



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

**April/May 2021**

Hi All!

We have a bumper double issue this time, packed with exciting news

Thank you for everyone who attended the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence sessions in April, these focussed on Strangulation and Sexual Violence and the presentations have been circulated. We have more sessions in June, this time we will have “Surviving Economic Abuse” and “Respect” as guest speakers. If you aren’t already a DASV Champion, please email us.

The past few weeks have been particularly busy for us in the DASV Partnership Team as we have received funding from MHCLG, the Home Office and Ministry of Justice, enabling us to increase support and resource across the county. You may have seen the adverts for vacancies – there will be more over the coming week or so, so keep an eye on the CCC Jobs pages, as we continue to recruit additional IDVAs.

We have been busy raising awareness and delivering presentations to a range of agencies and organisations – if this is something we can support you with, please get in touch.

A member of the team has had some research into Domestic Homicide Reviews published nationally, so do take time to read the findings on page \*\*

Finally, the Domestic Abuse Bill is now the Domestic Abuse Act – we await the statutory guidance, but there are a raft of changes which will happen over the next few months.

As ever, thank you for your work tackling abuse and violence across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, you make a huge difference.

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



## **DASV Champions Sessions - Economic Abuse & Male Victims**

Due to availability of speakers, our next DASV Champions sessions will be held in June, rather than July as normal.

Dates for the sessions are below – please email [DASVChampions@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:DASVChampions@cambridgeshire.gov.uk) to book a place.

All sessions will be held over TEAMS and a link will be sent out about a week before each meeting.

10<sup>th</sup> June, 10.00 – 11.30

15<sup>th</sup> June, 14.00 – 15.30

23<sup>rd</sup> June, 12.00 – 13.30

## **DA and Pets**

Alpha Vesta are offering a new 1 hr Awareness Session on Domestic Abuse and Pets.

The aim of this session is to raise awareness of the correlation between domestic abuse and the abuse of pets who are also members of that former or current family dynamic. It forms part of a suite of additional enhanced sessions on the additional layers that sit in and around domestic abuse and interact with it in a dynamic way.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/domestic-abuse-and-pets-1-hr-awareness-session-tickets-145339617709>

The DASV Partnership also have a presentation on our website from Dog's Trust about the links between domestic abuse and Pets [Welcome to Cambridgeshire DASV Partnership \(cambsdasv.org.uk\)](http://cambsdasv.org.uk)

In March, Dog's Trust extended their Domestic Abuse Pet Fostering scheme into Cambridgeshire and some positive feedback has come in -

“I referred a client & her animal to the dog's trust foster service - The Freedom Programme. The application was a success, and my client is now safe in temporary accommodation and her beloved dog is in foster care, she is safe in the knowledge that her dog will be well looked after, and she will get him back once she is in more secure, permanent housing. Knowing her dog is safe will give her the emotional strength to continue her journey, allowing her to focus on herself.

The process was really straightforward (i dealt with lady called Sarah, who was really understanding and knowledgeable) and very re-assuring for my client.”

For information about the Dog's Trust fostering scheme, please see [www.dogstrustfreedomproject.org.uk](http://www.dogstrustfreedomproject.org.uk)

## GP online services and safety of DASV victims

From April, widespread use of GP online services was implemented. [NHS England » GP online services](#) GP online services are designed to support GP practices to offer and promote online services to patients. These services include:

- booking and cancelling of appointments
- ordering of repeat prescriptions
- viewing of their GP record (which includes coded information about allergies, immunisations, diagnoses, medication and test results).

However, there are implications for survivors of domestic abuse and sexual violence who may have disclosed these to their GP:

- An abuser may gain access to a person's record enabling them to further control or escalate harm
- This could be done by coercion or the abuser may get the log in details from their victim to view the records
- These changes could result in survivors being less willing to disclose abuse to their GP, for fear of their abuser accessing the information

### Proxy access

- Someone who has proxy access normally does so with the informed consent of the patient
- Formal proxy access – the proxy has their own second set of login details
- Informal proxy access – the patient shares their login details with another person
- The practice may refuse or withdraw formal proxy access, if they judge that it is in the patient's best interests to do so
- Formal proxy access may be restricted to less access than the patient has, e.g. appointments and repeat prescriptions only
- A practice may authorise proxy access without the patient's consent when:
  - the patient does not have capacity to make a decision on giving proxy access
  - the applicant has a lasting power of attorney (welfare)
  - the applicant is acting as a Court Appointed Deputy on behalf of the patient
  - the GP considers it to be in the patient's best interest

NHS England is asking GP practices to ensure their policy on safeguarding is updated to cover patient online services and to be aware of the potential impact and risks of coercion when registering patients for online services. Practices are also being asked to check the patient's notes for information that may indicate previous or ongoing abuse or that may lead to harm if seen by a malicious third party. If there are any indications of coercion or abuse the practice should consider refusing online access or using data redaction or restricted access to allow safe access.

Professionals should ensure any victims/survivors they are working with are aware of these changes and the following safety measures:

- Some online repeat prescription apps already contain GP notes so patients should ensure log-in details are not shared
- Patients can request their GP to add note to their record - a 'safeguarding node' on SystemOne – to note the risks around abuse and abusers accessing information by coercion
- Be mindful that, in regards to children's records, if details are shared with a non PR parent there could also be mention of family problems and mother's mental health, and safeguarding history

## Safe, Seen, Supported

Many children and young people who are experiencing, or at risk of, abuse in their households never come to the attention of authorities. It is estimated that 1 in 5 children is subjected to at least one form of child abuse (physical, sexual, emotional, neglect, exposure to domestic abuse) before the age of 16. Much of this abuse is 'off-radar', that is, unknown to statutory services.

Since March 2020, the UK government has enforced multiple 'lockdowns' due to the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in the closure of schools and other social distancing measures. This has meant that many children and young people have been trapped in abusive households with reduced access to outside support. The current pandemic has magnified the risks of child abuse and has serious implications beyond the pandemic, requiring urgent action.

This survivor-led initiative carried out in partnership with Survivors' Voices, Laura E Fischer, The Violence Abuse and Mental Health Network and The McPin Foundation aims to address the magnified risks of child abuse from COVID-19 and the likely significant post-pandemic consequences from increased exposure to abuse. The report identifies key considerations and actions to support children and young people at-risk, both during the pandemic and beyond.

Alongside the report is an infographic aimed at children and young people who are a) at risk of or experiencing abuse or b) know someone who might be experiencing abuse.

To read the Safe, Seen, Supported report click [here](#).

## Impact of Covid on global DASV Services

A report from charity 'No More' examines the impact covid has had globally on DASV services.

Key findings:

- 88% of the nonprofit organizations surveyed were impacted by COVID-19 in their ability to support people who need their services.
- 75% of those organizations had to reduce or cancel their programs or services due to COVID-19.
- At the same time that providers were struggling to maintain services, more than 63% of domestic violence organizations said that demand for their services escalated.
- 81% of organizations that responded felt that pressures on their staff had increased and 53% reported a decline in staff's mental health.
- 40% of all the organizations surveyed saw a funding decline during the pandemic and 82% believe fundraising will be even more difficult this year and next.
- The financial hit was worse among organizations in the United States, with more than half (54%) reporting overall funding decreases.
- Half of service providers reported that remote working during the pandemic created difficulties getting in contact with clients.
- Despite numerous challenges, more than half of the organizations managed to sustain staff levels during COVID-19.
- In more than a quarter of organizations, members of the Executive Board or Steering Committee got involved with day-to-day activities during the crisis.
- The survey also demonstrated positive outcomes. Most organizations found ways to continue critical emergency services, such as hotlines and shelters, and 71% of organizations surveyed said they were able to innovate as a direct result of the pandemic.

## **Support for Deaf survivors**

In Cambridgeshire, Cambridgeshire Deaf Association have a number of specialist Deaf services that directly support the Deaf community. We are also working closely with Cambridgeshire Constabulary to create a policy about working with Deaf domestic abuse victims including finding a Link Officer for Deaf people. Below is a list of the services we offer.

Deaf specialist freedom programme – This is adapted from Pat Craven’s Freedom programme and is run entirely in British Sign Language as well as using completely adapted resources to meet the needs of the Deaf community. Many Deaf women are also increasingly likely to have a learning disability or a reduced understanding of risk due to not learning in the same way as hearing people and “overhearing” information as we do so we adapt all the information and create visual resources so that the information can be given in full.

We also have trained domestic abuse workers who work in the community and do 1:1 work with individual victims of domestic abuse. We work with victims to explore what has happened to them and to signpost them to relevant services, support in police reporting and support to access counselling, family services and any legal processes that need to be done. Our outreach workers and Advocates work closely with the Deaf victims so that they are fully involved in the process. Sometimes, even through interpreters, information can be mislaid, inferences can be made and misunderstandings can happen. Our role is to support this process and ensure information is broken down fully for the Deaf people to understand and make sure it is in a way that they would understand too. This is an essential role as trained Advocates, we can identify gaps in understanding and help to smooth these over and we have relevant knowledge about Deaf services and support networks.

Interpreters are essential in recording Deaf statements as for many Deaf people, Sign Language is their first language and has a completely different structure to English so writing isn’t sufficient way to communicate, especially with victims who may have experienced trauma. For initial accounts and making sure people are safe, Video Relay Interpreting services (Such as Interpreter Now) are brilliant but more in depth discussions like interview or gaining statements or attending SARC will need a face to face interpreter and some will need both, an Interpreter and an Advocate.

We also create informative videos in sign language and post on our social media so that we can inform the Deaf community about new services, relevant support and contact methods to get the support.

We do offer Spot Purchase for the Advocacy service to other counties and if Deaf victims are willing to travel to our venues for the freedom programme from out of county, then we would be happy to have them join in and if there were a group of women that needed the freedom programme done out of county then we could work out a payment for that too.

For more information, please contact Rachael Dance Email: [rachael@camsdeaf.org](mailto:rachael@camsdeaf.org)

## **Violence Against Women Prevalence Estimates 2018**

This report is based on an analysis of available prevalence data from surveys and studies conducted between 2000 and 2018, obtained through a systematic and comprehensive review of all available data on the prevalence of these two forms of violence against women. The estimates in this report update the global and regional prevalence estimates published by WHO in 2013, and this report also presents cross-nationally comparable country-level prevalence estimates of physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence. To read the report click [here](#).

## Cambridge City Council Retains White Ribbon Accreditation

CAMBRIDGE City Council has retained the White Ribbon status it first gained in 2015, reaffirming the council's commitment to ending male violence against women and girls.

The White Ribbon Campaign works to engage men in speaking out about violence against women and girls, to challenge gender stereotypes underpinning such violence and to challenge cultures that lead to harassment, abuse and violence against women.

Work that the council has undertaken to earn its White Ribbon accreditation includes:

- Ensuring HR policy/policies are in place that cover male violence against women and domestic abuse
- Implementing domestic abuse training for council staff
- Ensuring there are adequate support and housing services for women and children experiencing/fleeing domestic abuse
- Appointing male White Ribbon ambassadors to raise awareness of the campaign and help other men and boys challenge violence against women and girls
- Raising awareness by holding events such as a domestic abuse conference to mark 25 November which is White Ribbon Day and the United Nations International Day to End Male Violence Against Women

Earning White Ribbon accreditation is just one of the ways in which the council works to tackle domestic and sexual abuse and promote public safety.

Cambridge City Council became only the fifth local authority in the UK to be awarded the Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) accreditation in December 2019.

The DAHA accreditation is the national benchmark for how housing providers should respond to domestic abuse, recognising that housing providers are in a unique position to identify abuse, prevent it and provide help for people suffering its effects. To achieve its DAHA accreditation the council has had to demonstrate how it is improving the quality of service given to those seeking housing advice, and supporting tenants, residents and council staff who may be experiencing domestic abuse. As part of the council's DAHA accreditation it is strengthening its approach to managing perpetrators of domestic abuse using or wishing to use the council's Housing Services.

It has developed new documents to guide the council's approach to managing perpetrators of domestic abuse – an approach which encompasses:

- How to bar perpetrators from the council's housing register in line with Cambridge City Council's Lettings Policy
- Guidance for staff on building a strong case and the evidence required to pursue enforcement action against perpetrators
- Signposting to external specialist legal services and options for providing sole tenancies to survivors where a court order has not been obtained
- Reinstating survivors in tenancies under the same terms as their previous tenancy

In addition to its White Ribbon and DAHA accreditations, the council works with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership which aims to reduce the harm, risks and costs associated with domestic abuse and sexual violence and to prevent these crimes occurring across Cambridgeshire.

The council is also a member of the Cambridge Community Safety Partnership which prioritises particular issues in the city related to crime, disorder, antisocial behaviour and more. Current priorities include safeguarding young people against violence and exploitation and listening to community needs and responding together to reduce harm.

The council is a partner of Cambridge Rape Crisis, which offers support to those who have experienced rape, childhood sexual abuse or any other form of sexual violence. Among the other campaigns supported by the council is 'Ask For Angela', led by Cambridge Business Against Crime, which aims to keep people safe while dating.

In its role as a licensing authority, the council also provides safeguarding, equality and protection training for all licensed taxi drivers, to allow them to identify and respond to concerns about the safety of their passengers, including those who may be at risk of sexual violence.

Cllr Nicky Massey, Executive Councillor for Transport and Community Safety, who also chairs the Cambridge Community Forum on Domestic and Sexual Violence/Abuse, said: "I'm very pleased that the council has retained its White Ribbon accreditation which helps us to challenge male violence, reiterate how unacceptable it is and appeal to men to do more to challenge it.

"The fact that cases of domestic abuse have risen during the pandemic, and last week's shocking news about Sarah Everard, show that so much more needs to be done to end male violence against women.

"I would urge all men and women to look into the White Ribbon Campaign and to really do more to tackle this appalling scourge of violence that persists in our country and around the world."

One of the council's White Ribbon Ambassadors, Cllr Russ McPherson, Mayor of Cambridge, said: "I am very proud to have been a White Ribbon Ambassador for the past six years. This is such an important campaign which deserves all the support and recognition possible for the amazing work it does in raising the issue of women's safety.

"So we celebrate the huge amount of work and dedication of officers at Cambridge City Council in securing our re-accreditation for a further three years as a member of the White Ribbon campaign and I look forward to supporting White Ribbon for many years to come. Perhaps you can do something to help as well."

Another of the ambassadors, Shapour Meftah, Chair of Mill Road Traders' Association, said: "I'm very pleased that Cambridge City Council has been re-accredited by the White Ribbon Campaign. The events of the last year have impacted on everyone and made organisations such as this, even more crucial in providing help and advice to those that need it. I am very proud to be a White Ribbon Ambassador and look forward to offering my continued support to this important work."

Adam Moghadas, Cambridge Family Law Practice, said: "As a White Ribbon Ambassador, I am delighted to hear that Cambridge City Council's efforts to engage with men in raising awareness and changing/challenging attitudes over domestic abuse has been recognised by the White Ribbon Campaign. We all need to be part of the dialogue, and to call out domestic abuse wherever it raises its head."

Sam Gomarsall, Cambridge United Community Trust: "It has been great to be involved with the important work of the council on the issue of domestic abuse since being asked to be a White Ribbon Ambassador. We believe, at Cambridge United Community Trust, that football has the power to make a difference on this issue by addressing and challenging ideas of masculinity and changing behaviour. The reaccreditation is a fantastic recognition of the extensive and vital work that the city council has put in on this issue and more important than ever in current circumstances."

## White Ribbon Accreditation for County

Cambridgeshire County Council has been accredited by White Ribbon for another three years and accreditation for Peterborough City Council is also in progress. We will update on the action plans for both in a future newsletter.

### **New survey finds only four in ten adults are confident they'd know how to support a victim of domestic abuse**

*Research also finds systems of support for child and adult victims of domestic abuse are an "unfair lottery"*

Only four in ten (42%) UK adults would be confident knowing where to go, or who to speak to, in order to help, if someone they knew personally revealed themselves as a victim of domestic abuse, a new survey has found. Only 12% of people felt 'very confident' they'd know how to help a victim of domestic abuse. This highlights that the public "don't know where to turn" to support the victims of this pervasive problem that we know has been increasing due to Covid-19.

The same survey has also found that almost three quarters (71%) of UK adults believe that there should be greater support provided to the victims of domestic abuse. The survey carried out by YouGov in March 2021 for the children's charity, the Early Intervention Foundation, also found two thirds of UK adults (61%) think the government should be doing more to provide support to the victims.

Adults under 25 were the age group the least confident in understanding what they could do to help with 55% saying they were not confident about where they would go for support. More than half of over 65s (52%) also had little idea.

The survey follows on from research out today (Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> April), from the Early Intervention Foundation which has found that victims, including children affected by domestic abuse, are not getting the help they need. There are significant gaps in support, such as therapeutic services for children dealing with trauma, support for very young children and babies, prevention services such as those focused on perpetrators, direct support for children whose parents are not engaging with services and culturally specific interventions for minority groups.

The research from the Early Intervention Foundation also found:

- Local authority funding constraints and uncertainties remain a major challenge to the provision of local services.
- Local authority funding for more holistic support for children and young people, including prevention activity or longer-term therapeutic support, is often short-term and highly vulnerable to funding cuts.
- Many of these services are provided by the voluntary and community sector and are propped up by piecemeal, short-term funding from a range of sources, leaving them in a precarious position.
- Very few common and popular approaches to providing support for victims, especially child victims, have been evaluated to assess whether they end up improving lives. Evaluation is crucial as a way of strengthening the impact of these services and in turn properly supporting victims.
- Local areas often cannot carry out high quality evaluation of local services by themselves and central government has a vital role to play here in facilitating this. We need to build the evidence to ensure that what we do best supports children, young people and families affected by domestic abuse.

- In dealing with limited and stretched services, practitioners have told EIF that they are forced to take a ‘something is better than nothing’ approach to referring children for support, for example, by looking for services with no waiting list or with fewer limitations on access.

*“When we get money, we absolutely use every penny of that. We throw it at projects, then the money disappears and you no longer have access to that project. So it feels like this sort of continual wave, where you might have a little bit of a product, then it goes, then you might have a bit.”* Service manager & local area focus group participant

*“You’re often just trying to send the child to wherever you think there might be someone who can pick them up pretty quickly, if I’m honest.”* Early help practitioner & local area focus group participant

To address this situation, where victims, including children, are not given the support that has been shown to be effective, the Early Intervention Foundation is calling on the government to establish a long-term, cross-departmental fund dedicated to improving knowledge of what works to support child and adult victims of domestic abuse, and to supporting the use of this knowledge to ensure children are provided with the ‘right support at the right time’. This would:

- Invest in robust evaluation of promising and widely used support programmes that are being used to support children affected by domestic abuse
- Build consensus across the sector on a standard set of outcomes, including specifically relating to children’s wellbeing
- Build capacity to evaluate small-scale, local interventions including community-level provision.
- Support evaluation of practice-based and system-level approaches as well as specific interventions

Dr Jo Casebourne, chief executive, Early Intervention Foundation commented: “As our survey shows, there’s broad public support for providing more help to the victims of domestic abuse and for the government to be doing more. That’s why we call on government minister, Vicky Atkins, to tackle this problem by creating a long-term fund.

“This is too important an area on which to lack evidence about what works best to support children who have suffered these traumatic experiences.

“The current system in local areas is often complicated and very variable, with no consistent response. All too often referrals have to be made only on the basis of what is available. This creates an unfair lottery for victims. While the government has been providing support for victims and deserves credit for some of its initiatives, especially through the pandemic, new funding should be prioritised to ensure we are most effectively helping those affected by domestic abuse, particularly children, who are also victims, as the Domestic Abuse Bill recognises.”

## **Central Beds new Domestic Abuse podcasts**

Central Bedfordshire have created some Podcast episodes on the topic of ‘Relationships Shouldn’t Hurt’

Listen to "Sexual Abuse V6" by Central Bedfordshire Council Domestic Abuse Service  
<https://anchor.fm/cbc-da/episodes/What-is-Sexual-Abuse-euas05/a-a5510us>

Listen to "V8 Economic abuse" by Central Bedfordshire Council Domestic Abuse Service  
<https://anchor.fm/cbc-da/episodes/Domestic-Abuse-Surviving-Economic-Abuse-eoits4/a-a49anmi>

## **Ofsted reviews sexual abuse safeguarding in schools**

The government has asked Ofsted to undertake an immediate review of safeguarding policies in state and independent schools and colleges in relation to sexual abuse. The review will look at whether schools and colleges have appropriate processes in place to allow pupils to report sexual abuse concerns freely, knowing these will be taken seriously and dealt with swiftly and appropriately.

It will establish whether there is sufficient guidance for schools and colleges on how they should deal with sexual harassment and violence allegations, and whether they understand and implement guidance well. It will also seek to identify whether current inspection regimes in both state and private schools are strong enough to address concerns and promote the welfare of children.

Ofsted will work with representatives from social care, police, victim support groups, school and college leaders and the Independent Schools Council. The review will conclude by the end of May 2021 and will seek to establish where safeguarding arrangements and processes are good and have worked well and where improvements are needed.

To read the full Terms of Reference for the Review please visit [Ofsted review into sexual abuse in schools: terms of reference - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ofsted-review-into-sexual-abuse-in-schools)

## **New research – DHRs and SARs**

Amanda from our team has undertaken some research into Domestic Homicide Reviews and Safeguarding Adults Reviews across the Eastern region, where the victim had a vulnerability (older person, disability or mental health issue).

The research paper has been published by Shaping Our Lives and is available to read at [Domestic Homicide and Safeguarding Adults Reviews relating to victims with Additional Vulnerabilities – Shaping Our Lives](#)

Key findings:

Information Sharing improvements was the most frequent recommendation from all cases studied

Risk Assessments tended to focus solely on risk of vulnerability, not the combined risk of domestic abuse and vulnerability

In just over half of cases reviewed, the perpetrator was also known to be providing care to the victim and professionals showed a lack of professional curiosity into the caring relationship.

The Care Act Adult Safeguarding process may be excluding some victims who don't meet thresholds but still need support to escape abuse.



*Living* **Keys**

**Keys to Freedom from Domestic Abuse**

**PETERBOROUGH TO SPALDING WALK**  
**29TH MAY 2021**

**The walk will commence at Morrison's Lincoln Road Peterborough at 10am and finish up in Spalding town centre, thats 18 Miles in total, and will be in Fancy Dress!**

**This walk is being held to raise awareness of domestic abuse and to raise funds for Living Keys.**

**If you wish to Donate please use one of the following, any help is greatly appreciated.**

**Bank - Yorkshire Bank  
Name - Living Keys  
Account No - 462 754 97  
Sort Code - 05 06 67**

**<https://gofund.me/f667a875>**

## New FGM Guidance for primary schools

The PSHE Association has developed new guidance and a lesson plan for upper key stage 2 (Year 5-6) to support schools that are teaching specifically about FGM at primary phase. This guidance is for teachers and PSHE leads teaching about FGM during the primary phase. It contextualises the issue and the relevant statutory requirements to help you consider how to include FGM within your curriculum at an age-appropriate level. **Ensure you read the guidance before teaching the lesson.** ['Keeping safe' FGM guidance & lesson plan \(Year 5-6\) | www.pshe-association.org.uk \(pshe-association.org.uk\)](https://www.pshe-association.org.uk)

For use with Year 5 or 6 pupils, the lesson plan and accompanying resources will help teachers to:

- explain what FGM is
- highlight to pupils the importance of reporting concerns around FGM (for themselves and others) and how to do this
- explore the issue in a sensitive and age-appropriate way — helping pupils to: identify myths and facts; engage in group and paired discussion; and recognise how FGM relates to the UN convention on the rights of the Child.

## Victim Focus report on VAWG

VictimFocus invested in this study to collect accurate data about violent acts committed against women and girls since birth. Our aims were as much about gathering accurate data from women, as they were about what we could do with such a comprehensive dataset. The first aim was to present a clear picture of how much violence women and girls in the UK are subjected to, broken down into types of violence, how many times they had been subjected to it and who committed those acts of violence against them. The second aim has considerable theoretical and practical implications; to explore whether the dataset supported existing theories of violence against women and girls.

We found that 99.7% of our sample had been repeatedly subjected to violence including assaults, harassment and rape. Only 0.3% of women had only been subjected to one violent incident or less. In total, 22,419 women reported that they had collectively been subjected to at least 808,607 acts of violence including 216,965 physical assaults and 363,964 sexual assaults. In their childhoods, women were collectively subjected to 395,558 acts of violence (49%) and in adulthood, women were subjected to 413,050 acts of violence (51%). Overall, this meant that of 22,419 women living in the UK, they were all subjected to at least 37 acts of violence each, in their lives since birth. Our findings in this report suggest that current statistics of the prevalence of violence against women have been underestimated for decades, and instead, it is likely that every woman and girl will be subjected to violence, abuse, rape or harassment. In the vast majority of cases reported here, women were subjected to multiple crimes and the perpetrators were overwhelmingly male.

[Key-Facts-Document-VAWG-VictimFocus-2021a.pdf \(cdn-website.com\)](#)

## Information About Breathing Space

Breathing Space is a trauma-informed resource and user-centred tool provided by AVA that provides both practical and emotional support to survivors of gender-based violence.

The tool consists of a neutral landing page, ability to tailor safety features and UK region alongside an easy-to-use signposting section. Support is categorised into crisis relief, financial support, mental & physical support, family & children-oriented support, substance use, housing, and legal support, and support for Black and minoritised women. The tool also features self-care tools and a stories section.

Safeguarding, including digital, has been embedded throughout, and content submitted by users of the tool will be moderated by AVA staff. [Breathing Space - Support \(breathingspace-ava.org.uk\)](https://breathingspace-ava.org.uk)

## DASH Training

Domestic Abuse – Using DASH to Risk Assess the Situation

25.06.2021 Microsoft Teams Event 9.30-11.30

Aims and Learning Outcomes: To have a thorough understanding of how to use the DASH – Risk Assessment tool and to analyse the results of the assessment.

By the end of the training session participants will be able to.

- Be confident in completing a DASH
- Have a greater understanding of the impact domestic abuse has upon all victims
- Be confident in referring appropriate cases to MARAC
- Be able to improve working where domestic abuse is a feature within families

Target Audience: Practitioners, Managers and Volunteers who work with children, young people and their parents / carers and are involved in undertaking S47 enquiries or contribute to assessing, planning, intervening and reviewing needs of children where there are safeguarding concerns.

This course is only available to people who have previously completed the “An Introduction to the Effects of Domestic Abuse” course.

For more details about the courses and to book a place, visit [www.safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk/availabletraining/](http://www.safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk/availabletraining/)

The DASV Partnership has a **new presentation** on Completing a DASH on our website, aimed at professionals that may have attended training some time ago or who need to risk assess but haven't yet been on the training [Welcome to Cambridgeshire DASV Partnership \(cambsdasv.org.uk\)](http://cambsdasv.org.uk)



## **New Health Outreach Worker in Fenland and Hunts**

Refuge recently secured funding from the Cambridge Innovate and Cultivate fund for the role of a Health Domestic Abuse Outreach Worker.

This role will be covering the area of Fenland and Huntingdonshire, the primary goal of the role being to raise awareness of Domestic abuse within the Health sector and work with victims/survivors who have been referred in by health professionals.

80% of women in an abusive relationship seek help firstly from Health services, and this is often a woman's first and only point of contact. Therefore, this role will be pivotal in ensuring we offer as many survivors support, as well as, ensuring Health care professionals have the specialist tools required. The role will be accepting referrals from all Health care professionals, and will be providing emotional support, safety planning, and risk assessment to ensure all areas of the client's needs are met.

In order for this role to make a difference to all survivors a survey has been sent out to GP's and various other health workers to complete, so the training for professionals can be tailored to the needs of their organisation. If you are in the Health sector, you can access the survey here- <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/T68RKL2>

To refer into the service you can contact our duty email address on [outreachcambridgeshire@refuge.org.uk](mailto:outreachcambridgeshire@refuge.org.uk), alternatively if you need further assistance you can email [aimee\\_graham@refuge.org.uk](mailto:aimee_graham@refuge.org.uk)

## **Refuge launches Tech Safety Website**

Refuge, the country's largest single provider of specialist domestic abuse services, today launches its new website, [www.RefugeTechSafety.org](http://www.RefugeTechSafety.org), with dedicated resources for survivors, after seeing an increase in the number of referrals of complex cases of tech abuse.

Between April 2020 and May 2021, Refuge has seen on average a 97% increase in the number of complex tech abuse cases requiring specialist tech support when compared to the first three months of 2020. In the last 5 months, this number has jumped to an average of 118% more complex tech abuse cases compared to before March 2020.

Complex tech abuse cases supported by Refuge's Tech Abuse Team often involve perpetrators using multiple accounts and devices to abuse, control and monitor their partners. The technology harnessed can range from everyday devices and accounts, to sophisticated, malicious software. A recent report from Refuge's partner Avast found a 93% increase in the use of malicious stalkerware apps when compared to the same time last year. Such abuse commonly happens alongside physical, sexual, emotional and/or financial abuse.

Refuge knows that many women experiencing tech abuse feel they have no choice but to stop using online spaces or their devices, which further compounds their isolation. The new Tech Safety Website has been created in consultation with survivors and provides women with resources for recognising tech abuse and using technology safely.

[www.RefugeTechSafety.org](http://www.RefugeTechSafety.org) hosts a short, animated film which illustrates common forms and experiences of technology facilitated abuse. The website also provides 17 step-by-step support guides covering a range of device and account settings, created specifically with domestic abuse

survivors' safety in mind. The guides provide easy to follow instructions on how to secure the settings for a range of commonly used devices and accounts, with cautions provided throughout where an action could notify an abuser. The website also includes an interactive Tech Safety Tool (chatbot) with video guides for securing accounts and devices in English, Urdu, Polish and Spanish.

**Ruth Davison, Refuge Chief Executive Officer, said:**

“Refuge is thrilled to be launching a new [www.RefugeTechSafety.org](http://www.RefugeTechSafety.org), created together with survivors, to empower women and children to use technology safely. In the past year, many of us will have turned to technology to keep in touch with loved ones and to connect with the world. However, at Refuge we're aware that perpetrators of domestic abuse often use technology as a tool of abuse – this can force survivors offline and further isolate them from their support networks. No survivor of abuse should feel the need to stop using online spaces. No woman should feel too afraid to use her devices. No one should have to face domestic abuse alone and without support.

In the past year, we've seen growing numbers of complex tech abuse cases that require our specialist support. That's why we're now sharing our resources and expert knowledge with the public, so women can protect themselves from abuse and not be forced offline due to domestic abuse. For any woman experiencing tech abuse, you are not alone, Refuge is here for you.”

**Amy Aldworth, survivor of tech abuse supported by Refuge, said:**

“Refuge's Tech Abuse Team supported me when I was being stalked and harassed online by a man I had met via a dating app. At the time, the abuse felt insurmountable and my mental health and ability to work were severely affected. My Refuge Tech Advocate supported me to secure the privacy and location settings of my online accounts, helping me feel safer online. She also assisted me in gathering evidence for the police and with her support I was able to secure a Stalking Protection Order against my abuser.

Often women in my situation may not know where to turn to or what their options are which is why I'm so pleased to have been involved in the creation of [www.RefugeTechSafety.org](http://www.RefugeTechSafety.org). Along with other women Refuge has supported, I gave my insights to ensure the website works for women experiencing tech abuse. It's great to see that the resources that helped me through such a difficult time of my life will be available to other women in similar situations.”

## **New project launches in Wisbech**

Swan project aims to work with women who have suffered domestic violence and will be offering courses including first aid, CV skills, healthy eating, physical activity, mental health first aid a social trip and more.

Yoga 12-1:30pm starting 1<sup>st</sup> June 2021 (including tea and coffee after the class) until at least December 2021 at the Oasis in Wisbech.

Confidence courses 10 weeks starting in September for Thursday daytime also at the Oasis in Wisbech.

For more details contact Lauren Bremner – [Lbremner@fenland.gov.uk](mailto:Lbremner@fenland.gov.uk)

## Job Vacancies

### Independent Domestic Abuse Advisers

Following additional funding, we are seeking to expand our team of IDVAs.

IDVAs are key in working with individuals who are victims of domestic abuse, in order to support and advise clients in order to increase their safety and reduce harm.

You would work as part of a large experienced and committed team of IDVA, who work across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough supporting clients. We would provide you with full support and work towards the Safelives IDVA qualification.

Currently we have a number of specialist roles available, working with our housing colleagues and supporting victims in safe accommodation, across health services, in courts, and specialist posts. The housing posts will require some work out of office hours and at weekends.

If successful at interview we would seek to match you with the most appropriate role.

You will be experienced in supporting people who are experiencing difficulties in their lives, and work in a trauma informed way, being mindful of the range of challenges your clients may be facing. Along with a passion for supporting victims of domestic abuse, you will have a range of transferrable skills. You will be joining a dynamic and experienced team of IDVAs and be working within the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership Team.

If you are interested in applying for the posts these will be advertised on the [Job Search Results \(publicsectorjobseast.co.uk\)](https://publicsectorjobseast.co.uk), or email Vickie or Julia for a chat.

### Empowering Women Everywhere Project

CWRC are currently recruiting Support Workers and Sessional Project 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: 4 posts, 30 hours pw £18,668 pro rata, Closing Date 1 June 2021, 4pm**

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. 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. [Job Description](#) | [Application](#)

#### **Sessional Project Worker: 2 posts £9.50 per hour, 10 hours per week, Weekends. Closing date 1 June 2021, 4pm**

This is a position for 1 year currently with the potential to be increased.

This post is restricted to women applicants only and is exempt under Schedule 9, Part 1 of the Equality Act 2010. [Job Description](#) | [Application](#)