



**Cambridgeshire
& Peterborough**
Domestic Abuse & Sexual
Violence Partnership

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

December 2019

Now that the General Election is over, we, along with many other domestic abuse services, are hoping that the Domestic Abuse Bill will be back on the table in January. It's been an uncertain year for many services across the country so we hope the Government will now be in a position to take this forward and implement change.

Thank you to all our partners who supported the **16 Days of Action** campaign by sharing posts on social media from 25 November to 10 December. We marked White Ribbon Day by sending cards to some men who are making a difference across the county and we also sent thank you cards to some Blooming Strong women – you can see more on the News section on our website. You can also read about the successful conference that Cambridge City Council held on page 9 to mark the International Day for Elimination of Violence Against Women.

We would like to express our sympathy to **Cambridge Rape Crisis Centre** who are mourning the loss of one of their brilliant volunteers – Saskia was killed in the recent London Bridge attack and you can read a tribute to her on page 2.

There are **changes to the MARAC threshold** and meetings starting in January 2020 – please see page 3 for more information about this and please share with colleagues.

Finally, thank you for all your support over the year by reading and sharing this newsletter so that the message to end domestic abuse and sexual violence is spread far and wide.

I hope you have a peaceful Christmas.

Julia Cullum
Partnership Manager



Saskia Jones – a tribute from Cambridge Rape Crisis Centre

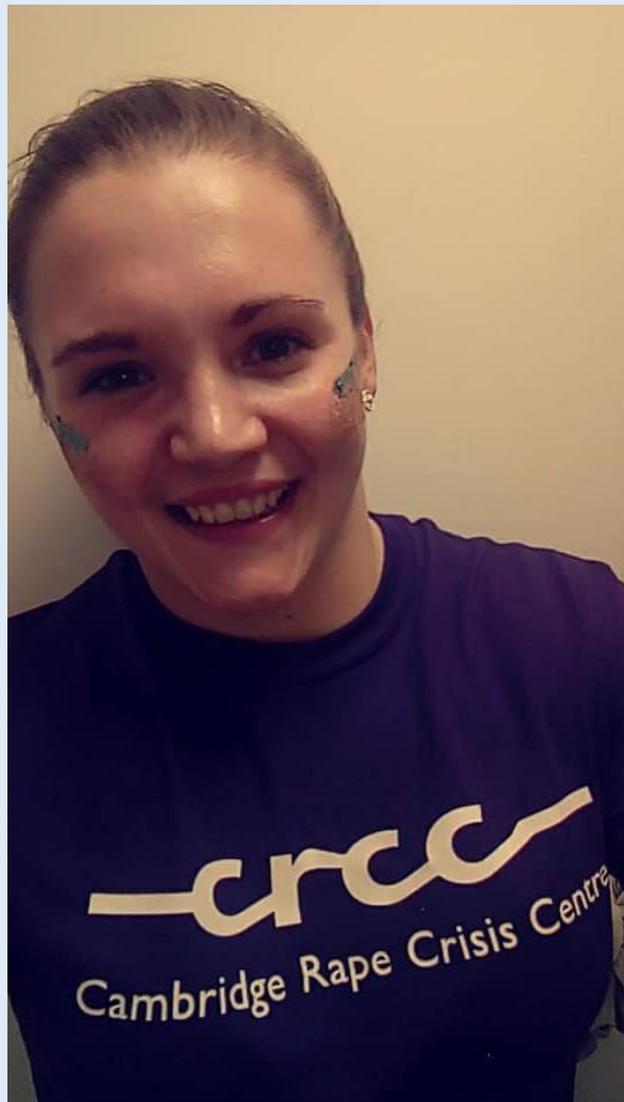
We were shocked and deeply saddened by the news that Saskia Jones was killed in the London Bridge attack on 29th November. Saskia had been a vibrant member of our community of volunteers and fearlessly took part in our Firewalking challenge in 2017. She believed passionately in the work of Cambridge Rape Crisis Centre and wrote her undergraduate dissertation about our telephone helpline.

She cared a great deal about the work we were doing and was passionate about supporting survivors of sexual violence and ending violence against women and girls.

We are coming together as an organisation to share our memories of her and think about how we can celebrate and honour her remarkable life.

We are so very fortunate to have known Saskia and have our lives enriched by her through her involvement in Cambridge Rape Crisis and her legacy will be treasured and stay with us forever. We want not to be broken by her death but inspired by her life.

As we grieve for her loss, our hearts go out to her family, friends, and all those who knew and loved the brilliant woman that she was. We will always remember you, Saskia.



Changes to MARAC threshold and meetings

IMPORTANT CHANGES TO MARAC FROM JANUARY 2020

Following the recent MARAC review it has been agreed to go ahead with a pilot for 3 months starting week beginning 6th January. The changes to the MARAC process/criteria are outlined below.

- Referral to MARAC will be 17+ ticks on the DASH Risk assessment, plus same requirements around professional judgement, escalation or repeat
- MARACs will take place on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday at 9.30am.
- Cases will be allocated 20 minutes, cases with children heard first (as they are now) and a maximum of 10 cases per day – the aim will be for 8 cases a day but this will depend on number of referrals.
- DASHs scoring 14 to 16 will still go to IDVA team for support. Consent will be required for this to happen. On receipt of these referrals, if IDVA Service feel that they should be referred to MARAC on PJ, these cases will be considered in a joint meeting between police and IDVA Service on Mondays and Thursdays. Arrangements for this meeting are to be confirmed.
- After engagement with the IDVA Service if it is judged that any cases originally scoring 14-16 need to be referred to MARAC, this will happen in the same way that it does now, with clear professional judgement given on the escalation of the risks.
- IDVA Service will continue to triage high-risk referrals (17+ and PJ) from partners (other than police) as they currently do.
- All other procedures will remain as they currently are and the MARAC Information Sharing Agreement will be updated and circulated in due course.

Specialist IDVA's (A8, Health and Young People) will continue to take referrals at all risk levels, except Stalking and Harassment IDVA who takes non-DA stalking at all risk levels but only high risk DA stalking.

The MARAC referral form has been amended to reflect the changes and can be downloaded from our website at https://www.cambsdasv.org.uk/website/referral_forms/296136

DASV Champions Network – January 2020

The dates for the next networking events are below, to book a place please email dasvchampions@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

January 2020– Stalking & Harassment and Learning from local Domestic Homicide Reviews

Cambridge City & South	Fenland	East Cambs	Huntingdon	Peterborough
15 th January 10.00 – 12.00 Arbury Community Centre, Campkin Road, Cambridge, CB4 2LD	13 th January 11.00 – 13.00 March Community Centre, 34 Station Road, March PE15 8LE	21 st January 10.00 – 12.00 Centre 33 Offices, Centre E Barton Road, Ely, B7 4DE	27 th January 10.00 – 12.00 Stanton House, Stanton Way, Huntingdon PE29 6XL	17 th January 10.00 – 12.00 Crosskeys Homes Shrewsbury Avenue, Woodston, Peterborough, PE2 7BZ

Permanent disability caused by domestic abuse

Most media representations of domestic-related physical violence depict a black eye or broken bone, injuries that will heal in time. But what about women who are left with permanent disabilities due to domestic abuse? Women’s Aid have recently highlighted the case of Abi - Abi’s husband left her with a fractured cheekbone, broken ribs, a punctured lung and devastating spinal injuries. Abi is now permanently disabled and unable to work. She has lost sensation in her fingertips and can’t help dress her young children.

A recent report from [The Disabilities Trust](#) highlights that for over half of women who have sustained a permanent brain injury, this was caused by domestic abuse – a staggering 62%. In addition, 61% of women with a brain injury caused by domestic violence have self-harmed. It is also of note that 35% of these women have not sought help for their brain injury – a large number of these women will have been prevented from seeking treatment by the abuser.

We want to increase the knowledge of disability support organisations about domestic abuse so please get in touch if you would like any information dasv@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Economic Abuse resources

We are pleased to launch our new poster raising awareness of Economic Abuse, created in partnership with Surviving Economic Abuse (SEA). The work with SEA is part of the Whole Housing Approach project being led by Vickie Crompton. We have created a new Economic Abuse page on our website at https://www.cambsdasv.org.uk/website/economic_abuse/424212 where you can read more about the subject and find specialist support. We have also launched a new poster (below) which can be downloaded from the Posters page on our website.



The poster features a central illustration of a two-story house with a red roof and a chimney. A thick, grey metal chain is wrapped around the house, symbolizing restriction or control. Surrounding the house are several icons: a mobile phone, a car, a bank card, and a credit card. Five heart-shaped callouts contain text describing common scenarios of economic abuse:

- 'ALL MY WAGES GO INTO HIS ACCOUNT'
- 'HE STOPPED PAYING THE MORTGAGE'
- 'NOTHING IS IN MY NAME, I CAN'T AFFORD TO LEAVE'
- 'THE KIDS NEED CLOTHES BUT HE SPENDS THE BENEFIT ON GAMBLING'
- 'SHE TOOK OUT CREDIT CARDS IN MY NAME, I CAN'T AFFORD THE REPAYMENTS'

Do you recognise Economic Abuse?

For support and advice, please visit www.cambsdasv.org.uk for details of your local domestic abuse service.

For information about economic abuse and access to helpful resources, please visit www.survivingeconomicabuse.org.



New national Domestic Abuse website

Refuge is proud to have run the 24-hour National Domestic Abuse Helpline as a sole provider since 1 November (having run the Helpline in partnership with Women's Aid for over a decade). This life-saving service answers around 250 calls a day and the expert women only team provides free, confidential support to women experiencing all forms of domestic abuse. The team links women to emergency accommodation, as well as to other forms of domestic abuse support that exists across the country and provides emotional support and empower women with information about their rights and options, helping them increase their safety and that of their children – and begin to rebuild their lives.

Since launching the service last month Refuge are delighted to share details of a new digital Helpline platform: www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk which has been developed and informed by the needs of the women who call the Helpline, as well as Helpline experts and international experts. It has been built with safety and accessibility at its centre.

The new website is an easily-navigable space where women (and friends, family and professionals supporting women) can:

- Find out about their rights and options - for example, in relation to housing, child contact, criminal and civil remedies
- Contact Helpline workers via a secure web contact form that puts the power in women's hands to decide the best time to talk. The webform is a safer alternative to emailing, and the first step in giving women more ways they can reach out for support
- Find support to recognise the signs of domestic abuse and begin to process their own experiences
- Gain reassurance about what it is like to call the Helpline and what they can expect

Latest Crime Survey Domestic Abuse data

The latest figures from the Crime Survey for England and Wales show little change in the prevalence of domestic abuse in recent years

- In the year ending March 2019, an estimated 2.4 million adults aged 16 to 74 years experienced domestic abuse in the last year (1.6 million women and 786,000 men).
- The police recorded 746,219 domestic abuse-related crimes in the year ending March 2019, an increase of 24% from the previous year.
- This increase may reflect improved recording by the police and increased reporting by victims.
- The police made 32 arrests per 100 domestic abuse-related crimes in the year ending March 2019, equating to 214,965 arrests (in the 39 police forces that supplied data).
- Referrals of suspects of domestic abuse-flagged cases from the police to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) for a charging decision fell 11%, from 110,653 in the year ending March 2018 to 98,470 in the year ending March 2019.

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/domesticabuseinenglandandwalesoverview/november2019>

Patchy, Piecemeal and Precarious – new report about child victims of Domestic Abuse

Action for Children commissioned University College London (UCL) to complete new analysis of the Millennium Cohort Study (MCS) to better understand the relationship between early childhood experiences of domestic violence and outcomes in adolescence. The [study](#) found that young people who lived through domestic violence between their parents at age three were more likely to report higher than average antisocial behaviours at age 14. Children can develop post-traumatic stress disorder, have nightmares, flashbacks and physical pains, and they can also become depressed and battle suicidal tendencies.

Key findings include:

- Overall, children faced barriers to accessing support in at least two-thirds of the local authorities that took part in the in-depth interviews.
- In 19 of the 30 local authority areas, services for children were dependent on time-limited funding. This means the long-term future of the support is extremely uncertain.

Recommendations include:

- Recognising children as victims of domestic abuse in their own right
- National review of abusive relationships of under 16s
- Sustainable funding to support child victims of Domestic abuse

New report on LGBT+ domestic abuse support

Galop, who specialise in the intersection of LGBT+ and domestic abuse [released a report in November](#) further cementing the charge to recognise gender based violence and the need for the right services to support all members of our society.

Key findings

- More than one in four gay men and lesbian women and more than one in three bisexual people report at least one form of domestic abuse since the age of 16.
- Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender survivors disclose abuse of power and control closely linked to their sexual orientation and gender identity and face distinct systemic and personal barriers in access to services.
- LGBT+ survivors under 24 and those over 50 are not accessing support at the same rate as other age groups.
- At least one in three LGBT+ survivors will present with one form of disability or health problem.
- Gay, bisexual and trans survivors and LGBT+ survivors with BME background are considerably more likely to access LGBT+ specialist services over other domestic abuse support.
- LGBT+ specialist domestic abuse services are largely unavailable within many local authority areas in England and Wales.
- Out of approximately 900 full time IDVAs working in England and Wales only four are hosted within specialist LGBT+ services.
- There are limited emergency facilities for LGBT+ people and housing providers do not always recognise that they have a duty towards LGBT+ survivors

Update from the Ask Me project

To date, Cambridge Women's Aid have trained almost 100 Community Ambassadors across Cambridgeshire – way over our target of 50!. Community Ambassadors are trained and supported to break the silence about domestic abuse, raise awareness in their communities, and signpost to specialist services if people disclose their own experience of abuse.

We send out a monthly survey to track what Community Ambassadors have been up to in their local area. The latest results from this tell us that:

- 63% of respondents had a conversation about domestic abuse in the last month. Most people (59%) had over 3 conversations, and the vast majority (83%) said that at some point they had been able to share information about local services with a survivor.
- 63% challenged myths and stereotypes about DA in the last month and 74% took steps to further their learning about DA/VAWG (books, articles, films etc.). This shows that we are supporting a group of informed people who are sharing their knowledge and changing culture around DA.
- There is a real impact in people's lives – one Community Ambassador told us that she had signposted a survivor to the National DA Helpline, and that the survivor had been able to access refuge and support to leave the relationship.

Some examples of what our Community Ambassadors have been working on recently:

- Putting up posters in community spaces
- Painting pebbles with the phone number of Cambridge Women's Aid and placing them around local areas.
- Giving a talk to colleagues at work
- Organising a breakfast seminar for 29 local businesses to talk about how workplaces can support survivors by having better policies around domestic abuse.
- Organising a stall at Mill Road Winter Fair to raise awareness of local specialist services.
- Arranging a session to raise awareness with parents in local playgroups

Cambridge City Council Domestic Abuse Conference 2019 Report

A free to attend Domestic Abuse Conference to mark 25 November – White Ribbon Day and the United Nations International Day of Elimination of Violence Against Women, which starts 16 Days of Action to 10th December, Human Rights Day - was hosted by Cambridge City Council at The Guildhall, Cambridge.

Superb art work (pictured) was provided by the amazing Cambridge Rape Crisis Centre 13-16 year old Girl Up Group. This was particularly relevant as this year's United Nations theme for 16 days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is 'Generation Equality Stands Against Rape'.

Antoinette Jackson, Chief Executive of Cambridge City Council, opened the conference, which was attended by nearly 130 people consisting of members of the public, survivors, service providers and professionals.

As an introduction, the council's Executive Councillor for Transport and Community Safety, Nicky Massey, provided an overview of the work being undertaken in the City as a strategic priority and also of the council's White Ribbon Campaign accreditation since February 2015. Nicky Massey chaired the range of guest speakers who provided different perspectives on work being undertaken.

Guest Speakers with British Sign Language Interpreter

First of all there was an update about the Cambridge Community Forum on Domestic and Sexual Violence/Abuse Survivors Conference held in a council community centre in June. This had provided a unique opportunity for survivors to meet service providers in a neutral setting to discuss their experience. David Greening (Head of Housing Services, Cambridge City Council), Deirdre Reed (Independent Domestic Violence Advisory (IDVA) Service Operational Manager) and Susie Tinsley (Sergeant, Cambridgeshire Constabulary) provided updates in their services since June.

On behalf of local services; Angie Stewart (Chief Executive, Cambridge Women's Aid), Norah Al-Ani (Director, Cambridge Rape Crisis Centre) and Stef Martinsen-Barker (Chief Executive, Cambridge Women's Resources Centre) gave updates on their work and different initiatives such as the Ask Me Campaign.

Some of the Cambridge City Council White Ribbon Ambassadors spoke about their work in the different communities; Russ McPherson (Cambridge City Councillor / Cambridge Regional College), Shapour Meftah (Business Founder and Owner / Chair of Mill Road Traders' Association), Adam Ratcliffe (Manager of Cambridge Business Against Crime (CAMBAC) / Cambridge City Co-ordinator Ask For Angela Campaign) and Sam Gomarsall (Manager of Cambridge United Community Trust).

Information was available about Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (DASV) Partnership, Soroptimists International – Cambridge and the White Ribbon Campaign.

Unfortunately the expected keynote speaker, Dr Jessica Eaton, was ill so the conference ended after lunch.

Feedback

Comments from the conference attendees, as well as about the hall being cold due to a technical problem with the heating, included:

- "Very inspiring speakers! Encouraging to know about such good local services."
- "Excellent range of speakers. Looking forward to hearing Jessica Eaton next time, hopefully!"

- “Very good. Insightful and thought provoking.”
- “It was a shame that the keynote speaker was ill but the other speakers were great.”
- “Make it longer! Really pleased I came. Thank you!”
- “Really informative event. Thank you to all involved.”
- “Having British Sign Language (BSL) interpreters was very good.”
- “Just a little cold, but a very warm atmosphere.”

Guest speakers had enjoyed being involved as well and thanked Cambridge City Council for inviting them to share their work, which included:

- “Thank you for all the work and effort that went into the conference. And thanks as always for giving us an opportunity to speak about and raise awareness of such important issues.”

The conference was organised by Louise Walker, who is part of the council’s Community Safety Team. There was social media coverage on Twitter using the hashtags #camcoercion and #WhiteRibbonDay. A video of the guest speakers with British Sign Language Interpreters; Ali Gordon and Caroline Smith, is available on the Cambridge City Council Youtube Channel: <https://youtu.be/nBeDgWtkRVg>

Domestic Abuse in the workplace

A figure equating to approximately 15% of the female workforce - have experienced domestic violence and abuse in the past 12 months, according to a new independent international study from KPMG commissioned by Vodafone.

The report - published for the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women - reveals the damaging impact of domestic abuse on careers and businesses globally. More than one third (38%) of victims surveyed said they suffered from reduced productivity, and 22% said they sometimes stopped going to work and/or would take days off. Analysis of existing literature on domestic violence and abuse victims also revealed that the length of unplanned leave averages at 10.1 days per woman.

As a result of work absences related to abuse, in the nine countries covered by Vodafone’s survey, an estimated \$2.1 billion in economic output is lost each year. Four million women also missed out on a promotion as a result of domestic violence and abuse - suffering a related annual average salary loss of \$2,900 per woman. This equates to approximately \$13 billion in total potential earnings lost each year across those nine countries.

Cambridgeshire County Council has recently amended its Special Leave Policy to grant up to three days paid leave for employees who are experiencing domestic abuse. The leave, which could be used to seek safe housing or legal advice, could also be extended at the discretion of management.

