car is linked to their perpetrator. They could be watching each journey, taking note of where they park at a supermarket, watching the fuel consumption and using this as a method of remote tracking. When working with support agencies to end the abuse, survivors may visit local services, like police, solicitors, or specialist domestic abuse organisations. A history of parking information could provide a perpetrator with all the information they need to identify that their partner is seeking support, and risk escalating their abuse. The smart car has the potential to give away a survivor's new area or refuge accommodation, not only putting them at risk of harm but meaning they must start fresh all over again.

The issue is not with the development of safer cars, or vehicles that offer us convenience, but with how this is implemented. Survivors have reported to us that there is no clear setting they can access that identifies accounts and devices linked to a vehicle, let alone remove the connection. Survivors have been found in new, supposedly safe areas with no clue how it happened until they looked at the smart car. Smart technology isn't so smart when it's not transparent and easy to navigate. Support services and accommodation services need to be aware of the risks a smart car poses

so it can be assessed and planned, before a survivor flees, and vehicle manufacturers need urgently to adopt a VAWG centred approach to smart car design.

Supporting households
to stay warm and well in
their home



Home Energy Advice Team (HEAT) is an independent energy advice and advocacy service delivered by The Wise Group. A dedicated Energy Mentor will contact you by telephone to discuss what assistance can be provided.

This includes:

- 🔥 Tackling energy emergencies
- 🔥 Managing fuel debt and related issues
- 🔥 Accessing energy grants and crisis funds
- 🔥 Accessing targeted schemes and initiatives
- 🔥 Optimising energy usage and efficiencies

HEAT provides mentoring support and advocacy to vulnerable households across England and Wales.

Our team of Energy Mentors provide a holistic, independent and tailored advice to fuel-poor households experiencing energy crises.

To make a referral

If you are working with an eligible client/service user who requires energy advice and support, please scan the QR code or email HEATPARTNERSHIPS@THEWISEGROUP.CO.UK

For urgent referrals, contact us on **0800 092 9002**



Closure of YPCS

The Young People's Counselling Service has closed, just ahead of its 30th birthday.

YPCS will remain as a name, providing support for parents and carers, at least for the next year but will no longer provide counselling for young people.

The Annabelle Davis Centres in Yaxley and Wisbech are models of excellence, and it is hoped that other local charities will be able to take these over

Update on DARA

Cambridgeshire Constabulary will launch the DARA (Domestic Abuse Risk Assessment) in Autumn 2024 following a national roll out of the assessment across the country. Developed by the College of Policing in partnership with a number of specialists, Domestic Abuse charities and police forces, the DARA will replace DASH as the primary risk assessment model completed by police officers at the scene of an incident. **The DARA will be used by Police only, all other professionals will continue to use the DASH Risk Indicator Checklist.**

The DARA is designed to provide a more holistic view of the relationship between a couple or within a family to provide a better assessment of how the context of the incident fits into their daily life. It explores coercive control in more detail and goes into greater depth in respect of isolation and stalking. The definitions will remain as high, medium and standard, however each risk grading is now more clearly defined which should lead to better decision making by officers at the scene.

Cambridgeshire Constabulary are currently rolling out training to all frontline officers in a four-hour, online session. Once officers have been trained, they will be able to start using DARA and as such, we are starting to see some assessments via the MASH. In respect of partners, we will share the DARA in the same way that we share the DASH. Partner agencies who still use DASH to submit referrals into police via the MASH should continue to do so – DARA is a police only risk assessment and we recognise that partners will still need to make referrals into us so the DASH remains the means to do this.

Anyone with any questions on the impact of the DARA should contact Cambridgeshire Constabulary MASH (maru.da@cambs.police.uk)

Raneem's Law to strengthen police response to domestic abuse

Victims of domestic abuse will be better protected from perpetrators under new plans to strengthen the police's fight against violence towards women and girls, announced by the Home Secretary on Friday, 20 September.

Marking the first step in the government's pledge to halve violence against women and girls in the next decade, a key element of the wider mission to take back our streets, domestic abuse specialists will be embedded in 999 control rooms.

This will form part of 'Raneem's Law', in memory of Raneem Oudeh and her mother Khaola Saleem, who were murdered by Raneem's ex-husband in 2018. There were 13 reports made to the police about concerns for Raneem's safety, with no arrests made. On the night she was killed, she rang 999 four times.

The government will fund this pilot in targeted police forces from early 2025. Specialists with expertise in domestic abuse will be embedded in 999 control rooms to advise on risk assessments and work with officers on the ground, to ensure that victims get a fast response when needed and are referred to support services as quickly as possible. These specialists will be backed up by dedicated teams to improve how the police respond to these kinds of calls, including using new technology to respond more quickly such as rapid video response.

'Raneem's Law' will be put on a statutory footing by issuing national guidance that police will be required to follow.

In a further step to keep women and girls safe, from November more domestic abusers will be ordered to stay away from their victims and face tougher sanctions if they fail to do so through the launch of the new domestic abuse protection order pilot. The pilot will build on powers police already have to legally order abusers to not make contact with or go within a certain distance of the victim – but domestic abuse victims are currently only protected for up to 28 days. The new orders will go further, with measures such as making it a legal requirement for perpetrators to inform the police of any change in name or address, imposing electronic tagging, and ordering assessments for behaviour change programmes. There will also be no maximum duration for these orders.

The orders will cover all forms of domestic abuse, including violence, stalking and controlling behaviour, and more agencies will be able to apply for them – not just the police and criminal courts but also family and civil courts, and third parties such as local authorities, charities and social services, with victims also able to apply directly for the order themselves.

Breaching one of these new orders will be a criminal offence, punishable by up to 5 years in prison.

Domestic abuse reports during Euro's data shared

Police forces in England and Wales recorded 351 incidents of football-related domestic abuse reports during the recent Uefa European Championships, the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) has said.

The reports, made between 14 June and 14 July, included those in which the victim specifically disclosed the Euros as a factor.

The NPCC cautioned that the figure likely did not represent all instances of football-related domestic abuse - and that domestic abuse was generally "vastly under-reported".

However, it said the number of reports reinforced the belief that the "heightened emotions and behaviour" football can generate could exacerbate domestic abuse. The NPCC said the figures were compiled across 43 police forces, and did not cover Scotland or Northern Ireland.

It noted that 2024's reports were nearly double the 193 incidents recorded during the previous tournament in 2021.

Mortgages being weaponized by abusers

Surviving Economic Abuse have published a new report - '[Locked into a mortgage, locked out of my home](#)', revealing that the lives of around 750,000 UK women are being devastated by their current or ex-partner weaponising a joint mortgage against them.

Victim-survivors told SEA that the abuse left them with mountains of mortgage arrears and destroyed credit ratings. Many were forced into homelessness and a lifetime of housing and economic insecurity. Some feel having their home repossessed or even taking their lives is the only way out.

Right now, banks are limited in what they can do to stop perpetrators from using joint mortgages to inflict economic abuse. As a result, survivors feel trapped with dangerous abusers, putting them at risk of harm or being killed. Key findings include:

- **Over three-quarters (78%)** of women who experienced joint mortgage abuse felt unable to leave their partner or an unsafe living arrangement due to abuse through the joint mortgage.
- **Nearly half (49%)** of women who experienced joint mortgage abuse had to cut back on utilities or go without essentials, such as food, clothing, or toiletries, to cover monthly mortgage repayments.
- **Almost nine in ten (89%)** of women who experienced joint mortgage abuse experienced negative mental health impacts as a result, such as anxiety, depression, panic attacks, or suicidal thoughts.

Combating misogyny in Football

Kick It Out has launched a campaign to combat sexism and misogyny in football, with new research commissioned by the charity showing that over half (52%) of women fans have experienced sexist behaviour or language on matchdays.

The vast majority (85%) of 1,502 women and non-binary fans surveyed by the anti-discrimination charity also said they had never reported sexist or misogynistic abuse, with many saying it was because they didn't think it would be taken seriously or make a difference.

The campaign, supported by Sky Sports, Her Game Too and White Ribbon, will focus on challenging and reporting sexism following a marked increase in reports of sexism and misogyny to Kick It Out over the last two seasons.

The study, which surveyed regular match-going fans, found that 42% had experienced sexist behaviour, including being questioned on their knowledge of the rules, wolf-whistling, and constant badgering or harassment. Worryingly, some fans surveyed also reported experiencing inappropriate touching, physical violence and sexual assault on a matchday. Six in ten (60%) of women had heard sexist behaviour dismissed as banter.

Kick It Out's campaign aims to raise awareness of sexism and misogyny, challenge sexist behaviour, encourage women to report sexism and call on football to take reports more seriously.

A new video has also been unveiled as part of the campaign outlining some of the behaviours identified in the research and showing how absurd they would seem if a male fan experienced them.

[Over half of women have experienced sexism at matches | Kick It Out](#)

Fundraiser for sexual violence Survivors in the Tigray War

A fundraiser event for sexual violence survivors in the recent Tigray war in Ethiopia has been organized by SOAS Centre of World Christianity and the Institute of Orthodox Christian Studies (IOCS) in Cambridge. The fundraiser will take place at **Wesley House in Cambridge** on **November 18**, as indicated in the poster.

The event description and registration page can be found here: [Fundraising event for survivors of sexual violence in Tigray, Ethiopia Tickets, Mon, Nov 18, 2024 at 5:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)

New report on asylum seeking women housed in hotels

New research, *Coercion and Control: The treatment of women seeking asylum in hotel accommodation*, shows that women who have fled gender-based violence are subjected to coercion and control in hotel accommodation, akin to patterns they have experienced in previous abusive relationships and situations.

The shocking findings include that women in hotels are:

- Routinely monitored and surveilled
- Subjected to humiliating, degrading and dehumanising behaviour by hotel staff, including sexual harassment, room intrusions and voyeurism
- Punished and threatened with eviction
- Isolated from social networks and sources of support

The impact of hotel accommodation on women's mental health is extremely damaging. Of women surveyed:

- 91% felt anxious or depressed
- 75% felt hopeless
- 67% felt like less of a human being
- 46% were suicidal

Download the full report from: [Women for Refugee Women : Coercion and Control: The treatment of women seeking asylum in hotel accommodation](#)

New article on Child Sexual Abuse and Family Courts

Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) is an ongoing scourge upon society. There is minimal understanding of the experiences of mothers and children in private law family court proceedings (PLP), when CSA is reported.

A qualitative study was conducted and a feminist-informed Foucauldian Discourse Analysis was applied to understand ten life-stories from within a larger sample of 45.

Five themes are presented. CSA was overwhelmingly reported as being minimised, with harmful outcomes for children and mothers reported. Pro-father and 'parental alienation' narratives were a facilitator of severe harm and continued male violence to victim-survivor mothers and children.

Further research into the scale and prevalence of CSA within PLP is urgently required. [Full article: 'Let's excuse abusive men from abusing and enable sexual abuse': child sexual abuse investigations in England's private family courts \(tandfonline.com\)](#)

New support service for vulnerable and homeless women in Cambridge

The Haven, which has been set up in a two bedroom flat in the city, opened in June and is available on Mondays and Wednesdays from 8pm until 8am the following morning. The Haven is funded by Cambridge City Council, through a grant from the former Department for Levelling Up, and is staffed entirely by women, including a female security guard. It is run by It Takes a City, an organisation working to end homelessness in Cambridge.

Women do not need a referral and can drop in for food, clothes and activities, as well as health services and advice. Recent activities have included baking, making Halloween bunting and a foot spa evening.

According to a 2021 [report, external](#) from the Centre for Homelessness Impact, there is a "strong link between violence and homelessness amongst women". It added that national data showed one in five women who have experienced violence become homeless, compared to 1% of women who have not experienced violence.

Alice Gilderdale, from It Takes a City, said the organisation expected higher demand in the winter months. Women were generally "hidden homeless", she said. "They walk around at night, they stay with abusive partners or they really hide themselves from services. "At night is when women are most vulnerable."

She said she hoped The Haven would become "a place that really starts to build trust with women and shows women that there are people here to look after them". That, she added, would "hopefully then start them on that journey out of homelessness".



LGBTQ+ Family Drop Ins

The Kite Trust are hosting family drop ins in their LGBTQ+ centre! These sessions are every other Wednesday, 12-2pm at the Cambridgeshire LGBTQ+ Centre in Ely (70 Market Street, CB7 4LS).

This is an opportunity to come and visit the LGBTQ+ Centre during the day.

You can:

- Browse and borrow books from the Queer Librar
- Have a rummage in the Queer Fashion Collective (free clothing shop)
- Chat to the Kite Trust team, and other visitor
- Find out more about The Kite Trust's services

Free Understanding Self Harm Workshops

YMCA Trinity is proud to offer a **FREE 2-hour workshop** titled '**Understanding Self Harm,**' designed to give invaluable insights into the experiences of young people dealing with self-harm.

This workshop offers a unique chance to hear directly from young people about what they wish you knew regarding self-harm, drawing on the powerful and award-winning co-produced video, '**Ask Me How I Am.**' Their voices provide critical perspectives that can help professionals and educators better support young people in their journey to mental wellbeing.

Workshop highlights:

- **Understand the lived experiences** of young people struggling with self-harm
- **Gain practical insights** that will improve your ability to offer support
- **Learn directly from young people**, as they share their thoughts, feelings, and what they wish adults understood

Who should attend?

This workshop is ideal for anyone who works with or supports young people, including educators, mental health professionals and youth workers. For more information please click on the link: [Understanding Self-Harm](#)

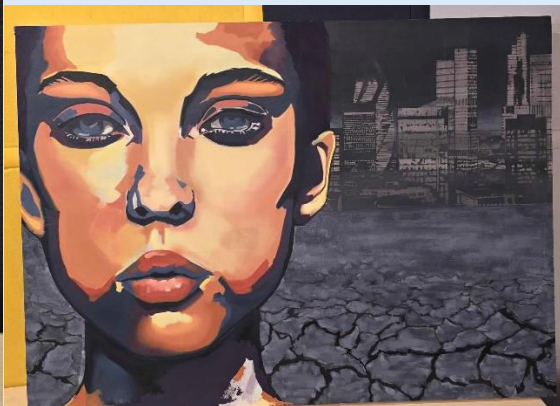
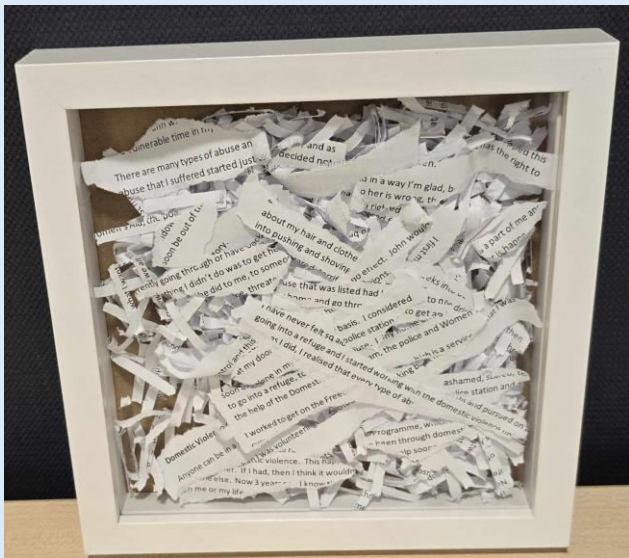
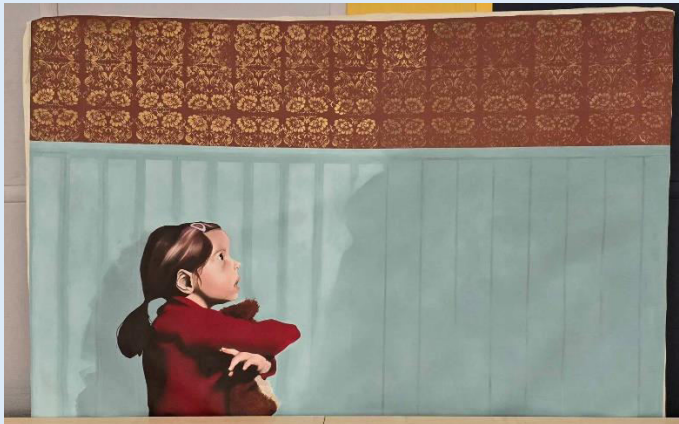
To book this workshop for yourself or your team, please reach out to YMCA Trinity at mentalhealthtraining@ymcatrinity.org.uk. If you are unable to meet the minimum numbers required but would like to attend, please let us know.

ARU Celebrates Domestic Violence Awareness Month

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month in the US, although it is often marked in other countries too. On 2nd October the new domestic abuse support team at Anglia Ruskin University held an awareness event with an art exhibition from survivors.

The event, supported by Sharon Livermore MBE from Domestic Abuse Education, included local support organisations bringing along information on support for survivors of domestic abuse and sexual violence and a powerful display of artwork, including from Holly Ringrose who produces digital portraits of women whose lives have been cut short by male violence. Holly works on each portrait for one minute of each woman's life – with the sparseness of some portraits demonstrating the devastation of domestic abuse affecting women of all ages.

Some images from the exhibition are below.



Hidden extent of DA in Britain's ethnic communities

The fear of family disownment and community isolation means many Pakistani women do not report domestic abuse, according to campaigners. Separately, a book has been published highlighting how 21 Sikh women survived domestic abuse.

A specialist domestic violence unit at Green Lane Mosque in Birmingham has seen 200 women since launching three years ago, with at least 70% being Pakistani. Records show up to half of users do not report the abuse to police for fear of losing their home, financial support and being isolated.

One victim-survivor said: *"I suffered domestic abuse, starvation and mental abuse to the point that I could not take it anymore."* She did not report it. *"I remember my mother saying 'Don't cut the rope, don't cut the rope', meaning don't break this marriage up. It doesn't matter what they do to you,"* she said.

Separately, [Sikh Women's Aid](#) has published a book entitled *Journey of Resilience* which recounts the stories of 21 Sikh women who have escaped, or are still in, abusive relationships. Funded by the National Heritage Lottery Fund, the book is intended to educate officials on the impact of abuse on Sikh-Punjabi women.

Locally, Peterborough Women's Aid's Dahlia Project supports women from South Asian communities who are living in Peterborough – for more information visit [The Dahlia Project | Peterborough Women's Aid \(peterboroughwomensaid.co.uk\)](#)

Shared Lives Domestic Abuse Project – year 1 report

The Shared Lives Domestic Abuse Project has been running for just over 12 months, supporting survivors with learning disabilities to recover using the Shared Lives model.

Libby Swannell-Bell, the DA Shared Lives Coordinator, has been visiting teams to talk about how to refer to the project, delivering training to professionals on supporting survivors with learning disabilities and working with carers to complete the approval process to become Shared Lives DA Carers.

Libby has pulled together a report on the progress of the project so far, highlighting people supported and some exciting next steps.

You can read the report at: [Cambridgeshire County Council DASV Partnership - Disabilities \(cambdasv.org.uk\)](#)

Training on talking to people about alcohol use

A recent Domestic Abuse Related Death Review concerned a woman who was struggling with her use of alcohol but did not wish to be referred to services. Staff did not appear to have spoken with her directly about her alcohol use and were not necessarily equipped to do so.

As a result, one of the learning points is for frontline professionals to have training in Identification and Brief Advice in relation to alcohol use.

There are regular sessions delivered by Healthy You across Cambridgeshire & Peterborough which are free to attend and held online.

Training link: <https://bookwhen.com/everyonehealthcams>

If anyone has any questions about booking on, they can email directly at this address: eh.trainingcp@healthyyou.org.uk

Course description:

Training suitable for those who work with clients, patients, customers, residents or tenants who could benefit from some help around their alcohol intake.

The aim of this training is to enable participants to raise and respond to alcohol issues with clients through identification and brief advice (IBA) and make referrals depending on Audit – C score competently, confidently, and appropriately.

Following this training session, you will;

- Understand national drinking guidelines and estimate the number of standard units in various drinks containing alcohol, by calculating a unit of alcohol.
- Be able to outline the ways in which alcohol causes harm to the physical and mental health of the individual drinker, and to people and society beyond the individual.
- Understand and use Audit C score to raise alcohol as an issue with individuals who may benefit from a brief intervention or reducing their alcohol intake.

Please email eh.trainingcp@healthyyou.org.uk with any questions