



**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

September 2021

Hi All!

September always feels like the start of a new year, with new things happening. This year is no exception, and there is much happening in the world of domestic abuse and sexual violence across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

There are places available on group programmes across the county for victim/survivors of domestic abuse – details within this newsletter. There are also a number of additional roles beginning to support victim/survivors which are possible with additional funding from government. Working with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner a number of successful funding bids will mean more support is available and that we will have opportunities to offer programmes to those using abusive behaviours against their parents, and those abusing their partners. These are pilot programmes which we hope will be informative for future delivery.

As ever, we welcome any feedback from victim/survivors of domestic abuse, and there is now an opportunity for this to be done anonymously via SADA – feedback is vital to ensure the excellent practice continues, and that there is learning from practice which is not helpful. Please encourage those you are working with to contact Chloe at SADA about their experiences. Equally, if you would like to contact as a professional, feel free to do so.

For our Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence, we are incredibly excited that we have three organisations presenting at the DASV Champions sessions in October – Stalking, Child to Parent Abuse and Substance Misuse – such important topics and we are proud to be working closely with The Suzy Lamplugh Trust, PEGS and CGL to ensure effective responses to these issues.

If there is anything Julia and I can help you with in relation to DASV, as ever, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Vickie Crompton & Julia Cullum
DASV Partnership Managers



DASV Champions Network – October sessions

The next sessions will be held in October, over Teams, the sessions will feature 3 presentations, one from CGL about substance misuse, PEGS ([About Us | Pegs Support \(pegsupport.co.uk\)](#)), to talk about Child to Parent Abuse and Suzy Lamplugh Trust with an update on a new project running locally.

The dates of the sessions are below. To book a place, please email DASVChampions@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

19th October – 10am – 12.30pm

21st October – 2pm – 4.30pm

26th October - 2pm – 4.30pm

Older People's DASH pilot

A reminder that we are piloting an Older People's DASH for a 6 month period from 1st August 2021 across Health and Social Care (although practitioners and volunteers from any organisation working with older people are encouraged to use it as well). The OP DASH is for use with victims/survivors of domestic abuse aged over 60.

You can access the OP DASH on our website [at Welcome to Cambridgeshire DASV Partnership \(cambsdasv.org.uk\)](#). We have also developed some guidance for any professional working with older people and domestic abuse - this is available on the same page but is still in draft form at present.

New service to gather feedback from domestic abuse survivors and their children

As part of new statutory duties placed on local authorities by the Domestic Abuse Act, Cambridgeshire County Council have commissioned Survivors Against Domestic Abuse (SADA) to gather feedback from victims/survivors and children across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. SADA will be collating the experiences of using a range of services from victims/survivors and children who have experienced domestic abuse through a project which commences on the 1st of September 2021.

The project will run for 12 months and work with partners to feedback on the services the clients received from the different agencies across the county.

For more information please contact SADA at SADAFedbackproject@stevenage.gov.uk or call 07923253332.

Update from NSPCC

I am writing to let you know that since I last got in touch about the proposed changes to how we deliver some of our services to children and families, following a consultation we have decided to proceed with the changes.

I would like to reassure you that all open cases will continue, and an agreed programme of work will be completed for each service user. We hope this reassures you but please do not hesitate to get back in touch with me if you have any questions at all.

This does mean that we have taken the decision to close Peterborough service centre as we move to a new model of service delivery, however this will be once we complete the work on our current open cases. We will be establishing a regional hub in 2022 from which we will coordinate direct services, local campaigns and work with schools in the region, including our *Speak out Stay safe* assemblies for primary schools.

I'd be very happy to talk to you further about our new approach to delivering services for children and families in the Eastern Region in future. We have set up an NSPCC Service Users Helpline to support parents and families with any concerns at 0800 413 141.

Yours faithfully

Andrew Skea, Assistant Director, NSPCC



Walk a Mile in Her Shoes

Councillor Hilary Cox-Condron has kindly shared the photograph on the left with us, showing some of the participants of the 'Walk a Mile' event held in Wisbech in August to raise funds for the Ferry Project. Cllr Neil Shailer also joined the walk, Neil is one of the White Ribbon Ambassadors for Cambridgeshire County Council.

Donations can still be made at [Virgin Money Giving | Walk a Mile - Sponsored Walk](#)

Police awarded 11.3 million in England and Wales to target domestic abuse interventions

The Home Office has awarded £11.3 million to 25 Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) in England and Wales, to be targeted towards domestic abuse intervention programmes. The programmes focus on interventions encouraging behaviour change to stop perpetrators from committing domestic abuse. Funding will also focus on key areas such as stalking prevention and supporting adolescent perpetrators.

To secure funding, commissioners were able to bid for up to three projects in partnership with a local service provider of their choice. The programmes use different methods to encourage behaviour change, including 1-to-1 and group therapy and community-based activity.

Additional funds for Cambridgeshire include:

- more than half a million pounds (£559,894) over two years for an extra eight specially trained staff to support the most vulnerable victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence;
- just over £300k to further tackle domestic abuse and stalking from the Home Office Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Fund;
- a successful bid on behalf of Cambridge and Peterborough Rape Crisis Partnership for £18,807 to the Male Rape Support Fund;
- further funding to support victims and survivors of domestic abuse and child sexual abuse worth nearly £100k from the Ministry of Justice Critical Support Fund which will provide a specialist Stalking and Harassment IDVA for two years and local support services.

Spaces available on Freedom course

Living Keys provides courses for Men, Women and children who have experienced the trauma of Domestic Abuse. These courses, and Application Forms for the courses can be found on our Website <https://www.livingkeys.co.uk>

Our next Freedom Programme will be running in September, we are hoping to be able to do this face to face, however, there is a possibility that we may have to cover the course by Zoom. We are currently taking applications for all our courses, which will start up in September after the school holidays. There are limited spaces, so to avoid disappointment please get referrals in as soon as possible. All courses available can be seen on our website <https://www.livingkeys.co.uk>

Harm in young people's relationships

SafeLives are asking young people aged 11-25 what they think about relationships. Please pass the link to any young people you know.

The Verge of Harm[ing] project is exploring how and why young people begin to use harmful behaviours in their relationship and will be sharing the learning with professionals and all those coming across young people in their work. It will include best practice recommendations for preventative support for young people, and interventions for those already harming.

SafeLives, together with a panel of young people, have co-created the #IsItOk? campaign and survey. The survey is available in English, Welsh, Polish, Punjabi and Urdu.

[Complete the survey here](#). It closes 8th October.

Sexual Harassment in Schools

You will be aware of the recent focus in the media on sexual harassment in schools and the recent changes to DfE and Ofsted documents in relation to this.

In response, all secondary schools in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough will be given a copy of Safer Corridors Action Toolkit, a pupil voice toolkit which supports schools in raising the issue and preventing sexual harassment.

Secondary colleagues are invited to a virtual briefing on the toolkit on **22nd September 3.45-4.45pm**. This work is being led jointly by PSHE Service, Education Safeguarding and C&P Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership.

Please sign up to the briefing here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfm5ETWIRDcL_aFoYTQOJ62vbr-8XYY_f51Gqy_kfDdE_2Y_g/viewform?usp=sf_link

More details of the resource are available here: [Safer Corridors Action Toolkit - Learn Together \(camblearntogether.co.uk\)](http://camblearntogether.co.uk)

Contact Cathy.murphy@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Forced Marriage and school holidays

The Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) have 3 short videos to highlight the increased reports of forced marriage during school holidays. These videos show how to spot the signs of forced marriage and focus on 3 young people all affected by these issues.

The FMU has also produced an [abridged audio version](#) of the Right to choose: consequences of forced marriage video. The FMU also commissioned the audio in [5 additional languages](#): Arabic, Bengali, Punjabi, Somali and Urdu.

The films are available on YouTube [Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office - YouTube](#)

A medal for Luci



Lucille Weir, who works for CGL, was awarded the British Empire Medal for her services to the Vulnerable Women's cohort earlier this month. Luci's work has been recognised as truly making a difference.

Shelley Ward from Cambridgeshire Police said 'Luci has not stopped her hard work and only this week Luci supported a vulnerable woman with opening a bank account with HSBC. CGL (Luci's employer) are a national charity, therefore Luci contacted HSBC HQ in Leeds and completed the required HSBC course, which assists charities gain access to banking pathways for the homeless (including temporary housed).

Luci is now an HSBC certified point of contact. As a professional, Luci can support the vulnerable women's cohort by verifying the woman's identity and assist the vulnerable woman set up an HSBC bank account. You may be aware many of the vulnerable women have no bank account and their benefits are paid into another person's bank account keeping the women vulnerable and open to exploitation.

This is another example of Luci going above and beyond to support the vulnerable and assisting the women with empowerment and choice.

Religious groups putting children at risk

The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual abuse has published report by IICSA into how major UK religious groups handle child sex abuse allegations.

It covers a series of religious groups including Jehovah's Witnesses, Baptists, Methodists, Islam, Judaism, Sikhism, Hinduism, Buddhism, and non-conformist Christian denominations.

The report found that many religious groups were putting children at risk by:

- Victim blaming
- Not openly discussing matters of sexuality
- Abuse of power by religious leaders
- Men dominating the leadership
- Mistrust of non-religious agencies
- Misusing the concept of "forgiveness"

<https://www.iicsa.org.uk/publications/investigation/child-protection-religious-organisations-settings/executive-summary>

Gypsy, Roma & Traveller DA support

In 2020 The Traveller Movement launched a specialist domestic abuse helpline that is available for all Gypsy, Roma and Traveller women looking for help in the UK. The women's workers can make direct referrals for assessment and support across the country.

The domestic abuse helpline number is: **0754 1637 795**

[Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence | TM \(travellermovement.org.uk\)](https://travellermovement.org.uk)

In Cambridgeshire and Peterborough we also work closely with One Voice 4 Travellers who work with and support members of the Gypsy Traveller and Roma communities who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress caused by or associated with violence.

[One Voice 4 Travellers](#)

Own my Life course for domestic abuse survivors

Own my Life is a course of 12 sessions (with another 4 optional for support and de-brief) for survivors of domestic abuse who are no longer in the abusive relationship. Each session is an hour long with a maximum of 12 participants. Refuge are now running the Own my Life course in Fenland / Peterborough / Huntingdon areas (first sessions will be on Zoom).

Refuge are also running a different version for male victims which will be more about awareness and recognising abuse.

Please see the leaflet at the end of the newsletter for more details, contact Carolyn_Shaw@refuge.org.uk

WHAT WOULD COURSE ATTENDEES SAY TO OTHER WOMEN CONSIDERING ATTENDING THE COURSE?

"THIS COURSE IS EXTREMELY HELPFUL AND HAS CHANGED MY LIFE."

"DEFINITELY DO IT!! I HAVE BENEFITED SO MUCH FROM IT AND SO HAVE THE OTHERS IN THE GROUP. IT'S LIFE CHANGING!!"

"YOU MAY FEEL YOUR LIFE ISN'T WORTH LIVING AS I DID BUT BY THE END OF THE COURSE YOU'LL FEEL YOU ARE AT THE BEGINNING OF NEW HAPPY CHAPTER AND FEEL FREE TO MAKE YOUR OWN DECISIONS FOR A GREAT FUTURE DOING WHAT MAKES YOU HAPPY."

"THIS COURSE WILL HEAL YOUR LIFE, GIVE YOU THE CONFIDENCE TO MOVE ON AND FIND HAPPINESS AND HEALING IN YOUR JOURNEY."

"THIS COURSE WILL GIVE YOU THE TOOLS TO TAKE BACK THAT POWER TO BE A STRONG INDEPENDENT WOMAN, WHO IS AMAZING JUST AS YOU ARE RIGHT NOW."

"PLEASE DO IT. YOU'RE BRAVE AND YOU WILL BE ABLE TO HANDLE IT. IT'S BEEN SUCH AN EYE OPENER AND HAS HELPED ME SO MUCH."

"IT'S AMAZING AND MAKES YOU SEE THAT IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT."

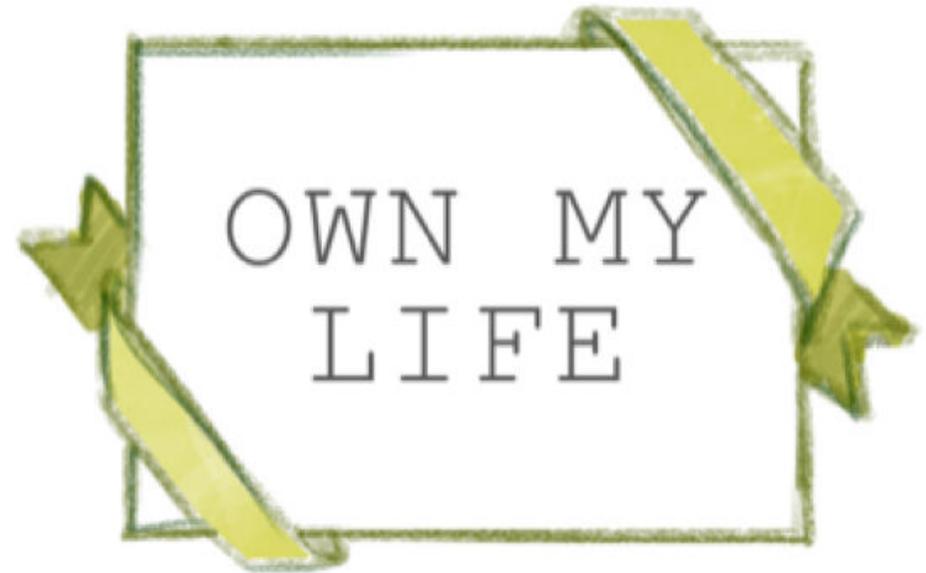
"THIS IS THE COURSE THAT WILL TRULY GIVE YOU BACK YOUR LIFE AND HELP YOU TO LOOK FORWARD WITH HOPE!"

"DO IT! YOU WON'T REGRET IT! IT WILL BE THE BEST THING YOU EVER DID."

"THIS COURSE WILL PUT YOU IN A PLACE OF POWER."

"DO IT!!!! YOU WILL BECOME YOURSELF AGAIN!"

THE OWN MY LIFE COURSE



WWW.OWNMYLIFECOURSE.ORG

HELPING WOMEN REGAIN OWNERSHIP OF THEIR LIVES

WHAT IS THE OWN MY LIFE COURSE?

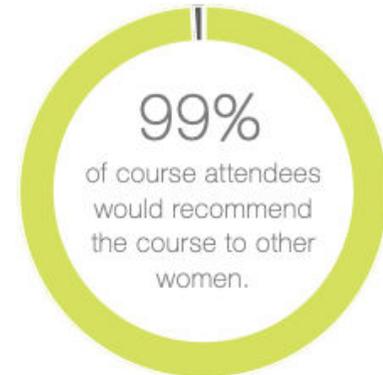
An innovative, creative, educational 12-week course for women, that can be run online or in-person. The course enables women to regain ownership of their lives after they have been in a relationship with someone who has hurt them. As part of a local service, the course facilitator will provide a caring, supportive and safe space for women to meet together and do the course (either in-person or online). It is really interactive with lots of short videos, quizzes, and discussion. Each woman receives the Own My Story journal which has all the ideas, key concepts and content from the course with space for reflection and notes.

WHY IS THE COURSE NEEDED?

Lots of women are hurt badly in relationships. This impacts them and their children dramatically and in long-lasting ways. The Own My Life Course helps women to make sense of what has been done to them and gives them the skills to move forward. The course helps women to discover what their strengths are and how they can move forward with their lives.

"YOU'VE GOT ALL THESE PEOPLE WHO THINK YOU'RE SILLY FOR GOING BACK OR STAYING WITH HIM AND THIS COURSE HELPS YOU TO KNOW WHY AND KNOW THAT YOU'RE NORMAL."

COURSE ATTENDEE



WHO CAN ATTEND THE OWN MY LIFE COURSE?:

Women who are dealing with a:

- Difficult relationship.
- Nightmare ex-partner.
- Horrible break up.
- Controlling partner or ex.

To attend an online course, women must have separated (and living separately from) the partner who hurt them.

MARJORIE



Marjorie is trying to make sense of her relationship. Her partner Jerome makes her feel small and stupid, he mocks her and humiliates her. At first the relationship was amazing, Jerome couldn't do enough for her, it was a whirlwind romance, he'd moved in within weeks. He keeps telling her they should have a baby to make the relationship better, but then he spends all their money and doesn't like Marjorie talking to her mum or going out with her friends.

SYLVIA



Sylvia's ex, Horatio, is a nightmare. He constantly changes the arrangements of when he's going to have the kids and when they come back from seeing him they're really difficult to manage. Horatio switches between sending Sylvia threatening messages and ringing her up crying and begging her to take him back. When they were together he cheated on her with her best friend and made her do sexual stuff she didn't like. Sylvia doesn't have any friends anymore, she feels anxious all the time.

VIVIENNE



Vivienne feels stupid. Her husband Gordon treats her really badly, but every time she tries to leave him, she ends up going back. Even though he's hurt her really badly, she always finds herself apologising to him. He twists her words, scares her and uses the kids to make her do what he wants. Vivienne's family have given up on her, she's close to losing her job because of Gordon's behaviour, but she feels like she can't live without him. She keeps asking herself, "What's wrong with me?!"

The Own My Life course may be able to help Marjorie, Sylvia and Vivienne make sense of what's going on for them.

