



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

April 2024

Hi All

To mark Sexual Assault Awareness Month, we have developed a brand new elearning module around sexual violence. The module, that should take around 40 minutes to complete, offers a basic awareness of types of sexual violence, impact on victims, the role of the media, the law and how to access specialist support services. The module is free to anyone to access and can be found on the DASV Partnership website at [Cambridgeshire County Council DASV Partnership - Sexual Violence Awareness \(cambsdasv.org.uk\)](https://www.cambsdasv.org.uk)

Our DASV Champions sessions for July are covering abuse of pets in the context of domestic abuse and we'll also be hearing from the Dahlia Project at Peterborough Women's Aid – booking information is available on our website at [Cambridgeshire County Council DASV Partnership - DASV Champions \(cambsdasv.org.uk\)](https://www.cambsdasv.org.uk)

Have a great month and get in touch if you need anything DASV related.

Vickie & Julia

Vickie Crompton & Julia Cullum
DASV Partnership Managers



Housing & Domestic Abuse: 'Working together to support survivors'

Following last year's successful event, the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough IDVA Service are holding another training and networking day for housing teams and housing providers in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. This is an opportunity to come together, learn from others and get the opportunity to share practice.

The day will be built on the work that is being carried out by Tier 1 and Tier 2 local authorities and housing providers in response to the Domestic Abuse Bill 2021 and the ongoing delivery of the Safe Accommodation Strategy across the County.

There will be a selection of speakers from local housing teams and housing providers as well as DA organisations. Subjects covered will be:

- Safe Accommodation Strategy 2024-2027:
- Domestic Abuse and links to Trauma:
- The impact of vicarious trauma on staff
- Trauma informed approaches in Housing.
- MARAC: Referrals, presenting and attending MARAC.
- Housing Providers and maintaining commitment to Domestic Abuse support (it doesn't end at DAHA).
- Housing IDVAs: What we do and how we can work with housing teams.
- Additional speaker to be confirmed*

This day is suitable for housing professionals from a variety of teams who have contact with those experiencing domestic abuse : Housing Advice/Tenancy Management/Temporary Accommodation/Allocations/Private Sector Housing-Environmental-Health/ Community Safety.

The event takes place on 10th July at Hinchingsbrooke Country Park Countryside Centre. *Please follow link to book a place on the day*

<https://buytickets.at/cambridgeshirepeterboroughdomesticabusesexualviolencepartnership/1225110>

The Kite Trust is now a Reporting Hub for Hate Crimes

The Kite Trust can now provide help to the wider community as a Third Party Hate Crime Reporting Centre. Victims can receive tailored support from LGBTQ+ trained staff to report hate crimes and incidents. The Kite Trust team can receive anonymous reports and offer help to understand what the follow up investigation process looks like. Youth workers offer a listening ear and can signpost to appropriate ongoing support following any incident. To make contact, please email youthwork@thekitetrust.org.uk

All victims of crime can also access support from the Victim and Witness Hub (whether they have reported to police or not) [Victim Services | Victim and Witness Hub \(cambsvictimservices.co.uk\)](https://www.cambsvictimservices.co.uk)

New platform for survivors

The Domestic Abuse Commissioner has launched a virtual platform – VOICES - for victims and survivors to influence change to improve the lives of others subjected to domestic abuse.

From today, victims and survivors, as well as friends and family bereaved by domestic abuse, can [sign up](#) to receive the VOICES email newsletter, which will include opportunities for victims and survivors to share their experiences, as well as providing relevant updates on the work of the domestic abuse sector, government and academics.

The Commissioner is also inviting victims and survivors to share their views in a [survey](#) on their experiences with the police.



Clarification on early prison release scheme

You may have seen in the press about early releases – we have clarified with Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Probation Service to tell us that *'The end of custody supervision on licence (ECSL) scheme means that selected male prisoners can be released on licence for up to 35 days before their scheduled release date. ECSL means their licence supervision period starts a few days earlier. For women, they can be released up to 18 days before the expected release date. The prison has to consult the community probation officer who can request an exemption if there are concerns regarding the risk of harm.'*

New laws on intimate image abuse

From 31st January 2024, the Online Safety Act made the sharing of AI-generated intimate images without consent illegal. Recent reports of sexually explicit 'deepfake' images of Taylor Swift circulating in the news have highlighted the reality that women and children are disproportionately targeted by generative AI.

The Act also brought in further changes around sharing and threatening to share intimate images without consent. Sharing intimate images of someone without their consent and with intent to cause distress has been illegal since 2015 and since 2021 it has also been illegal to threaten to share such images thanks to Refuge's Naked Threat campaign. As a result of sustained campaigning by Refuge and allies, the new Online Safety Act reforms wider intimate image abuse law:

- It is illegal to share an intimate image without consent. This means it will no longer be necessary to prove the perpetrator's motivation to cause harm to prosecute. Perpetrators could go to prison for up to 6 months if found guilty, or 2 years if it is proven the perpetrator also intended to cause distress, alarm or humiliation, or shared the image to obtain sexual gratification.
- Survivors of intimate image abuse will be granted automatic lifelong anonymity and automatic eligibility for special measures during the trial i.e. giving evidence via video.
- Sending unsolicited sexual images, also known as 'cyberflashing', has been criminalised. However, this offence depends on proof of the perpetrator's intent to cause harm or gain sexual gratification, which can be difficult to prove.

First Men's domestic abuse refuge in Essex opens

The official opening of the first men's domestic abuse refuge in Essex opened in March and will be providing specialist support and care to male survivors.

'Alex House', named after domestic abuse victim Alex O'Donoghue who took his own life in 2022, was opened officially by Alex's parents. The refuge is run by Safer Places who can be contacted on nfo@saferplaces.co.uk website www.saferplaces.co.uk



Photo: Alex's memorial bench

Dr Jessica Taylor launches a free, trauma-informed, reflective online tool to support people to understand their life experiences, abuse, trauma and distress

To mark International Women's Day 2024, Dr Jessica Taylor launched the Life Experiences Reflective Tool. The tool is available to anyone around the world, with a basic formula that can help people to see the scale of life experiences they have had so far, and how they may be impacting their physical and psychological wellbeing.

Completely free

- No sign-up up required
- Anonymous and confidential
- 26 interactive questions to support people around the world to identify their diverse life experiences, biases, beliefs, and feelings
- Open to anyone aged 16 years and over
- Primarily for individuals to understand their own experiences privately, but could be used with professionals in certain trauma-informed settings

At the end of the questionnaire, each person is presented with a detailed trauma profile which describes the different types of traumas and distressing life experiences they have been subjected to across the lifespan. Each section comes with explanations and information about each trauma type. At the end of the detailed trauma profile, there is a wealth of information about trauma responses, coping mechanisms, life experiences, sources of support and lots of free resources.

[Take me to The Life Experiences Reflective Tool](#)

Older LGBTQ+ people and social care

SCIE has launched a repository that includes a range of knowledge about older LGBTQ+ people – about their lives, needs and their experiences with social care.

This is part of the LGBTQ+ Older Adult Social Care Assessment (LOASCA) project, led by the University of Birmingham and the repository will be built up over time.

In the repository you can find out more about older LGBTQ+ people in social care, the LOASCA project and watch a recent webinar on the project.

[Older LGBTQ+ people and social care \(scie.org.uk\)](https://scie.org.uk)

New resource – Healthy Relationships for Autistic People

This resource was developed as part of a project funded by the Violence, Abuse and Mental Health Network, which examined how autistic adults understand and recover from intimate partner violence. The project interviewed autistic adults about their experiences, and how to improve service provision and outcomes for autistic victim-survivors. During this process many of them talked how much they wished that there had been more information on what healthy relationships look like, including how to spot red (and amber/green) flags.

Based on the information shared in the interviews, the team (which includes both autistic people, and people who have experienced intimate partner violence) created this guide to help other autistic people to navigate relationships and recognise the signs of both healthy and unhealthy relationships. The project also worked with Sunderland People First to create an easy-read version.

[Healthy Relationships for Autistic People - Durham University](#)

Child to Parent Abuse survey

Respect have launched a landmark survey aiming to create a national picture of the public's understanding and experiences of child and adolescent to parent violence and abuse, known as CAPVA.

CAPVA is used to describe the dynamic where a young person (8-18 years) engages in repeated abusive behaviour towards a parent or adult carer. It is known as a hidden harm: 40% of those experiencing CAPVA refuse to report it, often due to shame or out of fear their child will be criminalised, but prevalence is estimated to be high, with CAPVA-related offences representing 21-27% of cases within youth offending services.

The anonymous survey will explore adults' and young people's understanding of CAPVA, and - in cases where people have needed support related to the issue - we are asking them:

- whether they sought support
- if they didn't seek support, what the reasons were
- if they did access support, how they would rate the effectiveness of that support
- how their experiences or identity impacted their help seeking
- whether they have any suggestions to improve things for people in their position.

The survey is now open for anyone aged 13+ based in the UK, and will close on 29 August at 5pm.

[Child and Adolescent to Parent Violence and Abuse \(CAPVA\) Survey \(office.com\)](#)

New support scheme launches in Peterborough

Residents struggling with alcohol and / or drugs issues whose home may be at risk or have become unsuitable as a result, are being urged to use a new support scheme.

Peterborough City Council has recently secured funding from the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID), to provide housing-related support for people with drug and alcohol problems.

A new floating support service will be delivered in conjunction with the charity Change Grow Live and the council is actively working to raise awareness of this new service.

The funding has been granted to help achieve the government's aim of having more people recovering from drug and alcohol use in stable and secure housing by 2024/25, as part of a programme of investment in treatment and recovery interventions. The service will offer support to people with alcohol and or drug issues and can help provide advice on several subjects including budgeting, debts, employment, mental health and responsibilities.

For more information about the service and how to access it, call 01733 296770 or email

aspirehomelessproject@cgl.org.uk

Free webinar for churches

Restored are hosting a free webinar for churches on Thursday 20th June at 12 o'clock. This online session is totally free to attend and lasts for just an hour. Content includes an introduction to Restored, detail on how to partner with Restored to equip churches to respond to domestic abuse and support survivors.

If you're keen to get your church interested in standing against domestic abuse, this webinar is a great place to start! Even if you're not sure if your church is ready to join the Restored Beacon Network, inviting your church leader to join the session will start the conversation about domestic abuse and give them an opportunity to consider how to get involved.

[Becoming a Beacon of Hope: Restored Beacon Webinar by Restored on cademy.co.uk](https://cademy.co.uk/Becoming-a-Beacon-of-Hope-Restored-Beacon-Webinar-by-Restored)

Homicide Timeline Podcast

This BBC Podcast is about Femicide and the Homicide Timeline. There are eight episodes relating to the eight stages leading to intimate partner femicide, based on research from Professor Jane Monckton-Smith.

[BBC Sounds - Assume Nothing - Available Episodes](#)

Research priorities for Coercive Control

The Violence and Abuse Mental Health Network have joined with the Economic and Social Research Council to determine priorities for future research on coercive control. The resulting report ranks topics in order of priority as determined by consultations with professionals and survivors.

You can read the report at [Priorities LEAG Report \(vamhn.co.uk\)](https://vamhn.co.uk/Priorities-LEAG-Report)

Cancer and Domestic Abuse Toolkit

Did you know that a cancer diagnosis can be a trigger for domestic abuse?

This toolkit is aimed at all secondary and tertiary healthcare staff working with people affected by cancer (referred to as 'cancer professionals') and supports them in identifying and responding to domestic abuse within the context of cancer.

The toolkit, developed by MacMillian Cancer Support, is based on the findings of a two-phase project that aimed to enhance the cancer workforce awareness and response to domestic abuse.

The Toolkit can be downloaded from our website at [Cambridgeshire County Council DASV Partnership - Health Professionals \(cambsdasv.org.uk\)](https://cambsdasv.org.uk/Cambridgeshire-County-Council-DASV-Partnership-Health-Professionals)

Cambridge City Council retains accreditation for working to end VAWG

CAMBRIDGE City Council has retained its White Ribbon accreditation in March 2024, reaffirming its commitment to ending male violence against women and girls and its continuous efforts to work towards changing the culture.

White Ribbon UK is the leading charity engaging men and boys to prevent violence against women. Since the council was first accredited with White Ribbon in 2015, its work to address the issue of male violence against women and girls has included:

- Ensuring that HR policies support council staff experiencing domestic abuse, and take action on perpetrators of abuse
- Making domestic abuse training available for council staff to make sure they know how to spot the signs of abuse and support people experiencing abuse
- Making sure adequate support and housing services are available 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
- Investing in age-appropriate healthy relationships education in schools to prevent domestic abuse

- Raising awareness of domestic abuse and marking White Ribbon Day and the United Nations International Day to End Male Violence Against Women which takes place on 25 November every year.

In addition to its White Ribbon reaccreditation, the council also has Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) accreditation, for which it was only the fifth local authority to receive accreditation in December 2019, before being reaccredited in 2023.

The council also works with partners across Cambridgeshire to support those experiencing domestic abuse and sexual violence and help to prevent these crimes. The council is part of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership, and the Cambridge Community Safety Partnership, and works closely with Cambridge Rape Crisis Centre. ‘