



**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

June 2023

Hi All

June is a really busy month here for the DASV Partnership Team. We have our first Peterborough Conference on the 22nd June, with Karma Nirvana our Key Note speaker in the afternoon. We also have a day for our housing colleagues focused on Domestic Abuse and Housing.

We have all been busy collating information and data on the great work across the area to reduce harm caused by perpetrators of domestic abuse and sexual violence, to produce our Annual Report, which will be available on the website in the next few weeks.

A significant number of our recent Domestic Homicide Reviews have been familial abuse and the issue of unpaid carers has arisen, as part of development of work regarding domestic abuse and unpaid carers, there is a survey being circulated – if you can promote this in anyway, this would be greatly appreciated.

As ever, if there is anything we can do to help your organisation improve their response to domestic abuse, please don't hesitate to get in touch, we love hearing from you.

Thanks all

Vickie & Julia

Vickie Crompton & Julia Cullum
DASV Partnership Managers



July DASV Champions sessions on the 5th, 11th and 20th July will cover Unpaid Carers and domestic abuse (with support from Caring Together) and Trauma Informed Practice (Peterborough Women's Aid. You can find out more information and how to book sessions on our website at [Cambridgeshire County Council DASV Partnership - DASV Champions \(cambsdasv.org.uk\)](http://Cambridgeshire County Council DASV Partnership - DASV Champions (cambsdasv.org.uk))

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

World Elder Abuse Day takes place on 15th June each year and the theme for 2023 is Addressing Gender Based Violence.

It's estimated that 1 in 5 people over 60 experience some form of abuse or neglect. That means 2.6 million older people in the UK experience abuse each and every year.

Despite this, public awareness of the abuse of older people is limited, with the Hourglass **Last in Line (2021)** research report revealing that only 7% of people think of older adults in relation to abuse, compared to 20% of people who think of animals.

Hourglass also report that calls to their 24 hour helpline increased by 66% over the last year.

As reported in the May VAWG Newsletter, Hourglass are now running their Community Response Service in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough although there has been a change in the Coordinator and the new Coordinator will start making contact with partners soon.

Remember that we also have an Older People's DASH Risk Assessment that should be used with victims of domestic abuse aged 60 and over. The OP DASH and professional guidance for working with older victim/survivors can be found on our website at [Cambridgeshire County Council DASV Partnership - Older People \(cambsdasv.org.uk\)](#)

Carers Week podcast

Amanda from our team was invited to do a podcast with Lucy who runs the You Don't Own Me website. The site has a range of blogs and podcasts for anyone who wants to know about domestic abuse and Amanda spoke to Lucy about unpaid carers and domestic abuse. You can view the podcast at [Podcasts - You Don't Own Me \(ydom.co.uk\)](#)

Unpaid Carers' Experiences of Domestic Abuse

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Partnership are working with partner organisations including Caring Together, Healthwatch, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Foundation Trust and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Integrated Care System – as well as colleagues in Adult Social Care and Safeguarding – to improve the support available to unpaid (family) carers who are experiencing domestic abuse from the person they are caring for.

We are asking unpaid carers living in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to complete an anonymous survey about their experiences of domestic abuse and how support and services can be improved for survivors. The survey is also open to unpaid carers in the county who have not experienced domestic abuse, but would like to share their thoughts and suggestions for improving support.

The survey is completely anonymous – there are no requirements to give any personal identifying information and any comments or suggestions made are entirely confidential. The survey has been given approval by Cambridgeshire County Council's Research Governance Framework.

The survey is available at <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/WVCYQY/> and will be open from 13th June to 13th August 2023

Publication of the Safe Care at Home Review

During the passage of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, concerning evidence was presented by peers and the deaf and disability sector on abuse against people receiving care in their own homes. In response, the government decided to review the existing protections and support for adults with care and support needs who are at risk of, or experiencing, abuse in their own homes by people providing their care.

The Safe Care at Home Review ('the review') was jointly led by the Home Office and Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC). The review applies only to England, as health and social care is a devolved matter.

Key Findings:

Key finding 1: Oversight of safeguarding in England is fragmented and there is limited accountability.

Key finding 2: Competing pressures and insufficient resources available have a negative impact on the safety of the people with care and support needs.

Key finding 3: There is limited sharing of information and learning from best practice and failures.

Key finding 4: There is varying implementation of the Care Act 2014 safeguarding provisions between different local areas.

Key finding 5: This type of harm and relevant legislation is often poorly understood by frontline professionals.

Key finding 6: Frontline professionals often lack the necessary tools and resources to fully protect and support people with care and support needs who are, or are at risk of being, abused in their own home by the person providing their care.

Key finding 7: There is a lack of available data on the prevalence of abuse in care relationships and the data that is available is poorly utilised.

Recommendations from the review include:

Review of the Care Act

Support for the national DHR repository,

More focus by the DA Commissioner's Office on victims with care and support needs,

A system to pull out themes on SARs

More research around carers who abuse the person(s) they are caring for)

The Review can be accessed at [Safe care at home review - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/safe-care-at-home-review)

Child Forced Marriage – important read for school staff

Enfield Safeguarding Children Partnership recently conducted a Child Forced Marriage Local Safeguarding Practice Review involving a 14 year old child who was removed from the UK for purposes of forced marriage. The report, authored by Bal Kaur Howard and Tom Savory, highlights how 'Nadya' disclosed to a school friend about the forced marriage who subsequently informed the school. School summer holidays can be a time when children are taken out of the UK for purposes of forced marriage.

Nadya moved with her family to live in the UK early in 2017 and had been known to multi agency child protection services since November 2019 when concerns were investigated that she had been 'promised' in marriage to an 18-year-old male when she was then aged just 13 years, subsequently she was then forced into a marriage aged 14 to a 27 year old man. The circumstances around these enquiries are reviewed in this report.

Link to the report to read the full report [Enfield-Nadya-Report-2023-FINAL.pdf](#)

Empowering Males Subject to Honour Based Abuse

Honour Based Abuse and Forced Marriage are serious human rights violations that affect individuals of all genders. However, male victims often face unique challenges and barriers when it comes to seeking help and support. This spotlight report highlights the experiences of male victims of Honour Based Abuse (HBA) and Forced Marriage and the crucial role organisations like Karma Nirvana play in providing support to these individuals.

The report details that males are twice as likely to identify family disputes and renounce their faith, three times more likely to attribute their disability to the cause of the HBA and five times more likely to attribute being westernised as a cause.

[Male Victims - Spotlight Report \(pcdn.co\)](#)

Channel 4 highlights the unspoken cost of fleeing domestic abuse

Channel 4 News recently highlighted the lengths that some survivors have to go to in order to protect themselves, their children, and other family members. The programme tells the story of how one woman had to flee to witness protection with her children which meant leaving friends, family, work and school – and using new names to keep themselves protected from their abuser.

Watch at [Witness Protection: the high price of safety from domestic violence – Channel 4 News](#)

More SARC open days!

Due to the overwhelming interest in the recent open day held at The Elms Sexual Assault Referral Centre, two new dates have been made available for professionals to come along and see the facilities and find out what happens at the SARC.

Book at [The Elms SARC open day Tickets, Fri 15 Sep 2023 at 10:00 | Eventbrite](#)

Or [The Elms SARC open day Tickets, Fri 10 Nov 2023 at 10:00 | Eventbrite](#)

Revised SARC Paediatric Pathway

Over the last 6 months, a review of the SARC Paediatric Pathway has been undertaken following recommendations from safeguarding reviews and direct feedback from practitioners. New guidance has been developed which is available on the Safeguarding Partnership Board website ([Policy Document for the referral of Child and Young Persons to the Sexual Assault Referral Centre | Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Partnership Board](#) (safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk)), aimed at maximising opportunities for children and young people across the county to receive the holistic support the SARC offers. The reviews have highlighted missed opportunities due to a lack of awareness of the services available and myths around what the experiences for young people are at the SARC.

The pathway has been signed off at executive level within the Safeguarding Board.

The keynotes (contained on page 1) are aimed at overcoming myths about the SARC which then influence decisions made by professionals resulting in missed opportunities for wrap around support and onward sign-posting:

- 1) A disclosure is not required for a Child Sexual Abuse Medical around suspected Sexual Abuse or Exploitation to take place.
- 2) The process begins at the point of a referral to the Police (MASH) and/or Children's Social Care who will identify cases and Mountain Healthcare should be invited to all Sexual Abuse or Exploitation strategy meetings to assist the multi-agency decision-making.
- 3) Non acute Child Sexual Abuse Medicals are conducted in a child and young person friendly way and professionals should avoid making assumptions on procedures in their decision-making.
- 4) Child Sexual Abuse Medicals are more than a physical examination, they assess the emotional needs of the child and ensure wrap around services support the child or young person beyond what may be available to Police and Social Care.

Professionals should ensure all suspected cases of child sexual abuse or child sexual exploitation are referred via their approved pathways so Children's Social Care and the wider MASH agencies can assess and document decisions against the guidance within the attached document. There is a flowchart on page 10 which provides a helpful guide on the overall process.

You may have seen in the VAWG newsletter that the SARC has arranged an open day. Due to the popularity of this opportunity, it is now fully booked but further dates will be arranged and circulated once organised.

The SARC regularly received feedback on the service provided and as the quotes below highlight, it is a safe, supportive and caring environment for all survivors regardless of their age. Here are some direct comments from young people and their carers.

"At first I was extremely scared but the staff and nurses made me feel comfortable and showed me I wasn't alone and are helping me recover from the trauma. I have been extremely grateful and thank you for help and support"

"Really kind, I loved how Dr Alyson was taking care of me and let my mum stay with me, so I loved the whole day"

"We were made to feel very welcome and treated so kindly here today. All staff have been so lovely and we have really appreciated the support and kindness we have been shown. Thank you so much"

VAMHN Arts Competition

In December 2021 the Violence and Mental Health Network launched their fourth funding competition to provide awards of up to £15,000 to artistic public engagement projects that sought to further the public discussion around violence, abuse and mental health.

The findings of the five projects funded have now been shared and brief information about each project is below. All projects can be viewed at [NEW Funded Arts Projects - VAMHN](#)

Plain sight utilised the medium of film to challenge some of the harmful narratives about survivors of child sexual abuse.

Osoyegbon is the Nigerian name of Gloria Patrick, which fittingly translates in English as I am not a slave. Gloria, lead artist, is a woman who was trafficked to the UK from Nigeria with the promise of a better life; being instead trapped into sexual exploitation, physical, emotional, and psychological abuse before finding sanctuary in a safe house as well as the beginning of the kind of support that she needed. Starting from Gloria's lived experience, Osoyegbon is an animated short-film and engagement project to raise awareness around sexual abuse, modern slavery and mental health among young people and the adults in their life.

TRAUMA builds on the work of the Safe, Seen, Supported work which focused on reaching and helping children and young people experiencing abuse in their homes. The aim of this project was to create an arts-based card-deck that supports abuse recognition and facilitates conversations.

Sexual Violence and Lived Experiences project investigated the intersections between consent, sexual ethics, gender-based violence, and new forms of sexual relationality using arts-based participatory workshops. These workshops consisted of conversations around sexual ethics while engaging in the crafting of paper objects from a template figure of a scale (i.e the scales of justice) which could be folded out of the card provided to create a 3D object.

Not My Shame project aimed to support survivors by shifting their beliefs and feelings of shame through creative writing and the development of a Zine.

Are you working with any learning disabled or autistic men who are survivors of domestic abuse?

ARC England and the **Us Too** team are providing input on learning disabled and autistic male survivors of domestic abuse for the EOS project.

The task is to map existing provision and make recommendations for improvements. ARC will not be providing any direct service provision (e.g. counselling, referrals, etc.).

ARC are interested in speaking with anyone who is supporting men with learning disabilities or autistic men who have experienced domestic abuse about:

- Any services survivors and victims were able to access? (e.g. domestic abuse services)
- What are the access issues?
- If they were not able to access any services, what is needed?

Please contact Rod Landman rod.landman@arcuk.org.uk

You can find more information about the project here: <https://arcengland.org.uk/32150-2/>

New support for male victims of domestic abuse

The new B-United Project from Peterborough Women's Aid offers short term & long-term support to men, whether they have children or not.

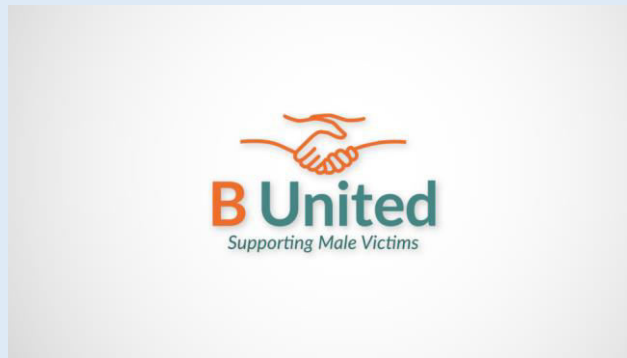
The project can offer advice and guidance on a range of situations and signpost to relevant services in the local area.

B-United is a county wide provision covering all areas of Cambridgeshire, Peterborough, Huntingdon & Fenland. The worker will be able to provide support via telephone, email, text/WhatsApp or virtually through Microsoft Teams/ Zoom.

They can offer emotional support, practical support, support with court & other meetings and access to a specialist domestic abuse counsellor.

The project also offers support and guidance to professionals who want to learn more about domestic abuse and how it affects male victims.

You can contact 01733 894964 or email referrals@wa-support.co.uk



CCChat looks at LGBTQ+ relationships

To celebrate LGBTQ+ History Month, the latest edition of Coercive Control Chat (CCChat) magazine focuses on abuse in LGBTQ+ relationships – you can read the magazine online at [CCChat-Magazine 29 2 - Flipbook - Page 23 \(paperturn-view.com\)](https://www.paperturn-view.com)

New newsletter from the Police and Crime Commissioner

The Police and Crime Commissioner has launched a community newsletter with the specific aim of keeping the public updated with the very latest news and activities. It's the easiest way to find out about how Darryl and his team are progressing the priorities laid out in his Police and Crime plan.

The format is very simple and accessible, and we would love it if this email could be cascaded throughout your teams countywide please. To subscribe, [click the link here](#). – and we hope that more households will enjoy this monthly snapshot.

Spotlight on Cambridge Acorn Project

The project works with children and their families across Cambridgeshire who have experienced trauma and abuse. Their work tackles the inequality stemming from trauma and financial hardship and promotes emotional recovery.

Cambridge Acorn Project is shaped by listening to children and family's voices. They build non-judgemental relationships with families and aim to create the conditions of freedom, safety, opportunity, and equality. At the core of the service is long-term therapeutic support as well as a personalised programme of support outside of the therapy room. Children and families are empowered to have control over services they access, which can also include accessing one of the wellbeing hubs, additional family support, practical aid to help build a safe home, and funding activities to enrich children's lives.

Since opening in 2014 Cambridge Acorn Project has:

- Provided long-term therapeutic interventions to over 700 children and their families.
- Delivered preventative mental health projects at schools reaching over 1,500 children and young people.
- Developed community wellbeing hubs for parents and families in Huntingdonshire, East Cambs and Cambridge.

Cambridge Acorn Project's wellbeing hubs offer panoramic support both inside and outside of the therapy room.

The wellbeing hubs are run in collaboration with local partners such as Huntingdon Community Action Project (in Huntingdon) and Abbey People (in Cambridge). The Hubs are staffed by Cambridge Acorn Project's therapists and social workers as well as by trained peer-support volunteers. They create safe spaces for families to come and access support for children, and the whole family. The hubs are embedded into local communities to support families to access meaningful support quickly, aiming to promote emotional recovery as well as tangible support to create safe homes and prevent difficulties from escalating.

The types of support available include:

- access to weekly face to face support
- access to a tailored package of support for children who need it. This includes therapy, family support, and funding activities such as clubs, hobbies or classes to enrich their lives and promote emotional recovery
- family support to help create safe homes
- access to workshops and enrichment programmes to support children and families
- access to specialist services, for example, a free legal clinic providing family law, SEN, housing, and debt advice in partnership with Tees Law.

Cambridge Acorn Project's wellbeing hubs are located across Cambridgeshire with new hubs opening in September 2023.

For more information [head to their website](#).

Free Gender Based Violence Conference

Anglia Ruskin University is holding an all-day, in-person, free [Gender Based Violence Conference](#) with **Laura Bates** as our keynote speaker, on 21st June in Cambridge. We warmly invite you to sign up to attend via the above link. We are thrilled to announce our speakers:

- Welcome from VC Roderick Watkins
- [Laura Bates](#) (renowned GBV activist, and Everyday Sexism Project)
- [Mridul Wadhwa](#) (CEO of Edinburgh Rape Crisis, and Trans and Migrant Rights Activist)
- Responding to GBV in HE with Chris Down (ARU's Investigations Officer) and Heather Williams (Acting Head of Sexual Violence and Harassment at University of Cambridge)
- [Student Sexual Violence Consultants](#)
- Presentations from ARU Academics, followed by panel Q&A:
 - [Dr Charlotte Herriott](#) Sexual History Evidence: The Jury's Out
 - [Dr Lata Gautam](#) Sexual Assault through a Forensic Lens: Understanding Drug Facilitated Sexual Assault Issues
 - [Dr Tanya Horeck](#) Postdigital Teens: Gender, Violence, and Networked Lives
 - [Dr Samson Maekelle Tsegay](#) GBV Among Eritrean Refugees in Great Britain
 - [Dr Theresa Redmond](#) The Impacts of Researching Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation
- [Sharon Livermore](#) (founder of Domestic Abuse Education)
- Workshop from [The Kite Trust](#) on LGBTQIA+ Inclusivity

Cost of Living Crisis placing disabled victims at more risk

Charities and disabled people's organisations (DPOs), including Mencap, Scope, the MS Society, Inclusion London, Dimensions, and WinVisible, told the *Observer* that disabled care users are being pushed into severe financial hardship with some forced to go without essential home care because they can't afford the fees."

"Claire Glasman, co-ordinator of [WinVisible](#), a DPO for disabled women, warns that care charges are making disabled women more vulnerable to abuse by partners or family as they're forced to become financially dependent on them. "Another result of charges is women dropping out of services, living in squalid conditions or [becoming] reliant for daily help on acquaintances, who may then expect sex which disabled women feel unable to refuse."

['It's a tax on disability': rising English social care costs force many into debt | Social care | The Guardian](#)

Opportunity for festival volunteers

Safer Spaces Now CIC is looking for volunteers to support with their work at festivals and events, nationally.

Safer Spaces Now are a non-profit working to prevent VAWG and all forms of Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (DASV) by :

- raising awareness, providing education (talking to women and girls about sex positivity, body positivity and empowerment, as well as talking to men and boys about consent, gender inequality and what is and is not appropriate behaviour and how to be part of the solution re VAWG)
- onsite bystander intervention training
- outreach support - challenging harmful behaviours and identifying and responding to incidents of VAWG and all sexual assault and harassment
- confidential specialist crisis response and support in the event of an incident

Safer Spaces Now are a gender informed service that focuses on supporting women and girls, but are gender inclusive; turning no one away that needs help and offering single gender spaces when required.

The organisation have a team of specialists that lead our teams and tents and complex cases and a team of amazing volunteers that all work across safeguarding and community support services, including but not limited to professionals working in:

- Domestic abuse
- Sexual violence
- Drug and alcohol
- Homelessness
- Social care (adults and children)
- Probation
- Youth Work
- Health
- Mental Health

Volunteering for Safer Spaces Now means you can be part of eradicating VAWG and all domestic abuse and sexual violence and make festivals and events safe for women and girls. It also means you get a free ticket, catering and staff camping (at camping festivals), so what's not to love?

There is a requirement to do a minimum of 3 shifts throughout the show (but can be flexible), where applicable, you have access to all staff facilities - (so clean toilets and showers).

Safer Spaces are currently recruiting for [Secret Garden Party](#) in Abbots Ripton (20-23 July) , [Boomtown](#) in Winchester (9-13 August), [Notting Hill Carnival](#) (27/28 August)) in London and [Forwards](#) in Bristol (1/2 Sept)

Sign up at <https://www.saferspaces.co.uk/> or email: kelly@saferspaces.co.uk