



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

December 2021

Hi All!

Our last DASV Newsletter of the year – and I'm sure they get more comprehensive each month, our thanks to Amanda who does an incredible job as DASV Partnership Officer.

This month's newsletter has a recurring and refreshing theme running through it – and that is the importance of recognising where the abuse is coming from (the abuser) and the absolute importance of not blaming the victim – I highly recommend you watch the film in the link. Having a dedicated police operation to identify predatory males in Cambridge and Peterborough in the evenings is a great move. I would also like to mention all the White Ribbon Ambassadors who have spoken up against male violence in 2021, let's hope this is the start of wider social change.

Please find details of funding opportunities, job vacancies and free talks – in January, the DASV Champions will hear about the work of midwifery in relation to domestic abuse, and One Voice 4 Travellers.

Have a relaxing and restful Christmas with your family and friends, and once again, thank you for all your contributions in supporting those suffering domestic abuse and sexual violence, as well as targeting the perpetrators of such abuse.

Vickie Crompton & Julia Cullum
DASV Partnership Managers



January Champions sessions

2022 marks five years since we set up the DASV Champions Network and we now have over 300 people signed up to be Champions!

For our sessions in January, we'll be hearing from - OneVoice4Travellers talking about their DA work in Cambridgeshire and Caroline Bull linking with the Health IDVAs to talk about DA and Pregnancy

- 18th January 10.30 - 12.30
- 20th January 14.00 - 16.00
- 26th January 13.00 - 15.00

To book a place, please email dasvchampions@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

New IDVA roles

In case anyone missed our announcement on 19th November to coincide with International Men's Day, we now have an IDVA who works solely with **male victims** of domestic abuse. Referrals are accepted at all risk levels and you can read more about the support and access the referral form on our website [Welcome to Cambridgeshire DASV Partnership \(cambsdasv.org.uk\)](http://cambsdasv.org.uk)

We are also really pleased to have expanded our team of **Health IDVAs** and the team will be accepting referrals from all Health based services from later this month. Referrals are accepted at any risk level and can come from any area of Health including hospitals, GPs, CPFT and community-based health services. Please see our website for more information and the Health IDVA referral form [Welcome to Cambridgeshire DASV Partnership \(cambsdasv.org.uk\)](http://cambsdasv.org.uk)

Round up of November and 16 Days of Action

Thank you to everyone who supported White Ribbon Day/International Day for Elimination of VAWG and the 16 Days of Action that followed. We shared a number of social media posts and are grateful to partners for re-sharing these.

A flag raising event and information stall was held in Peterborough where the Mayor and Cllr John Howard (White Ribbon Lead Ambassador for Peterborough City Council) raised the White Ribbon flag on a rather windy day! They were joined by two other WR Ambassadors – Joel Lamy and Anthony York, and Peterborough Women's Aid also braved the elements to bring along information on how survivors of domestic abuse can get help and support. See photos below



The White Ribbon flag was also raised at New Shire Hall at Alconbury Weald (see below)



In March 2021, Cambridge City Council retained the White Ribbon status it first gained in 2015, reaffirming the council's commitment to ending male violence against women and girls. The White Ribbon Campaign works to engage men in speaking out about violence against women and girls, to challenge gender stereotypes underpinning such violence and to challenge cultures that lead to harassment, abuse and violence against women.

To raise awareness about White Ribbon, a session was held at lunchtime for Staff and Cambridge City Councillors.

This was chaired by Chief Executive, Robert Pollock, and there were three guest speakers:

- Cambridge City Council Mayor, Councillor Russ McPherson.
- Cambridge City Council Head of Housing Services, David Greening.
- Adam Moghadas, Partner at Cambridge Family Law Practice, Mediator, Direct Child Consultant and Collaborative lawyer.

Their talks were followed by a Question-and-Answer Session.



Cambridge City White Ribbon Ambassadors photo collage by Louise Walker.

Pictured from top left: Robert Pollock, Mayor Councillor Russ McPherson, David Greening and Adam Moghadas.

Some of the Wintercomfort for the homeless team and service users all dressed in orange to mark 25 November – White Ribbon Day / UN International Day to Eliminate Violence Against Women And Girls. Wintercomfort's website is <https://wintercomfort.org.uk/>



Cambridge City Council Domestic Abuse Conference for White Ribbon Day

To mark the [United Nations International Day for Elimination Violence Against Women and Girls](#) and the start of 16 Days of Action to 10 December - Human Rights Day a conference was held for the public. The conference was opened by Robert Pollock, Chief Executive of Cambridge City Council, and chaired by Alex Collis, Executive Councillor for Open Spaces, Sustainable Food and Community Wellbeing, Cambridge City Council.

The four guest speakers and the theme of their talks were:

- Angie Stewart, Chief Executive Officer, Cambridge Women's Aid: 'Domestic Abuse during Covid'.
- Norah Al-Ani, Director, Cambridge Rape Crisis Centre : 'If not now, when? Ending Sexual Violence and Abuse'. (This talk included a minute's silence to remember the women murdered and affected by male violence.)
- Stef Martinsen-Barker, Chief Executive Officer, Cambridge Women's Resources Centre: 'The importance of women only spaces and Co commissioning of services with women post covid'.
- Anna Smith, Deputy Leader and Executive Councillor for Communities, Cambridge City Council: 'Looking to the future'.

Following their talks, there was a Question-and-Answer Session.

Attendee comments included:

'The conference speakers were excellent, well informed and empathetic to victims of domestic abuse and it's great to hear about all the projects and support that is available.'

'I thoroughly enjoyed the conference. Thank you so much to everyone involved. I'm in the final stages of writing up a doctoral thesis on coercive control amongst adolescents so today has inspired me to keep on writing!'

A video of the conference will be posted on the Cambridge City Council YouTube Channel once available.

Also, the Guildhall was lit up orange for the evening

Photograph by Boris Herzog.

In addition to the Christmas lights across the front of the Guildhall Cambridge there were orange uplighters on 25 November as orange is the theme colour for the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls.



Not All Men

Alice Thithcott who is a management trainee with Cambridgeshire County Council wrote the piece below for the Equality & Diversity Network

I, like the majority of my female friends, colleagues, and peers, have found 2021 to be a challenge. Sarah Everard's horrific abduction, rape, and murder broke my heart. I saw myself in her. It made me feel more vulnerable and anxious than I ever have before, because it made me confront all the things that I do in an attempt to prevent myself from being attacked.

I have held keys between my fingers.

I have location apps on my phone.

I have changed my route home.

I have phoned my friends and family whilst walking alone.

I have existed within a 'daylight hours curfew'.

I have pulled out strands of my hair to leave in taxis and Ubers so my DNA could be traced, 'just in case'.

To some people, these actions will seem ridiculous or unnecessary, but it's the reality. And despite all this, it doesn't work – women are murdered every single week. **Once every three days in the UK**, in fact. Inside and outside of our homes. By total strangers, and by people we know and trust. A fire door does not prevent a fire from starting, it merely temporarily contains or lessens its impact. In the same way that the rhetoric around women and girls taking certain measures to protect themselves does not represent a solution to male violence against women.

Telling women to perform certain safety behaviours does not stop attacks from taking place, it merely shifts the blame to the woman who does not protect herself, to the woman who is naïve enough to think that she is safe, when safety is a privilege which so many women do not have.

We have recently been told by the Metropolitan Police to **'get on a bus', and 'run away'** from lone plain clothes officers, or to find a police officer if we feel unsafe. In the light of Sarah Everard's murder by a serving police officer, this can be considered insensitive, absurd, and impractical.

Why is it women's responsibility? Telling women what to do is just an extension of the usual victim blaming and shaming that occurs when a woman is attacked, such as comments around what she was wearing, how much alcohol she had consumed, or how late it was. These have most recently surfaced following the murder of Sabina Nessa, as if that justifies her murder. Nothing that women or girls do invites violence. Yet we prepare for it, expect it even, every time we leave the house. Regardless of the time of day, regardless of what we wear.

Our lives and safety should not matter only if we stick to the rules. To quote **Rape Crisis Scotland**, 'we should be able to enjoy the night sky and winter air, and not live to a curfew. We should not be held to an impossible standard and punished if we fail'.

It's exhausting living as a woman and feeling unsafe doing literally anything.

The solution isn't about the individual, and it isn't about women. Yet many women are burdened with treating the symptoms of male violence against women. As a society we have placed the responsibility on women to 'not be attacked', with little responsibility given to the men that attack them. **It is a men's issue.**

We know it's not all men. We never said it was. No one actually thinks that it is 'all men'.

But it is enough men. It is too many men.

And on the flip side, not all men help. Not all men respect women and girls.

Not all men challenge sexist or misogynistic remarks and jokes.

Not all men are active allies towards women, and neither are all women.

We can all make a difference. We can all be allies at work. Simple phrases can be used to challenge misogynistic comments and behaviours in meetings:

- 'that's an outdated stereotype'
- 'that language isn't appropriate'
- 'that isn't funny'
- 'that language makes me uncomfortable'
- 'you just interrupted'
- 'what did you mean by that?'

Staying silent acts as a form of consent and complicity. Sexist 'banter' and gendered stereotypes contribute to and condone a culture which makes violence against women and girls acceptable. We have a responsibility to be anti-sexist, and to actively combat male violence against women and girls. We share this duty. All men. Not some men. Not some women. Not some people. Everyone. All.

Older People are the Last in Line

During Safer Ageing Week and 16 Days of Action, Hourglass published new research about the profile given to abuse against older people by the Government and the public.

The report found that only 7% of people think of older adults when they think of victims of abuse. 20% of people think of animals and the majority, 50% think of females.

Hourglass also looked at mentions of abuse against older people in Parliament and found that the abuse of older people was mentioned just 9 times in debates in all Parliaments since 1 December 2020 – compared to 200 mentions of child abuse and 400 references to parking!

Read the full report [here](#)

Deaf domestic abuse victims receive specialist support

LOCAL charity, Cambridgeshire Deaf Association, is providing additional support to Deaf victims of domestic abuse thanks to a funding boost from Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Police and Crime Commissioner, Darryl Preston.

More than £21,000 has been provided to fund a part time IDVA (Independent Domestic Abuse Advocate) to support both male and female victims of domestic abuse within the local Deaf community

“Our existing services do work hard to support victims from all communities but Cambridgeshire Deaf Association are in a unique position to be able to truly understand the barriers some Deaf victims face and to provide bespoke support,” Darryl Preston said. “British Sign Language (BSL) is an entirely separate language from English and communication barriers should never be reason that a victim of domestic abuse does not access the support available to them.”

Deaf women, compared to hearing women, are twice as likely to experience domestic abuse in their lifetime.

Rachael Dance, Cambridgeshire Deaf Association Service Manager, said:

“We have found over the years that there is an increasing need for support services in BSL to allow Deaf victims to access support safely and equally to the rest of the population. Our mission statement is to improve well-being in the Deaf community and supporting victims of domestic abuse is paramount in achieving this.

“All of our staff are fluent in BSL and trained in domestic violence to a basic level and we are keen to keep our services as accessible as possible with support being offered in BSL, International sign language, various European sign languages and contact being made over email, text, video call and face to face meetings has really allowed us to branch out and reach as many people as possible.”

For more information about the services Cambridgeshire Deaf Association provide visit, www.cambsdeaf.org

Funding available for arts projects

The Violence and Mental Health Network have launched an Arts funding competition VAMHN's focus for this fourth year of grant competition funding will be on collaborations that engage the wider public around violence, abuse and mental health. They are looking for innovative artistic projects with the potential for high-quality and original outputs, which generate new critical perspectives and inspire further discussion around violence, abuse, and mental health. They especially hope to see lived experience views included and valued.

[Online applications](#) will be accepted from 10am on the 23rd of November 2021. The deadline for applications is the **4th March 2022 at 5pm**. Awards of up to £15k are available. [VAMHN Arts Funding Competition - VAMHN](#)

Don't blame the victim!

It is imperative that appropriate terminology is used when discussing children and young people who have been exploited, or are at risk of exploitation. Any language that implies that the child is to blame for what has happened to them must be avoided at all costs.

By using victim blaming language it can reinforce messages from perpetrators about shame and guilt and takes away the emphasis from being on the perpetrator. There is also a risk of normalising and minimising the child's experience.

Our language must reflect the control and coercion experienced by children in exploitative situations and recognise the severe impact that it has had on them.

This resource is not a comprehensive guide on the right thing to say, but we are hopeful it's the beginning of a professional conversation. It is designed to help and support your decision making and management of risk. It may be "uncomfortable" to watch and is intended to make you think and challenge you!

We hope that you find this resource useful and take the time to start a conversation about appropriate language. The resource takes approximately 10-15 minutes and can be accessed via the following link; <https://www.safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk/home/covid-19/e-learning-during-covid-19/dont-blame-the-victim-choosing-your-words-carefully/>

We have also produced a resource to help professionals with 'Using our Local Child Sexual Behaviour Assessment Tool', which can be accessed at the following link <https://safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk/children-board/professionals/csa/>

For Baby's Sake in Cambridgeshire: No longer Accepting Referrals

The County Council has been reviewing the role of the For Baby's Sake programme in Cambridgeshire over recent weeks. We have now reached the difficult decision to bring the programme to an end by the end of the current financial year. We have taken this decision in the context of developing a new model of early help provision across the County.

As many will be aware, we chose to launch For Baby's Sake in Cambridge City, South and East Cambridgeshire, as opposed to the county as a whole. We now want to take the detailed learning from For Baby's Sake and apply this within our county-wide early help model. The For Baby's Sake Trust accepts the Council's decision and is committed to working with the Council to help embed the transferrable lessons from For Baby's Sake. In that way, a larger group of families will continue to benefit from early help teams adopting some of the For Baby's Sake ways of working.

The Council is grateful to The For Baby's Sake Trust for their generous philanthropy in having provided access to their pioneering programme and co-funded the establishment and operation of our For Baby's Sake team

A key priority now is to ensure the smooth transition for those families currently accessing the service into other support services. For those families who are nearing the end of their programme, we will work to ensure that our involvement with them takes place in a timely way. If you would want to arrange alternative support for a family you might previously have referred to the Cambridgeshire For Baby's Sake programme, please consider requesting targeted Early Help services in the usual way.

Lou Williams Director of Children's Services November 2022

Creating a safety plan for ending a relationship

The One Love Foundation have sent us a *few of the basics to consider before ending a relationship, whether domestic abuse is happening or not*

♥ What is a safety/breakup plan?

A safety/breakup plan is a personalized strategy to navigate from potentially dangerous situations.

♥ Why is it important to have a safety/breakup plan?

Once you have made the decision to end a relationship, your instinct may be to do it quickly, but during a breakup, your partner might escalate their aggression or threaten self-harm to keep you from leaving. That's why it's really important to take the time to make a plan of action and know it might change over time. If you are at all concerned about how your partner might react to a breakup, or if you feel increasingly threatened, it is vital to add more safety measures. Remember, it's always better to be over prepared and take precautions.

♥ It's okay to ask for help

If you are in an unhealthy or abusive relationship, know that the abuse is not your fault and that you deserve to feel safe. Asking for help to leave a relationship that no longer makes you happy or threatens your safety is brave and a sign of strength! There is no weakness in leaning on the people and resources around you.

♥ Conflicting feelings are normal

It's easy to look back on a relationship and focus on the good parts. Doing this may make you question if you want to go through with the breakup at all — but there are two key things to remember here. First, you may understand the reasons behind your partner's behaviors, but know there is never an excuse for treating you in an unhealthy or abusive way — it's not your job to "fix" your partner. Second, feeling sad or missing your partner during a breakup is normal. Trust your gut in making the best decision for you and lean on your support networks to help you through this tough time.

Tips for safely breaking up with someone:

- **Create a safety/breakup plan.**
- **Let your friends, parents, or a trusted adult* know** that you are ending your relationship, especially if you think the other person will try to confront you when you're alone.
- It is normal to miss your partner after a breakup, even if they have been abusive. **Write down your reasons for ending the relationship and keep them as a reminder.** Give a copy to a trusted friend who you have identified to be part of your support system.
- **If you don't feel safe, don't break up in person.** Trust your gut! Sometimes the safest way to break up is by phone or social media, even if it feels impersonal or mean.
- **If you end your relationship in person, strongly consider doing it in a public place** where there are other people around. Have friends or your parents wait nearby and always take a cell phone with you.

SARAC Referrals

In 2018, the county wide Sexual Abuse Risk Assessment Conference (SARAC) process was launched. SARAC is a multiagency approach to identify and manage the risks associated with sexual abuse perpetrators and survivors within Cambridgeshire who are not currently covered by the pre-existing MARAC or MAPPA provisions.

In April 2021, a multi-agency review of the SARAC process was undertaken to ensure the process remained fit for purpose when, across all partners, demand and complexities have increased alongside changes to working practices.

Those involved in the review are pleased to announce that the amended SARAC process will go live from Monday 22nd November 2021 and we would like to promote and remind those who work with adults who have experienced sexual violence, the safeguarding opportunities available. SARAC is for adults only and will not replace statutory child protection mechanisms for those under 18yrs.

If you are working with a sexual violence survivor who fulfils the following criteria, you are encouraged to complete and submit the attached referral form so the core SARAC panel can consider the request:

1. An identified need for intensive support.
2. A rationale regarding how and why this could be achieved in a multiagency context.
3. A significant risk of repeat victimisation / repeat offending regarding the individual adopted.
4. Confirmation that they are not already being supported via another existing forum (MARAC / MAPPA / Op Farmington or any other multiagency process including mental health or wellbeing support).

It is important to note that SARAC is not the correct forum to discuss cases where an individual reports on multiple occasions to the Police and there are genuine concerns about the validity of the allegation. In these types of cases, professionals meetings should be held with key professionals to create a multi-agency safeguarding plan.

We encourage professionals to discuss with survivors the SARAC process and seek consent for information-sharing using the attached form. This must include the survivor being given the opportunity to consult on attendance both in terms of who should and shouldn't be present and bespoke consent associated with each attending agency. Consent can be overridden if safeguarding and risk are deemed to be high.

The SARAC meeting will help you by considering all the key risks to the survivor, hear current information held by attending partners and through discussion will agree a safety plan aimed at managing harm and threats. The chair will allocate actions and determine whether a review SARAC meeting is required or not. All agencies will be accountable for developing the plan and ensuring actions are completed.

A flowchart showing the referral pathway and the referral form are available online at [Welcome to Cambridgeshire DASV Partnership \(cambsdasv.org.uk\)](https://www.cambsdasv.org.uk)

Managed Reciprocals

Our local managed housing reciprocal scheme enables individuals and families who are at risk of domestic abuse or violence and who have a social tenancy, to move to a safe area (within Cambridgeshire or Peterborough) whilst retaining their tenancy. This process is coordinated by the IDVA Service.

The loss of a social tenancy can be a form of re-victimisation for victim/survivors. Not only are victim/survivors asked to leave their home to escape violence and abuse perpetrated by someone else, but by doing so are penalised through the loss of their social tenancy.

Ideally, victim/survivors should not have to give up their homes and rights to keep safe from abuse. However, measures to prevent perpetrators from accessing the home (Sanctuary Schemes) and/or to remove perpetrators from the home (court order or custody) are not always adequate or appropriate. Sometimes, victim/survivors do not want to pursue criminal or court proceedings and, instead of adding security measures to their homes, would prefer to leave. In these cases, a reciprocal move offers an option for victim/survivors to access affordable and stable housing and rebuild their lives.

This scheme wouldn't be suitable as an "emergency response", as it could take some time to identify an alternative home.

The Cambridgeshire reciprocal scheme is the only one in the UK which provides the option of relocating the perpetrator if it is deemed safe to do so. This allows the victim/survivor to remain in their home and it is often quicker to identify a property for a single person than a family-size property.

To be considered for a move under this scheme, a victim/survivor must be working with a domestic abuse specialist to ensure all relevant safety measures are in place and that the proposed new home would be suitable for their needs.

If you have any questions, please email Vickie or Julia – Vickie.crompton@cambridgeshire.gov.uk / Julia.cullum@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

If you are a Domestic Abuse Specialist, please contact Mandy.Thorp@peterborough.gov.uk who coordinates referrals and can provide you with the appropriate forms to start this process.

CKH Tenancy types

Tenancy type	Summary
Assured non-shorthold (general needs) Peterborough properties that were stock transfer from PCC.	Assured life-long tenancy. Standard social landlord rents apply (these tenancies have the lowest rents). Tenants have right to acquire the property (in most circumstances). Tenants have right to mutual exchange. Security of tenure, unless breaches of tenancy – a Notice of seeking possession could be served (in some cases, breaches lead to absolute possession proceedings).
Assured non-shorthold (sheltered) Peterborough properties that were stock transfer from PCC.	Tenants over 65. As above but no right to acquire. Standard social landlord rents apply. Service charges apply – scheme manager and communal spaces.

Cambridgeshire County Council is pleased to announce that the next deadline for Innovate & Cultivate Fund applications is 1st February 2022. Pre-application advice appointments will be offered in December (details below).

The aim of the fund is to support initiatives that strengthen our communities and reduce pressure on County Council services, thereby giving a return on investment. Council services that are inviting applications are adult social care and children's services.

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

This funding round is for Cultivate grant applications (£2,000-£15,000) for projects that build community support networks for vulnerable people.

Pre-application advice: We strongly urge organisations to seek pre-application advice on their project ideas before submitting an application. Telephone advice appointments for projects supporting vulnerable children, young people and families are offered on 1st and 9th December. Appointments for projects supporting vulnerable adults are offered on 14th and 16th December. These 15-minute appointments must be pre-booked and are available on a first come first served basis. Please [book here](#).

Cultivate Project Ideas : Do you want to do something for your community but need some inspiration to start a project? We've developed application guidance for 7 Cultivate project ideas - Mobile Warden Schemes, Community Youth Worker, Digital Inclusion, Timebanks, Good Neighbour Schemes, Dementia-Friendly Communities and Men's Sheds – that can help people to remain independent and active within their community, encourage volunteering, and complement more costly Council services. You can find guidance on how to apply for a start-up grant for each of these projects [here](#).

Applications and further information about fund priorities and criteria may be found on the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation (CCF) [website](#).

If you are considering making a VAWG related application, please contact Vickie or Julia beforehand Vickie.Crompton@cambridgeshire.gov.uk Julia.Cullum@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Free Spirit support for survivors of domestic abuse

Free Spirit Cambs is a Domestic Abuse Support Community Interest Company that aims to bring our knowledge and support to all that need it, regardless of age, gender or sexuality as we believe that anyone can fall victim to domestic abuse. We are dedicated to self-education and our mission is to gain and share information and understanding about the lasting effects of domestic abuse as well as offering tools for healing.

At the moment we offer the Freedom Programme, Freedom Forever, Domestic abuse Recovery Toolkit, Male Domestic Abuse Support Group and LGBTQ+ Domestic Support Group Support Group. We are due to start training to offer support to children and teens. We offer our courses to the Cambridgeshire area via zoom and are looking to start face to face groups in the future.

For more information please visit www.freespiritcambs.co.uk

New CYP Mental Health Strategy

There will be a new Children and Young People's mental health strategy for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough from April 2022. This will be a plan which tells us how services and projects will help children and young people aged 0 to 25 who have mental health problems. The strategy will be owned and shared by the Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing Board as part of the wider mental health system. This email is to ask for your evidence to support the planning process. [taproot](#) is a company that has been hired to help engage people in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough with the writing of the strategy.

There is a [survey](#) for young people, parents, professionals and service leads to submit their evidence- whether it is opinion, experiences or data. Click on this link to complete it.

The survey will close on Monday the 13th of December 2021. We would appreciate you sending the survey link on to anyone you know who may also have useful evidence to share.

If you have any questions about this project, please contact ben@taproot.org.uk and we will be in touch to discuss these with you.

Household Support Fund

The Household Support Fund has been created to help people experiencing immediate financial hardship to pay for food, household energy or other essential items.

The Fund has been created to help people experiencing immediate financial hardship to pay for food, household energy or other essential items. The scheme will run until 31 March 2022.

Support is offered in two ways:

- Support with food, household energy and other essentials for individuals and families
- Direct food voucher scheme

You are eligible to access this support through the Household Support Fund if you earn less than £17,940 per year **or** are in receipt of one of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Job Seekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Pension Credit
- Universal Credit
- Working Tax Credit

You may be able to access practical support with:

- Food and essential supplies
- Paying for gas, electricity, oil or water in your home
- Other essential supplies, such as repairs to your boiler to help keep you and your family warm

The Household Support Fund is now available to apply for online. For more information or to access the form directly please follow the link below.

[Household Support Fund - Peterborough City Council](#)



Operation to target predatory behaviour

A new operation is to launch which will target people displaying predatory behaviour that could lead to sexual offences or harassment.

Operation Armour will begin in December and run over the Christmas period and aim to prevent sexual offences in our cities.

A combination of uniformed and undercover officers will carry out patrols to identify who may be displaying signs of predatory behaviour and take action, which may include arrest. The patrols will begin as the night time economy starts to increase and the Christmas party season gets going.

Taxi marshals and security door staff have received training to spot the signs of predatory behaviour and in Welfare and Vulnerability Engagement (WAVE). There will also be increased CCTV operators on duty for the duration.

In addition, clubs in Cambridge and Peterborough will be issued drink testing kits following an increase in the number of reports of suspected drink spiking incidents in the county. The kits have been provided by the Constabulary and test for various substances. These will allow drinks to be tested should there be a concern or a request made, it will not be mandatory for all drinks.

Inspector Ian Lombardo who is leading Operation Armour said: "The force are committed to ensuring the local community can have an enjoyable night out without the fear of being sexually assaulted. By deploying undercover officers this will mean we are able to witness this behaviour first hand and intervene more quickly."

Superintendent Adam Gallop said: "We're working closely with a host of partners across the county including licensees, licensing, the university and the councils to ensure that we keep people safer. My team and I are committed to ensuring the local community can have an enjoyable night out without the fear of being sexually assaulted. "We are deploying additional officers who will be tasked with identifying potential perpetrators who are displaying signs of predatory behaviour such as loitering without good reason, or giving or approaching females with unwanted attention. We have also set up a dedicated investigation team to tackle the increased number of drink spiking reports and will be working with venues to regularly test drinks. Predatory behaviour is unacceptable and we work hard to safeguard potential victims and bring offenders to justice.

"We are committed to making the streets safer and this is just one way in which the force is making the streets a hostile place for potential sex offenders."

If you see someone acting suspiciously, please call police on 101 or 999 in an emergency or approach an officer. If you are out and feel unsafe you can also speak to the nearest pub or club staff member for assistance too.

Latest Domestic Abuse data released

The Office for National Statistics has released its latest update on domestic abuse data. The picture appears to be that, despite an increase in reports of domestic abuse and an increase in calls to helplines and MARAC cases, the CPS charging rates for perpetrators of these crimes are decreasing.

- The number of police recorded domestic abuse-related crimes in England and Wales rose 6% in the year ending March 2021 to 845,734; this follows increases seen in previous years and may reflect improved recording by the police alongside increased reporting by victims.
- The police made 33 arrests per 100 domestic abuse-related crimes in the year ending March 2021; the same as in the previous year (in the 38 police forces that supplied complete data in both years).
- Referrals of suspects of domestic abuse-flagged cases from the police to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) for a charging decision decreased by 3%, from 79,965 in the year ending March 2020 to 77,812 in the year ending March 2021.
- For the third successive year, the CPS [charging rate](#) for domestic abuse-related crimes in England and Wales decreased to 70% in the year ending March 2021, down from 76% in the year ending March 2018.
- Demand on domestic abuse helplines increased in the year ending March 2021 with a 22% increase in people supported by the National Domestic Abuse Helpline in England; this is not necessarily indicative of an increase in the number of victims, but perhaps an increase in the severity of abuse being experienced, and a lack of available coping mechanisms.
- The number of cases discussed per 10,000 adult females at multi-agency risk assessment conferences (MARACs) rose to 46 compared with 43 in the previous year.

[Domestic abuse in England and Wales overview - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk/domestic-abuse)

Job Vacancy – Family Respect Project Officer

YMCA Trinity are looking for a part time (20 hours pw) Project Worker for the Family Respect Project - a programme to tackle child to parent violence, using a range of approaches and therapeutic interventions. The focus will be working with young people referred to the programme by the police, however there will be some work with parents and siblings around safety planning and support networks to provide support in the home. The work will be undertaken across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough with the support of the wider organisation Respect and the Police and Crime Commission.

Salary is £14,487 and deadline for applications is 22nd December.

For more information please visit [Family Respect Project Officer - Part Time - YMCA Trinity Group](#)