



**Cambridgeshire
& Peterborough**
Domestic Abuse & Sexual
Violence Partnership

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

July 2020

Hello and welcome to our latest newsletter.

We hope you are all well and continuing to stay safe in these unprecedented times.

In the last month the Domestic Abuse Bill has been going through the various stages of debate in Parliament and we are eager to hear any amendments made when it gets to the Report stage – still some way to go yet but we're pleased to see it now making progress.

As lockdown starts to ease further we are still spreading the message that support for domestic abuse and sexual violence is still available. If you are lucky enough to get a hairdresser appointment, consider downloading and printing one of our posters and asking if they will display it. All our posters are available on the [website](https://www.cambsdasv.org.uk/website/cv-19_poster/470634) https://www.cambsdasv.org.uk/website/cv-19_poster/470634

We'd also like to highlight that the Home Office national domestic abuse campaign now has material available in a range of languages including Welsh, Urdu, Punjabi, Hindi, Bengali, Gujarati, Mandarin, Farsi, Arabic, Somali, Polish, Romanian, Spanish, Italian, Tamil and French. All materials are available [here](#). We would really appreciate your support in sharing this information with staff and employers in your network. The posters and flyers can be downloaded and printed or shared on social media. There are also animations via MP4 but these are large files so may not download.

If you have anything you would like us to share in the newsletter, please contact Amanda.Warburton@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Julia Cullum
Partnership Manager



MARAC Threshold Pilot – permanent change to threshold

Following successful feedback and review of the pilot project to increase MARAC threshold to 17 ticks on the DASH Risk Assessment Checklist, the new threshold will now be permanent.

DASH forms scoring 14 or over should be sent to the IDVA Service
Idva.Referrals@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Those scoring 17 or over will automatically go forward to MARAC, client consent is preferred for these but not essential

Those scoring 14-16 must have client consent to send to the IDVA Service

Professional judgement should always be used by the person completing the DASH – if the score is low but you feel the risk is high, please refer to the IDVA Service.

MARAC meetings will take place three days per week, with 20 minutes allocated for each case.

NB: The specialist IDVA posts take referrals at any DASH score – Young People's IDVA, Health IDVA. A8 IDVA, Stalking & Harassment IDVA

To access the DASH form and guidance please visit
https://www.cambsdasv.org.uk/website/referral_forms/296136

Please ensure your internal processes and training materials are updated to reflect this change.

The Domestic Abuse Report 2020: The Hidden Housing Crisis

Domestic abuse is by its very nature a housing issue. This report examines the housing experiences of survivors of domestic abuse using evidence from Women's Aid Survivor Voice Survey 2019. It reveals that housing fears are a barrier for many women leaving, and that those who do leave face upheaval and disruption, for themselves and their children, as a result of challenges in finding suitable housing.

Challenges included:

- a lack of access to money to cover the costs of a new home (including paying the rent, upfront deposit and necessary bills) – for some survivors this was because of their financial dependence on a controlling partner;
- fears of homelessness and being forced to live in unsuitable or unsafe housing;
- being denied help from their local housing team; and
- experiencing difficulties in finding a landlord who would accept rent paid by state benefits.

<https://www.womensaid.org.uk/research-and-publications/the-domestic-abuse-report/#1591695497517-40f51edc-3224>

Virtual Training from Safeguarding Boards

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Partnership Boards have created some virtual training, which can be found on their website

<http://www.safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk/home/covid-19/e-learning-during-covid-19/>

The courses include

- Introduction to Safeguarding Children (Part 1)
- Recognising Adults at Risk (Part1)
- Safeguarding Adults from Online Abuse
- Safeguarding Children from Online Abuse
- Safeguarding for Volunteers

Additional courses, including ones on domestic abuse and sexual violence are being developed over the coming weeks and will be added to the website.

Children experiencing DA – local support still available

Embrace are still offering support and accepting referrals for their service supporting children who have experienced domestic abuse. Children must be aged 7 upwards and not in contact with the perpetrator. Alternative methods of delivering support are being developed at the moment to make it as accessible as possible, including Walk & Talk.

To make a referral, please visit <https://embracecvoc.org.uk/refer-a-child/>

Messages for survivors of sexual violence and abuse

In early May the Ministry of Justice launched a series of short videos aimed at victims and survivors of child sexual abuse, rape and all forms of sexual violence.

The videos feature specialist support workers, including Dawn, Fiaza and Jess from the Rape Crisis England & Wales movement, speaking directly to those impacted by these traumatic crimes. The overarching message is strong and clear: "We are still here for you. You are not on your own with this."

<https://youtu.be/dpTCRMEcKMg>

Could you Reach In to help stop domestic abuse?

SafeLives Pioneers, a group of survivors of domestic abuse who use their experiences to drive change, have spoken out about times when someone 'reached in' to help them, and the difference it made. Here we'll be sharing their stories, as well as practical help and guidance on what to do if you're worried about someone you know. Personal stories about how neighbours, friends and even strangers helped them

<https://safelives.org.uk/reach-in>

Additional funding awarded to help domestic abuse and sexual violence victims in Cambridgeshire

LOCAL charities supporting victims and survivors of domestic abuse or sexual violence have received a funding boost from Acting Police and Crime Commissioner Ray Bisby.

The money, totalling £279,108, is being awarded to 12 organisations who provide individual or family support to local residents who have experienced domestic abuse or sexual violence before or during lockdown. It will be used to fund both technology to improve access to services and to provide additional capacity within charities to respond to demand for help as lockdown eases. It also enables practical resources to be bought to help people moving out of refuge into their own homes and individual issue play therapy toys so young victims to continue to receive specialist support.

The awards are part of a wider package of measures announced in May by the Government to provide extra funding to support victims and survivors of domestic abuse, sexual violence, vulnerable children and their families during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Ministry of Justice asked Police and Crime Commissioners to distribute their element of these funds in local areas through a local needs assessment which was promoted on the Commissioner's website last month. It was only open to charities already providing services in the county.

Acting Police and Crime Commissioner, Ray Bisby explains: "For people experiencing domestic and sexual abuse, staying at home during prolonged periods such as lockdown can present serious challenges. However I have been nothing short of impressed by the innovative ways many of our local services have adapted to ensure vulnerable people can access the emotional and practical support they need. Entire teams are now operating from their respective homes and still keeping helplines open.

"This additional funding not only reimburses small charities with the costs they have incurred but also enables them to continue to meet the needs of those people who need to use them."

In Cambridgeshire the following charities were successful in their bids to the fund locally:

- **Cambridge & Peterborough Rape Crisis Partnership**
- **The Meadows Children and Family Wing**
- **Choices**
- **One Voice 4 Travellers**
- **NSPCC**
- **Refuge**
- **Peterborough Women's Aid**
- **Family Action**
- **The Hampton Trust (Hampshire and The Isle of Wight)**
- **Embrace Child Victims of Crime**
- **Cambridge Women's Aid**
- **Cambridgeshire Deaf Association**



JOB VACANCY: SERVICE MANAGER (FEMALE APPLICANTS ONLY)

Peterborough Women's Aid are looking for a candidate with –

- knowledge and considerable experience of domestic abuse against women and children
- personal drive to manage and develop Refuge services and Outreach services in our community
- ability to maintain and develop local and national strategic networks and work collaboratively with partner organisations, local charities, businesses, our community and public bodies
- ability to seek out new funding and manage bid applications

You will be based locally but there will be some travelling for liaison both across the region and nationally.

Hours: 25 hours per week in the first instance. Contract renewable in March annually subject to funding availability

Salary: £20605.00 per annum

Closing Date: 17th July 2020

If you are interested in this very rewarding job, please send for an application pack to Carole Epsom, email: carole.epsom@wa-support.co.uk Tel: 08454103123 Mon-Fri 10-2pm

An enhanced DBS disclosure will be required for this role.

This post is open to women only under the Equality Act 2010, schedule 9 (part 1).

Peterborough Women's Aid is an equal opportunity employer. Registered Charity No: 1180370

Online Platform for Stalking victims

The Suzy Lamplugh Trust is launching a new online platform for victims of stalking to access support. The tool details services available across London by borough. Over the course of 2020 the tool will be developed to incorporate more detail on local services across the UK. Initially launched in English, the platform will be available in multiple languages in the upcoming months to ensure that language is not a barrier to access stalking support.

The tool is available through the Suzy Lamplugh Trust website, and can be completed by victims of stalking and their friends and family, to be directed to specialist advice as well as services and support mechanisms in their area. [Click here to access the online platform.](#)

Stalking and Harassment support in Cambridgeshire

From the 30 June the Stalking and Harassment IDVA role will officially end. This post worked with clients experiencing Stalking and Harassment, whether this be linked to domestic abuse or whether it was non-domestic abuse related such as stalking from a colleague or someone unknown to the victim. This was always intended to be a short-term post to embed the learning into other services.

From 1st July the Victim and Witness Hub will offer support to victims of crime where there is non-domestic abuse related stalking. High-risk victims of domestic abuse related stalking can still be referred to the IDVA Service. These cases can be referred using the standard DASH risk assessment found on the DASV website at https://www.cambsdasv.org.uk/website/referral_forms/296136

We are very lucky that Andrea Watts our S+H IDVA will be remaining with the service and will continue to work with high-risk victims of DA Stalking and will remain as a specialist source of knowledge within the team.

Online Safety for young people

'Send me a pic?', the new Thinkuknow online safety education resource from NCA-CEOP, launched recently and has been awarded the PSHE Association Quality Mark.

This key stage 3 resource pack is free to access and contains a series of three lesson plans which centre around seven films depicting fictional online chats. The chats show young people requesting, receiving and discussing issues related to the sharing of nude images.

The resource aims to help young people to spot the signs of manipulative, pressurising and abusive behaviour, and helps them to develop the skills, knowledge and confidence they need to identify risk online and access help when they need it.

[Download 'Send me a pic?' from the Thinkuknow website](#)

Job Vacancy – Missing From Home Worker

Cambridgeshire Constabulary are currently in the process of developing an early intervention missing from home role to work with young people (aged 11-17 years) following their very first missing episode. The aim is to identify vulnerabilities and indicators of exploitation at the earliest possible opportunity and then work with the young person and their family to divert them from such lifestyle through support, education and partner intervention. This role will require internal and external partnership working and the ability to build relationships with young people and their families through effective communication.

Briefly, successful applicants will require:

- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Some experience of partnership working
- The ability to work alone and as part of a team
- Enthusiasm and a strong work ethic
- The ability to assess risk based on a variety of sources of material
- A full driving license

There will be two positions – one based in the South of the County and one in the North. This will be for a 12 month pilot. Salary has not been confirmed at this time.

If anybody is interested, please could they contact David.Savill@cambs.pnn.police.uk and provide a telephone number to arrange an informal discussion about the role. Owing to a very tight timescale, expressions of interest are invited up to and including Thursday 9th July only

Safe Spaces update

Safe Spaces launched during May with charity Hestia's UK Says No More campaign to create safe havens at pharmacies where abuse victims can use a consulting room, talk to specially trained pharmacists and be signposted to specialist support.

There are now more than 3,000 Safe Spaces launched at pharmacies including Boots, independent pharmacies and at pharmacies inside Morrisons supermarkets.

While the total number of people who have used a Safe Space since they were launched is not yet known, Boots have told Hestia that in the first week, the Safe Spaces were used more than 100 times. There are plans to evaluate the scheme later in the year.

Women and Gambling-Related Harm – FREE online training

Book your place using Eventbrite: <https://bit.ly/2z7HqRP>

GamCare is a national provider of free information, advice and treatment for anyone affected by problem gambling. There are around 500,000 problem gamblers in the UK, up to 20% of whom are women. For every person who has a problem with gambling, up to 10 other people can be affected, and women are disproportionately at risk of experiencing gambling-related harm. Gambling-related harm can include debt, relationship difficulties, housing issues, gender-based violence, health problems, depression and anxiety, feelings of isolation, and suicidality.

Our FREE training is usually offered face-to-face, but we now have a 1.5 hour session which we are delivering online via Zoom. Individuals can register to attend the training at their convenience, using a mobile phone, tablet, or laptop.

During the training session, we will talk about gambling-related harm, risk factors, impacts, and how to identify and support people affected. Learn about our treatment network and how to refer clients to treatment services. This training is essential for any professionals who work with women and families.

Economic Abuse and Covid-19 – new resources

As part of Surviving Economic Abuse's *response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak*, they have produced a number of new resources to support women experiencing economic abuse and to provide information for concerned friends and family members as well as banks, building societies and mortgage providers.

The new resources published on the *our resources page* are available to view or request.

Asking safely about abuse in virtual appointments

This guidance is to support health professionals to safely ask patients about domestic abuse (DA) in virtual settings for example on the telephone or online. It sets out five simple steps to help you identify and respond to people who might be at risk. It can be applied in services which use routine enquiry, for example maternity services, as well as services using clinical enquiry, such as general practice.

https://www.cambsdasv.org.uk/website/covid-19_resources/495109

Government to review support in the workplace for survivors of domestic abuse

The review, launched by Business Minister Paul Scully, will look at options to improve the workplace for survivors, including how employers can help tackle economic abuse, such as by paying wages to a different bank account or making emergency salary payments available for those in real financial hardship.

The review aims to ensure survivors are given the support they deserve within the workplace, whether that is an outlet for reporting abuse, financial assistance or as a source of emotional support.

It will begin with a call for written evidence from stakeholders, on the specific employment needs of domestic abuse survivors, and how they are met by current employment rights and practices.

As part of the process, the government will explore examples of best practice from employers within the UK and evidence from other countries and how they approach domestic abuse, to see how the UK's current employment framework could be enhanced.

The review will also include a series of roundtables, run by the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and Home Office (HO), with organisations and individuals who wish to share their views directly.

Written submissions will be accepted until 9 September and should be sent to domesticabuse.employmentreview@beis.gov.uk, answering 1 of the below open questions:

- what practical circumstances arise in relation to domestic abuse and work?
- what support can be offered in the workplace for victims of domestic abuse?
- what is possible with the existing framework?
- what does current best practice look like?
- what is the potential to do more?

Research Opportunity

The “**Gender and IoT**” (G-IoT) research project at University College London explores the impact of emerging technologies on victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence. The group is part of the Violence, Abuse and Mental Health Network and is currently looking to interview representatives from the domestic abuse sector (broadly defined). If you have previous experience with and exposure to victims and survivors that have been, for example, stalked via smartphones, harassed via the Internet or coerced and controlled through other digital devices, the G-IoT team would be delighted to talk to you. Interviews would be conducted via online means such as Microsoft Teams or phone, are expected to last between 30-40min, and should help to provide the much-needed evidence-based to further improve research and practice on these evolving risks. If you would like to participate, please get in touch with Dr Leonie Tanczer (l.tanczer@ucl.ac.uk).

DO YOU USE A HEARING AID OR FIND YOURSELF HARD-OF-HEARING...OR DOES SOMEONE IN YOUR FAMILY?

If so, **Cambridgeshire Hearing Help** (CHH) are setting up a new online social group - just for you!

Called '**Cambridgeshire Hear for You community**', this is a new way of keeping in touch and exchanging views and ideas, whether it's about hearing loss, or just your news, ideas and messages about literally anything.

Many people have used social media to keep in touch with family and friends in recent times. This is a chance to be in contact with more people locally, who share your interests. It is being established on Facebook and is a 'closed group', giving members the extra safety and security, that only other members will be able to see your comments. It is also completely free.

You can join 'Cambridgeshire Hear for You community' NOW by going to the 'Cambridgeshire Hearing Help' page on Facebook, click on 'Groups' then on 'Join'. If you have any difficulty, simply enter the following link in your search

engine: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/cambridgeshirehearforyoucommunity/>

Review of Family Courts response to Domestic Abuse

A government review, led by experts from charities, the judiciary, family law practitioners and academia, took the views of more than 1,200 organisations and individuals, including parents and children with experience of the family courts.

It heard concerns about a "pro-contact culture", in which courts placed undue priority on ensuring contact with the non-resident parent, resulting in "systemic minimisation of allegations of domestic abuse". The panel also heard evidence about potential long-term harm to children as a result of courts ordering continued contact with an abusive parent and found that an "adversarial system" in the family courts, including in cases involving child sexual abuse, often worsened conflict between parents and could re-traumatise victims and their children.

"Sweeping reforms" of the system aimed to better protect domestic abuse victims in the family courts, the Ministry of Justice said.

They include:

- Automatic entitlement to separate waiting rooms, entrances and screens in court for victims of domestic abuse, to be included in the upcoming Domestic Abuse Bill
- More powers for judges in the form of "barring orders" to prevent abusers repeatedly dragging ex-partners back to court and re-traumatising victims
- A review of the presumption of "parental involvement" and the balance between risk of harm to children and victims, and the right of the child to have a relationship with both parents
- A trial of a new domestic abuse court with a "problem-solving approach" where a judge explores evidence rather than parents presenting their cases against each other
- A commitment to improved training for professionals in the family justice system

Local funding opportunities

The Anglian Water Positive Difference Fund will provide grants to support projects which have a positive impact on the people and communities they serve, allowing them to provide help and connecting people with the practical and essential support they need.

The first part of the fund is open to constituted community organisations throughout Cambridgeshire, who are supporting vulnerable, isolated and older people at this time.

It will provide community organisations with emergency funding to deal with emerging issues in the community, as a result of the continuing threat of coronavirus, and the need for self-isolation, and potential for further exacerbation of loneliness and isolation. This will include; the need for self-isolation, financial hardship, potential for hunger, lack of shelter, further exacerbation of health issues, loneliness and isolation.

<https://www.cambscf.org.uk/anglian-water-positive-difference-fund.html>

The **Cambridgeshire Coronavirus Community Fund** is open to constituted community organisations throughout Cambridgeshire (including Peterborough), who are supporting isolated older and vulnerable people at this time.

Grants between £1,000 and £5,000 will be considered (larger grants may be available for groups working in partnership). We aim for the process to take between 5 and 10 working days.

The focus of the fund will be to offer community organisations emergency funding to deal with emerging issues in the community, affecting older people (aged 60 and over) and other vulnerable people (high risk, pre-existing medical conditions, etc), as a result of the continuing threat of Covid-19. This will include; the need for self-isolation, financial hardship, potential for hunger, lack of shelter, further exacerbation of health issues, loneliness and isolation of these people.

To be eligible to apply your project must support older people or other vulnerable people and help to:

- Supporting ongoing needs of people, to ensure that their well-being is maintained,
- Reduce isolation and vulnerability during any isolation period that may arise as a result of the threat of Covid-19,
- Any initiative that will help ensure people remain, safely connected with the outside world during this time.

<https://www.cambscf.org.uk/cambridgeshire-coronavirus-community-fund.html>

Children and Young People’s Experiences of Domestic Violence—A Retrospective Study

Lauren Milner from the University of Northampton is looking for research participants for her MSc in Child and Adolescent Mental Health. The purpose of the study is to understand the impact experiencing domestic violence, from either a family member or intimate partner during childhood or adolescence, has on an individual throughout their life. As it has been shown that it can have a detrimental and long-lasting impact. Furthermore, research suggests that the impacts of exposure to domestic violence can be just as great as those directly abused. Therefore, this will be addressed within the study and treated as one, rather than separately. It is hoped that the information gained through this study will highlight key areas to inform domestic violence interventions with children and young people. As well as increase understanding

For the research, Lauren needs 6-10 adult participants who are willing to be interviewed about their experiences of domestic violence as a child or young person (0-17 years). Participants must be over the age of 23, no longer living or in contact with their abuser and their last experience of domestic violence is more than 3 years ago. This is to protect participants.

Interviews will be conducted via an online web conferencing app named ‘Zoom’. The identity of participants will remain anonymous, as pseudonyms will be used throughout the research. Also, GDPR and participant confidentiality will be upheld throughout.

If you are interested in participating and would like more information regarding the study, then a participant information sheet can be provided.

For further details, please contact LaurenMilner91@outlook.com

More research opportunities

University of Sussex is currently recruiting for participants for an anonymous survey. The study is about how Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) operate in England and Wales. People can take part if they are aged 18 or over and have participated in a DHR in England or Wales. This could be as a family member or a friend (of someone who was a subject of a DHR), in a professional capacity (as an advocate for family or friends, an independent chair, someone who commissioned a DHR, as a panel member, report writer, review panel member, or in some other way) or if you are a reader for, or member of, the national Quality Assurance Panel. For more details and to take the questionnaire, please go to: <https://bit.ly/2UdpSf8>.

New survey - Supporting off-radar children and young people who are at risk of violence/abuse in their household

For many children and young people, home is not a place of safety but a place of risk. [Survivors' Voices](#), [McPin Foundation](#), and the Violence Abuse and Mental Health Network want to find practical ways to help identify and support children and young people at risk of violence and abuse.

Please consider taking part in our anonymous online survey if:

- You have experience of being a child or young person at risk of violence and abuse from someone in your household
- Or you work with children and young people at risk of violence and abuse, or both.
- You are physically safe and emotionally able to do so.
- You are aged 16 or older and live in the UK.

You will not be asked to provide information about your experiences of violence and abuse. The survey takes about 20 minutes to complete. Your responses will be anonymous and treated confidentially.

To access the survey – and more detailed information – please go to https://kclbs.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_831tV8UY8xXxIRP