

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

September 2024

Hello All

September always has the “fresh start, back to school” feel about it, and this year is no exception. It has been a really busy summer, and there is much to look forward to this Autumn.

The Partnership paid for Child to Parent Abuse Training sessions which were taken within the week, this training is still available, at a cost of £75 per person for a day’s training – please see the link below if this is something that would benefit your work.

In very exciting news, Linda Huskisson, from Living Keys was awarded “Volunteer of the Year” at the BBC Make a Difference Awards this month, a well-deserved recognition of the work she is doing with survivors in Peterborough.

Both Peterborough City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council have been re-accredited with White Ribbon Status, and there is much planned, especially for the 16 days of action in November.

We are currently writing the action plan for the DASV Strategy. If your agency hasn’t already fed into this, please contact Vickie, to let her know what your organisation is doing to contribute to the aims of the DASV Partnership, so all your works are acknowledged as part of a coordinated approach tackling Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence.

Vickie & Julia

Vickie Crompton & Julia Cullum
DASV Partnership Managers



Reminder of Child to Parent Abuse Training

This online 1-day training course will give learners an increased understanding of the causes, impact and risks associated with CAPVA. It will increase confidence in how to respond appropriately to parents and young people who are using harm.

The training will be delivered using interactive methods including a range of media, discussion opportunities and local case studies to engage learners.

The training costs £75 per place and there are spaces on the next session on 3rd October.

To book, please visit

[Child and Adolescent to Parent Violence and Abuse \(CAPVA\)-Introduction training \(3.10.24\) \(respect.org.uk\)](https://respect.org.uk/training/child-and-adolescent-to-parent-violence-and-abuse-introduction-training-3-10-24)

New online awareness module on Stalking

The DASV Partnership have worked with Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Safeguarding Boards to develop an online awareness module on Stalking. The SWAY highlights different kinds of stalking behaviours, the risks to victims and how to stay safe as well as signposting to support services. We encourage all professionals and volunteers working across the county to view the module.

[Stalking | Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Partnership Board \(safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk\)](https://safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk/stalking)

Suicide Prevention online

Ripple Suicide Prevention Charity was founded by Alice Hendy after she lost her brother Josh in November 2020 to suicide at 21 years old. Josh had been researching over the internet techniques to take his own life – and he was not alone. Globally, an alarming 1.2 million online searches linked to suicide occur each month.

To ensure more help and support is given to individuals searching for harmful content online, Alice set up Ripple, a digital crisis intervention tool designed to present a visual prompt when a person searches for keywords or phrases relating to the topic of self-harm or suicide.

[Home - Ripple Suicide Prevention \(ripplesuicideprevention.com\)](https://ripplesuicideprevention.com)

Review of MARAC in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

As part of a review of Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) processes and domestic abuse support across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, commissioned by Cambridgeshire County Council via the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategic Board, a series of online surveys have been developed by Safe Lives (who are undertaking the review).

There are different surveys aimed at professionals, survivors, children & young people (aged 11-18), those that harm and the general public.

If you are a professional working with the public in any capacity across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, please complete the professionals survey at -

https://online1.snapsurveys.com/Professional_CandP

We would appreciate your help and support in sharing the public surveys to help ensure we get them out to a wide audience.

Survivor - https://online1.snapsurveys.com/Survivor_CandP

Public - https://online1.snapsurveys.com/Public_CandP

CYP - https://online1.snapsurveys.com/CYP_CandP

Those that harm - https://online1.snapsurveys.com/ThatHarm_CandP

Councils achieve White Ribbon Re-accreditation

Both Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council have been re-accredited by White Ribbon UK for their work to speak out about, and prevent, male violence towards women, girls and other men and boys. White Ribbon accreditation involves a comprehensive set of actions delivered across the whole organisation to engage senior management, employees and communities in speaking out against male violence.

Look out in the next newsletter for details of events planned for White Ribbon Day on 25th November

Standard Determinate Sentence 40 (SDS 40)

This has now been enacted by the Government through a Statutory Instrument and comes into effect from the 10 September 2024. As this is a legal change unlike End Custody Supervision Licence (release 35/70 days prior to release date) it is not possible to exclude individuals based on previous behaviour or management under Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements. The changes only impact those who would have been released at the 50% mark and does not apply to those convicted of certain types of offences. A summary is provided below,

- Conviction for current sexual offence.
- Conviction for Terrorism
- Those sentenced to more than 4 years for a violent specified offence
- Racially or Religiously motivated Stalking with or without fear
- Stalking with or without fear
- Strangulation
- Suffocation
- Coercive or Controlling Behaviour
- Breach of Restraining Order
- Breach of Non-Molestation Order
- Breach of Domestic Abuse Prevention Order

There is no discretion to challenge the individuals release unless the conviction for which they are currently serving is exempt for release at the 40%.

Impact on Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Probation Delivery Unit

Following the legislative changes releases will be managed in two tranches.

Tranche 1: Those serving less than 5 years will have release dates re-calculated and released from the 10 September 2024.

Tranche 2: Those serving more than 5 years and will have release dates re-calculated and released from the 22 October 2024.

The releases after the implementation date for Tranche 1 and 2 will fall in line with amended release dates meaning there will not be increased releases outside of these two dates.

- The Ministry of Justice have produced a [factsheet and FAQs](#) to provide further information to victims who might be impacted by the 'SDS40' early release scheme which comes into effect on 10th September.

Latest Domestic Homicide Project report

The third annual report from the national Domestic Homicide Project which works across England and Wales was published in March. The report examines all deaths identified by police as domestic abuse related to improve understanding of risk indicators, victim, and perpetrator demographics. The unique dataset collects detailed information on these deaths not available from any other source to help police and partners improve their response to domestic abuse, domestic homicide and victim suicide following domestic abuse.

The below Domestic Homicides animation has been released alongside the report to effectively convey key messages and vital data to the appropriate audiences in a simplified and easily understandable format. This animation is designed to prompt essential questions tailored for various policing roles, including front-line officers, investigators, and SIOs.

The full report can be found at www.vkpp.org.uk/vkpp-work/domestic-homicide-project/

[Domestic Abuse 2023 Report Animation \(youtube.com\)](#)



Latest report on Girls' Rights

The State of Girls' Rights in the UK 2024 was the biggest ever exercise in listening to girls' voices ever conducted by Plan International in the UK. The work involved speaking with over 3,000 girls and young women through surveys, interviews and workshops. Girls from across the UK created art, videos, poems, zines and more to explore their feelings about the issues they face growing up a girl.

The full report, including a useful tool to isolate the responses by area, is available at [State of Girls Rights | Plan International UK \(plan-uk.org\)](https://www.plan-uk.org/state-of-girls-rights)

Collaboration launched on brain damage and domestic abuse

Brainkind will be collaborating with Women's Aid to gather vital data relating to brain injury and domestic abuse by including questions on potential causes of brain injury in their national research database, On Track. The additional questions refer to the potential causes of brain injury and will enable both charities to develop knowledge and understanding in this area.

These insights will lead to improvements in the support and resources available to women who have experienced domestic abuse, and the professionals who work with them. Work with Brainkind's research team has led to the identification of four key questions which would enable professionals to capture data about the potential causes of brain injury in a domestic abuse setting. The questions are asked in the context of physical abuse, and include prompts about blows to the head, non-fatal strangulation and suffocation.

A further question relates to whether the individual has experienced a loss of consciousness as a result of these experiences.

Both charities believe that collecting this information will provide a clearer understanding of the potential causes of brain injury amongst women experiencing domestic abuse. And importantly the data will inform the next steps to provide advice, guidance, and support for survivors.

Report highlights babies at domestic abuse incidents

The For Baby's Sake Trust has unveiled alarming new data suggesting that over 185,000 babies are present at police call outs for domestic abuse incidents each year in England.

This figure stems from a comprehensive Freedom of Information Request sent to 39 police forces across England, using responses from 15 forces who combine to serve approximately a third of England's population.

- According to data from the ONS, an average of approximately 1,444,225 domestic abuse incidents are reported to the police annually in England, based on figures from 2021 to 2023.
- The For Baby's Sake Trust's FOI findings suggest that around 13% of these incidents during this period involve an infant being present, based on the rates across 15 police forces.
- This translates to an estimated 187,750 babies (aged 0 to 2) across England on average each year.

Read full press release at [Press Release: New data indicates that 187,750 babies are present at police callouts for domestic abuse annually - For Baby's Sake \(forbabysake.org.uk\)](https://forbabysake.org.uk/press-release/new-data-indicates-that-187750-babies-are-present-at-police-callouts-for-domestic-abuse-annually/)

Police & Crime Commissioner Annual Report

The latest Annual Report from Darryl Preston, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Police & Crime Commissioner, highlights work to support victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence alongside the Safer Streets initiatives

[PCC annual report 2023-2024 - A4 web edition \(cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk\)](https://cambridgeshire-pcc.gov.uk/annual-report-2023-2024/)

Job Vacancy – DASV Carer Support

Caring Together are recruiting for a new post supporting unpaid carers who are subjected to domestic abuse and sexual violence. The post will work closely with Adult Social Care, Adult Safeguarding and the DASV Partnership to support and signpost carers.

[Carer Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Advisor job - St Ives / Hybrid - Caring Together Charity \(livevacancies.co.uk\)](https://livevacancies.co.uk/job/vacancy-1234567890/) (closing date 19th September)

SARC Open Days

The Elms Sexual Abuse Referral Centre have new dates for their popular Open Days, inviting professionals to visit the SARC and learn about how they support people who have experienced sexual violence.

Please use the links below to book onto sessions, which are for professionals only

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/768954532707?aff=oddtcreator> – 13/09/24

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/984029317177?aff=oddtcreator> – 22/11/24

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/984067701987?aff=oddtcreator> 17/01/25

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/984098283457?aff=oddtcreator> 14/03/25

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/984103539177?aff=oddtcreator> 09/05/25

BBC Make a Difference Awards – Hooray for Linda

Linda Huskisson is the winner of a BBC Make a Difference Community Award for her amazing volunteer work! Linda runs Living Keys – a service supporting victims of abuse in Cambridgeshire – and was nominated by Vickie Crompton.

Linda Huskisson's life has been shaped by her experiences of abuse, slavery, addiction, prostitution, prison, cancer and her rescue and recovery.

Ms Huskisson, from Peterborough, has devoted her life to support victims of domestic abuse and set up "Living Keys", which runs courses and support groups, so women who have been in a similar situation can help one another.

Her experiences have also been turned into a book.

In the nomination, Ms Huskisson was described as "a great example of how people can help people".

"She's compassionate, dedicated and determined to help women improve their lives."

Hearing about the recognition, Ms Huskisson said: "I feel very humbled, that's for sure, I never expected anything at all. There are so many wonderful stories out there, so I was really surprised and taken aback."

Job Vacancy – Housing First Team Leader

The Housing First project across Cambridgeshire has an exciting opportunity for a Team Leader. This role is based in Huntingdon, managing a team across Fenland, Hunts and East Cambs, with some flexibility to work from home and other offices.

The project employs the Housing First approach, which is an internationally recognised model of successfully engaging and supporting individuals with multiple complex needs, who have a history of repeat homelessness/rough sleeping and supporting them to access and sustain their own tenancies and live independently.

This is a full time, fixed term post for 1 year. Continuation beyond this is dependent on securing further funding. Salary is £38258 - £40958 and closing date is 1st October.

For more information and details of how to apply, please see [Housing First Team Leader | 01 October, 2024 | Jobs and careers with Cambridgeshire County Council](#)

Integrating Cultural and Religious Diversity in DA Services

Some of you may have attended Project dldl/ድልድል conference in June on 'Domestic Violence, Religion and Migration' at SOAS, University of London. The conference was attended by about 80 participants from at least 15 different organisations, the majority working in DVA services provision in the UK, and catering to diverse faith communities. In addition, the event was attended by Nicole Jacobs, the Domestic Abuse Commissioner of England and Wales, and Archbishop Angaelos of the Coptic Orthodox Church in London.

As an outcome of the conference the collaborative document 'A Roadmap for Integrating Cultural and Religious Diversity in UK Domestic Violence and Abuse Services' has been produced to offer some directions and list issues of consideration without dictating what should be done in relation to the matters addressed.

This can be accessed directly here: [Conference-Brief_Roadmap-for-DVA-sector.pdf \(projectdldl.org\)](#)

New Sibling Sexual Abuse online hub

SARSAS, who support sexual violence survivors across Bristol and Gloucs, have launched a new national website around sibling sexual abuse.

The site aims to form a community dedicated to supporting survivors of sibling sexual abuse by providing a safe space and resources to aid in healing and recovery.

With funding from Sir Halley Trust and the Rayne Foundation, the hub provides:

- Supportive Community
- Educational Resources
- Therapeutic Tools
- Self-Care Tips
- Survivor Stories and more

[Home | Sibling Sexual Abuse \(siblingsexualabusesupport.org\)](https://siblingsexualabusesupport.org)

ABC Project update

DHIVERSE have been in touch to let us know that they have recently made several updates to the ABC Project.

ABC (Awareness, Balance & Choice) is a tailored age and ability appropriate educational intervention for anyone **aged 9 and above** (no upper age limit) who has a learning disability or autism who needs support and information around relationships, sex, sexual behaviours, sexual health and keeping safe online or in the community. The intervention aims to give participants the information they need to be able to make their own informed choices and decisions. **Please note ABC interventions should not be used as a replacement for statutory Relationships and Sex Education (RSE). The aim of ABC is to address gaps in knowledge and understanding, therefore a participant should have engaged in RSE in school or for older participants, they should have a basic understanding of relationships and sex.**

For more details about these new services, please visit [website](#) or contact enquiries@dhiverse.org.uk

To make a referral to the ABC project, please use the following links:

- [Individual Referrals](#)
- [Group Referrals](#)

Demystifying Coercive Control

Domestic Abuse Education, who provide excellent free webinars for us aimed at employers, recently published a useful blog on some of the frequently asked questions on coercive control.

What does coercive control in domestic violence entail? Coercive control refers to a pattern of abusive behaviours that instil fear and strip individuals of their freedom and independence. It can manifest through physical and non-physical actions or a mixture of both, each considered severe. Coercive control often begins with seemingly innocent behaviours that gradually escalate. We should be wary of partners who exhibit intense involvement, constant need for contact, or jealousy without reason.

How is coercive control concealed within everyday interactions? Coercive control is a psychological and emotional abuse that has been identified as particularly traumatic by survivors, especially women and children. In addition, technology has become a powerful tool for perpetrators of coercive control.

What psychological mechanisms underpin coercive control? Coercive control in relationships involves a pattern of oppressive and dominating behaviour that aims to manipulate and dictate someone's thoughts, feelings, and actions. This form of control is primarily executed through emotional abuse in intimate relationships, although it can also include physical aggression.

Who is particularly susceptible to coercive control? Coercive control can affect anyone, but specific individuals may be more susceptible. This includes children and adults who are either in abusive relationships or are at risk of domestic violence. These groups are particularly vulnerable to such controlling behaviours.

Does coercive control escalate? Understanding how coercive control evolves is crucial. While some relationships may show a steady increase in abusive behaviours, research suggests that [escalation is often more episodic](#). We might notice peaks and troughs in the frequency and severity of controlling behaviours, usually coinciding with specific stressors or life events.

There are some great short films available online that highlight coercive control:

[Hidden in Plain Sight - Coercive Control and Domestic Abuse \(youtube.com\)](#)

[Luke and Ryan were controlled by their dad now they're raising awareness of coercive control \(youtube.com\)](#)

[HARDER- a short film about domestic abuse \(youtube.com\)](#)

[Eggshells - A Short Film About Domestic Abuse \(coercive control, gaslighting, domestic violence\) \(youtube.com\)](#)

Cambridge Rape Crisis call for volunteers

Cambridge Rape Crisis are looking for women to join their incredible group of emotional support volunteers and provide life-changing and life-saving support to local survivors of sexual violence.

CRCC provide volunteers with comprehensive training and ongoing development opportunities.

To download an application pack, visit the website at [Volunteer with us – Cambridge Rape Crisis Centre | Support for survivors of sexual violence](#). If you have any questions, you can email volunteering@cambridgerapecrisis.org.uk

The MUMMA Hub share new videos

The MUMMA Hub have shared the link to a video production, which they have been working on with their partners, that covers their Antenatal program with Raham and information about the hub.

<https://we.tl/t-S9qezrTMQJ> (the two videos are within this link) – no need to sign in, just download the videos from box on the left side of the screen

We would appreciate it if you could share this with your networks and partners.

If you have any questions, please either email Robyn.Macklin@peterborough.gov.uk or ekeoma.nwajiuba@barnardos.org.uk