



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

August 2022

Hi All

Welcome to our August Newsletter – we hope you have a chance to enjoy the sunshine and a break from work this summer.

The newsletter has links to a number of opportunities for learning – of particular interest for you might be the child focused trauma informed SWAY, and the opportunity to watch the training from the Institute of Strangulation regarding Non-Fatal Strangulation. You will also note Cambridgeshire Constabulary were successful in a conviction following the new law.

The partners involved in the DASV Board are continuously seeking opportunities for additional funding, and one of these successful bids as part of the Safer Streets fund is set out below.

Our next DASV Champions sessions are in October and these will be presentations regarding LGBT+ and DA, and information about the Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy and those supported with this funding.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with us if we can help in anyway!

Best Wishes

Vickie & Julia

Vickie Crompton & Julia Cullum
DASV Partnership Managers



We're recruiting!

We're looking for a Business Support Assistant to join the IDVA Service. The main duties of the role are inputting referrals onto our database and supporting the MARAC Coordinators as well as supporting the wider team with administrative support. We are offering the opportunity for this role to be filled by an apprenticeship, resulting in achieving a Level 3 Business Administration qualification.

For more details, please visit: [https://www.publicsectorjobseast.co.uk/Business Support Assistant-Chord Park - Godmanchester?jobId=27693&JobIndex=94&categoryList=&minsal=0&maxsal=200000&workingpattern=&keywords=&employee=1&postcode=&Distance=20&AdvertiseOn=2](https://www.publicsectorjobseast.co.uk/Business%20Support%20Assistant-Chord%20Park%20-%20Godmanchester?jobId=27693&JobIndex=94&categoryList=&minsal=0&maxsal=200000&workingpattern=&keywords=&employee=1&postcode=&Distance=20&AdvertiseOn=2)

The Meadows Children and Family Wing DA Support

The Meadows Children and Family Wing provides a free programme of activities for female survivors, and their children, of domestic abuse which includes:

- The Freedom Programme – Held 3 times a term (with creche and without creche day time and on teams in an evening)
- The Freedom Forever Programme – Held once per term
- Domestic Abuse Support Drop-in's – Weekly on Wednesday's 1-3pm
- 'Together Group' a therapeutic peer support group – Weekly on Thursdays
- 'All About Me' – 6 week self-esteem and confidence building course
- Phone support, advocacy and outreach

For more information on how to refer please email us on info@mcfw.co.uk or telephone 01223 508144 / 07871 780932 / 07561 611326

Refuge launches new digital break-up tool

In England and Wales, one in four women will experience some form of domestic abuse in their lifetime, and tech abuse is an increasing part of that problem. Abusive partners may use technology to control, harass or intimidate victims.

Refuge has teamed up with Avast to raise awareness of tech abuse and launched an interactive tool designed to provide awareness and understanding of the various digital platforms a partner, or ex-partner, might have access to. This can include social media accounts, online banking or tracking live location through apps such as Uber and Strava. The tool also provides victims with information to help them secure these digital platforms against potential tech abuse

For more information, please visit [Digital Breakup \(refugetechsafety.org\)](https://refugetechsafety.org)

Free Young Carer Training

Centre 33 are offering free training around topics that impact young carers. These bitesize sessions run from 45 minutes to 1 hour and start in September.

More information and bookings here: <https://centre33.org.uk/events/>

Cost of living crisis impact on DA victims

National domestic abuse charity Hestia says it has seen a 30% rise in demand for spaces and support in the first quarter, and families are having to stay in refuges for longer as the cost of rehousing them “rockets” due to price rises.

The cost of rehoming a single mother with two children is now £5,000 more expensive than two years ago, according to analysis by Loughborough University.

“The cost-of-living crisis is having a detrimental impact on those experiencing domestic abuse. Families are coming under significant strain. We need to act quickly, and we need to act now,” said Hestia’s chief executive Patrick Ryan

First Cambs conviction under non-fatal strangulation law

A man who admitted strangling his girlfriend after a row over an Xbox has been jailed in one of the first convictions for the force under new legislation.

Police were called on 10 June after Lucas Weaver, 25, strangled the woman at the house they shared in Victoria Way, Melbourn. The victim told officers they had been arguing throughout the day and she had decided to end their relationship.

However, Weaver returned from work later that same day to collect some belongings and an argument began over who should keep the Xbox. During the row, the woman picked up one of the Xbox controllers and threw it on the floor, but this caused no damage.

In response, Weaver grabbed the woman round the throat with both hands, as she held their eight-month-old child and squeezed for several seconds – leaving her with reddening and cuts to the left side of her neck.

Weaver was arrested on suspicion of intentional strangulation - a new offence which came into force three days before the assault, where domestic abusers who strangle their partners to control them or induce fear face up to five years behind bars.

In police interview, Weaver admitted intentionally grabbing hold of his girlfriend’s throat after losing his temper and strangling her for three to five seconds. Weaver pleaded guilty at Peterborough Magistrates’ Court on Monday (18 July) where he was handed seven months in prison.

Sergeant Pete Sharp said: “This is one of the force’s first convictions under the new legislation and the sentence in this case reflects the severity of Weaver’s actions. The assault left his girlfriend incredibly frightened in her own home and no-one should ever be made to feel that way. This case provides an example of how an argument can spiral out of control, but domestic abuse is never acceptable and there is no excuse. I hope Weaver now reflects on his behaviour and the victim can feel some measure of comfort and closure. Tackling domestic abuse is a top priority and we will continue to work tirelessly to keep victims safe.”

See page 11 to find out how to access training materials around non-fatal strangulation.

Property Angels are having a ball!

On Saturday 10th December 2022, The Property Angels Foundation will be hosting their first Annual Angels Ball! Property Angels have been supporting local families affected by domestic abuse since 2020 and are proud to be hosting this prestigious event.

The line-up for the night includes; a warm welcome from a local choir, canapes and fizz to greet guests, a silent auction, a raffle, exceptional food from the Spitting Pig Co and an evening packed with live entertainment – from magic to music, even a casino!

Plus...if you have the Golden Ticket, you could win £500!

Whether you are friends getting together, a local group/club, or an employer wanting a special 'Christmas' party, celebrate whilst also raising vital funds for a good cause in your community.

Property Angels said *"We would love to have you there, it will be a night to remember!"* Many of the families we support have often been subjected to physical, mental and sexual abuse and need to leave their home and familiar environment, sometimes in fear for their own safety. Families often leave with little more than the clothes they're standing up in to begin a new life with no possessions of their own.

Funds raised through the silent auction, raffle and ticket sales will go towards the exciting new project '**Halo**' which will provide families with back to life support and all the things they need to make a 'house' become their 'home'.

Event info:

- Saturday 10th December 2022
- The Priory Centre Priory Lane, St Neots, Saint Neots, PE19 2BH
- Doors open 6.30pm, close at midnight
- Dress Code: Black Tie

[The Annual Angels Ball Tickets, Sat 10 Dec 2022 at 18:30 | Eventbrite](#)

UK ratifies Istanbul Convention

In July the UK Government deposited the instrument of ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence for the United Kingdom.

The Convention will enter into force, as regards the United Kingdom, on 1 November 2022. The United Kingdom becomes the 37th State to ratify the Convention, however In May, the Home Secretary, Priti Patel announced that the Government would ratify the Convention but opt out of two key articles, which include providing life-saving support for migrant women. In signing the Convention, the Government advised that they will continue with this approach and opt out of articles 44 and 59.

Article 44 of the Istanbul Convention includes the requirement for legislative measures to apply to British citizens who commit crimes against women whilst abroad, regardless of whether that country is party to the Convention. Article 59 provides protection for "victims whose residence status depends on that of the spouse or partner"

A number of VAWG organisations have expressed disappointment in the decision to opt out of these two articles, stating that it puts the lives of women at risk.

Six-figure funding secured to tackle anti-social behaviour and sexual violence

WISBECH and Peterborough are set to benefit from more than £630,000 awarded from round four of the Home Office's Safer Streets Fund. The money will be used to deliver interventions which tackle anti-social behaviour and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG).

"This is excellent news for Wisbech and Peterborough and I would like to thank Cambridgeshire Constabulary, Fenland District Council and Peterborough City Council for working so closely with my office in order to secure the award," said Darryl Preston, Police and Crime Commissioner.

"To date our county has received £1.8m from all four rounds of Safer Streets funding and the money is already making a difference. For example, thanks to training funded through Safer Streets, CCTV operators were able to prevent a potential rapist from striking and direct police resources to save a woman during an attack."

The grant is worth £634,285 over 15 months and will pay for a range of new initiatives and interventions to keep people safe in the Medworth Ward of Wisbech and Peterborough Central, some of which will include:

- The creation of two new posts within Peterborough City Council and Fenland District Council dedicated to tackling anti-social behaviour;
- Extra mobile CCTV cameras and an additional member of staff who is already trained in spotting predatory behaviours;
- Extended training to be delivered to Security Industry Staff and taxi drivers on how to spot predatory behaviour and what to do when it is identified;
- The setting up of a Sexual Violence Ambassador Scheme within three schools to improve young people's knowledge of VAWG, promote equal relationships and prevent violence in dating and intimate partner relationships;
- Training for teaching staff and pupils in secondary schools to help identify predatory behaviour;
- Funding for a Street Chaplain scheme in Peterborough to provide support and assistance to those that wish to enjoy the city's nightlife;
- Resources for to develop local Neighbourhood Watch schemes with studies showing that for every 100 crimes committed an average of 15 crimes were prevented in active Neighbourhood Watch areas;
- Ring (video) doorbells will also be offered to homes within Peterborough Central and Medworth Ward as a preventative measure against burglary.

Vicki Evans, Assistant Chief Constable of Cambridgeshire Constabulary, added "The funding will allow us to step up patrols and work closer with partners to prevent future crimes happening in the first place. The Constabulary looks forward to continuing to work with partners, using additional funds to harness existing skills, knowledge and experiences to make our communities safer." Safer Streets 4 will be delivered in partnership by nine organisations:

- Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
- Cambridgeshire Constabulary
- Peterborough City Council
- Fenland District Council
- Neighbourhood Watch
- Lighthouse Project
- The Bobby Scheme
- The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Rape Crisis Partnership
- And an anti-social behaviour trainer yet to be appointed.

Respect's Young People's Programme sees impressive results

The Respect Young People Programme, delivered by Trinity YMCA staff and colleagues from the national Respect Team, is reducing demand on policing and improving the lives of families across the county. That's what the early evaluation of the work to address child to parent/carer violence in the home has revealed.

The initiative is one part of the county's successful bid to the Home Office's Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Fund led by Cambridgeshire and Peterborough's Police and Crime Commissioner and Cambridgeshire Constabulary.

In September 2021, YMCA Trinity Group's "Family Respect Project" was commissioned by Cambridgeshire PCC to deliver Respect's Young People's Programme (RYPP), which supports families experiencing child/adolescent to parent violence/abuse (CAPVA). The project has been part of an ongoing study which has shown early signs of its effectiveness.

Using 15 families as a sample, the research sought to identify whether the programme was effective in reducing police call outs to CAPVA incidents following each family's completion of the intervention.

The study not only identified a significant reduction in police call outs, but also identified changes in other patterns of behaviour for the young people who had engaged with the RYPP work. Of the sample, there was a 100% reduction in police call outs within 14 of the families, and a 92% reduction within one family who had contacted the police over 66 times for help prior to the RYPP intervention. This reduction in police call outs has so far amounted to an overall saving of £325,000 to the criminal justice system.

Of course, a reduction in police call outs does not in itself equate to evidence of behaviour change, but there was also a 100% cessation in 'reported missing' incidents for the young people who had completed the programme. Three of the young people who had previously had regular missing incidents were known to Operation Makesafe, the Metropolitan Police partnership response to Child Criminal and Sexual Exploitation. The cessation of missing incidents for *these* young people may suggest a link between the programme and reduced levels of exploitation from organised crime gangs.

This project will run until the end of the March 2023 and there are a number of other outcomes being measured which will be reported on as the project progresses.

Trauma Informed and Responsive Practice with Young People SWAY

The Youth Offending Psychology Service is in the process of rolling out training in Trauma Informed theory and practice, with the aim of enhancing trauma informed knowledge and skills across services working with children and young people.

This SWAY (<https://sway.office.com/MRiw6wHxZiqokVI8?ref=Link&loc=play>) offers a first step into this area with an awareness raising, virtual briefing on Trauma Informed and Responsive Practice with Young People.

For further information, please contact Nicky Asplin (Nicky.Asplin@peterborough.gov.uk) or Emma Haworth (emma.haworth@cambridgeshire.gov.uk).

Research participation opportunity

Sarah West, a researcher at Coventry University would like to hear from professionals in any sector who have contact with survivors of sexual violence and abuse through their paid or voluntary roles, to share their views on those providing informal support to survivors such as their friends, partners and family members. Please take a few minutes to share your experiences relating to the issues that arise for people providing this support, any provision within your organisation for informal supporters (or lack of it), and what you think could be done to help informal supporters with this role. You can participate by completing a short anonymous online survey at <https://bit.ly/3wSo1QI>.

If you would prefer a conversation to discuss these issues or have any questions, please get in touch at wests13@coventry.ac.uk.

This is the first stage of a larger project, the views of survivors and informal supporters are also being sought, and the overall aim of the project is to develop an intervention that meets the needs identified.

Intention to tender for mental health support for victims of crime

OPCC have released PIN (Prior Information Notice) indicating their intention to go out to tender for a service providing specialist mental health support and expertise for victims and witnesses of crime.

However, the first step is a Request for Information (RFI) which is to test the market to see what is available and to seek views from any potential providers.

The link to the PIN is below and the link to EU supply is in the notice (but also provided below for ease).

[Specialist Mental Health Victim and Witness Support for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough - Find a Tender \(find-tender.service.gov.uk\)](#)

https://uk.eu-supply.com/app/rfq/rwlenrance_s.asp?PID=51044&B=BLUELIGHT

New report looks at experiences of seeking mental health support after sexual violence

Victim focus have released a new report on the experiences 395 women had when seeking support for their mental health following sexual violence committed against them. The research found that women had many different triggers to seeking support for their mental health, but that their experiences of doing so ranged from excellent, to incredibly harmful. The report concludes that women seeking help for their mental health following sexual violence were presented with numerous barriers, stigma, assumptions, stereotypes and an increasingly underfunded and over-medicalised view of their trauma.

Read the full report at:

[VictimFocus Official Website by Dr Jessica Taylor](#)

Forensic Marking to protect victims of Domestic Abuse

Detective Superintendent Lee Berry from West Yorkshire Police has been piloting a new use of forensic marking. The use of forensic marking to deter crime and help convict perpetrators is not new to policing. The principles when using for domestic abuse victims is the same as for other crimes: Target-harden the victim, Ensure that the perpetrator is aware through warnings and Educate officers and staff that are working in that area of the initiative.

Using these principles, West Yorks Police tested whether using focused forensic marking – for example, on door handles or car doors – could help protect DA victims by deterring perpetrators. Although not a central element of the initiative, it can be used to reinforce bail conditions, Domestic Violence Protection Notices/Orders and other court orders. This approach also strengthens protective measures and presents opportunities for introducing evidence-led prosecutions, by linking a perpetrator to a location or person.

The level of protection offered to victims varies, based on risk and perpetrator behaviour. To ensure consistency and proportionality, a detective inspector authority is required for each level of protection. If the risk assessment considers that there is the likelihood of revictimisation, additional protective measures include the following.

- The issuing of a handheld forensic spray. This spray can be carried by the victim around their property or while out in public. The canister sprays a directional forensic solution with a coverage of up to 10m in distance.
- Forensic greases can also be used to mark door handles or window frames. If touched by the perpetrator, they will then be forensically linked to where the grease was deployed.
- Finally, where the risk of repeat victimisation is high, and where potential harm caused is assessed as high, a domestic abuse spray system can be used. This unit is a multifunctional forensic spray unit that also activates a panic alarm to the police communications centre and sounds a loud audible alarm.

With each tactic used, the perpetrator must be warned that the victim is protected. However, the messaging must be clear enough to deter, without informing the perpetrator exactly how the victim is protected.

Initial small-scale findings in West Yorkshire with 33 victims surveyed has shown that after protection:

- 87% would recommend to others
- 81% state it has had a positive impact on them
- 67% state no further perpetrator contact
- 65% report more confidence in the police
- 64% report feeling safer
- 55% state that satisfaction in police has increased
- 50% state they trust the police more

South Yorkshire and Staffordshire Police have replicated similar survey results after piloting this initiative. This approach has also been reinforced with a recent conviction for a breach of a non-molestation order after a perpetrator was forensically marked by the victim.



Protecting girls and women from FGM (female genital mutilation) during the summer holidays

Girls from affected communities are at higher risk of being cut during the summer holidays, or what can sometimes be known as the 'cutting season'. Young people are also at higher risk of being forced into marriage during the longer holiday periods.

Anyone can apply for an FGM protection order if they are worried about a girl being cut.

Oxford against Cutting have created a short film about FGM Protection Orders - [True Sharif - FGM Protection Orders full film - YouTube](#)

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Boards have information for professionals about FGM and how to report a concern at [Female Genital Mutilation | Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Partnership Board \(safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk\)](https://safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk)

Cambridgeshire Police also have information on their website at [Female genital mutilation \(FGM\) | Cambridgeshire Constabulary \(cambs.police.uk\)](https://cambs.police.uk)

DA Commissioner comments on latest CPS data

As the latest data from the Crown Prosecution Service shows that referrals from police to CPS have decreased again, the Domestic Abuse Commissioner has said 'It is extremely concerning to see the figures released by the Crown Prosecution Service appearing to show we are going in entirely the wrong direction for victims when it comes to the criminal justice system.'

The figures show that the volume of referrals from police to the CPS are down again to 67,703 in 2021/22 compared to 77,812 in 2020/21.

Nicole Jacobs continued 'Shockingly there has been a 47% decrease in the volume of referrals compared to 2014/15. There is quite clearly a problem that is not linked to Covid and needs urgently addressing. Long waits before cases reach court put an enormous amount of stress and pressure on domestic abuse victims and in many cases, will lead to victims dropping out of the process.'

The 42% decrease in charges since 2014/15 was also highlighted and the DA Commissioner said 'I am calling on the Government to get to grips with this very serious problem. We must look at the poorest performing forces and court areas as well as the best performing to be much more specific about what it will take to transform rhetoric into reality. '

White Ribbon returns to Cambridge Folk Festival

After a two-year break, the Cambridge Folk Festival returned at the end of July and Cambridgeshire County Council were pleased to be there promoting the White Ribbon campaign. Over the weekend, the stall saw over 200 visitors who wanted to sign up to take the White Ribbon Promise to end male violence, or to find out about local support services for victims of all genders.

The stall was run by the Council's White Ribbon Ambassadors and local arts charity Oblique Arts provided some unique artwork to draw people to the stand.

Cllr Hilary Cox-Condron who is a White Ribbon Champion for the County Council, said "It was wonderful to spend time at the Folk Festival with our domestic abuse team - many women came to talk, in need of a listening ear and support. These experiences are harrowing to hear, although thank goodness the team is on hand to give the help needed to access the services on offer. And it was so heartening to have men approach the stall, asking simply: 'what can I do?' 'how can I help?' - and hearing about some of the conversations wearing the White Ribbon has provoked. Domestic abuse is so often seen as a women's issue – I'm pleased to be a White Ribbon Champion and work alongside the team to support the vital role that men are playing as we work together to change the culture that leads to violence against women."



Training on the new offences around non-fatal strangulation

Two events took place at the end of June around Strangulation and Suffocation: Introduction to the New Offence for England and Wales.

To get access to the training materials please follow the steps below:

1.register on the website making up a password for yourself and using Registration code: UK-SLWS-2022

<https://www.allianceforhope.com/hope-hub-enrollment-and-code-redemption-form/>

2. Follow this link to the online course: <https://www.allianceforhope.com/courses/strangulation-the-last-warning-shot-uk-two-day-training/>

The resources referred to should all be in one of these links:

For the England and Wales ones: <https://sutda.org/nfs/>

For the USA ones referred to:

- [Training Handouts](#)
- [Resource Library](#)