

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

**December 2024**

Hello All

Sending you good wishes for the holiday season and we hope you get a break this month – 2024 has certainly been (another) very busy year.

Thanks to everyone who supported the 16 Days of Activism and the White Ribbon events across the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough with Flag Raisings, events, a conference in Cambridge and over 500 slots on the webinars across the 16 days. If you haven't done so already, please sign up as a White Ribbon Ambassador or a White Ribbon Champion here [Ambassadors and Champions — White Ribbon UK](#)

If you haven't seen them already, please take 10 minutes to watch the survivor voices from Living Keys, Peterborough Women's words read by Peterborough women. They are powerful and we would like for them to reach as many people as possible – please share!

There are some vacancies which you might be interested in, the details are towards the end of the newsletter.

If there is anything you are doing in your organisation to improve practice and response to domestic abuse and sexual violence, please get in touch, we love hearing from you.

The DASV Champions sessions in January will be focusing on delivering specialist sexual violence support to the LGBTQI+ Communities, and Post Separation Abuse – get in touch if you would like to sign up to be a DASV Champion.

Vickie & Julia

Vickie Crompton, DASV Partnership Manager

Julia Cullum, DASV Head of Service



## Flag goes up for White Ribbon

On 25<sup>th</sup> November the White Ribbon flag was raised across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. We're really grateful to all the organisations who supported these events.



Left - The Mayor of Peterborough and the Lady Mayoress gave speeches before raising the White Ribbon flag at Peterborough Town Hall

Below Left: The White Ribbon flag is raised at New Shire Hall

Below Right: Cambridge City Council raises the White Ribbon flag



## Survivors share stories in powerful new video

In collaboration with the local charity Living Keys, Peterborough City Council have documented the powerful stories of several women who have experienced domestic abuse. Released to mark White Ribbon Day, and the International Day for Elimination of Violence Against Women & Girls – on 25<sup>th</sup> November – the video features a range of experiences of domestic abuse in survivor's own words, alongside how things changed for them once they received the support and safety they needed.

We're hugely grateful to Living Keys and the Communications Team at Peterborough City Council for creating this powerful film, and to the survivors who showed amazing bravery in sharing their stories.

The film can be viewed at [Domestic Abuse Stories](#)



The BBC also reported on this work, highlighting the support that Living Keys offers to survivors – you can read the article at [Abuse survivors from Peterborough urge others 'do not lose hope' - BBC News](#)

## It Starts with Men

On the 29<sup>th</sup> November, as part of the White Ribbon campaign across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, an event was held for male leaders in the public sector. Facilitated by Riz Rahemtulla and Rob Hill, the event considered how they, as male leaders, can challenge male violence against women and girls. There were over 20 in attendance, including the Police and Crime Commissioner, senior leaders and councillors from local authorities, Probation, housing, senior police officers, the Safeguarding Board and the NHS.

The men in attendance made a number of commitments, including:

- Professionally challenging sexist behaviours in their workplaces.
- Ensuring women have a voice throughout their organisations
- Challenging Victim Blaming and ensuring focus is on those who perpetrate abuse against women
- Encouraging a workforce which reflects the communities in which it service
- Supporting colleagues experiencing abuse in their personal and professional lives
- Holding events to encourage men in their organisations to challenge male violence
- Calling out family or friends with sexist attitudes and behaviours, and striving to uphold the values of the White Ribbon Campaign
- Sharing the White Ribbon Values with colleagues across teams
- Encouraging other organisations such as sports organisations to enhance action to challenge male violence
- Uncovering and challenging sexist attitudes and behaviours within their organisations

The event was well received with a clear call to action, that male violence and abuse must be addressed continuously to reduce the impact on women and girls across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.



## Cambridge United Football Club White Ribbon Matchday

On Saturday 16 November, [Cambridge United dedicated their match](#) to raising awareness about the White Ribbon campaign.

Cambridge City Council's Community Safety team and two White Ribbon Ambassadors; Councillor Cameron Holloway, and local businessman, Shapour Meftah, held a stall in the North Habbin Fan Zone on the day of the match and spoke to the club fans about the White Ribbon Day and advice and support available in the city.

Cllr Cameron Holloway, Executive Councillor for Community Safety, Homelessness and Wellbeing said, "We had a great time promoting the White Ribbon campaign to end male violence against women and girls at Cambridge United v Barnsley.

"It was really encouraging to see lots of men pledging to not commit or tolerate violence against women and girls, and particularly touching that one man came up to us at half time and said we'd made him reflect on his own behaviour - hopefully, we had a similar effect on others.  
"A huge thank you to the Cambridge United for their support of this work."

Cambridge United Foundation (CUF) has formed a pioneering partnership with Pledge United to deliver the UK's first programme of its type aimed at tackling discrimination and violence against women and girls.

Working in local schools, the project uses football to challenge the culture around gender issues and create a safe place for all. The project is supported by the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner, Cambridge Community Safety Partnership, and Cambridge City Council. Photograph by Jordan Wood, Cambridge United Foundation and Women Communications Officer, from left to right:



Cambridge City Executive Councillor Cameron Holloway (White Ribbon Ambassador), Kieran Wood (Cambridge United Foundation / White Ribbon Ambassador), Lana Novoselova, Louise Walker (both Cambridge City Council Community Safety Team), Shapour Meftah (White Ribbon Ambassador), Chloe Newell (Cambridge City Council Community Safety Team), and Stuart Wood (Cambridge United Football Club).

## Cambridge City Council Domestic Abuse Conference 2024 Report by Louise Walker

On Monday 2 December, a Domestic Abuse Conference to celebrate 25 November – White Ribbon Day and the United Nations International Day of Elimination of Violence Against Women, which starts 16 Days of Action to 10 December, Human Rights Day – was hosted by Cambridge City Council at the Meadows Community Centre.

Cameron Holloway, Executive Councillor for Community Safety, Homelessness and Wellbeing, opened the conference. It was attended by over 100 people consisting of members of the public, survivors, service providers, and professionals as well as being supported by two British Sign Language (BSL) Interpreters; Kirsty Dorkenoo and Steve Churchill.

Gerri Bird, Executive Councillor for Housing and Homelessness, provided an introduction about the work of the council and highlighted the need to raise the public's awareness and promote the support available.

### Guest Speakers

The conference format was changed following last year's feedback to have two separate breakout sessions, instead of one, to be more interactive with attendees and ensure their engagement.

For the first interactive breakout, there was a choice of three options:

- Using AI to Improve Survivor Experience in the Criminal Justice System led by Tamara Polajnar, Chief Executive Officer, [herEthical AI](#)
- Panel discussion on Relationship education for young people with Beth Warmington, Founder of [Landlark](#) and Kieran Wood, The Pledge United Project - [Cambridge United Foundation Trust](#)
- Creative expression as a tool for empowerment led by Artist [Annie Brown](#)

For the second interactive breakout, there was again a choice of three options:

- Tackling child and adolescent to parent violence and abuse (CAPVA) led by Nicola Beaumont-Carter, Senior Family Respect Project Officer, [YMCA Trinity Group](#)
- Working together to achieve lasting change - awareness raising and community engagement led by Angie Stewart, Chief Executive, [Cambridge Women's Aid](#) and Ana Serrano, [Ask Me Project](#) Coordinator
- Creative expression as a tool for empowerment led by Artist [Annie Brown](#)

The breakout sessions were followed by finding out how [Loving Me](#) is supporting trans and non-binary victims of domestic abuse, which was presented by Melissa (she/her), Senior Domestic Abuse Support Worker.

Next Andrew Bishop, NatWest Senior Personal Banker, Cambridge, provided a short overview into the support that the bank can provide.

In the afternoon, there was a presentation on 'Essential insights into Honour Based Abuse and Forced Marriage' by Anup Manota, [Karma Nirvana](#).

This was followed by a panel discussion chaired by Executive Councillor Cameron Holloway with Anup Manota, Mike Davey, Leader of Cambridge City Council, and Julia Cullum, Head of Service of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (DASV) Partnership, about [White Ribbon UK](#) campaign and their 2024 theme of #It Starts with MEN.

Conference closing remarks were given by Executive Councillor Cameron Holloway.

## **Feedback**

Comments from the conference attendees included:

- “Extremely informative and the networking opportunities were great. Fantastic lunch too. Many thanks Cambridge City Council.”
- “Format was fantastic and having the different breakout sessions kept the day fresh but also allowed for more range of topics. The day was put together in a very considerate manner with breaks in places, so the day was not emotionally heavy. Also, the lunch provided by The Edge Café was excellent.”
- “Superb presentation by Karma Nirvana, which increased my awareness about Honour Based Abuse.”

Guest speakers had enjoyed being involved as well and thanked Cambridge City Council for inviting them; comments included:

- “Thank you very much for inviting our service to speak. It was a really fascinating conference to attend.”
- “I just wanted to say a massive thank you again for inviting me to be a speaker at this amazing conference. It was a brilliant event, and I really came away inspired as always and grateful for the work of this entire community.”
- “I was really impressed with the conference and gained a great deal of knowledge from attending.”



## **Christmas awareness raising**

The Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership have planned a social media campaign to run from 11<sup>th</sup> December, raising awareness of support available locally and nationally over the Christmas period. The images and dates will be sent out with this newsletter, Our social media links are on the front page of this newsletter, so please share the posts when they go out if you're able to.

Please note that DASS (local DA outreach service) will be closed on the 25<sup>th</sup>/ 26<sup>th</sup> December and 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025. They will be operating normal office hours over the rest of the Christmas and New Year period, except on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> when they will close at 4pm.

The Domestic Abuse Helpline is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week – including all bank holidays – 0808 2000 247

## **New animations from the Women's Research Hub**

The Women's Research Hub have have launched two new animated short film as part of 16 Days of Action. This initiative, supported by City's Higher Education Impact Fund (HEIF), collaborated with the University of Bristol, the University for the Creative Arts London, and Leeds Beckett University, alongside organisations such as IKWRO and an Iran-based NGO.

The animations are grounded in evidence from a survey of 453 women in Iran and focus on key issues such as coercive control, economic abuse, technology-facilitated abuse, and active bystander interventions. They are designed to raise awareness, empower survivors, and foster meaningful discussions.

Link to YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVy2Go5pttPErVE8AW7Mlag>

## **Way Forward for women affected by gambling**

Way Forward is a free online support group for women affected by another person's gambling, delivered by GamCare. It provides a safe and supportive space for women to share their experiences, find comfort and empower one another.

<https://haysouthcambbs.co.uk/support/way-forward-gamcare/>

## **Launch of Bridgit – online support for unpaid carers**

Bridgit provides carers with the tools and resources they need to create personalised self-care plans, access local events, and find support tailored to their needs – take a look here: [Online Support](#)



## Projects for young people at risk of serious violence

Police and Crime Commissioner Darryl Preston has used government funding to support a raft of targeted youth work schemes across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to tackle vulnerability and reduce the risk of young people engaging in serious violence and anti-social behaviour (ASB).

Activities being delivered through these sessions range from music recording and street art through to football sessions and skateparks - all aimed at connecting with young people through the types of positive activities they enjoy helping them make safe choices.

The investment follows the introduction of the Serious Violence Duty in January 2023 which requires organisations to work together to reduce and prevent serious violence by focusing on the root causes of offending as part of a 'prevention over cure' strategy. In line with the Duty, the PCC has supported multiple youth projects across the county which are successfully challenging and addressing risk-taking behaviour.

Projects being delivered include:

- Youth work and primary school outreach in Cambridgeshire. Youth work provider Romsey Mill is delivering weekly sessions in communities in three areas across Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire. Specialist youth workers engage with young people aged 11 to 17 in a variety of ways, providing a supervised space for young people and one-to-one outreach to small cohorts of primary school-age children in years 5 and 6. To date, this project has supported over 250 young people.
- Youth work and primary school outreach in Peterborough: Two Serious Youth Violence Workers have been recruited into Peterborough City Council to deliver a project in areas of Peterborough with a local problem-solving group set up to help identify where the project is most needed.
- Targeted youth work in Peterborough: Romsey Mill is also delivering this project with young people aged 13 to 18 through a range of activities including music groups and football sessions. Youth workers have positively intervened to divert young people away from criminality and supported vulnerable people already in the justice system to find work. To date, nearly 100 young people have been supported by the project.
- Trusted Adult Scheme: A range of partners are delivering diversionary activities with young people at risk of violence. These include drop-in sessions at Anglia Ruskin University in Cambridge providing opportunities for young people to engage with trusted adults in a safe space. Sessions include street art workshops which look at strategies young people can use to support their mental health and music recording workshops, as well as other sessions.

Read the full press release at [PCC secures funding for youth activities which benefit hundreds of young people at risk of serious violence](#)

## **You have a voice campaign**

On the 5 September the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) launched their You have a voice campaign. The campaign is aimed at women and girls, to inform and empower victim-survivors of violence against women and girls (VAWG), and the professionals working with them, about their rights to make a complaint. It also signposts them to more information in various formats, if and when they need it.

IOPC have sought the views of academics, professionals, organisations and advocates within the violence against women and girls sector to develop this campaign. Please actively share and promote the information where you can, including with people who use your service, colleagues and contacts where appropriate, and display materials in suitable spaces. IOPC want women and girls to understand their rights in the police complaints system, so that they feel confident and have trust in the system should they need to use it.

On the IOPC website you will find digital posters, leaflets and business cards that can be printed or shared [You have a voice | Independent Office for Police Conduct \(IOPC\)](#)

## **YOUnited self-referral pathway for parents of children & young people**

YOUnited has launched a self-referral pathway to support children and young people's emotional wellbeing and mental health. Parents of children age 5+ and young people aged 13-17 can self-refer to YOUnited for mental health support. More info on this link: [www.cpft.nhs.uk/younited-self-referral](http://www.cpft.nhs.uk/younited-self-referral)  
YOUnited is a joint partnership between Cambridgeshire & Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust, Cambridgeshire Community Services, Ormiston Families and Centre 33.

Children in receipt of benefit-related free school meals are eligible to attend a participating holiday scheme for up to 16 hours during the Christmas holidays, including lunch and refreshments. Visit [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/haf](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/haf) for details and the wider eligibility criteria. Questions can be emailed to [HAF@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:HAF@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

## **Winter warmer lunches in Cambridge for over 60s**

Langdon House, a residential and dementia care home in Union Lane in Cambridge, will be providing free warm lunches for over 60s Monday to Friday, 12-4pm throughout November and December. No need to book, just pop in. [Address on this link.](#)

## **Trial of new powers under the DA Bill**

Domestic Abuse Protection Notices/Orders (DAPNO's), introduced as part of the 2021 DA Bill, are being piloted for one year by three forces - Metropolitan Police, Greater Manchester Police and British Transport Police. Cambridgeshire will not adopt DAPNO's at this stage and will continue with Domestic Violence Protection Notices (DVPN's). However, DAPNO's jurisdiction covers the whole of the UK and so it is important that all Police Forces and their relevant partner agencies are aware in the event a victim or perpetrator subject to one, moves to Cambridgeshire or Peterborough.

Key points to note are:

- The victim must reside in the pilot force areas for a DAPNO to be considered so any offences occurring whilst the victim is temporarily in another area (on holiday for example) will not be covered.
- If a victim or perpetrator subject to a DAPNO moves to Cambridgeshire or Peterborough, the pilot force must notify us. This will most likely come through the MASH and so we will ensure partner agencies are made aware.
- Breach of a DAPNO is enforceable across the UK and so if an offence happens in Cambridgeshire or Peterborough, Cambs Police will take action but in liaison with the pilot force.
- Unlike DVPNO's, DAPNO's do not have a set timeframe enabling greater long-term protection for victims.

## **Annual Victim Survey**

Each year, the **Victims' Commissioner for England and Wales**, Baroness Newlove, carries out an annual Victim Survey – a unique opportunity for victims of crime to share their experiences and perceptions of the criminal justice system.

Covering all crime types and all stages of the criminal justice system, this survey is the only one of its kind, ensuring that victims' voices are heard and play a pivotal role in driving meaningful change.

By sharing the survey on social media and through other communications channels, you'll play a crucial role in reaching victims whose voices might otherwise go unheard.

For those working directly with victims, we also welcome your support in sharing it directly with your service users to ensure we reach as many victims as possible.

The survey is open from **25th November to 31st December 2024** and can be found at:

<https://eu.research.net/r/OVC24>

## **A Message from the Safeguarding Boards**

As you will be aware there have been discussions for some time relating to the future partnership arrangements. Consideration has gone into the implications of changes to current arrangements i.e. shared Partnership Safeguarding Boards for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough for both Adults and Children. We are now at a point where we are able to share with you the plan for future arrangements and ask that you disseminate this message within your organisations please to ensure all partner representatives are appraised of the road ahead.

A meeting on 14 October 2024 involving both Local Authorities, Police and ICB representatives agreed the following: -

- Separate Children's Safeguarding Partnership Boards for CCC and PCC
- Separate Adults Safeguarding Partnership Boards for CCC and PCC
- The four Boards will oversee joint subgroups in 2025. These subgroups will undertake reviews of their terms of reference and membership in the early part of 2025. The effectiveness and function of each of these groups will continue to be scrutinised by the Partnership Boards.
- Priority workstreams will continue to be undertaken, focussed on the Boards' priorities. These groups may be joint or area specific dependent on the priorities determined for 2025/26
- Both Children's/Boards will share the same Independent Scrutineer;
- Both Adults Boards will share the same Independent Chair, both the chair and scrutineer will be recruited to as a matter of priority.
- A quarterly, cross-county Chief Executive Group has been established to allow for lead safeguarding partners to be appraised of the work and effectiveness of the partnerships;
- The Children's Safeguarding Partnership Boards will have the same chair on an annually rotating basis. Carol Anderson, Chief Nursing Officer for the ICB has kindly agreed to chair both Boards for the next 12 months. The Local Authority Executive Directors for Children, Education and Families will chair their respective boards on the year they are the Chair.

Separate board meetings will be scheduled from January 2025.

We wish to finally take this opportunity to thank our hard working practitioners, managers and agency representatives for their hard work and patience through this period. Your dedication to safeguarding makes our partnership what it is.

## **Support for Trans and Non-Binary survivors**

**Loving Me** is a service which provides one-to-one support and advocacy, for Trans and Non-Binary victims of domestic abuse or sexual violence who are aged 18 and over and live in England. [Loving Me – Domestic Abuse Help Service](#) They also offer advice to professionals who are working with a survivor who is Trans or Non-Binary.

## **New film to help Christian faith communities support survivors of VAWG**

Produced by the Yellow Box Theatre, *People Must Do Something* is a short documentary exploring the issue of violence against women and girls, with a particular focus on equipping and challenging Christian faith communities to be part of the change for women and girls. The film features: Dr Lisa Oakley, Associate Professor at the University of Chester, specialising in abuse within faith-based contexts. Bekah Legg, CEO of Restored, a UK-based Christian charity working to end violence against women by raising awareness of domestic abuse, equipping churches, and supporting survivors. Jennifer Heron, Housing Officer for Orchards, and Emma Goulds, Co-Founder of Orchards, a Christian charity dedicated to freeing women from sexual exploitation and empowering them to live flourishing, independent lives. Everyone is welcome to view the documentary, whether you have faith or not. [THINK: People must do something. Produced by the Yellow Box Theatre.](#)

## **Job Vacancies**

### **Specialist Domestic Abuse Advice Line Worker, 37 Hours per week, Peterborough**

**Salary:** £26124, Fixed term post until 31st March 2026 **Closing date:** 23rd December 2024

Peterborough Women's Aid have an opportunity for a Specialist Domestic Abuse Advice Line Worker to join the team working at the Victim & Witness Hub. You will make the first contact with medium risk victims of domestic abuse and ensure the victims safety through safety planning, risk assessment and appropriate referrals.

You will work closely within a team in a fast-paced environment making quick informed decisions to ensure the safety of victims of domestic abuse.

For more information and to apply, please visit [Peterborough Women's Aid](#)

### **Head of Domestic Abuse Services, Salary £40,00 - £45,000, Located in Bedford**

IMPAKT Housing and Support are looking for an experienced, knowledgeable professional to take on the rewarding role of **Head of Domestic Abuse Services**. The successful candidate will oversee the domestic abuse outreach services across Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and North Hertfordshire.

Please follow the link for more information: [Careers | IMPAKT Housing & Support](#)

## **Domestic Homicide Review Summaries**

Across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough there are currently 18 Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews/Domestic Homicide Reviews in progress. These can take a significant amount of time before they are able to be published. In 2023/24, six reviews commenced, and there have been two started since April this year. Below are summaries of two reviews recently published in Peterborough and Cambridge City with links to the full reports and recommendations. All names used are pseudonyms.

### **John – Domestic Homicide Review**

[Domestic Homicide Reviews | Peterborough City Council](#)

John was killed by his wife, Margaret, in December 2022

John and Margaret, his wife, had been married for 47 years. John was retired and Margaret was, at the time she killed John, employed. During a mid-December morning, John was seen on CCTV when he collected a prescription for her. The following day it is understood that Margaret made a silent 999 call. She then made another call in the early hours of the following morning, which led police and paramedics to attend the matrimonial home. Margaret is reported as telling the 999 call handler "I don't know what I've done, I don't know what happened" stating her husband was not breathing and "he died because of her". On their arrival, it was apparent that John had been dead for some time. Margaret was originally charged with murder, but prosecutors accepted her plea to the lesser charge of manslaughter by diminished responsibility. In June 2023, at the Crown Court sitting at Peterborough, the perpetrator received a hospital order for the manslaughter of John. This was following acceptance of her plea of guilty on the basis of diminished responsibility. Medical reports found that "her depression is a significant contributor to the killing and that she had lost control". The sentencing judge stated that she killed John whilst "suffering from a serious and undiagnosed mental disorder". There was no evidence of domestic abuse available to the panel prior to this killing.

### **Sarah – Domestic Abuse Related Death Review**

[Domestic homicide review for Sarah: executive summary - Cambridge Community Safety Partnership](#)

Sarah took her own life following significant domestic abuse from her partner, Michael. She was a mother to four children and there had been struggles for the family for a number of years, including abuse from the eldest child. Sarah had asked services for support throughout this time.