



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

April 2018

Dear Partners

We launched our new Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Champions Network at the beginning of April and we have had over 80 professionals sign up and attend sessions! We are still keen to recruit more champions so if you would like to sign up please contact Lorraine.Hogg@cambridgeshire.gov.uk. The next series of networking events are in July and will focus on work and support around children and young people.

As we have started a new financial year, we have been busy writing our Annual Report for 2017-18 which will be published during May on our website. We have been involved in some really great partnership working with other agencies across the last twelve months and the range of support offered to victims and survivors is improving all the time.

Looking ahead to May, UK SAYS NO MORE week is coming up from May 21-27, and is a time for us all to unite our efforts and make a real impact. This year's theme is #WhatICanDo focusing on the impact which we can all make in our individual efforts to prevent domestic abuse and sexual violence. By working together, we are at our most capable of creating change.

As always, this newsletter brings you a variety of updates and articles about local and national issues around domestic abuse and sexual violence. I hope you enjoy the newsletter and remember that you can submit articles to Amanda.warburton@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Vickie Crompton & Julia Cullum
Partnership Managers



Training update

Please see our website for details of levels and training available in the joint training offer for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough http://www.cambsdasv.org.uk/website/training_1/86050

Please note that as the Council's Workforce Development Team has now moved to LGSS, courses are only free to employees of Cambridgeshire County Council, Peterborough City Council and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Foundation Trust. LGSS charge £75 per day for all other attendees. For current courses please see
<http://lgss.learningpool.com/totara/coursecatalog/courses.php>

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Adults Board have just launched their new Training Brochure which runs up to December 2018 and can be accessed [here](#).
Against Violence and Abuse (AVA) run CPD accredited training throughout the year. There is a charge for these courses <https://avaproject.org.uk/events/>

Helping young people to recover from abuse

A new leaflet has been published aimed at helping young people who have experienced abuse. Getting Help to Overcome Abuse has been written by young people who have experienced abuse or neglect. https://avaproject.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/getting-help-to-overcome-abuse.pdf?mc_cid=254746cc15&mc_eid=273e6b246c

Universal Credit and Domestic Abuse

The Work and Pensions Committee has launched a short inquiry into the impact of the way Universal Credit payments are made, as a single payment to a whole household, on survivors of domestic and financial abuse.

Under the rules for applying for Universal Credit (UC) couples must make a joint claim, and receive a single payment monthly into one account. The couple nominates the account they would like payments to be made into when they begin their claim. Several organisations have raised concerns that this system gives abusive partners further opportunity to exert financial control over their spouse.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/work-and-pensions-committee/news-parliament-2017/uc-domestic-abuse-launch-17-19/>

Domestic Abuse in churches

National organisation Restored released a new report last month about how the church can respond to domestic abuse. We know that domestic abuse happens everywhere, in all communities. Churches are often assumed to be a place of refuge, but Restored wanted to test whether churches know how to respond and if they recognise it in their own congregations. This research is the first step in gathering evidence to help understand how this widespread social problem affects churchgoers.

In Churches Too **Recognises** that abuse happens in churches too, to a significant proportion of people, that abuse takes many forms, and that congregations include both perpetrators and victims/survivors.

It asks churches to **Respond** by teaching that domestic abuse is wrong, supporting those who disclose being abused, and ensuring that church leaders and one domestic abuse 'champion' in each congregation is trained.

Churches are asked to **Refer** victims and perpetrators to sources of help beyond, as well as within, the church, follow safeguarding procedures and work with secular domestic abuse services.

And finally, **Record** all disclosures of domestic abuse both from the perpetrator and the victim/survivor of abuse.

https://restored.contentfiles.net/media/resources/files/churches_web.pdf

NSPCC report on peer sexual abuse

The NSPCC have released their helplines report 'Is this sexual abuse?' around peer sexual abuse. The young people who talked to NSPCC about peer sexual abuse in 2016/17 were often confused about what had happened to them, and were unsure whether they had experienced abuse.

Children and young people need to understand what a healthy relationship is and be confident about saying 'no' when they are asked to do something that makes them feel uncomfortable. In September 2016, NSPCC launched the #Listentoyourselfie campaign. This encourages young people to listen to their gut feeling about what's right and wrong for them in a relationship and get in touch with Childline if they need to talk things through.

Many of the young people who contacted Childline about experiencing peer sexual abuse discussed feelings of guilt. They felt that they were somehow to blame for the situation, and this prevented them from seeking support. It's vital that children and young people who have experienced peer sexual abuse know that it wasn't their fault, and are able to speak out when they need help.

NSPCC are supporting organisations to respond effectively to harmful sexual behaviour, so they can identify problematic behaviour, tackle the underlying causes and support all the children involved: They recently launched an online course on managing sexualised behaviour in primary schools.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/globalassets/documents/research-reports/nspcc-helplines-report-peer-sexual-abuse.pdf>

Disrespect Nobody Campaign

The third phase of the Home Office Disrespect Nobody campaign is running from 29 March to the beginning of May 2018. The aim of the campaign is to prevent young people, both boys and girls aged 12 to 18 years old, from becoming perpetrators and victims of abusive relationships.

For 2018, the focus of the campaign will be consent, sexting and personal boundaries, which are the issues many young people need more education and information on. All campaign advertising including radio, video-on-demand and social media, directs young people to the website www.disrespectnobody.co.uk where they can find further information and the details of organisations which can provide help and support.

A range of partner support materials is available to help professionals use the resources with the young people that you work with and promote it within your local area. These include posters, social media assets and materials developed specifically for LGBT young people.

Campaign assets are available to download at www.disrespectnobody.co.uk

Woman convicted of coercive control

A 22 year old from Bedfordshire is believed to be the first woman convicted under new domestic abuse laws after scalding her boyfriend with boiling water, stabbing him and keeping food from him. Jordan Worth banned her partner from their bed, decided what clothes he could wear, isolated him from friends and family and even took over his Facebook account.

She was jailed for seven-and-a-half years after pleading guilty to the offence of controlling or coercive behaviour in an intimate relationship, as well as wounding with intent and causing grievous bodily harm with intent.

Her partner has hydrocephalus and this health condition made him more vulnerable, especially as he relied on Worth for support and care at times.

New Services from DHIVERSE

Thanks to new funding, DHIVERSE can now offer professional counselling by a fully qualified and BACP registered counsellor. The counselling service is for anyone (including young people) where issues around e.g. sexual health, sexual identity, sexual relationships, sexual trauma and HIV are affecting their mental health and wellbeing. 1-1 and couples counselling is available. Sessions are free but donations are always welcome. This service is available throughout Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

The counselling service is available:

CAMBRIDGE: Mondays

PETERBOROUGH: Tuesdays

HUNTINGDON: Wednesdays

Appointments are available between 10am and 6pm

Please contact Lisa: lisa@dhiverse.org.uk M: 07983 150429

Homelessness Reduction Act

The Homelessness Reduction Act has now come into force. The act places new duties on housing authorities to try to prevent and relieve homelessness. Duties apply to anybody who is eligible for assistance (as per their immigration) status and who is homeless or threatened with homelessness.

An application must be taken where there is a threat of homelessness within 56 days rather than 28 days, as previously. Help during prevention and relief duties has to be based on a thorough assessment of the applicants' housing and support needs. There is a duty to provide help for at least 56 days per duty unless the duty is ended sooner by a reason specified within the act. Help is set out in a personalised housing plan. The personalised housing plan will include 'reasonable' steps to be taken by the applicant and the housing authority in an attempt to prevent or relieve homelessness. Only if this help fails will the housing safety net of the main duty be provided to households in priority need and not intentionally homeless. These extra rights for applicants are balanced by an understanding that social housing will not be a realistic option during the prevention and relief periods so any suitable accommodation with a realistic prospect of being available for 6 or more months ends the duties

There is now an obligation on applicants to accept prevention or relief help.

Sub-regional housing authorities have procured an IT system where personalised housing plans will be kept and which can be accessed and updated by applicants and by other professionals, with client consent

ARU Law Clinic

Anglia Ruskin University have launched a new Law Clinic that can now offer the following:

- Weekly family law advice between 10am and 1pm – half hour of advice from a qualified, experienced local lawyer
- Form-filling service, assisting clients with the completion of C100 child arrangement application forms
- Fortnightly employment law advice.

If you think that our service could be useful to any of your clients, please contact sarah.calder@anglia.ac.uk to discuss a referral.

Please note that all services are by appointment only.

Police Commissioner marks National Stalking Awareness Week

Police and Crime Commissioner, Jason Ablewhite marked **National Stalking Awareness Week 2018** by reminding members of the public that victims of stalking and harassment in Cambridgeshire are set to get an enhanced offer of support following an innovative partnership with national stalking charity Suzy Lamplugh Trust. The charity, who run the National Stalking Helpline, will provide specialist training for a new post holder in Cambridgeshire's Victim and Witness Hub who will provide dedicated support to victims of stalking and harassment.

The new support worker, known as an *Independent Domestic Violence Advocate* (IDVA) will get hands on experience working alongside staff at the London-based National Stalking Helpline before providing the service locally. The knowledge and experience they gain will enable them to better support and keep safe any Cambridgeshire victims seeking emotional and practical support. The initiative will also help officers and staff understand the complexities of stalking and harassment, the experience of a victim and how to address risk and create effective safety planning. This will be delivered through a series of events for officers and local victim support service providers.

Under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997, stalking and harassment is both a criminal offence and a civil action. It is illegal for a person to pursue a course of conduct which they know, or ought to know amounts to stalking. A course of conduct means two or more incidents which cause alarm, distress or fear of violence.

Suzy Lamplugh Trust was founded by Diana and Paul Lamplugh in 1986 following the disappearance and later presumed murder of their daughter Suzy. Suzy Lamplugh Trust receives calls nationwide from victims of stalking and harassment. To date, the National Stalking Helpline has responded to over 23,000 calls and emails. Through advice and advocacy, their stalking specialists make a real difference to the lives of victims.

This initiative is all part of Police and Crime Commissioner Jason Ablewhite's commitment to enable victims of crime to access appropriate support. "Stalking is a very serious problem which can have a devastating effect on victims. Long term effects can include depression, anxiety, sleep disturbance, paranoia and post-traumatic stress disorder. By working in partnership with the national experts in stalking and harassment, I can ensure that support is in place for local victims when and where they need it. Any learning gathered from this will be shared with colleagues involved in providing relevant support services."

Rachel Griffin, Chief Executive of the Suzy Lamplugh Trust said "The collaboration between our charity and the Police and Crime Commissioner is an exciting development that going forward will enable victims to receive improved support from police. It is encouraging that the Constabulary see the invaluable insight that our service can deliver to improve police response to stalking and harassment. We hope that more police forces follow their lead and work with us."

The charity will also be sharing their knowledge and expertise on stalking and harassment at an event being held at police headquarters in July. Details will be posted on the Police Commissioner's website in due course.

The advert for the new post in the Victim and Witness Hub, based at Copse Court in Peterborough, will be advertised on the Cambridgeshire County Council website over the coming weeks. The IDVA will be part of the wider Domestic Abuse Team employed and managed by the County Council.



**Child Sexual Abuse –
Thinking the Unthinkable**

Annual Conference 2018

Friday 8th June 2018

Providing an update for professionals on Intrafamilial Child Sexual Abuse.

The day will include updates on national research and the launch of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Children Board's Child Sexual Abuse Strategy and resources

Date: 8th June 2018

Time: 9:00am Registration

9:30am Start

3:30pm Finish

Venue: Deafblind UK Conference Centre, Cygnet Rd, Peterborough PE7 8FD

Speakers: To be confirmed

Who should attend: Professionals and managers across all agencies that provide services to children and families.

To book please go to <http://safeguardingpeterborough.org.uk/availabletraining/> and use our on-line booking system.

The Conference is free but a charge of £75 will be made to those agencies whose staff book a place and do not attend without giving 48 hours notice.

A buffet lunch and refreshments will be available on the day.

Should you need any further information please contact 01733 863747