



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

September 2023

Hi All

Welcome back from the Summer (although this week feels like the height of August!)

We have been really busy in recent weeks developing briefings – there is one about working with interpreters and another in relation to carers and domestic abuse – please have a read if these might be relevant to you.

There are a number of webinars and briefings happening across the country and you can find information in this newsletter, and don't forget about the Autumn DASV Champions sessions – we would love to see you all there 😊

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



Autumn DASV Champions

Please join us for the Autumn Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Champions sessions where we'll be hearing from Christine Jones about Adult Safeguarding and CPSL Mind about Suicide.

Cambridgeshire County Council staff can book via Our Development. If you're from another organisation you will need to register for an account – full details are at [Cambridgeshire County Council DASV Partnership - DASV Champions \(cambsdasv.org.uk\)](https://cambsdasv.org.uk)

We will also be running our annual DASV Champions survey from September – we'd really like to hear your feedback on the network and the topics covered over the last year as well as suggestions for what you'd like to hear in 2024. Look out for the survey link being sent by email – you could win a £50 Amazon voucher!

Interpreting and translation when working with domestic abuse survivors

We have pulled together some key points for professionals to remember when working with survivors who need interpreting and translation services. The new guidance can be found on our website at [Cambridgeshire County Council DASV Partnership - Guidance for Professionals \(cambdasv.org.uk\)](https://cambdasv.org.uk)

Shared Lives Domestic Abuse Project

Cambridgeshire Shared Lives service and Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership are working collaboratively to establish a new Shared Lives Domestic Abuse Project. The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safe Accommodation Needs Assessment identified gaps in safe accommodation for people with disabilities, including learning disabilities. The Shared Lives Domestic Abuse Project aims to address this gap. This project aims to address and meet the needs of survivors with learning disabilities initially, with the view to expand project eligibility once established.

The project aims to provide a Shared Lives approach to support adult survivors of domestic abuse. The project is currently recruiting for Shared Lives Domestic Abuse Carers who will open their homes to the service user. Shared Lives Domestic Abuse Carers will offer a range of solutions – this could include overnight stays or day visits to their home for a couple of hours (i.e. meeting for a coffee). It could also include supporting the survivor to access services or support to increase their confidence and independence. Following the Shared Lives model of support, each Survivor and Shared Lives Carer will be matched to ensure support is fully person centred. This matching process will look at a multitude of factors including the persons support needs, level of risk, mutual interests and lifestyle.

This project is aimed to provide emotional and practical support for survivors who fall within Medium and Standard risk categories (as determined by the DASH Risk Indicator Checklist). All survivors using the project will also receive specialist domestic abuse support from the Independent Domestic Violence Advisory Service (IDVAS) or the specialist Domestic Abuse Support Service (DASS Outreach).

Libby Swannell-Bell is the Shared Lives DASV Project Coordinator and is responsible for the development and running of the project. She is currently running awareness sessions for professionals who are looking to find out more about the project. Please contact Libby directly to book this is on libby.swannell-bell@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Are you looking for a new opportunity to support adults? The project is currently looking for people to become Shared Lives Domestic Abuse Carers. You will be supported throughout your application process and will be provided all the training needed for the role. If you would like more information, please visit [Cambridgeshire County Council DASV Partnership - Becoming a Shared Lives Domestic Abuse Project Carer \(cambdasv.org.uk\)](https://cambdasv.org.uk)

New leaflet with pictures

We have created a new leaflet with simple text and pictures that may be suitable for people with learning disabilities, learning difficulties, autism, low literacy levels or people who are neurodiverse.

The leaflet can be downloaded from our website or we can send hard copies to you if you contact Amanda.

[Cambridgeshire County Council DASV Partnership - Disabilities \(cambsdasv.org.uk\)](http://cambsdasv.org.uk)

7 webinars for £7 to support local Rape Crisis

The Priority Academy have linked with Peterborough Rape Crisis Care Group to host 7 webinars across 7 weeks for just £7 and every penny of the £7 will be going to the charity.

This year is their 40th year in existence and they are trying to raise £40,000 for that anniversary. You can help!

By signing up to these 7 webinars in 7 weeks for just £7 you are donating that £7 to the charity.

The 7 Webinars

The titles of the webinars are:

1. **Simple steps to improve the quality of your life**
2. **How to stop overthinking**
3. **Build a body of wellbeing armour**
4. **Transform within, achieve beyond**
5. **Managing your motivation**
6. **Overcoming adversity and reaching your true potential**
7. **The path to being awesome**

PLUS - each of them will be recorded and you will have unlimited access to them afterwards. So even if you can't watch them live, you can watch the recordings. And all for only £7!

Sign up for Just £7 Now

Trauma cards pilot

We have developed a trauma card that survivors can present to professionals to alert them that some interactions may trigger a trauma response for them. We are trialling the cards with the Health IDVA team starting this month.

We have created a page on our website explaining how trauma can affect survivors, how the trauma card works and what professionals can do if they are presented with a card [Cambridgeshire County Council DASV Partnership - Trauma Cards \(cambsdasv.org.uk\)](https://cambsdasv.org.uk)

We hope to extend the pilot to other partners in the future.

Analysis of coercive control offences finds failings in economic abuse

In December 2017 Surviving Economic Abuse published **Into Plain Sight**, the first analysis of economic abuse within successful prosecutions of the Controlling or Coercive Behaviour (CCB) Offence.

The report made economic abuse visible for the first time, by showing that economic control was a feature in 60 per cent of cases.

The CCB Offence has provided a legal framework within which to hold perpetrators of economic abuse accountable. However, a new report **Seen yet sidelined**, reveals that despite these changes to the law victim-survivors are still not getting the criminal or economic justice they deserve.

By analysing 810 successfully prosecuted offences of controlling or coercive behaviour, **Seen yet sidelined** found that nearly two-thirds (64%) of cases reported in the press reference economic abuse.

Use of tech increasingly a feature of domestic abuse

The Culture, Media and Sport Committee's report *Connect tech: smart or sinister* reports that the vast majority of domestic abuse cases now feature some sort of cyber element, including the use of spyware, and perpetrators monitoring movements and collecting recordings and images of victims and survivors.

connected technology, such as smart speakers, virtual assistants and wearable fitness trackers are in many UK households and some tech is designed specifically to monitor the movements of occupants, such as cameras installed by family to 'keep an eye' on an older relative. However, this tech can also be used to control and harass victims of domestic abuse by violating their privacy and reporting their movements or social media activity directly to the abuser.

The report calls for the Government to make tackling technology-facilitated abuse, or "tech abuse", a priority and recommends that The Office for Product Safety and Standards should convene a 'tech abuse working group' to bring the industry together to tackle tech abuse.

Read the full report at [Connected technology: MPs call on Government to tackle growing problem of tech-enabled domestic abuse - Committees - UK Parliament](#)

Hear ME (Mother's Experiences)

The [Hear ME](#) (Mother's Experiences) project from Against Violence and Abuse (AVA) seeks to explore and develop awareness and responses to adult child to parent abuse, focusing on centering the voices of mothers and their experiences.

- The [Hear ME Research Report](#) aims to raise awareness and provide better understanding of mothers' experiences of adult child to parent abuse. The report explores the experiences of abuse, the journey in accessing support and identifies clear recommendations for change to improve responses and outcomes for mothers and families facing this form of abuse.
- The [Hear ME Guidance for Practitioners](#) draws upon the findings and recommendations from the research report, to provide practical steps for practitioners to effectively support families experiencing adult child to parent abuse.

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough DASV Partnership are pleased to see more research around Child and Adolescent Violence and Abuse and remind colleagues that CPVA is Domestic Abuse and ALL local specialist DA Services are accessible for victims.

Support for Migrant Victims Pilot

In July 2020, the Home Office (HO) announced the launch of a UK-wide pilot programme to support victims/survivors of domestic abuse who otherwise had no recourse to public funds (NRPF): the Support for Migrant Victims (SMV) Pilot. HO commissioned the Behavioural Insights Team (BIT) to undertake an independent evaluation of the Pilot.

Overall, the evaluation presents a mixed picture. There were clear examples of where the Pilot was performing well, particularly in meeting the immediate and emergency needs of victims/survivors. However, BIT also identified several areas in which victims'/survivors' needs were not being fully met, where provision and experiences were highly dependent on the victims'/survivors' specific circumstances, or where the administration of the Pilot placed additional burden on delivery partners.

Examples of areas where the pilot failed include:

- payments provided through the Pilot were often not sufficient to cover basic expenses, and all delivery partners relied on relationships with local charities to bridge the gaps
- providing suitable accommodation within the constraints of the Pilot was a challenge for delivery partners

The full report can be read at [Evaluating the Support for Migrant Victims \(SMV\) Pilot: Findings from a process evaluation - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Free webinar for church leaders

Restored are hosting a free webinar on Tuesday 3rd of October, 12-1pm, to share more about the vision for Restored Beacon churches and explain what's involved in joining the Restored Beacon Network.

Restored is building a network of churches, standing together against domestic abuse and supporting survivors. Church leaders can sign up for this free webinar to find out more about how to partner with Restored to stand against domestic abuse and support survivors, by joining the Restored Beacon Network. There's no obligation to sign up at this stage, and anyone is welcome to join.

[Becoming a Beacon of Hope: Restored Beacon Webinar by Restored on cademy.co.uk](#)

Grants for Older People on Low Incomes (England & Wales)

Small grants of up to £400 are available to support vulnerable older people living on low incomes in England and Wales. Friends of the Elderly currently have four grant streams open for older people who are of/over state pension age, have savings of less than £4,000, and who do not fit the criteria for other funders.

The funding is available to residents in England and Wales of/over state pension age who are living on low incomes and with little savings and who do not fit the criteria for other funders.

Whilst priority will be given to funding essential items including clothing, food, medicines, and books, the funding can also be used to help with the cost of replacing everyday items, small home repairs and mobility adaptations; help older people get online; and to help with unexpected bills.

Applications must be made via a third-party Referral Agent such as a charity, local authority, housing association, Information, Advice and Guidance provider or social services representative. Applications can be made at any time.

<https://www.fote.org.uk/our-charity-work/grants-2>

Carers and Domestic Abuse Project Briefing Sheet approved by ASC

[Unpaid Carers in the context of Domestic Abuse Briefing Sheet](#) has now been approved by the Practice Governance Group for use by Adult Social Care staff across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough defines carers as individuals assisting others in daily life and highlights the overlap with domestic abuse victims.

It cites statistics on carers' involvement in domestic homicides and the challenges of identifying and supporting carers experiencing abuse are explored, along with signs of control and deliberate abuse by carers.

The briefing advises professionals to enquire sensitively, consider risks, involve relevant services, and promote safety planning for carers.

The impact of coercive control on children and young people

The NSPCC have released a briefing providing insight into the impact of domestic abuse on children and young people where parents and carers use or experience coercive and controlling behaviours within their own relationships. This is drawn from what adults told the NSPCC Helpline and children told Childline in 2022/23.

Key findings:

Some adults contacting the NSPCC Helpline talked about their children being quiet, stressed and depressed.

- Behaviour changes were described, including children emotionally and physically abusing parents and siblings.
- In some cases, adults talked about their children self-harming.
- Children talking to Childline were worried about their parent's behaviour.
- Both adults and children talked about the disruption to children's social and support networks.

Read the full report at [Insights on the impact of coercive control on children and young people \(nspcc.org.uk\)](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/insights-on-the-impact-of-coercive-control-on-children-and-young-people)

Find out about the Deaf IDVA role

The Police and Crime Commissioner met specialist support workers helping survivors of domestic abuse from the deaf community to stay safe and rebuild their lives at recent visit to Cambridge Deaf Association.

Deaf women, compared to hearing women, are twice as likely to suffer from domestic abuse. The Specialist Deaf Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) role is unique and one of many funded by the OPCC as part of commitments to delivering inclusive services for all survivors of crime regardless of their background or circumstances.

You can read more about the Specialist Deaf IDVA at [Victim Services | Specialist Deaf Independent Domestic Violence... \(cambsvictimservices.co.uk\)](https://www.cambsvictimservices.co.uk/victim-services/specialist-deaf-independent-domestic-violence)

Expansion of Quell and Kooth

Both adults and young people are now able to get free, safe and anonymous mental health support through Quell and Kooth in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. If you would like more information and would like to discuss booking staff information sessions, please contact Natasha Cross ncross@kooth.com.

The link to their latest newsletter is: <https://mailchi.mp/kooth.com/sept-kooth-and-qwell-newsletter-for-gp-healthcare>

Domestic Homicide Review publication

South Cambridgeshire Community Safety Partnership recently published a Domestic Homicide Review into the death of JW, who took his own life in 2018.

This DHR has led to several actions being undertaken by the DASV Partnership and partner agencies including:

- Development of the Older People's DASH risk assessment for use with victims aged 60 and over
- The Unpaid Carers and Domestic Abuse project which has delivered awareness sessions to professionals, added Carers as victims of DA to the revised countywide Carer's Strategy and worked with commissioning colleagues to develop support for Carers experiencing DA.
- Improvements in policy and practice for GP surgery.
- Suicide awareness training delivered to police.
- Awareness raising of the specific issues in this DHR to partner agencies via the Safeguarding Boards.

The DHR report can be read at [Community Safety Partnership - South Cambs District Council \(scambs.gov.uk\)](https://scambs.gov.uk)

Family Court (private law children's cases) report webinars

As reported in the last newsletter, the Domestic Abuse Commissioner released a family court report in July addressing issues arising in private law children's cases. You can read the full report [here](#) and the executive summary [here](#).

They are holding a webinar on the report context, methodology and findings as well as the recommendations proposed by the Commissioner on 19th September (11:00-12:00)

Register [here](#)