



**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

**March 2024**

Hi All

We hope you all get a chance to have a read of this month's bumper newsletter with a hot drink!

Some really great feedback about the Independent Sexual Violence Advisers, and some inspirational women have been nominated as part of International Women's Day.

As always, there are a range of training opportunities, including specific information about drug and alcohol misuse, and information about non-fatal strangulation that we encourage you to share with those you work with.

Over the last few years, we have had a number of discussions as a partnership about the difficulties of domestic abuse being confused with Parental Conflict. We have worked with Lydia Mack who leads the Parental Conflict work, and some free webinars are available for staff which will help in distinguishing between these. Both of which have a detrimental impact on the children exposed to these behaviours.

For children who are victims of domestic abuse in their homes, there is funding available from the Happy Days Children's Charity – details can be found within.

While you are out and about, we have recommended some Podcasts relating to issues of domestic abuse.

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

*Vickie & Julia*

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



CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH REDUCING PARENTAL CONFLICT PRESENTS

# THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN DOMESTIC ABUSE AND PARENTAL CONFLICT

Join us at one of our upcoming webinars designed for professionals in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to learn more from the experts at Amity.

You may find yourself supporting a family and wondering whether the behaviours you are seeing indicate domestic abuse or parental conflict. The two are very different (although can look similar), and it is important that professionals working with families are able to identify which is happening, and know how to respond with the appropriate advice and support.



Presented by Emily Nickson-Williams, Amity



**Wed 13 Mar 2024**

9:30 AM - 11.00 AM

**Tue 19 Mar 2024**

1:30 PM - 3.00 PM

**Thu 18 Apr 2024**

9:30 AM - 11.00 AM

**Book now**

<https://qrco.de/bemjLT>



Provided by 'Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Family Hubs' and 'Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Partnership'

## Important change to Health IDVA Referrals

Due to funding reductions the Health IDVA Team will only be taking referrals for patients living in Cambridgeshire (NOT Peterborough) from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024. Details of other referral routes for IDVAs can be found at [Cambridgeshire County Council DASV Partnership - Make a Referral \(cambsdasv.org.uk\)](https://cambsdasv.org.uk)

If you wish to refer without a DASH Risk Assessment, you will need to use the Domestic Abuse Support Service (DASS), who can accept referrals without a DASH and at any level of risk. As with the Health IDVA Referrals, any referral requires consent. DASS can be contacted on 0300 373 1073 or email [DASSReferrals@impakt.org.uk](mailto:DASSReferrals@impakt.org.uk)

## Funding for young people's activities

The Happy Days Children's Charity is inviting applications for funding towards trips, respite breaks and group activity holidays for disadvantaged children and young people with additional needs. The charity awards funding for different types of activities to support families with children aged 3-17 who have a disability, a special need or have been abused.

Grants are available for the following activities:

- Family Day Trips - eligible trips include zoos, farm parks, theme parks, the seaside or the theatre
- Family Holiday Breaks - a short break family holiday by the seaside or in the countryside, usually in the United Kingdom. Other destinations will be considered according to cost.
- Group Day Trips and Visiting Theatre - a day trip to a wide variety of destinations, for example, the seaside, a theme park, the theatre, or for a theatre workshop to visit the applicants' premises. Items that can be funded are tickets/passes and transport costs
- Group Activity Holidays - a group activity holiday to a wide variety of destinations such as outdoor activity centres, holiday camps and sailing breaks

Applications for family activities are accepted from parents, guardians, grandparents or siblings, as well as GPs, consultants, nurses or social workers. Applications for group activities are accepted from organisations such as SEN schools and groups, young carers and women's refuges. Applications can be made at any time.

[Happy Days Children's Charity UK - Apply for Funding \(happydayscharity.org\)](https://happydayscharity.org)

## **New publication: Foregrounding meaning and motive in the domestic abuse perpetration of and response to neurodivergent men**

Paper by Dr. Nicole Renehan. This paper explores the domestic abuse motives of men who are autistic, ADHD and those experiencing psychosis, and what this means when working with this population in practice. The article is available open access [here](#).

## **Grooming and Coercive Control Summit: online access**

The recordings from the Grooming and Coercive Control Summit, in the context of neurodivergence, are now available to access freely online. The summit was attended by over 1000 people! A huge success! The organisers and host, Neurodiverse Connection, have also published a range of resources on their website that will be useful for informing practice.

See [here](#) for access.

## Community Contextual Safeguarding Referrals

The Pilot for the Community Contextual Safeguarding referral went live from Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024

The initial referral form has been simplified and is available from the Safeguarding Boards website at [Community Contextual Safeguarding Pilot | Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Partnership Board \(safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk\)](#)

The Safeguarding Partnership Board continue to raise awareness through the Training Sway ([Community Contextual Safeguarding – Raising concerns about Spaces and Networks | Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Partnership Board \(safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk\)](#)) and are meeting key partners to brief them of this new process.

From the go live date and during the pilot phase, partners are encouraged to contact the safeguarding board via email if they feel they have an issue that could be addressed through referral, they are more than happy to talk through the process and assist with the referral form.

## Pulling the Strings: Conversations About Coercive Control

In this podcast, Dr Kitty Saunders, Anjuli Kaul and Dr Sharli Paphitis talk to academic experts, authors, practitioners, and coercive control survivors to better understand and expose the true extent of coercive control.

Season 1 is out now, with five episodes available:

1. **Defining and Measuring Coercive Control** - featuring Dr Lindsay Kelland and members of the VAMHN Lived Experience Advisory Group
2. **Technology** - featuring Dr Leonie Tanczer
3. **Economic Abuse** - featuring Nicola Sharp-Jeffs
4. **Mental Health** - featuring Prof. Louise Howard
5. **Long Term Recovery** - featuring Dee-Anne Hardy

Click the links here to listen to the podcast for free on [Spotify](#) or [Apple Podcasts](#).

## News from the Domestic Abuse Commissioner

- DLUHC has published a [consultation](#) seeking views from local housing authorities, social housing landlords, tenants and applicants on proposals to amend **social housing allocation** rules. The consultation closes on 26th March.
- To ensure that the regulation of **online pornography** in the UK is fit for purpose in tackling exploitation and abuse, Baroness Gabrielle Bertin has been appointed to undertake a thorough independent review on pornography regulation, legislation, and enforcement.
- DLUHC recently published the [Second Annual Progress Report](#) of the National Expert Steering Group (NESG) on **Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021**.
  - The group, which the Commissioner co-chairs, was set up to monitor the delivery of the duty on local authorities to fund domestic abuse services.
  - The Commissioner welcomes progress made since this duty was introduced, but in the context of growing constraints on local authority budgets, we must go further.
  - Read the Commissioner's full response [here](#).
- The government has published their [response](#) to the **Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) legislation** consultation which took place in summer 2023.
  - Proposed changes include:
    - amendments within the Victims and Prisoners Bill to rename reviews as Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews, and
    - to clarify that a DHR can be commissioned when the death has, or appears to have, resulted from domestic abuse as defined in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. These changes better reflect all deaths, including those related to controlling or coercive behaviour, emotional and economic abuse, and those who die by suicide.
- The government has made [significant changes](#) to the **Destitution Domestic Violence Concession** which has been supporting migrant survivors of domestic abuse for over a decade.
  - The scheme, newly titled the Migrant Victims Domestic Abuse Concession (MVDAC), has been expanded to a wider cohort, but this cohort will not be able to access a route to settlement after support through the MVDAC, leaving a cliff edge in support.
  - The Domestic Abuse Commissioner is calling for a comprehensive package of support for migrant victims, which would £2.3 billion in social gains over 10 years.
- The Ministry of Justice has announced that new statutory aggravating factor will be brought in for offenders who cause death through abusive, degrading or dangerous sexual behaviour.

### Meeting with Foundations' Local Development Team

- Foundations' vision is that vulnerable children have the relationships they need to thrive. As a 'What Works' centre they can help to realise this vision through generating and championing actionable evidence. One of their [strategic priorities](#) is Domestic Abuse.
- Foundations would like to meet with local leaders and others in the sector to understand the challenges and motivations regarding evidence and evaluation and to share their developing narrative.
- If you would like to meet them, please email [Becky Saunders](#) or [Bethan Le Maistre](#).

### Electoral Register Anonymity Process

- Anonymous registration is available to voters whose safety would be at risk if their name or address were listed on the electoral register. This includes survivors of domestic abuse.

- An application must be submitted to an electoral registration officer in writing and must provide certain evidence that the person applying is at risk.
- Click [here](#) to read the Electoral Commission's guidance for registering to vote anonymously.
- Click [here](#) to apply to register to vote anonymously.

### **Webinar on LGBTQ+ people's experiences of sexual violence**

The Centre for Research into Violence & Abuse (CRiVA) at Durham University are hosting a webinar on LGBTQ+ people's experiences of sexual violence and abuse on the 14th March from 1pm-2pm.

This webinar will begin with speakers from Durham University (Prof Catherine Donovan, Dr Kate Butterby and Dr Rebecca Barnes) discussing their recent book chapter which explores the social processes by which sexual violence might occur in the relationships of LGB and/or T+ people. Drawing on data from two research studies, Sarah West, a Postgraduate Researcher at Coventry University, will then discuss how LGBTQ+ people seek support for sexual violence, and outline the impact on those providing this support.

For more information and to register your attendance click [here](#).

### **Neurodiversity Celebration Week 2024!**

This year includes more panel discussions than ever before, with inspirational speakers from a range of backgrounds and professions. The discussions will all be focussing on key neurodiversity topics and aim to educate while inspiring conversations about neurodiversity.

All events are free of charge and open to all. Please do sign up to as many events as you like and share with your networks!

[2024 Events Schedule | Neurodiversity Celebration Week \(neurodiversityweek.com\)](#)

### **Podcast focuses on men's engagement**

Now and Men, a podcast focusing on men's engagement with feminism and gender equality, has launched a new episode focused on how we can engage effectively with men when they display discomfort in conversations about masculinity, gender equality and violence.

Learn more (<https://respect.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=8da4b84a629cb9102464e2289&id=2a8df4284d&e=6fcd9d7d69>)

### **Call for submissions for national conference**

Project dIdl/ᠵᠠ ᠵᠠ Annual Conference for 2024 under the theme of **Domestic Violence – Religion – Migration: Integrating cultural and religious diversity in UK domestic violence and abuse services and developing a future roadmap for the sector:** [Annual Conference 2024](#)

The conference will consist of evidence sharing panels and best practice workshops led by researchers and DVA practitioners and service providers to achieve genuine cross-sectoral knowledge exchange and identify together good practices, new approaches and future priorities and directions in faith-informed and culturally adapted DVA services in the UK and internationally. We would also like to bridge the evidence we have produced in two continents in the past four years, by assisting travel for our Ethiopian partners to the UK, to feed this into conversations intersecting domestic violence, religion and migration.

The conference will also feature keynotes delivered by leading figures in DVA policy and practice, and a roundtable engaging participants and the public, and is being supported by numerous organisations (featured on our conference page), many of which will contribute actively to the conference.

In the evening of day 1, Project dld/ድል ድል will also hold a screening of its docudrama 'Tidar' ('Marriage'), an educational film co-produced in Ethiopia and the UK to raise awareness about the role of religious beliefs and faith in domestic violence experiences. You may watch the multilingual trailers on our Vimeo account: <https://vimeo.com/projectdld>

**Conference thematic areas include (but are not limited to) the following:**

Theme 1: Relationship between cultural norms and religious traditions

Theme 2: Culturally adapted and faith-sensitive DVA services

Theme 3: Best practices on integrating religious stakeholders in DVA services

Theme 4: Policy, funding and structural constraints in diversifying DVA services

Theme 5: Faith-sensitive and trauma-informed counselling approaches

You may contribute a presentation (15 minutes), an evidence-based panel (1 hour total, with Q&A), or facilitate a practice-oriented workshop (1 hour max). If you'd like to make a submission, please send us an abstract of 150 words and a bio of 100 words by emailing [soasflf@soas.ac.uk](mailto:soasflf@soas.ac.uk) by 31 March 2024.

Please note that the organiser will aim to pay an honorarium to anyone delivering a panel or a practice-oriented workshop. Supporting organisations are also assisted with travel costs. If you'd like to engage with the conference as a supporting organisation, please write to Dr Romina Istratii at [ri5@soas.ac.uk](mailto:ri5@soas.ac.uk) to discuss this.

If you have any other questions, please write to Dr Natalia Paszkiewicz at [np56@soas.ac.uk](mailto:np56@soas.ac.uk).

## **Praise for Cambridgeshire's sexual violence support workers**

Survivors of abuse in Cambridgeshire have described specially trained staff as "life-saving" in a new report.

A report released by the Government on the rape review process highlighted how the Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVA) service worked effectively with the force's Rape Investigation Team (RIT) to offer the best service to survivors.

ISVAs provide practical and emotional support to anyone who has been raped or sexually assaulted, recently or in the past.

They help survivors access other available support services to address both short and long-term needs. They also support survivors through the criminal justice system, providing information on what happens when you report to the police.

The report said: *“Due to the phenomenal working relationships with Cambridgeshire Constabulary’s Rape Investigation Team, officers will offer all victims reporting to the police a referral to the ISVA service and will personally ensure that referral goes in.*

*“A duty ISVA will contact the victim within 48 hours to make an initial assessment and allocate a member of the team. Every effort will be made to ensure the same ISVA supports the victim throughout their journey through the criminal justice system, building strong and trusting relationships.*

*“The service has grown significantly since its inception, including both specialist child and adult posts and an outreach service to engage with seldom-heard-from communities.”*

Recent data from the Criminal Justice System dashboard revealed that Cambridgeshire had the lowest percentage of investigations closed due to victim disengagement in the East of England between June 2022 and July 2023.

The report goes on to quote a girl who was 12 when her court case was heard, and a guilty verdict reached for her abuser. She said: “I will never forget everything you have done for me. I can barely put into words how thankful I am that you cared for me through everything.”

Detective Superintendent Sherrie Nash said: “The professionalism and compassion of the expanded ISVA team, Rape Investigation Team, Sexual Assault Referral Centre and other partners is the reason why survivors in Cambridgeshire are gaining confidence to come forward and tell us their story.

“The services have been praised time and time again by survivors in their feedback, describing it as ‘life changing’ and ‘life saving’.

“I’d like to remind survivors out there you don’t have to report to the police to get support from an ISVA. They can help those who are not reporting to access support for their emotional needs as well as help with safety planning. They can help you understand how the criminal justice process works, and what happens if you choose to report to us.”

The ISVA service was commissioned by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, two local authorities and NHS through a pooled budget arrangement in 2020, on a five-year contract. Police and Crime Commissioner, Darryl Preston said: “The Cambridge and Peterborough Rape Crisis Partnership provides crucial support for adults, young people and children. It’s great that their amazing work and that of the rape investigation team officers has been recognised.

“Working in partnership with colleagues across the sector my office has been extremely successful bringing additional funds into the county which have been invested into providing additional support for victims and survivors.”

## **News from the courts**

The latest convictions across the county include:

- A man who strangled his girlfriend in Peterborough after she criticised him for being untidy has been jailed for 18 months after pleading guilty to intentional strangulation

- A man who sexually assaulted a woman while she was sleeping has been jailed for two years and 8 months
- A school bus driver who indecently assaulted a teenage girl in the 1980s has been jailed for 21 months

[News search | Cambridgeshire Constabulary \(camb.s.police.uk\)](#)

## **Building Better Relationships study**

A new study, from Dr Nicole Renehan and Professor David Gadd, reflects on what can be learned from the Building Better Relationships programme: the probation service's intervention for male perpetrators of domestic abuse.

Learn more (<https://respect.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=8da4b84a629cb9102464e2289&id=c27c0b649e&e=6fcd9d7d69>)

## **Taunts, bullying... then groping: how sexual assaults are increasing in schools**

The Guardian reports on sexual assaults in schools, including a case where the victim has been supported by Embrace (<https://respect.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=8da4b84a629cb9102464e2289&id=b6f7322e08&e=6fcd9d7d69>)

## **Domestic Abuse and Higher Education Conference**

The Counselling and Wellbeing Service at Anglia Ruskin University (ARU) are hosting a Domestic Abuse and Higher Education conference on April 10th 2024, and invite any interested parties to join to listen to a range of internal speakers discussing ARU's work on supporting survivors of Domestic Abuse, and external speakers from across the sector.

This event will be based on the Cambridge campus, and is open to staff, students, external professionals, and members of the public.

The Domestic Abuse and Higher Education conference will also serve as the official launch of ARU's Domestic Abuse policy, that will have a real impact on students and staff in our ARU community.

If you're able to join, you can view further event details and get yourself booked in [here](#).

## **Latest data on strangulation and Suffocation offences**

Strangulation and Suffocation have been stand-alone offences across England and Wales since 7th June 2022, according to the Domestic Abuse Act (2021) and the Serious Crime Act (2015).

The Institute for Addressing Strangulation (IFAS) requested data from police forces across England and Wales to provide information surrounding strangulation and suffocation cases that have been recorded by the police within the first year of the new legislation (up to 6th June 2023).

IFAS conducted the same data request and produced a report from the first six months of data (<https://ifas.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/ONS-Data-on-Non-Fatal-StrangulationSuffocation.pdf>).

On the basis of the data from the 33 police force areas, there were a total of 23,817 offences of strangulation and suffocation recorded in the first year of legislation (June 2022–June 2023).

Key findings are below, but it should be noted that not all police forces provided data and, for those that did, there was a large amount of missing or unknown data information.

- The most common victim age represented as 25-34 years.
- The majority of victims of reported strangulation and suffocation are female. When adjusted to remove unknown cases, however, the data show just under a fifth of victims reporting a male which is not insignificant.
- There were a total of 6496 offences recorded where the victim-suspect relationship was 'intimate partner' – it is unclear whether this includes ex-intimate partners/ex-spouses and
- There were a total of 2131 offences recorded where the victim-suspect relationship was 'other – family/relative'. The remainder were noted as 'other' or 'unknown'.
- Over half of the cases (67%) were not progressed further due to evidential difficulties. Although some of these decisions would have been due to not being able to pursue a prosecution without a victim supporting this action, a large proportion of cases (20%) were not progressed even with a victim who was supportive of further action.
- Of those assigned an outcome (n=21,152), 19% of the cases amounted in steps towards punitive action such as a charge or caution, and 81% amounted in no further criminal justice action such as the case being deemed not in the public interest, or the case not progressing due to evidential difficulties.

[Strangulation and Suffocation Offences Police Data Report 2024 - Institute for Addressing Strangulation \(ifas.org.uk\)](#)

Bedfordshire DA Partnership have created a Non-fatal strangulation toolkit for professionals that they have kindly allowed us to use and place on our website [Cambridgeshire County Council DASV Partnership - All professionals \(cambsdasv.org.uk\)](#)

## **Podcast recommendations**

Carrie Bower is the first Domestic Abuse lead for Age UK and is passionate about raising the profile of older women. Outside of the day job, she has an amazing blog and podcast where she speaks to older women about the issues that affect them and their experiences of abuse <https://carrievftraining.co.uk/>

Anna Knight is a trauma informed coach, and she has been speaking to Rachel Forbes, a Public Health Speciality Registrar, about the definition of healthy love [Love Audaciously | Podfollow](#)

## **UN expert urges action on VAWG**

A UN expert has urged the UK Government to take urgent action to end all forms of violence against women and girls, as the country labelled it a “national threat”.

“Entrenched patriarchy at almost every level of society, combined with a rise in misogyny that permeates the physical and online world, is denying thousands of women and girls across the UK the right to live in safety, free from fear and violence,” said Reem Alsalem, the UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, in a [statement](#) at the end of a 10-day visit to the country.

“A woman is killed by a man every three days in the UK and one in four women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime,” she said.

Alsalem acknowledged the robust legal framework for promoting gender equality, including the Equality Act 2010 and other legislation that applies across the United Kingdom. This framework is complemented by important legislation and policies in the devolved regions.

“The UK has been a leader in strengthening its legal framework to address current and emerging forms of violence against women and girls,” the expert said, including coercive control, digitally facilitated violence and stalking, as well as improving access to justice.

“Many countries will look to the UK for inspiration, as well as examples of innovation and good practice on how to make life safer for women and girls, and accountability for crimes committed against them,” she said.

The Special Rapporteur noted that the ability of the UK and Devolved Administrations to realise the full potential of their legislation and policies on violence against women is undermined by a number of realities, including the dilution of the link between these policies and the UK’s international human rights obligations; a general critical discourse and positioning on human rights, particularly in relation to migrants, asylum seekers and refugees; and the fragmentation of policies on male violence against women and girls across devolved and non-devolved areas.

Read more at [No time to lose as UK declares violence against women a “national threat”](#): UN expert | OHCHR

## **Improve Responses When Working with Problematic Drug and Alcohol Use**

CGL are holding a training event on Wednesday 13th March 2024, from 09:30 to 16:30 (venue TBC). The course includes knowledge of the drugs categories used by experts to better understand the way substances affect people, information about the common substances in use locally and how to engage more effectively with problematic drug and alcohol users as well as understanding more about your local drug and alcohol treatment service and how to refer to CGL

[CGL training - Working with Drug & Alcohol Use - LOCATION TBC \(Hunts\) Tickets, Wed 13 Mar 2024 at 09:30 | Eventbrite](#)

## **EVAW Coalition Annual Snapshot Report**

The End Violence Against Women Coalition has published its [annual snapshot report](#), a yearly overview of the current context and developments impacting violence against women and

girls in the UK; analysing the government's response through legislation, policy-making and practice.

The report highlights a further deterioration of the foundations needed to tackle VAWG, and a concerning lack of public trust in politicians and public institutions to tackle VAWG, as illustrated by new YouGov polling.

The report sets out key recommendations to government, including:

- Put prevention front and centre in work to tackle VAWG
- Protect our human rights frameworks - the bedrock of tackling VAWG
- Create a safe online world free from VAWG through legislation and other mechanisms
- Ensure access to support for all survivors by sustainably funding the specialist VAWG sector - particularly services run 'by and for' Black and minoritised women, Deaf and disabled women, and LGBT+ people
- Dismantle 'hostile environment' policies, including scrapping the No Recourse to Public Funds condition, introducing a 'firewall' to block data-sharing between statutory agencies and Immigration Enforcement, widening access to protection and removing reservations on the Istanbul Convention
- Take a whole-society approach to VAWG by resourcing and reforming public institutions so they are better able to respond to this abuse.

## **VAWGRN 3rd Joint Annual Conference**

A call for papers is now open for the annual Violence Against Women & Girls Research Network conference. The conference will showcase work which is feminist and transdisciplinary in orientation, and that offers innovations in theory, research, and activism relative to thinking through change and working towards more ethical, inclusive and feminist futures. **This is a two-day in-person conference.**

Activism, Change, and Feminist Futures: Remembering the Past to Reimagine the Future, is a two-day joint conference from: **The LEX Network, Violence Against Women and Girls Research Network** (VAWGRN), **Feminist Legal Research and Action Network** (FRAN), and the **Centre for the Study of Emotion and Law** (CSEL).

**Date: 7 - 8 November 2024**

**Location: School of Law and Social Justice Building, University of Liverpool**

Find out more about the conference and how to submit papers at:

<https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/law/research/fran/events/Activism-Change-and-Feminist-Futures/>

Join the Network (free) [here](#)

## **International Women's Day Nominations**

Here are the nominations we received for inspirational women

## **Linda Huskisson, Living Keys**

- Linda is a very inspirational woman who supports those fleeing domestic abuse in Peterborough. Linda works tirelessly, with limited resources, offering free courses, support, events, and workshops for women survivors of domestic abuse across the city. Linda has lived experience of domestic abuse, and the focus of the charity is to bring women together and provide the support they need, so that they too can live a life free from abuse.
- Linda has spent many years supporting women in Peterborough who have been subjected to domestic abuse having lived experience herself. She works tirelessly with limited resources, and unpaid, to support women to support women in the longer term, often the women have received support from IDVAs or other services and Linda is able to provide a range of longer-term peer support. I can't think of anyone locally who deserves this more than Linda whose compassion and desire to support women is incredible.

## **Amanda Geraghty, Mirna Guha (Lecturer and Researcher behind the Dahlia Project), Irram Razaq (South Asian Community Specialist Worker) and Samina Nawaz (South Asian Community Specialist Worker)**

I would proudly like to nominate Amanda Geraghty for launching the Dahlia Project in Peterborough in July 2023. Peterborough Women's Aid has been up and running since 1975, but there has never been a specialist project like this ever before, considering the South Asian Community has been growing since the 70's. The Dahlia Project is one of its kind and since its launch in July 2023 we have supported over 150 women – well exceeding our target of supporting 75 women a year! The Dahlia project is a specialist project, working with victims of domestic violence. past and present abuse, including forced marriages, honour based abuse, and female genital mutilation.

Being born and bred in this community and going through the challenges of a forced marriage and honour-based violence, I am so proud that the Dahlia Project has finally opened in Peterborough. I'm absolutely thrilled and ecstatic to be a frontline worker, supporting these vulnerable women. I want to make a positive change and empower our women to take a stand and to protect their honour and know their rights. The Dahlia project not only supports these women through their abusive journey, but it empowers them to have that hope, at the end of that dark tunnel. It gives them hope to live and know their worth, it brings the best version of themselves out to the public, so they may face their fears and build their skills and confidence. Dahlia Project is here to make a positive change in our small close-knit community of Peterborough. We would like a positive recognition and leave a mark on the map, for years to come, and for the Dahlia Project to grow and go National ☐

## **Amanda Geraghty**

- Mandy has boundless energy, enthusiasm, commitment, and drive which she channels towards tackling domestic abuse and all forms of violence against women, girls, and men in Peterborough. The needs of the local community are at the core of some of the services that PWA provide. These specialist services include, the Dahlia Project for South Asian survivors, the B- United project for male survivors, Lithuanian community engagement

workers and the recent opening of Anne's house. If a need is identified, Mandy finds a way to meet that need.

- I have had the privilege of working closely with Mandy over the years in a previous role when she was managing a team of professionals in the delivery of a domestic abuse perpetrator programme. Mandy has inspired me both personally and professionally. She is incredibly motivational with her perpetual positive energy and is a role-model and warrior for change, inclusion, equality and empowerment
- Since becoming CEO of PWA Mandy has strived to develop PWA to support women from all backgrounds. She has applied and been successful at receiving funding to enable us to support women from minority backgrounds through dedicated projects. She inspires our team on a daily basis to empower every woman that contacts our service and is keen to provide the ladies with support workers that can talk to them in their first language, understand the cultural or religious impacts and to provide facilities that meet their needs such as a multi-faith prayer room at our new community facility – Anne's House. Mandy always puts the client's needs at the forefront of everything to create a sense of belonging, inclusion and empowerment whilst managing to balance this with ensuring the health and wellbeing of all her staff. (Sue Bamforth)

### **Anita Oram**

I believe that I have been inspirational to others and have been told so by quite a number of people, but not many people actually know my story, and those who do, do not feel they can share it as it is quite a personal one. I am in a place now where I do wish to share and feel I can inspire others.

### **Ola Abdellatif**

My name is Ola, and I am a GP with a special interest in women's health. I'm quite keen on women's health education generally and particularly amongst the Muslim community in Cambridge which are essentially mostly BAME. I've started giving talks at our local mosque and had very good feedback so far and hoping to continue giving these talks to raise awareness.

### **Caroline Deprosse**

In Lockdown, with some colleagues, Caroline established "Property Angels" who support women & Children in the Huntingdonshire area who are setting up a new home following domestic abuse. She works alongside domestic abuse specialists, including the IDVA service, to help women begin the next phase of their lives, with practical support. She also leads walks once a month for some to support each other and reduce isolation. Caroline has tirelessly worked, without pay, to establish Property Angels as a charity and has ambitions to support many, many, more women and children into the future. Her passion shines through everything she does and her ability to bring private businesses on side is remarkable. Thanks to Caroline and everyone behind Property Angels, changing lives every week.

### **Gail Sawyer**

Gail works tirelessly to develop the programme of support at The Edge Cafe and is always available to talk or get advice from. She prioritises the needs of users of the recovery cafes above everything else and has enabled some really great support groups to get going.

## Screen time

We have a few things from television land to update you on this month:

Loose Women, alongside Safe Lives and Women's Aid has launched a domestic abuse awareness campaign, ***Facing It Together***.

Eight of the show's panellists recently took part in an emotive photoshoot and short film to raise awareness around this important issue and say: "Whether you are a survivor or a friend, we are facing it together."

As statistics show one in four women and one in seven men will face domestic abuse within their lifetime, the campaign's key image shows the eight women coming together to show the many faces of abuse.

Brenda Edwards, Charlene White, Denise Welch, Frankie Bridge, Judi Love, Kelle Bryan, Olivia Attwood-Dack and Sunetra Sarker all took part.

Denise, Olivia, Kelle and Brenda, all four of whom have personally experienced domestic abuse, stand shoulder to shoulder with their fellow panellists and friends - in a show of support and solidarity with those currently facing domestic abuse, as well as survivors, and to let them know that they're not alone.

The campaign aims to highlight the help available to those living with domestic abuse and the key ways in which friends and family can spot the signs or support loved ones living with domestic abuse. For local information on supporting friends and family, please visit [Cambridgeshire County Council DASV Partnership - Opening Closed Doors \(cambsdasv.org.uk\)](https://www.cambsdasv.org.uk)



National charity Karma Nirvana worked with Channel 4 to develop 'The Push' which was shown on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> March. The documentary sheds light on the tragic case of Fawziyah Javed (pictured below), a victim of Honour-Based Abuse, who lost her life after being pushed from Arthur's Seat in Edinburgh by her husband, Kashif Anwar, on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2021. Karma Nirvana is deeply involved in this project, aiming to honour Fawziyah's memory and raise awareness about the devastating impact of honour-based abuse.

The documentary covers the murder trial, and delves into the complexities of Fawziyah's experiences, highlighting the dynamics of domestic and Honour Based Abuse. It's a heartfelt tribute to Fawziyah and her life, aiming to spread awareness and respect for her story. Watch on catch-up services.



# We need your help!

We want to hear about your experiences of forming a relationship with your baby

- For some parents or carers, bonding with their their baby isn't easy.
- Your local NHS services and Family Hubs are working together to set up a new team in Peterborough that can help parents and babies who are struggling.
- Could you help us to help other new parents and carers by completing a short survey?
- **Tell us your experiences of your relationship with your new baby, what helped you in the early weeks and months, and if relevant, the support you wish you had received.**



This survey is available in different languages

Scan the relevant QR code, use the weblinks below...

Or pick up a copy in your local Family Hub



English

[www.bit.ly/p-survey-english](http://www.bit.ly/p-survey-english)



lietuvių

[www.bit.ly/p-survey-lithuanian](http://www.bit.ly/p-survey-lithuanian)



Română

[www.bit.ly/p-survey-romanian](http://www.bit.ly/p-survey-romanian)



Русский

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