



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

**July 2019**

Hello and welcome to our latest newsletter.

The big news this month is that on 16<sup>th</sup> July the Government's landmark Domestic Abuse Bill will be introduced in Parliament, signalling a major step forward in transforming the response to this crime. The Bill will introduce first ever government definition of domestic abuse, establish the Domestic Abuse Commissioner and introduce new Domestic Abuse Protection Orders. It also includes Government commitment to reviewing the support available to migrant victims of domestic abuse and new funding provided to specifically enable asylum seekers to access domestic abuse refuges and specialist support. We will keep you updated as the Bill progresses through Parliament.

Locally, we are about to publish our 2018-19 Annual Report so look out for this on our website – we have achieved so much over the last 18 months and support for families affected by domestic abuse and sexual violence is currently better than ever. However, a lot of the funding that has enabled us to deliver this is ending in 2020 so we are actively looking at what support will look like going forwards. If you have any ideas for funding we can access please do get in touch.

We hope you enjoy this newsletter and please do share any news from your service with us that we can include in future newsletters.

**Julia Cullum**  
**Partnership Manager**



## **New Break for Change holding programme**

YMCA Trinity will be delivering another Break4Change Holding Intervention will be running in **Cambridge City in September 2019.**

Below are some of the characteristics of child/adolescent to parent violence to help recognise some of the signs:

A young person (11 – 17yrs) could be:

- Controlling in the home environment where parents are having to modify their own behaviour through fear of consequences
- Being violent or aggressive towards the parent/carer, using weapons
- Putting the parent or carer down/name calling
- Missing from home as a use of control/not attending school
- Making threats/unreasonable demands with consequences
- Hurting siblings either physically or emotionally
- Demanding/stealing money

Any behaviour used by a young person to **control, dominate or coerce** parents/carers. It is intended to threaten and intimidate and puts family safety at risk

We have some families where there is violence at a high level, some low and some where there is no physical violence however there is a high level of coercive control. Some young people have diagnosis for ADHD, ASD, ODD, however we can still work with them as long as they are able to comprehend choice.

The next 6 week programme will start on **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September** between the hours of **6pm – 8pm**. This programme is for all families across the whole of Cambridgeshire to join. Young people and parents/carers groups work in parallel, however in separate rooms.

Once referrals have been submitted, we will make home visits and carry out assessments where professionals will be kept in the loop. For a referral form please contact [clare.taylor@ymcatrinity.org.uk](mailto:clare.taylor@ymcatrinity.org.uk)

### **Home Grown: how domestic violence turns men into terrorists – review**

This article looks at terrorist atrocities and how the most serious perpetrators have a proven track record with domestic abuse in their homes. Their first victims are often their nearest and dearest.

[Original story from The Guardian](#)

## **Forced Marriage Unit Statistics 2018**

The Home Office and Foreign and Commonwealth Office have just published their data on forced marriage for 2018. In 2018, the majority of cases — 1,322 (75%) — involved women, with 297 cases (17%) involving men (gender in the remaining cases was unknown).

These proportions are in line with previous years. Forced marriage is not a problem specific to one country or culture. Since 2011, the FMU has handled cases relating to over 110 countries across Asia, the Middle East, Africa, Europe and North America.

In 2018, the FMU handled cases relating to 74 'focus' countries. The six countries with the highest number of cases in 2018 were:

- Pakistan — 769 cases (44%).
- Bangladesh — 157 cases (9%).
- India — 110 cases (6%).
- Somalia — 46 cases (3%).
- Afghanistan — 44 cases (3%).
- Romania — 43 cases (2%).

The proportion of cases relating to Pakistan has increased by around 7% compared with the previous year. However, the proportion of cases relating to Pakistan in 2018 is stable compared to 2011-2016. After a large increase in 2017, the number of cases linked to Somalia has decreased. There has been a noticeable increase in cases linked to Romania. In 2018, the FMU provided support to 43 such cases compared with 29 across the whole period 2011- 2017. 7% of cases had no overseas element, with the potential or actual forced marriage taking place entirely within the UK.

In 2018, 93 cases (5.3%) involved victims where there was a concern they may have a learning disability 9 of these cases were from the East Anglia region. A higher proportion of victims in learning disability cases are male compared to other forced marriage cases. Victims are more likely to be older than in other cases - in cases where a learning disability has been reported, 34% of victims were between 26-40 years old compared to an overall figure of 18% in all cases.

## **Latest Female Genital Mutilation official statistics**

The latest data from the NHS shows that there were 1,990 individual women and girls who had at least one attendance with a healthcare provider at an NHS trusts and/or GP practice where FGM was identified or a procedure related to FGM was undertaken in the period January 2019 to March 2019. Of these 1,990 individuals, 1,015 were newly recorded in the period January 2019 to March 2019. 'Newly recorded' means this is the first time they have appeared in this dataset. It does not indicate how recently the FGM was undertaken, nor does it mean that this is the woman or girl's first attendance for FGM.

School summer holidays are known to be a key time when FGM is performed so we will be posting a series of social media messages to highlight the issue over the next couple of weeks.

## Relocating DA survivors safely

The **Revive project** is Homefinder UK's latest specialist division. The project focuses on relocating domestic abuse survivors to permanent social housing in a new and safe environment in a different part of the country. Supported with a grant from the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government's (MHCLG's) Fund for Domestic Abuse Services, the REVIVE project will further enhance the survivor-centric case management services designed to help find homes for survivors of domestic abuse.

The project will provide a real alternative to find social housing for domestic abuse survivors without the need to compete against other high priority groups.

The **Revive project** is very proud to already be working alongside some domestic abuse support agencies that include DAHA (Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance), the National Probation Service, Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences, Victim Support, Women's Aid, BAME Women's Aid and ACCM UK who supports victims of honour-based violence.

### Homefinder UK

Homefinder UK is a national mobility scheme which advertises immediately available social housing properties and offers Case Management services to help relocate homeless applicants nationwide. Homefinder UK partners with over 100 local authorities and housing associations with very successful outcomes and a tenancy failure rate of less than 1%. Over recent few years Homefinder UK has rehoused over 400 households into permanent social housing nationwide, with some of those being domestic abuse survivors.

**Case Management** is an extremely important part of our service. Our dedicated staff will assist victims of domestic abuse and discuss their needs and areas of choice, assist them with property bids, liaise with both parties and assist with references, viewings and much more.

For example, the Case Management service will consist of the following:

- Assisting moves to social housing in other local authority areas in the UK
- Attending multi agency meetings
- Working with other domestic violence and abuse organisations to ensure wrap around care and support
- Signposting to other domestic violence and abuse organisations

### Join NOW

Anyone can be a victim of domestic abuse, regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, socio-economic status and sexual orientation. Many survivors have no choice but to flee their homes resulting in homelessness. Our goal is to work alongside with all of our partners in the hopes of creating a safer environment with more options for the survivors of domestic abuse.

For **local authorities and housing associations** seeking to join and use Homefinder UK's services please contact **Andre Goncalves** via email: [Andre.Goncalves@home-connections.co.uk](mailto:Andre.Goncalves@home-connections.co.uk) or by phone: 07776526160

## **Survivors should not lose their social tenancy when fleeing abuse: new managed housing reciprocal agreement in Cambridgeshire**

As part of the new **Whole Housing Project**, social housing providers in Cambridgeshire are working together to prevent survivors from losing their social tenancy when fleeing violence.

### ***Who is it for?***

The **Cambridgeshire Housing Reciprocal agreement** is for anyone who:

- has a social tenancy with a council or housing association signed up to the scheme
- is at risk of domestic abuse or another form VAWG
- wants to move to another area within the Cambridgeshire/Peterborough county area

### ***How does it work?***

The reciprocal agreement is a voluntary collaboration between housing providers, centrally coordinated through the Whole Housing Project team in Cambridgeshire. Social landlords can refer their tenants who are at risk of violence/abuse where they live, and agree to reciprocate in return one of their properties to the central pot.

The tenant will sign a new social tenancy with one of the partner housing providers in an area within Cambridgeshire/Peterborough that is safe for them.

### ***How do I make a referral?***

All referrals should be supported by the Cambridgeshire Specialist DA Services (IDVAs or DA Outreach workers), so if not already receiving support a referral to Cambridge Women's Aid or Refuge outreach services to be made – details at [www.cambsdasv.org.uk](http://www.cambsdasv.org.uk). The Specialist DA Services will then send the completed reciprocal form to [housingreciprocal@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:housingreciprocal@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

If your client's landlord is not already signed up to the Cambridgeshire Reciprocal agreement, the Whole Housing Project team can liaise with the landlord to encourage signing up.

### ***What is the Whole Housing Project?***

The Whole Housing Project aims to address the diversity of housing needs that survivors of domestic abuse might have. Managed reciprocals is a key component of the suggested best practice, alongside working with the Private Rented Sector, Supported Housing Providers, those owning their own homes and ensuring there are outreach workers to support victims and survivors of domestic abuse.

Managed reciprocal agreements are modelled after the [Pan-London Housing Reciprocal](#), an innovative scheme between housing providers in London coordinated by the charity **Safer London**. Since the beginning of the scheme in 2017, over 200 people at risk of violence/abuse have been able to move to a place of safety and keep their social tenancy.

## **Supporting families affected by domestic homicide**

The Home Office has published guidance for chairs of domestic homicide reviews (DHRs) on the support available to families bereaved by domestic homicide. The guidance covers: what services are available and how chairs should signpost families to them.

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/806951/Guidance\\_for\\_DHR\\_chairs\\_support\\_for\\_families.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/806951/Guidance_for_DHR_chairs_support_for_families.pdf)

## **Commissioner praises nurses providing officers with expert advice**

MENTAL health nurses based in the Constabulary's Force Control Room provided advice on nearly 9,000 incidents in a single year, ensuring people in crisis got the right service at the right time.

Funded by Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Police and Crime Commissioner, Jason Ablewhite, the specialist nurses who make up the Integrated Mental Health Team (IMHT) offer frontline officers instant support in dealing with people in mental health crisis.

In 2018/19, the team were involved in 8,894 calls, up from 7,123 incidents in the previous 12 months. That's an average increase of 147 additional calls per month.

The Commissioner met one of the nurses, provided by Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust (CPFT), yesterday and heard first-hand about some of the incidents the nurses have provided support on.

Gareth Hughes, IMHT Team Lead, said: "We are seeing an increase in calls relating to mental health issues come through and can have between 20 to 30 jobs a day. Our role is quite versatile as there are occasions when we have talked to people in crisis and given support to the police whilst liaising with mental health teams in relation to police matters. We have supported police on help with missing persons, domestic abuse cases as well as advising operations and giving clarity to officers over the Mental Health Act."

"It was staggering to see over the last year the team dealt with 9,000 incidents. That is why I will continue to provide funding for this service to ensure we get the best outcomes for people in mental health crisis," said Jason.

The Force are just as supportive of the team, Debra Bevan, Mental Health Policy Co-ordinator, described them as a 'fabulous resource'.

She added: "The team provides a valuable service to those in mental health crisis, as well as providing training and support to officers and staff in all areas of mental health. As we are seeing an increase in mental health related calls and incidents the support of nurses is critical."

The IMHT has been recognised by the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) as an integral part of first response work as part of the wider system response to mental health crisis care.

CPFT's Sharon Johnson, Service Manager for IMHT, said: "Having our specialist mental health nurses working directly alongside officers from Cambridgeshire Police continues to prove highly effective. Officers have a direct line to our staff who can advise on the most appropriate help in the quickest possible time."

## Roma Safeguarding Workshop

The Parallel Lives Roma Project have another Roma Safeguarding Workshop in September. The next one will be taking place on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> Sept from 10.00-1.00 at Queen Katharine Academy, Peterborough. Although there is no charge to attend, places will be limited and anyone wanting to come along does need to register for a place as soon as possible. There are currently 12 places left.

This is the event and registration link: <https://smp.eelga.gov.uk/events/parallel-lives-roma-safeguarding-peterborough-2/>

## Counselling project helps 400 young victims to recover from abuse in its first year

THE equivalent of more than 12 school rooms of children and young people received free counselling in 2018/19 to help them recover from sexual and domestic abuse thanks to a countywide support service.

Launched in April 2017, the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Prevention and Intervention service is funded through a successful partnership bid by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and local authority to the Home Office's VAWG (Violence Against Women and Girls) Transformation Fund.

The project tackles the adverse childhood experiences of young victims and witnesses, aged 13-19 (24 with additional needs), of domestic and sexual abuse through community-based trauma-informed counselling. It also supports young people who use violence and abuse as a result of being themselves traumatised or victims of other types of abuse.

The service is delivered by the locally-based national charity **Embrace - Child Victims of Crime (CVOC)**, under the banner Time4U. The charity works in partnership with the **Cambridge and Peterborough Rape Crisis** Partnership who deliver counselling services to young survivors as part of the project and the county's **Youth Offending Service** to ensure young people receive the right support for them.

Anne Campbell, Chief Executive, Embrace CVOC explains: "Time4U allows us to provide wrap around care to those supported through the programme. We have also used charitable funds to extend the remit in a creative and innovative way. From providing equine therapy to help build confidence in young victims, to using trainee therapists to provide free counselling therapy for parents which helps heal the whole family, I am pleased to see so many young people supported and reporting positive outcomes."

### *Jane is a north Cambridgeshire resident whose two daughters, aged 16 and 19, have benefited from the Time4U service*

Jane's youngest daughter was the subject of a serious sexual assault which was not reported to police. This led to her feeling powerless, angry and afraid. Her eldest daughter too was impacted by the crime, feeling that she had been unable to protect her sister. Through the Sexual Assault Referral Centre both girls were referred to **Time4U** and placed with separate specialist counsellors. They received counselling over a number of weeks and, as a direct result, both now report feeling in control, more self-aware, and able to move on from what has happened.

The partnership model also enables a small number of survivors of sexual violence already engaged with the Cambridge and Peterborough Rape Crisis Partnership to have the choice to continue their recovery journey within their counselling services rather than being referred into Embrace.

Norah Al-Ani, Director of Cambridge and Peterborough Rape Crisis Partnership explains: “This project has enabled us to provide much needed safe and protected space and time for young people whose lives have been impacted by the experience of sexual violence. The specialist counselling we have delivered has enabled young people to begin to re-build their lives, take back control of their decision making and to go on to flourish and thrive and live the lives they choose. It has been a privilege to work with young survivors, to have them trust us with their stories and to invite us to travel alongside them on their journey to recovery.”

### ***18 year old Mina was referred to CAPRCP for counselling after being raped by an acquaintance.***

Mina was referred to counselling by her college pastoral support tutor. She had been raped by an acquaintance at a party and hadn't felt able to tell anyone about it at the time. She felt confused and alone; her schoolwork was impacted and she had withdrawn socially because she felt too scared to go out with friends in case it happened again. In a routine meeting with her Tutor she couldn't stop crying and disclosed that she had been assaulted. She wasn't able to talk to her about what had happened because she felt too ashamed.

Issues of consent and sex and relationships had not been discussed either in Mina's home or friendship group. Consequently, Mina was unable to understand what happened to her. She was offered counselling to initially help her understand some of her emotions, by exploring the thoughts and feelings she had about the attack. Having the confidence to use the term 'rape' was a big moment for her and provided her with a sense of control that had been previously denied her.

Police and Crime Commissioner, Jason Ablewhite says:

“Reaching so many vulnerable children and young people in just one year shows just how innovative this partnership approach has been. I often talk about how important it is to work together to prevent situations from escalating out of control.

“This project is a great example where we can make sure the right support is provided at the right time, so that young people have the opportunity to live safer and brighter futures.”

## **Final RSE Guidance Published**

The Department for Education have now published the [final guidance](#) on relationships education (primary) relationships and sex education (secondary) and health education (primary and secondary).

There are very few changes from the draft guidance but one important addition is the inclusion of menopause as part of reproductive health knowledge at secondary level.

DfE has also published two [short guides](#) for parents, one for primary and one for secondary.

## **Government to review image-based sexual abuse law**

Victims of so-called revenge porn could be given better protection as part of a review of image-based sexual abuse laws, the government has announced.

Campaigners have been calling for victims to have the same protection of anonymity as other sexual offences. The Law Commission will examine the legislation around the sharing of explicit images without consent.

Sophie Mortimer, from the Revenge Porn helpline, said she would encourage a move to make it a sexual offence.

Sharing explicit images without consent became an offence in England and Wales in April 2015, with similar laws introduced later in Northern Ireland and Scotland. It is currently categorised as a "communications crime", meaning victims are not granted anonymity as other victims of sexual abuse are.

The government has said the review, to be "launched shortly", will consider the case for granting automatic anonymity to such victims, so they cannot be named publicly, as is the case for victims of sexual offences.

The review will also take in "cyber-flashing" - when people receive unsolicited sexual images on their phone - and "deepfake" pornography, which is the practice of superimposing an individual's face on to pornographic photos or videos without consent.

## **Lords speech by Baroness Newlove highlights the cost of domestic violence**

Baroness Newlove (the former Victim's commissioner) gave a speech in the House of Lords earlier this summer focusing on domestic violence. She highlighted the British Crime Survey results indicating '2 million people were victims of domestic abuse, with women twice as likely to be victims as men'. Her speech further focused upon the estimated annual cost of domestic abuse citing £66 billion, 'with an average cost for a victim of being over £34,000.' Her speech then moved onto unconditional police bail and how this practice leads to an increased risk for victims. She concluded by calling for more funding for domestic violence services which she describes as 'threadbare'. She believes part of the focus should be funding professionally trained workers who are then able to protect vulnerable victims more successfully.

Baroness Armstrong responded to her speech by further highlighting that many victims have complex needs such as addiction, homelessness and mental health problems due to a lifelong experiences of abuse, neglect and violence. She calls for an improvement and understanding of how to work with these victims. Feedback from victims of domestic violence gave a strong message that the first front line workers victims speak to must recognise abuse and trauma.

## Cambridge City Council White Ribbon Campaign Stall

A Cambridge City Council White Ribbon stall was held at the Abbey People's Big Lunch on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June. It was a lively community event bringing together the local residents for a range of activities.

Two of the eight Cambridge City White Ribbon Ambassadors; David Doggett, Chair of Abbey People and Ben Szreter, Chief Executive Officer Cambridge United Community Trust, attended as well as Cambridge MP Daniel Zeichner, Cambridge City Mayor Gerri Bird, Cambridge City Executive Councillor For Transport and Community Safety Nicky Massey and Cambridge City Councillor Haf Davies.

David Doggett, Chair of Abbey People, said:

“Abbey People is a charity that aims to bring the people of Abbey Ward together and strengthen the community. The Big Lunch is the largest of the events and it is encouraging that more local residents are coming along and making new friends. “

Ben Szreter, Chief Executive Officer Cambridge United Community Trust said:

“It was great to be out with the White Ribbon team at the Abbey Big Lunch talking to people about this very important issue. The Cambridge City Council's team do great work on this every day and to support them with outreach is a real pleasure.”

Nicky Massey, Cambridge City Executive Councillor For Transport and Community Safety said:

“I was very happy to be able to support and visit the White Ribbon stall at The Abbey People Big Lunch. It was a lovely sunny warm day with lots of families enjoying the activities. The White Ribbon Campaign provides much needed information and signposting for people who may otherwise not wish to help. I am very proud of the success of our White Ribbon Ambassadors.”



Pictured are:

Cambridge MP Daniel Zeichner, Cambridge City Mayor Gerri Bird, Cambridge City Executive Councillor For Transport and Community Safety Nicky Massey, Cambridge City Councillor Haf Davies, Cambridge City White Ribbon Ambassadors; Dave Doggett, Chair of Abbey People, Ben Szreter, Chief Executive

Officer Cambridge United Community Trust, and Louise Walker, Partnership Support Officer, Cambridge City Council Safer Communities Team.

## National MARAC Survey

A new survey, supported by the University of Suffolk, is seeking views from practitioners and statutory professionals who work with victims of domestic abuse on whether MARACs are still fit for purpose as well as the barriers to attending a MARAC that you or your organisation may have faced.

The anonymous survey will take around 5-10 minutes to complete and **closes on 8th Aug 2019**.

If you are happy to participate, complete the brief survey here: [Are MARACs \(Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences\) still fit for purpose?](#)