



**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**

**November 2021**

Hi All!

This is the month that the newsletter goes orange! Orange is the theme colour for the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women & Girls which takes place on 25<sup>th</sup> November, and it's also White Ribbon Day and the start of 16 Days of Action.

Both Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council have **White Ribbon** Accreditation so there will be a White Ribbon flag raising at New Shire Hall on 25<sup>th</sup> November. In Peterborough the Mayor will be joining White Ribbon Ambassador Cllr John Howard for a flag raising at 12 noon and there will be a stall with information about White Ribbon and Peterborough Women's Aid will also be there.

We are really excited this month to launch a new scheme to make **libraries across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough safe spaces for domestic abuse victims**. Library staff have received training on how to signpost to specialise support services and posters and leaflets will be available in all libraries to explain how the scheme works – people can use a private room where available to contact support services or use library computers for online chat support.

We will be using the 16 Days of Action that run from 25<sup>th</sup> November to 10<sup>th</sup> December to share news of other work we've been doing so do follow our social media to keep up to date.

Our October DASV Champions sessions were attended by over 200 people which was amazing! We have the details for the January sessions on our website

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



## **New national guidance around DA and learning disability**

The Us Too project ran from 2019-2021 with an aim of improving information and outcomes for women with learning disabilities who experience domestic abuse. The project, ran by ARC England, worked with women with learning disabilities and autism to develop guidance for professionals working in social care and for domestic abuse support services.

Amanda from the DASV Partnership was asked to quality assure the documents and we are really pleased that they are now available and that colleagues in social care and the Safeguarding Boards will be sharing them. We are encouraging all services to use the guidance.

You can download both sets of guidance from [The 'Us Too' Project: domestic abuse and women with learning disabilities, autism or both - ARC England](#)

Look out on our social media for messages promoting this guidance during Safeguarding Adults Week 15-21 November

## **Call for feedback on domestic abuse services**

Here at the DASV Partnership Team, our aim is to improve the experience of support from agencies for those suffering from domestic abuse. We really want to hear about experiences that were positive, did one agency do something that made a real impact on your client, or their situation. Do your clients reflect on their experience and would like to share this for the benefit of others?

We know situations can be complex, and often it is the small things that can make a difference. We really want to hear about them so we can increase learning and improve practice. These can be positive, negative and everything in between.

We would also love to hear from young people who were suffering domestic abuse at home – is there anything they would wish to share? Is there anything that “we” could have done to improve their situation?

Is there anything you, as a professional would like to feed in about the system yourself?

All feedback will be anonymous, and not used in anyway to identify you personally.

*Chloe Stewart* is there to listen, and pass back relevant information to us at the DASV Partnership.

07923253332 [SADAFedbackproject@stevenage.gov.uk](mailto:SADAFedbackproject@stevenage.gov.uk) please don't hesitate to get in touch!

## **Alcohol Awareness Week**

Alcohol Awareness Week takes place between 15-21<sup>st</sup> November and the national theme for this year is 'Alcohol and relationships'.

National Alcohol Awareness Week is a chance for the UK to get thinking about drinking. It's a week of awareness-raising, encouraging the public to think about their relationship with alcohol and for us to highlight local support services that are available to help individuals to make changes.

The covid pandemic has had a significant impact on wellbeing with some individuals struggling with feelings of isolation and loneliness which has led to increases in alcohol consumption. From a national perspective we are starting to recognise the impact with higher numbers of alcohol related deaths and generally people struggling with their alcohol consumption and leaving it later to seek help.

Alcohol can have a negative impact on loved ones and affect wider relationships in our lives

So Alcohol awareness week provides us with the opportunity to drive a conversation about alcohol and signpost those who need help to the support they need.

We have a new page on the Cambs DASV website with some information about domestic abuse and substance misuse as well as links to local services [Welcome to Cambridgeshire DASV Partnership \(cambsdasv.org.uk\)](https://www.cambsdasv.org.uk)

## **Al-Anon Family Groups**

Al-Anon came to the UK in 1951 with the first group being formed in Belfast.

Since that time, Al-Anon has grown in the UK and Republic of Ireland into a network of over 700 self-help groups and continues to attract new members every day of the week.

Al-Anon is non-religious, non-political and multi-racial. Al-Anon is available, free of charge, to anyone who is or has been affected by someone else's drinking, including adult children of alcoholics, parents, partners, spouses, other relatives and friends of problem drinkers.

Alcohol abuse and alcoholism within a family affects not only the drinker but also the family members, including the children and friends. Our recent survey shows that 99% of people who attend Al-Anon meetings were emotionally affected by their loved ones' drinking, 66% were affected mentally, 63% were affected financially and 44% were affected physically. These effects include depression, anxiety, stress, domestic abuse and much more.

The website has much more information including links for professionals, case studies.

[www.al-anonuk.org.uk](http://www.al-anonuk.org.uk) Helpline 7 days a week 0800 086 811

## **The iMatter Programme: for women who have experienced domestic abuse**

Victim Support's iMatter programme has been designed for women aged 16 and over who have been, or are currently, victims of domestic abuse.

It is suitable for those who are not high risk, and is available in the following languages: English, Welsh, Urdu, Bengali, Polish and Gujarati.

The programme is delivered online, by Zoom, across 10 weeks in groups of up to 12 women. Sessions are facilitated by two specially-trained Victim Support staff members. Each session lasts approximately 90 minutes.

Each session focuses around group discussion and the sharing of ideas, but participants will not be asked to share anything they do not wish to. The focus of iMatter is not on individual experiences, but on helping victims of domestic abuse move on in their recovery journey.

The programme looks at the importance of self-worth, self-care and mindfulness.

Cambs DASV website has a new page with details of all victim/survivor support programmes in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough - find out about iMatter and other programmes at: [Welcome to Cambridgeshire DASV Partnership \(cambsdasv.org.uk\)](https://www.cambsdasv.org.uk)

## **Economic Abuse victims denied Legal Aid**

A new report from Surviving Economic Abuse, [Denied justice](#), shows that the means test in England and Wales is preventing victim-survivors from accessing legal aid by not taking account of the economic abuse they have experienced. The means test often deems their income or capital too high for support from legal aid, even though the abuser's behaviour means they cannot access their income or assets.

Of the women SEA spoke to, a significant number were living in poverty and struggling to afford essentials, like food for their children, yet were refused legal aid.

The report shows that, without legal aid victim-survivors are:

- unable to leave abusers because they cannot afford the legal costs of separation
- unable to rebuild their lives separate from the abuser because of legal costs
- exposed to further economic abuse by abusers through the court system.

## **County Lines campaign launches for schools and communities**

A CAMPAIGN to raise awareness of 'county lines' drug dealing and prevent the criminal exploitation of young and vulnerable people has been launched with an online film premiere. Cambs Against County Lines is a campaign from Cambridge Community Safety Partnership – of which Cambridge City Council is a partner. It aims to raise awareness amongst young people and adults in Cambridge city of the risks around county lines drug dealing and to help them to recognise the signs of the related grooming process that is a recognised part of this criminal operation. County lines is where illegal drugs are transported from one area to another by children or vulnerable people who are coerced into participation by gangs. A 'county line' is the term used to describe an organised criminal network using dedicated mobile phone numbers to move illegal drugs into an area. Drug dealers get young people to deliver their drugs by paying them or by forcing them through violence, coercion and grooming.

As part of the campaign, the short video which premiered recently plus other educational resources have been produced by AlterEgo Creative Solutions, for use in Cambridge secondary schools and other educational and community settings, primarily at Key Stage 3. The film and resource package produced for Cambridge focuses on a fictional young man named Dex who is involved in county lines drug dealing. The resources outline his 'six-point business model' where he talks about how he grooms and ultimately exploits young people to work for him as part of his operation. Sessions using this resource package are available for use in educational settings and will be made available for community based workshops. To find out more please contact [countylines@cambridge.gov.uk](mailto:countylines@cambridge.gov.uk)

For more information on Cambs Against County Lines, including links to resources, visit <https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/cambs-against-county-lines>

## **'Stuck in the Middle with You' – Domestic Abuse and Menopause**

'Stuck in the Middle with You', is a small scope study, funded by The Emmanuel Kaye Foundation. The project aims to increase understanding of how menopause impacts on women survivors' experience of domestic abuse and how women's experience of healthcare for menopause-related symptoms might have provided opportunities for disclosure.

Key project activities included: two focus groups with survivors of domestic abuse who had experienced menopause, a desk based literature review, and a consultation with General Practitioners in partnership with IRISi.

Emerging findings suggest menopause impacts women's relationships, especially with their intimate partner/s, while domestic abuse may impact menopause symptoms; with negative symptoms or experiences compounding or obscuring one another.

The study produced a literature review, research briefing and guidance for General Practice on the topic. [Resources Archive - AVA - Against Violence & Abuse \(avaproject.org.uk\)](#)

## **New report on immigration status**

Safety Before Status examines the existing evidence on national policy measures for victims and survivors with insecure immigration status, and provides new evidence on the pathways and barriers to support in practice. It draws on two independent pieces of research commissioned by the Domestic Abuse Commissioner in early 2021:

[Safety-Before-Status-Report-2021.pdf \(domesticabusecommissioner.uk\)](#)

## **Children and Young People's experiences of Unconscious Bias**

All of us are biased in one way or another. Our bias can be conscious or unconscious, innate or learnt – and ultimately results in us placing disproportionate weight in favour or against a person, idea, group or thing, often without evidence or just cause.

Unconscious biases are social stereotypes about certain groups of people that individuals form outside their own conscious awareness. Everyone holds unconscious beliefs about various social and identity groups and they are often incompatible with our consciously held values.

Whilst we all have biases, failing to recognise or address our bias can have catastrophic results at an individual and societal level. This is particularly true when we think about the unconscious biases that professionals/ volunteers may have and the impact it can have on children and young people.

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Boards have spoken to children and young people from across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough about their experiences of unconscious bias, how it makes them feel and what can be done to address it. The children and young people who we spoke to were both primary and secondary aged children from a range of ethnic and demographic backgrounds. Whilst they were a diverse group of children and young people, they had all experienced unconscious bias and they all agreed that it needed to be addressed. They kindly gave us their permission to use their experiences and quotes within this resource with the express hope that it would start a conversation and help people to think about their unconscious biases.

We hope that you find this resource useful and take the *time to start a conversation about unconscious bias*.

The resource takes approximately 10-15 minutes and can be accessed via the link below

<https://www.safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk/home/covid-19/e-learning-during-covid-19/children-and-young-peoples-experience-of-unconscious-bias/>

## **Family Respect Project**

The Family Respect project is part of a larger domestic abuse programme across Peterborough and Cambridgeshire which is being funded by the Home Office and delivered by YMCA Trinity. The programme in its entirety has three strands which focus on: stalking and harassment, healthy relationships, and child to parent abuse.

The Family Respect project is being led by YMCA Trinity Group through collaboration with The Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire & Peterborough, and Respect UK.

Our Family Respect project focuses on working with children and young people aged 10 to 16 years of age, who display any abusive behaviours towards their parents and carers, and other people in their family. The focus is to support families who are experiencing child to parent abuse with a particular focus on working with the child or young person to facilitate change and growth within the family as a wider system.

### **Can I make a referral to Family Respect?**

As we know, abuse takes many forms, and the signs are often invisible to those on the outside of it. Child to parent abuse is particularly hidden and misunderstood which often results in parents and carers feeling isolated, without any support.

Do you have a professional involvement with a child or young person aged 10 to 16 years of age, who you know is showing physical or violent behaviours towards other people in their home? Maybe they have caused damage to items in their home, or to items which belong to someone else? Have they used coercion and manipulation to control the freedom and choices of other people they live with? It could be that they use verbal insults or threats to other family members? Or perhaps the abuse focuses on stealing, demanding money, or other people's property?

For us to be able to accept a referral for a family we need to ensure that someone in the family has reached out to the police for support with the abusive behaviour and this might have been a phone call or by looking at information online. If a young person has engaged with youth offending services, this is another way we can accept a referral.

If you know a child or young person between 10 and 16 years of age who needs support because of any abusive behaviours they are exhibiting towards their parents or carers, or towards other people in their home, this could be a well-suited programme for them to get involved with.

If you know a young person outside of the age range, we still might be able to help provide support to them, so get in touch with us to discuss the referral in more detail so we can consider the support we might be able to offer.

The project is operating in Peterborough and Cambridgeshire and referrals will be taken based on the location the young person resides.

### **How does the Family Respect work take place?**

Our Family Respect project works with the child or young person in a face-to-face environment (where this is possible), working with them as part of the solution, rather than viewing them as the problem. The intention is for young people to build a trusting relationship through the duration of our involvement.

- Each family will be allocated a Family Respect worker who will complete the programme over a period of around 13 weeks.
- Throughout the duration of the programme, parent/carers will be offered support whilst the young person will be offered 8 individual sessions.
- 2 sessions will take place collaboratively with the young person and their parents, carers, or alongside other family members as appropriate.
- Each parent or carer will have the option to have their own support from an advocate which will enable them to share their own feelings and experiences about what has been happening, whilst giving thought to what the future might look like.

Our intention is to rebuild family relationships and create long lasting change for everyone in the family, by providing healthy and sustainable approaches to managing conflict.

If you have a young person in mind, please complete our Family Respect online referral form which you can access here: [Family Respect Project - Referral Form](#).

### **What consent do I need to have from the family?**

If you submit a referral to the Family Respect programme, it is a mandatory requirement and expectation that you have already gathered consent from anyone who has parental responsibility for the child or young person.

The family must understand that their consent means they are agreeing to being contacted by the Family Respect project.

You must obtain consent from the young person themselves where they are able to give their own consent.

You must have gained this consent from all relevant people prior to the referral form being submitted to us; referrals will not be able to progress without consent being in place.

### **How do I learn more about the Family Respect project?**

To make a referral please get in touch with the team by emailing [familyrespect@ymcatrinity.org.uk](mailto:familyrespect@ymcatrinity.org.uk) or by calling Melanie Khan (Family Respect Project/Service Manager) on 07771357187.

## **Sanctuary Scheme exemption**

Our colleagues at the Department for Work and Pension advise that from 1 October 2021 there is a [Sanctuary Scheme](#) exemption from the removal of the spare room subsidy. This exemption applies to claimants in the social rented sector whose home has had additional security installed under a Sanctuary Scheme due to domestic violence. Eligible Universal Credit claimants can claim the exemption by contacting their work coach or case manager. Housing Benefit claimants should speak to their local authority.



## Training updates

The Domestic Abuse elearning module has been updated and is now live on our website [Welcome to Cambridgeshire DASV Partnership \(cambsdasv.org.uk\)](#)

The Safeguarding Boards have training on using the DASH to assess risk to domestic abuse victims on 26<sup>th</sup> November (see below)

Upcoming multi-agency safeguarding training from the Safeguarding Adults and Children Partnership Board

Date	Course	Time
10th November 2021	Messages from Safeguarding Adult Reviews and Audits	13:00 – 14:30
15th November 2021	Introduction to Child Criminal Exploitation	10:30 – 12:30
25th November 2021	Introduction to Young Carers	09:30 – 11:30
26th November 2021	Domestic Abuse – Using the DASH to Risk Assess the situation	09:30 – 11:30

To book a place on any of our training, please visit <https://safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk/availabletraining/>

## Supporting children experiencing domestic abuse at home – free training session

AVA the independent national charity working to improve the response to victim-survivors of gender-based violence and abuse is working in partnership with Cambridgeshire County Council to help shape local guidelines and best practice in providing services for young people who are living with conflict, abuse, and violence.

Following a series of workshops with local young people and professionals and practitioners based in Cambridgeshire, AVA have produced a set of guidelines to support your work so it can make a real difference to the lives of children and young people in your area.

AVA are offering a free training session, (3 hrs), based on the developed guidelines, including:

- practical information on how children/young people experiencing abuse at home might present;
- what approaches, language and phrases to use with the child/young person to encourage disclosure;
- how to support both the child/young person as well as non-abusive parent; to ensure safety and wellbeing.

The course will comprise of interactive activities and group discussions.

### Who should attend?

This course is intended for professionals and practitioners based in Cambridgeshire, who work directly with children/young people experiencing domestic abuse at home. This course is not suitable for practitioners with no previous training in domestic violence.

Dates and times of training: 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> December 10.00 – 13.00 (only need to attend one session)

Register here: <https://www.bigmarker.com/against-violence-and-abuse/Supporting-Children-Experiencing-Domestic-Abuse-at-Home-Free-Training-Session>

## New training courses from Sun Network

Sun Network have just launched some new training courses and would like to hear from other organisations that might be interested in swapping training courses to save on cost of attendance

**Porn & Sex Addiction** training is an informative 3 hours course with examples from a myriad of addictions relating to sexuality. The next training is Thursday 11th November at 09:30 – 12:30, which will be hybrid via Zoom or in person at the Edge Cafe, 351 Cambridge, Mill Road. You will be sent your own 3 hour CPD certificate after attending regardless of whether you join online or in person in Cambridge. Other dates that you can book are in 2022: [Tues 18th January](#), [Thurs, 24th Feb](#), [Tues 5th April](#) and [Thurs 16th Jun](#) (all in the mornings from 9:30-12:30, online and in Cambridge)

**Recovering from Addiction** Training - Our next training (in person and online) dates are Thursday [24th February 2022](#) and [Thursday 16th June 2022](#) (both mornings). You will be sent your own 3 hour CPD (Continued Professional Development) certificate after attending. The training is an informative course drawn on years of experience and hours of recovery work with people from all walks of life and all sorts of trauma and expressions of addiction.

**Addiction Introduction:** Training - Understand environmental, biological and behavioural causes. What happens in the brain during the addiction cycle, and what has been found to help.

**Co-Production Training** - Learn the differences between collaboration, involvement and co-production. Understand the benefits, identify and remove the barriers, and learn how to successfully facilitate or be involved in co-production work. Contact us for more information [enquiries@sunnetwork.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@sunnetwork.org.uk).

All the info is here: <https://www.sunnetwork.org.uk/training/>

## Pets and Domestic Abuse

Did you know that pets are often used as a tool within domestic abuse, to coerce and control? Dog's Trust would like to invite you to join this free Webinar to explore this further with four of the UK's specialist pet fostering services and [The Links Group](#).

Sadly, research shows that there is a link between abuse to animals and abuse to people, with many perpetrators exploiting the bond that we have with our animals as a tool for abuse. During the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, we would like to take this opportunity to raise awareness of the issues surrounding pets and domestic abuse. Please join us for this session to discuss the topic in more detail and provide you with key information on the pet fostering services available to survivors.

[Refuge4Pets](#), [Cats Protection Paws Protect](#), [Dogs Trust Freedom Project](#), and [Endeavour](#) all offer specialist pet fostering services for people fleeing domestic abuse.

*Please join us on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December from 13.30 to 16.30, follow the link below to sign up to the event:*

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/exploring-the-connection-between-pets-and-domestic-abuse-registration-177238313567>

## Vacancies

### Support Workers vacancies

Cambridge Women's Resource centre are currently recruiting Support Workers for the Empowering Women Everywhere Project in Peterborough.

A partnership project supporting vulnerable women engaged in street sex work in the Peterborough region of Cambridgeshire. CWRC engage in women-centred working, this role is to provide care-coordinated support for women with complex needs who want support or to exit street based sex work.

The ideal candidates will be self-motivated, with energy, and experience of working with vulnerable adults. A developed sense of self-awareness who can work in a gender and trauma informed way.

Support Worker:

CWRC is seeking to hire 3x Support Workers who will be supporting our street sex working project in a housing project. This task involves liaising and engaging with vulnerable women, providing support plans, working in partnership, problem solving, and organising and participating in meetings, and ensuring that deadlines are met in a timely manner. Line management will be with Project Coordinator of CWRC.

This is a position for 1 year which we will be developing to support the partnership work of the Sexual Exploitation and Sex Working Partnership.

**37 hour posts £24,011.52 - 3 posts available.**

Some evening and weekends required.

This post is restricted to women applicants only and is exempt under Schedule 9, Part 1 of the Equality Act 2010. [Volunteering Cambridge \(cwrc.org.uk\)](https://www.volunteeringcambridge.org.uk)

### Volunteer Manager (maternity cover)

Cambridge Rape Crisis Centre (CRCC) is recruiting a Volunteer Manager (maternity leave cover) to recruit, support and manage volunteers to deliver safe, professional and accessible helpline, email and live chat support services for survivors; in accordance with CRCC policies, quality standards and strategic objectives.

The role will support CRCC to develop recruitment campaigns leading to diversification of our volunteer base and to develop, manage and deliver volunteer training.

#### Post details

- **Hours:** 37 hours per week (there will be some evening and weekend work)
- **Location:** Cambridge City
- **Post coverage:** Cambridgeshire
- **Salary:** £32,000 pro rata
- **Contract:** This post is a maternity leave cover – from January 2022 to January 2023

Full details of the post are in the job description, which is available to download [at Work with us - Cambridge Rape Crisis Centre](#)

## **Trustees needed at Peterborough Rape Crisis**

Peterborough Rape Crisis Care are currently seeking new trustees.

Please send your CV and a covering letter outlining:

- Your motivation for wanting the position
- Which skills you can offer
- How you heard about this position
- Whether you are interested in a core position or trustee role

Please send your details to Liz Cox, Trustee – [liz@prccg.org.uk](mailto:liz@prccg.org.uk). If you have any questions or would like to have an informal chat about the role, please contact Liz Cox at the above email.