

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

**November 2024**

Hello All

This newsletter is packed full of information and free resources for you to all be using for your roles.

The website has had a bit of a tidy up in preparation for a revamp to an updated style in the next couple of months. There will be no changes to links, but if you do notice anything that's out of date or not working please do let us know.

We really appreciate all your hard work to tackle domestic abuse and sexual violence, and we hope to see you at some of the events over the coming weeks.

Have a lovely Autumn!

*Vickie & Julia*

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



**Please help us improve support to victims and survivors**

A reminder to please complete/share the surveys that Safe Lives are running as part of a review of domestic abuse processes in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough – we really need to know what's working and where we can make improvements.

Professionals - [https://online1.snapsurveys.com/Professional\\_CandP](https://online1.snapsurveys.com/Professional_CandP)

Survivor - [https://online1.snapsurveys.com/Survivor\\_CandP](https://online1.snapsurveys.com/Survivor_CandP)

Public - [https://online1.snapsurveys.com/Public\\_CandP](https://online1.snapsurveys.com/Public_CandP)

CYP - [https://online1.snapsurveys.com/CYP\\_CandP](https://online1.snapsurveys.com/CYP_CandP)

Those that harm - [https://online1.snapsurveys.com/ThatHarm\\_CandP](https://online1.snapsurveys.com/ThatHarm_CandP)

## November events

- We have added a new webinar to our 16 Days of Action series – Cambridge Rape Crisis will be talking about supporting 13-17 year old victims of sexual violence on 6<sup>th</sup> December – please book via <https://buytickets.at/cambridgeshirepeterboroughdomesticabusesexualviolencepartnership/1443190>

### White Ribbon Flag events

White Ribbon Day is 25<sup>th</sup> November and Council's across Cambridgeshire with White Ribbon Accreditation will be holding flag raising events to mark their commitment to ending male violence.

Cambridgeshire County Council will be raising the White Ribbon flag at 1.30pm on 25<sup>th</sup> November at New Shire Hall

The Mayor of Peterborough will be raising the flag at 11am at the Town Hall in Peterborough.

Cambridge City Council will be flying the White Ribbon Flag at the Guildhall on Monday 25 November and East Cambridgeshire District Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council will also be flying the flag.

The Cambridge City Council Guildhall will be lit up orange for the evening on 25 November to mark the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG).

**Date for your diary** - The annual Cambridge City Council Domestic Abuse Conference will be held on Monday 2 December 10:00-14:30 and more details will be shared soon.

If you are a Cambridgeshire County Council or Peterborough City Council employee and would like to become an Ambassador or Champion, please let us know ([Amanda.Warburton@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Amanda.Warburton@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)). More information about White Ribbon Ambassadors can be found at [Ambassadors and Champions — White Ribbon UK](#)

**Peterborough Rape Crisis** will be joining the global Reclaim the movement, meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 6-7pm Outside Peterborough Cathedral Gate entrance

## Message from the Department of Work & Pensions

The DWP are reminding people of State Pension age (66+) who are not receiving certain benefits\* that they should check their eligibility and apply for Pension Credit, as they could qualify for the Winter Fuel Payment\* and other support, such as help with housing costs, Council Tax and/or a free TV licence for those aged 75 and over. Thanks to the Pension Credit backdating rules, it is possible to apply for Pension Credit and have the claim backdated by up to 3 months - so long as there is entitlement during that time. This means that the latest date to apply and still qualify for Winter Fuel Payment is 21st December 2024.

Did you know that additional to the Winter Fuel Payment, Pension Credit also provides extra support for heating costs such as [The Warm Home Discount Scheme\(link is external\)](#) and [Cold Weather Payments\(link is external\)](#)?

### Could you connect with someone to raise awareness of Pension Credit?

- It is estimated that up to **880,000** households are missing out on Pension Credit, and it is worth, on average, **£3,900** per year, providing additional benefits such as help with Council Tax and Housing Benefit and a free TV licence for those over 75.
- Raising awareness of [Pension Credit\(link is external\)](#) could make a difference to an older person's life: [www.gov.uk/pension-credit\(link is external\)](http://www.gov.uk/pension-credit(link is external))
- You can help raise awareness by sharing our **official social media posts** @DWP on Facebook and @DWPgovuk on X. You can also find a range of promotional products that you can use in our [online toolkit\(link is external\)](#)
- Finally, if you have State Pension Age customers or service users and would like to boost yours and your colleagues' confidence in talking about Pension Credit, **watch our explainer video**: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kD9e4mAAGdc\(link is external\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kD9e4mAAGdc(link is external))

## Latest Changing Futures News

Changing Futures is an ambitious programme where system partners work to transform how people facing multiple disadvantage are supported in Cambridgeshire & Peterborough. People with lived experience are at the heart of the how the programme is shaped.

Read more about Changing Futures at [Changing-Futures-Newsletter-Nov24.pdf](#)

## CAFCASS publishes new Domestic Abuse Policy

Cafcass has published a new [Domestic Abuse Practice Policy](#). The policy sets out the practice requirements that Cafcass Family Court Advisers (FCAs) and Children's Guardians must follow in protecting child and adult victims of domestic abuse when they advise the courts about the welfare of the child and the child's best interests.

In June 2020, the Harm Panel published [a report](#) setting out concerns which included that the family justice system does not effectively protect victims of domestic abuse because it is adversarial, that key agencies work in silos and that a 'contact at all costs' culture predominates. It reported that FCAs and Children's Guardians are not sufficiently resourced or trained, that they prioritise children spending time with a parent, even when a child says they don't want to. The report also stated that FCA recommendations to the family court do not draw on the advice of other professionals working with families.

In response, Cafcass established a [national improvement programme](#) which required all FCAs and Children's Guardians to undertake a mandatory learning and development programme, drawing on guidance developed with specialist domestic abuse services and families with lived experience of domestic abuse. Two senior SafeLives domestic abuse experts joined Cafcass on secondment for two years to work alongside and support the improvement work.

Learning from audit, family feedback, complaints, critical legal judgements, and serious incidents shows progress and improvement but there is more to be done. Errors in judgement persist with terrible consequences for child and adult victims. This is why a Domestic Abuse Practice Policy has been put in place. Every practitioner and manager is required to confirm that they have read and understood the policy and will incorporate it into their practice.

The new policy makes clear that:

- FCAs and Children's Guardians will no longer use language such as 'claims' or 'alleges' in reports to court, using instead the words of children and adults who are victims of domestic abuse. It is for the court to determine the facts.
- The starting point for recommendations about a child spending time with a parent who is being investigated by the police for a sexual offence, who has a conviction for a sexual offence and/or who has served a prison sentence for violent and sexual offences is for that child **not** to spend time with the parent due to the significant risk of harm and the risk of further harm to the child victim, as well as the impact on the adult victim of the abuse; and
- FCAs and Children's Guardians are required to provide clear, unequivocal, and compelling rationales in their reports to the court if they do not adhere to the starting points set out in the policy and if in their assessment and analysis, they recommend 'time with' or 'live with' arrangements when domestic abuse is being investigated, has been found, is known or is reported by a child or adult.

## **Living Keys Swap Shop event**

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November at 12pm until 3pm.

As we all know, many women are left to bring up their children on their own and struggle to make ends meet. At Christmas time, often getting into debt trying their best to provide for their children.

The SWAP SHOP will have an entrance fee of £5 – Ladies to bring any bags, to fill up. We have plenty of women's clothing, however, we do need toys for a toy stall where they can be given out free of charge.

Together we can make a difference with families that are struggling at this time of year. The event will be held at George Alcock Centre main Hall. Whittlesey Road, Peterborough, PE2 8QS

A buffet will also be provided (hence the £5 entrance fee to help with costs of this).

### **Film based on research in Ethiopia now online**

Docudrama Tidar (Marriage) has now been published on the project's new [YouTube](#) channel.

You can access the film with English subtitles directly here: [Tidar - Marriage - Full movie with English subtitles \(youtube.com\)](#) The film is also available with Tigrigna and Afaan Oromoo subtitles under the same channel.

The film is based on real people's stories and testimonies collected through research in Ethiopia, and tells the story of Genet, who is experiencing domestic violence, and presents her search for a moral and practical solution to her situation within the village community. It shows how the community responds to Genet's predicament and how personal faith, religious mediation and theological teaching influence how she thinks through her situation. The aim of the film is to raise awareness about the complex role that religion can have in situations of domestic violence in the Ethiopian Orthodox community, influencing both victim and perpetrator rationalisations and behaviour.

## **Stagecoach East buses to become “safe spaces”**

Local bus drivers getting training from Cambridge Rape Crisis Centre via Police’s Businesses Against Abuse scheme

Stagecoach East’s buses are becoming places of refuge for people fearing that they will be subject to abusive behaviour, after the official launch of a new safety partnership.

Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire’s biggest bus operator has struck a partnership with Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Police Authority, and the Cambridge and Peterborough Rape Crisis Centre to join the Businesses Against Abuse (BAA) scheme.

Under the scheme, the operator’s existing safeguarding procedures are being enhanced with additional training: drivers are being trained to recognise people who are in vulnerable situations either on or off the bus – and are being given guidance in how to offer help.

If a driver recognises that a woman or girl may be in fear of abuse on the street, they are authorised to pull over and ask if they need help and then take her to a safe place on route if necessary.

Likewise, if a driver recognises that a passenger is in fear of abuse, they have been given a range of options to help. These are called the “5 D’s” and include delegating, by involving others, distracting, and delaying until it is safe to challenge.

All Stagecoach East buses now display BAA stickers with QR codes by their entrance doors, designating them as safe-spaces and all their buses have multiple cameras, so cases of abuse will be Recorded and Reported.

The BAA scheme is now in effect on all Stagecoach East buses, throughout Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and the wider region.

The partnership was officially launched at a ceremony at the Milton Park & Ride in Cambridge, attended by women’s safety campaigners and elected officials. They were able to look round a specially branded bus, which promotes the BAA scheme.

Speaking at the launch, Darren Roe, Managing Director of Stagecoach East, said: “Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls is something that we all need to take responsibility for and we are working very hard to play our part in this. I would encourage anyone who is in fear or abuse, either on the bus or if they see a bus, to make themselves known to the driver, who will try to help them.

“We have no silver bullet and we cannot solve every problem, but we have the desire and the determination to play our part, and over time our drivers will become ever more confident with what we are asking of them. We also hope that, because our buses will be very visible as a place where victims can go and report abuse, it will deter would-be abusers.”



Norah Al-Ani, Director of the Cambridge Rape Crisis Centre, added: “We are really pleased to be working together on this – the training we have delivered to the Training Team so far has been a real success, and I hope that it will make a noticeable difference in our communities. If a woman or a girl, who is the subject of abuse, sees a Stagecoach East bus, they will now be able to recognise it as a place of safety.”

Meanwhile, Nicky Peacock, Businesses Against Abuse Accreditation Scheme Force Lead at Cambridgeshire Constabulary, said: “We know that the figures for Violence Against Women and Girls are shocking throughout our communities, so these kinds of partnerships are invaluable in raising this as an issue of concern and giving victims somewhere they can go to find safety. I would encourage more local businesses to be like Stagecoach East and join BAA.”

Approximately 300 local businesses are part of Businesses Against Abuse, with approximately 3,000 people trained. Find out more at <https://www.cambs.police.uk/police-forces/cambridgeshire-constabulary/areas/campaigns/campaigns/businesses-against-abuse/>



## **New Easy Read guidance for victims of sexual offences and other crime**

The Crown Prosecution Service have developed Easy Read guidance for victims of crime (general) and for people who have experienced a serious sexual assault or rape. They can be downloaded online at [Easy Read Victims' Guides | The Crown Prosecution Service](#)

### **More free webinars!**

As part of the Dahlia Project, Peterborough Women's Aid are providing some free training webinars on Breast Ironing and Forced Marriage. **Please register on Ticket Source and copy and paste link into your calendar (4<sup>th</sup> Feb is in person event)**

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November on line 9.30-12pm

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/peterborough-womens-aid/t-eadlkgz>

[Join the meeting now](#)

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November on line 1.30-4pm

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/peterborough-womens-aid/t-vvamelk>

[Join the meeting now](#)

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December on line 9.30-12pm

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/peterborough-womens-aid/t-avgzqre>

[Join the meeting now](#)

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> Dec 1.30-4pm

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/peterborough-womens-aid/t-gaojxno>

[Join the meeting now](#)

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 9.30-12pm Annes House, 32-34 Cromwell Road, Peterborough

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/peterborough-womens-aid/t-lngekyj>



## **Shatter the Shame campaign**

In collaboration with our dedicated partners, **Peterborough City Hospital NHS**, Peterborough Rape Crisis are proud to launch **#ShatterTheShame**—a campaign designed to raise awareness and encourage survivors, and their loved ones, to seek support. It is not your shame to hold. We are here for you on your journey towards healing. Together, we're here to break the silence, dispel the stigma, and stand with all survivors.

For the next four weeks, members of our team will be on-site at Peterborough City Hospital every Wednesday from 12 pm to 3 pm. If you or someone you know needs to talk, seek guidance, or simply wishes to learn more about available resources, we're here to listen and support without judgement. Our goal is to create a safe, welcoming space for survivors, their loved ones, and anyone affected by sexual violence, directly or indirectly.

Throughout the hospital, you'll also see **#ShatterTheShame** posters, which serve as visible reminders that support is always within reach. You are not alone. Please feel free to reach out—our community stands with you.

To find out more about this campaign please visit.

<https://prccg.org.uk/shattertheshame/>

DASV Partnership Officer, Amanda Warburton, is also an independent researcher and has recently published new research about sexual assaults against older people in NHS hospitals in England. You can read the paper at [Research | Hourglass](#)

## **Cambs IDVA Service recognised in good practice report**

ADASS East have published their latest Emerging Practice – Safeguarding in Adult Social Care report and we're chuffed to say that a case study from the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough IDVA Service is included! The case involved a complex caring relationship with both physical abuse and coercive control but the IDVA worked closely with partner organisations to help secure safety for the victim.

The report also includes a domestic abuse study from Cambridgeshire Police.

The report can be read at [Resources – Association of Directors of Adult Social Services Eastern Region](#)



# DROP IN LAW CLINIC

ASSISTING WITH LEGAL ISSUES AFFECTING YOUR FAMILY...

Has contact **broken** down with your child/ren or grandchild/ren ?

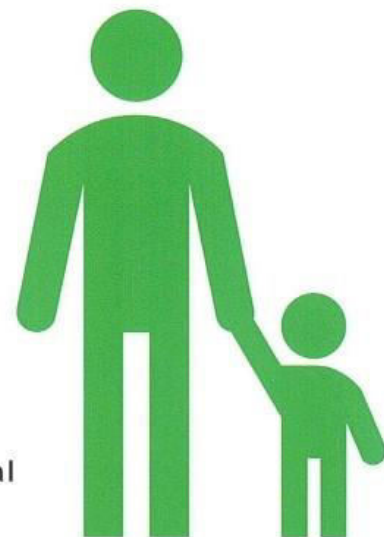
**Divorce & Separation**, do you have questions ?

Are **Children's Services** contacting you regarding your child/ren ?

Do you need **confidential help** due to an abusive relationship ?

**TUESDAYS 10AM-2PM**

**FREE DROP IN** for a discreet, non-judgemental conversation with our Family Law team.



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## Update from Cambs Fire & Rescue

Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service (CFRS) is dedicated to more than just emergency response; we work proactively to prevent fires and support vulnerable individuals in our communities. Through targeted outreach and education, we aim to help those at risk, including individuals affected by domestic abuse or other vulnerabilities, to create safer home environments. Our Safe and Well visits are a cornerstone of this preventative work, where our teams conduct home safety assessments, identify potential fire hazards, and provide tailored fire safety advice. We prioritise individuals with reduced mobility, mental health challenges, or those at higher risk due to their circumstances. In addition to sharing essential fire safety knowledge, we install smoke alarms and other safety devices, including fire preventative letter boxes, providing life-saving resources directly within the home.

For our partner organisations, CFRS offers Home Fire Safety Awareness Training. This training equips staff with knowledge to spot fire hazards, mitigate risks, and guide vulnerable individuals on safe practices. Our training also covers how to refer individuals for Safe and Well visits and introduces partners to our [Home Fire Safety Online Tool](#) to help assess and improve fire safety. With practical tips and interactive discussions, we empower our partners to support vulnerable individuals, fostering safer communities together.

CFRS collaborates closely with local agencies and organisations to reach individuals who may not feel comfortable coming forward on their own. We recognise the challenges vulnerable individuals face, especially those impacted by domestic abuse, and approach each interaction with compassion and discretion. Our staff are trained to recognise signs of abuse and work with relevant agencies to ensure individuals receive appropriate referrals and support. For agencies looking to refer individuals for support, please visit our [external agency referral portal](#) at CFRS Agency Referrals.

For more information or to schedule Home Fire Safety Awareness Training for your team, please contact Adult Fire Safety Lead [Scott.Fretwell@cambsfire.gov.uk](mailto:Scott.Fretwell@cambsfire.gov.uk).

## London conference open to all

In collaboration with **Safe in Faith** and **FORWARD-UK**, the **Faith and VAWG Coalition** invite you to the launch of our "**#FaithOn4th**" campaign on 28th November 2024. This initiative falls on the fourth day of the annual UN 16 Days of Activism campaign with the aim of exploring issues around faith, women's rights and the commitment to end violence against women and girls (VAWG).

This year we are centring the experiences of survivors from faith backgrounds and discussing "**why keep the faith?**" - in a world where religion and faith institutions are often wielded as tools of patriarchy and systemic oppression, we discuss why faith and community is an important feature of survivors' road to safety and healing.

We have a distinguished panel of speakers:

**Dr Selina Stone** - author, theologian and researcher specialising in womanist ethics, power, violence; the Pentecostal tradition and communal wellbeing.

**Nikki Dhillon Keane** - founder of Safe in Faith, a faith informed support service to survivors of domestic abuse, sexual violence, and exploitation. She is also a co-founder of the Faith and VAWG Coalition, adviser to the Catholic Bishop's Conference a therapist and sign language counsellor.

The afternoon will provide insightful discussion, poetry, creative workshops, Ethiopian Coffee Ceremony and great food. Join us to learn, reflect, rest and connect with others working to end harm and celebrate the nourishing power of community.

This is an in-person event in London [Why Keep the Faith? - Faith on 4th Campaign Tickets, Thu 28 Nov 2024 at 12:00 | Eventbrite](#)

## Job vacancies

### **Sexual Harassment and Violence Advisor (Fixed Term, 18 months in first instance).**

Cambridge University are looking for someone to join the Harassment and Violence Support Service as a Sexual Harassment and Violence Adviser, where you will support students across the collegiate University who have experienced sexual violence or domestic abuse, recently or in the past.

As a key member of a specialist team within Student Support, this role involves providing impartial emotional and practical support, along with policy guidance, to students in need. You'll also support staff through training, workshops, and consultations, particularly those with pastoral responsibilities.

Closes 17<sup>th</sup> November [Sexual Harassment and Violence Advisor \(Fixed Term\) - Job Opportunities - University of Cambridge](#)

### **Refuge Workers – Full-time, Permanent**

**Location:** Mid Cambridgeshire and Fenland. Please state which area

**Salary:** £25,104 per annum

Refuge are searching for two kind and empathic people, who believe in equality, diversity, and inclusion, are experts in their area of knowledge, want to make a positive difference and improve the lives of the women and children we support.

This is an opportunity to join Refuge as a Refuge Worker to provide high quality support and safety planning to women and children in crisis. This includes enabling women to access housing, welfare, benefits and legal advice. A key requirement is to provide personal welfare support and to ensure that women are provided with a safe, supportive, and welcoming environment in accordance with Refuge's philosophical principles.

Please note that this post is restricted to women due to the nature of the role. The Occupational Requirement under Schedule 9 (part 1) of the Equality Act 2010 applies.

A driving license and access to a car is essential to the role.

[Refuge Worker | CIPHR iRecruit .](#)



## **Link Worker – High Impact Users Service**

**Full time, Salary £32076 - £33945**

Cambridgeshire County Council are recruiting a Link Worker to join a new High Impact Users (HIU) service that aims to improve the outcomes of people who are frequently using NHS urgent and emergency care services.

With a county wide focus, but working mainly in people's homes, cafés, community venues or anywhere the person feels comfortable, the Link Worker will support people who have accessed hospital Emergency Departments more than 10 times in the last year, whose needs are likely to be complex but non-medical. The aim is to better understand each person and their needs that bring them to ED, but which cannot be met there. Starting the personalised care approach with a "What Matters to You" conversation, the Link worker will walk alongside those who are ready to work with the support this service will offer.

For more information and to apply, please visit [Link Worker \(High Impact Users\) | 17 November, 2024 | Jobs and careers with Cambridgeshire County Council](#)

## **Leaving abuser can cost £50,000**

Women's Aid has put a price on fleeing domestic abuse: up to around £50,000 in a worse-case scenario.

At best with the help of state support it is more than £10,000, double that for those without recourse to public funds because of their immigration status. The key costs factored into those estimates are legal fees for the family courts and housing.

*"The safety net of state support, including social security, legal aid and free childcare, is vital, but it is not designed with survivors of domestic abuse in mind,"* according to Women's Aid. *"The eligibility and evidence criteria can rule out large groups of survivors, especially those with insecure immigration status, and stop them from accessing the essential life-saving and life-changing support they need."*

The cost is spelt out in a new Women's Aid research report: '[The Price of Safety](#): the cost of leaving an abuser and rebuilding a safe, independent life'.

The campaigning group would like to see policy changes to mitigate the cost of rebuilding a life free of abuse by expanding of the Road/Rail to Refuge Scheme, reform to the child maintenance service, and guaranteed funding for the Flexible Fund which provides one-off payments to survivors of domestic abuse fleeing for 2025/26 and beyond.

## Bags of Support for new initiative in Huntingdonshire

As part of Huntingdonshire District Councils ongoing commitment to supporting victims and survivors of domestic abuse and sexual violence, the Domestic Abuse Support Champions have started an initiative called 'bags of support'.

Bags of support is to enable HDC staff to provide practical support when it is needed most, to victims who have fled a domestic abuse situation and may have had to leave their belongings behind.

The domestic abuse champions and the housing team will be able to supply individuals in need with a bag, which contains a small selection of items and could bring some comfort to someone when they need it the most. The bags are being made up for both men and women.

Donation boxes have been placed within HDC buildings for staff to be able to donate, the items are then collected by the domestic abuse support champions and made up into bags ready for use.

Examples of items being donated are new socks, shower gel, toothbrush, toothpaste, hairbrush/comb, deodorant, flannel, hand cream, small notebook/pen, as well as new or lightly used bags.

If you would like more information about this initiative, please contact Mandi George – Lead Officer for Domestic Abuse - [mandi.george@huntingdonshire.gov.uk](mailto:mandi.george@huntingdonshire.gov.uk)



## News from Peterborough Women's Aid



A huge thank you to all our runners and supporters at the Greatest Eastern run in October. A special thank you to Cambridgeshire Police who put out a massive team and raised over £6,000. Our total for the event was £15,693!!

Last weekend we had our first ever PWA Charity Ball – Thank you to everyone who came and joined in the conga! It was a great event, and we can't wait to see more people there next year (look out for early bird tickets!) The event raised over £16,000 for our life saving services.

Lastly, we have been nominated for Charity of the Year at the Peterborough Telegraph Business Awards. The awards are on November 21<sup>st</sup> and we have all our fingers crossed!!!

