



**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

January 2024

Hi All

Happy new year – and looking at the newsletter there are lots of events and training opportunities to look forward to over the coming months.

If your work is predominantly in Peterborough, please note 13th May in your diaries, when the Husani Islamic Centre will be hosting this year's conference, and there are some really interesting speakers who will be there. More information to follow.

Do all your teams have a DASV Champion? If not, please consider having one – every team needs a DASV Champion 🧑, to sign up, please contact us – and then you can come to one of our excellent sessions this month where we are hearing from Cambridgeshire Deaf Association and Refuge are coming to talk about the use of Technology in Domestic Abuse.

Please see we have a free Harmful Practices webinar with Bal Howard on 12th February, covering HBA / FGM and Breast Ironing.

Finally, our thanks to the Research Team and everyone who contributed to the VAWG Needs Assessment, the final document has been uploaded to our website and it provides interesting reading [Cambridgeshire County Council DASV Partnership - Strategic Documents \(cambsdasv.org.uk\)](https://cambsdasv.org.uk)

As ever – if we can help in any way, please get in touch.

Stay Warm!

Vickie & Julia

Vickie Crompton & Julia Cullum
DASV Partnership Managers



E-learning - housing status, homeless applications, types of tenancy, licences, social housing and tenancy deposits

Shelter offer an extensive range of e-learning courses fully funded by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC). These 10-60 minute programmes are designed to be completed where you want, when you want.

A selection of entry level (topics previously known as awareness or introductory) and fundamental level (previously known as intermediate) topics are featured below.

Head to the [e-learning and pre-recorded sessions](#) page for a full list of topics.

Fenland Domestic Abuse Awareness campaign

The Fenland Community Safety Partnership, (FCSP) is delivering a Domestic Abuse Awareness Campaign across Fenland between November 2023 – January 2024.

To extend our reach, we have commissioned discreet self-cling stickers, with contact information for the Domestic Abuse Support Service and Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership to help raise awareness over the festive period.

External services such as Fenland licensed taxis and Fenland Association for Community Transport (FACT) that have direct contact with the public are supporting the FCSP by displaying these Domestic Abuse Stickers (below) in their vehicles to increase community awareness of how to access advice and support.



DOMESTIC ABUSE!
CAN AFFECT ANYONE!

For support, call the Domestic Abuse Support Service
on 0300 373 1073, Mon - Fri 9am - 5pm

Email: dassreferrals.impakt.org.uk
www.cambsdasv.org.uk

   

The image is a purple rectangular sticker with white and yellow text. At the top, it reads 'DOMESTIC ABUSE!' in large white letters, followed by 'CAN AFFECT ANYONE!' in yellow. Below this, it provides contact information for the Domestic Abuse Support Service, including a phone number (0300 373 1073) and an email address (dassreferrals.impakt.org.uk). The website address www.cambsdasv.org.uk is also listed. At the bottom, there are four logos: the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Partnership logo, the Fenland Community Safety Partnership logo, the IMPAKT domestic abuse logo, and a QR code.

Free Harmful Practices online session

We have organised a free online training session with Bal Kaur Howard which will cover topics including HBA /FM / FGM / breast ironing.

The session will be held on 12th Feb 10.00 – 11.15, via MS Teams.

To book a place, please visit

<https://buytickets.at/cambridgeshirepeterboroughdomesticabusesexualviolencepartnership/113067>

Important information about the Diverse ABC Programme

The demand for the ABC programme has grown rapidly over the last few years, and recent demand has been very high. We now have a waiting list which means that we are currently unable to respond to referrals in a timely manner. Therefore, we have no alternative but to temporarily suspend new referrals from Monday **18th December 2023 until Friday 16th February 2024**.

We do realise that this might be difficult for you and the people you support, especially as there isn't another programme like ABC in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, but to ensure that we're able to make contact with people who have a learning disability and/or autism quickly and arrange their sessions within an acceptable timeframe, we need to clear our current waiting list before we can accept further referrals.

Please do not send a referral during the suspension period as it won't be picked up.

We will of course send out a reminder when we re-open to referrals but please also keep an eye on the ABC Facebook page, the ABC page on our website and our other social media.

Please note that our counselling service is open to anyone who needs therapeutic support around their behaviours and concerns.

Once again, we do apologise for this and thank you for your understanding.

Research opportunity – Migrant and Ethnic Minority Populations

Domestic violence research experts at SOAS University of London, Bristol Medical School and Sheffield University are currently conducting UKRI-funded research that seeks to assess the UK DVA sector's engagement with migrant and ethnic minority populations. The work is particularly interested in understanding how providers respond to their clients' religious and cultural backgrounds and the role of religious beliefs in services utilisation, help seeking and counselling approaches.

For these purposes, they have set up a survey for DVA providers, whether in statutory, charity or community-based services, to take. The survey requires about 10 minutes to be completed and can be taken online: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/825JR7>

The survey results will be presented at a sector-wide conference that is planned either in London or Cambridge in June 2024. All the organisations invited to take the survey will be invited to attend the conference, which will be freely accessible.

Peterborough MASH update

A decision to separate, what was previously a combined Integrated Front Door across both Cambridgeshire and Peterborough was made in June 2023. This led to Peterborough creating their own MASH to manage the referrals received about children and families. This has been operational since July 2023.

The contract with the Cambridgeshire Customer Service Centre ends on 16th January 2024 and this means that Peterborough will have an alternative process to manage the referrals received about children and families. (There will be no change to how you will make referrals for Cambridgeshire children).

Peterborough will therefore use the Portal which is an online referral system. The referral form generated will reflect the current referral form so this should look familiar and when submitted, it will land directly in Peterborough MASH and be dealt with by MASH staff.

Therefore, from **17th January 2024** professionals who need to make a safeguarding referral will continue to use the Safeguarding Board website but when you click on the link for Peterborough it will take you through to the Portal. You will need to register the first time you make a referral to create an account which will be person specific. There will be an immediate automatic approval and therefore there will be no time delay in completing the referral process.

Please familiarise yourself with the new referral process by accessing the training and guidance on using the Portal which is available on the Safeguarding Board website

[Multi-Agency Safeguarding Training | Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Partnership Board \(safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk\)](https://safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk)

Should you have any problems in sending through referrals please in the first instance contact MASH on **MASH General Enquiries 01733 864170**

At this time police, ambulance and fire service will be the only referring professionals to send referrals via email as work is completed to facilitate their move to the Portal. The email that they will use is: PCCMASHReferrals@peterborough.gov.uk

Peterborough will also be introducing a new Professional Consultation Line which can be used in those circumstances when advice about a possible referral is required. It is not expected that this will be used instead of the Portal and professionals will be directed back to the Portal to submit referrals as appropriate. The Professional Consultation Line number is **01733 864180**.

There are no changes to the Emergency Duty Service and they will continue to operate across Peterborough and Cambridgeshire. The contact number is **01733 234724**

The Threshold Document Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Help and Support Pathways for Children and Families is currently being finalised by the Safeguarding Board and will be circulated in January. This will inform all partner agencies about thresholds for intervention and will be used within MASH to support partnership decision making.

Report Remove Tool

To support young people under 18 to remove sexual images of themselves online, the Internet Watch Foundation and NSPCC have developed the Report Remove tool, in partnership with age verification app, Yoti.

Report Remove can support a young person in reporting sexual images or videos shared online and enables them to get the image removed if it is illegal.

Visit Report Remove on the IWF website [here](#).

Visit Report Remove on the Childline website [here](#).

This platform was launched in December 2022 and in the first 11 months there have been 200 referrals made either directly from victims of serious sexual assault, persons reporting on behalf of the victim (friend or family member) or a witness to a sexual assault such as a member of the public.

Reports can also be made anonymously. A number of sexual offences can be reported through this portal including rape, sexual assault, indecent exposure and upskirting. Sexual harassment can also be reported using this service. The report takes 20-30 minutes to complete.

Following completion of the report, there is the option of removing a visit to this portal from a person's web history. The use of this portal is a safe and secure way of reporting sexual assaults or harassment to the police and is another channel enabling the police to be more accessible and responsive to victims of sexual offences who may be reluctant to speak to the police direct either in person or by phone.

There is a whole host of other useful resources and advice available through this portal to support victims of sexual abuse. Once reported via this portal, police will make contact with the person reporting to investigate further and provide or signpost the victim or person reporting to any other support that may be required.

Visit [Report rape, sexual assault and other sexual offences | Cambridgeshire Constabulary \(cambs.police.uk\)](https://www.cambs.police.uk)

Familial Abuse to be covered in April DASV Champions sessions

Familial abuse has been a recurring theme in local Domestic Homicide Reviews recently and we are looking to increase our training and awareness offer around the subject. Research shows that older victims are just as likely to experience abuse from a family member as from an intimate partner and Hourglass have been working across the county to raise the profile of older victims and to increase professional awareness.

Child to Parent Abuse is also part of familial abuse – in these circumstances 'child' refers to a child of any age, including adult children. This short film covers some of the issues (please be aware of potential problems with the sound, but text is used throughout) [Donna's Story \(PEGS parent story\) \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

Our April DASV Champions sessions will be covering Familial Abuse – more information at [Cambridgeshire County Council DASV Partnership - DASV Champions \(cambsdasv.org.uk\)](https://www.cambsdasv.org.uk)

Police and CPS join up to improve domestic abuse investigations

Police chiefs, the College of Policing and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) have announced a joint commitment to transforming how they investigate, handle and prosecute domestic abuse to

ensure victims are better supported, timeliness is improved, and more offenders are brought to justice.

Domestic abuse can have a severe and long-term impact on victims and their children, including physical, mental health and economic difficulties.

Taking a similar approach to policing and CPS' [joint national action plan for rape](#), the three organisations are committing to working together to drive improvements in their response to domestic abuse by developing a national Domestic Abuse Joint Justice Plan (DA JJP).

Under the DA JJP, the organisations will work together from the earliest stage to build robust, victim-centred and suspect-focused investigations and prosecutions which focus on the suspect's actions before, during and after an alleged offence.

The core commitments in the plan will fall under the following three themes:

- **Efficacy, culture and cohesion:** by working together, we build strong cases from the outset.
- **Effectiveness and supporting victims:** victims of domestic abuse have confidence and engage with criminal justice partners.
- **Efficiency and timeliness:** we secure swift justice for victims of domestic abuse and hold perpetrators to account.

If a victim feels unable to continue with their journey in a criminal case, this can lead to a recurrence of abuse.

The plan will tackle how to build strong cases right from the start, supporting the victim's needs while relentlessly pursuing the perpetrator and bringing justice in whichever form the victim feels is appropriate for them.

The next steps in developing and implementing the plan will be to engage closely with those with lived experience through partners and stakeholders before launching the national plan in the spring of 2024.

Enough campaign targets schools and universities

The UK Government's Enough campaign, aimed at helping people to recognise and challenge abuse and harassment, has released new resources aimed at schools and universities.

The resources, which include posters and guidance, can be downloaded from [Campaign resources | ENOUGH](#)

Family Court Review pilot

The Domestic Abuse Commissioner's Office has developed a pilot that aims to gain insight on how domestic abuse is understood in the Family Court. The pilot, called the Family Court Review and Reporting Mechanism (FCRRM), will provide information that has, until now, never been collected.

Child arrangement proceedings refer to cases between private individuals, typically separating or separated parents with children. In these cases, the court makes decisions about aspects of a child's upbringing, such as how much time they will spend with each parent, where they should live, and the school they should attend.

Studies have estimated that domestic abuse is highly prevalent within private law children cases. A small-scale study by Cafcass and Women's Aid Federation England in 2016 suggested that allegations of domestic abuse are present in up to 62% of such cases, meaning that there could be up to an estimated 32,400 private law children cases involving domestic abuse every year.

Data gathered from victims, survivors, and stakeholders as part of the 2020 Harm Panel Report suggested the Family Court consistently handles allegations of domestic abuse poorly. The report found that the court's response to domestic abuse was hampered by a range of factors, including:

- courts being inadequately resourced;
- a pro-contact culture, where domestic abuse was often minimised or dismissed due to placing undue priority on children having contact with the non-resident parent
- siloed working and poor communication between key agencies;
- an adversarial system in which parents were often pitted against each other in proceedings.

The FCRRM will seek to understand how domestic abuse allegations are currently responded to in the Family Court and hopes to better understand the scale of domestic abuse in proceedings. The pilot phase will involve closed case file reviews and court room observations in three Family Court sites in England and Wales.

These findings, alongside an understanding of the data that key agencies such as HMCTS and CAFCASS are currently collecting, will be analysed by researchers and used to design a Family Court framework. This framework can then be used going forward as we continue to explore the Family Court's response to domestic abuse and ensure that the whole family justice system has a culture of safety and protection from harm.

Responsibility for regular reporting will sit within the Domestic Abuse Commissioner's Office. The pilot phase of FCRRM will commence early in the new year and run until Autumn 2024. After this, FCRRM will be established and rolled out nationally.

New website for male survivors in Cambridgeshire

The B-United project, supporting male survivors of domestic abuse across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, now has a dedicated website. The project, run by Peterborough Women's Aid, offers long term support to survivors including advice and guidance, practical help and support with attending court.

www.B-United.net (please be aware the site might not work from some CCC computers due to an IP address issue which has been reported)

Centre for Women's Justice report

According to government data, at least 57% of women in prison and under probation supervision are victims/survivors of domestic abuse. For many of these women, their experience of abuse is directly connected to their alleged offending.

Five victims/survivors of domestic abuse share their stories of criminalisation in a new series of short films launched by the Centre for Women's Justice. The films and accompanying five-minute briefings are intended to raise awareness about the need to prevent the unjust criminalisation of victims/survivors of domestic abuse and other forms of violence against women and girls, and the reforms needed to law, policy and practice to achieve this. The intended audience includes politicians, policy makers and practitioners throughout the criminal justice system, as well as students and the general public.

Latest Domestic Abuse Data release

The Office for National Statistics has released the latest data from the Crime Survey for England and Wales:

- The Crime Survey for England and Wales estimated that 2.1 million people aged 16 years and over (1.4 million women and 751,000 men) experienced domestic abuse in the year ending March 2023.
- There was no significant change in the prevalence of domestic abuse experienced in the last year compared with the previous year.
- The police recorded 889,918 domestic abuse-related crimes (excluding Devon and Cornwall) in the year ending March 2023, a similar number to the previous year.
- There were 51,288 domestic abuse-related prosecutions in England and Wales for the year ending March 2023, compared with 53,207 in the year ending March 2022.

[Domestic abuse in England and Wales overview - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk)

Feedback from bereaved families

Killed Women published their report [You Were Told: A Voice for Killed Women](#), revealing the results of their national survey of bereaved families who have lost a female relative to male violence (07/12/23).

Just 4% of respondents felt their loved one's death was 'not preventable at all'. Two thirds (65%) of respondents said the perpetrator had a history of violence or abuse, and one in three (30%) said the perpetrator had a history of violence or abuse towards their relative that they were aware of. In addition, 78% of respondents who stated there was a history of abuse said at least one service knew

Around three in five (57%) respondents experienced unwanted or negative media coverage or intrusion after the death of their relative

Domestic Homicide Oversight Mechanism: HALT study briefings

The Domestic Abuse Commissioner commissioned researchers at the HALT study at Manchester Metropolitan University to conduct analysis of Domestic Homicide Reviews in relation to the following themes: criminal justice, health services, children's services, and adult social care.

The full reports can be read at [Reports - Domestic Abuse Commissioner](#)

The DASV Partnership are currently working on summaries of these reports and an update on local Domestic Homicide Reviews which will be published on our website shortly.

DHR publication – Daniel

The latest Cambridgeshire Domestic Homicide Review to be approved by the Home Office for publication involves Daniel, who was murdered by his father-in-law in 2021.

The DHR involved a range of agencies and recommendations included awareness raising of familial abuse and the risks around child arrangement orders.

The full report can be read at [DHR_Daniel_Overview_Report_Publication_11.23.pdf](https://www.fenland.gov.uk/DHR_Daniel_Overview_Report_Publication_11.23.pdf) (fenland.gov.uk)

Shadow report on Istanbul Convention

In early December, a coalition of 58 leading organisations working to end violence against women and girls (VAWG) in England and Wales published a shadow report on the UK's implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence – known as the Istanbul Convention.

Cambridge Women's Aid was proud to be one of the 58 specialist VAWG projects to endorse this report. We call on our government to do better and with 2024 a likely election year, we will be using the content of this report to encourage all parties to consider what they can do to meet the minimum standards as set out in the Istanbul Convention.

<https://www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk/58-vawg-organisations-submit-shadow-report-to-greivio/>

British Gas Energy Trust Re-opens its Individuals and Families Fund

Individuals and families will be able to apply for grants of up to £2,000 to clear domestic gas and electricity debts. The Individual and Families Fund, administered by the British Gas Energy Trust, will provide eligible customers with a grant to clear outstanding arrears with their energy supplier.

Any British Gas and non-British Gas customer in England, Wales and Scotland who has sought money or debt advice, and not received a grant from the Trust in the past 2 years, is eligible to apply for the support. However, customers of Boost, Eon, Eon Next, EDF, Scottish Power, Ovo, Octopus, SSE and Utilita should apply to their own respective funds. Applicants with energy arrears over £1,500 will not be eligible to apply.

The fund will be open to applications from the 4th December 2023 until the end of March 2024, but may close earlier if all funding has been allocated. <https://britishgasenergytrust.org.uk/grants-available/>

Reclaim the Night march in Cambridge

The Women's Homelessness Action Group will be holding 2024's Reclaim the Night March on **Wednesday 6th March at 6PM at Parker's Piece**. Reclaim the Night is an annual march for women and non-binary people only, it is a night to walk the streets without fear of sexual assault or harassment – we march to reclaim our spaces, our bodies and to put an end to sexual violence! We would love it if you came and marched with us for this common cause.

The march begins at 18:00 with a rally and speeches on Parker's Piece. From Parker's piece we will march through the city on a pre-approved route guided by our trained stewards. When the march ends a vigil will be held at Michaelhouse Church on Kings Parade. The March will be an open space for sharing and reflecting

This event is also child friendly, and children of all genders are welcome. We have safeguarding procedures with trained stewards accompanying the march and first aid trained personnel also

present as stewards. We are also gathering small donations (up to £50) that will go towards the smooth and safe running of the event (women-only security personnel, first aid kits and relevant safety equipment). We would appreciate any contribution to the donations, but if it's not available, any form of involvement in the March would be greatly valued!

For any questions, please contact campaigns@cambridgesu.co.uk

Harmful Practices awareness session

We have arranged a one-off awareness session on Harmful Practices which will cover Forced Marriage, Honour Based Abuse, Female Genital Mutilation and Breast Ironing/Flattening.

The session will take place on 12th February 2024 at 10.00am via MS Teams

If you'd like to attend, please book via this link

<https://buytickets.at/cambridgeshirepeterboroughdomesticabusesexualviolencepartnership/1113067>

Fixing Britain looks at men's violence against women

As Baroness Casey, Louise Casey, continues her series looking at the challenges facing whoever wins the next general election, this episode looks at the issue of men's violence against women and children. Speaking to people from across the political spectrum who have worked hard to improve the effectiveness and sensitivity of the criminal justice system's response to these crimes, she tries to get to the bottom of why they have not been more effective. And she speaks to those working on preventing the problem in the first place, by addressing attitudes and behaviours which can, if left unaddressed, end up in violence.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m001tsc3>

Job vacancy – Women's Services Coordinator

Are you passionate about working for women's services, looking for a challenge, and willing to work at night? It Takes a City Cambridge is recruiting for a Women's Services Coordinator for the Haven project.

This is an exciting opportunity to lead and develop a new project in the city of Cambridge. The vision is to provide an informal overnight drop in space for homeless and vulnerably housed women, particularly those who are not connected to or are infrequent users of other services. The Haven will be a first project of its kind in Cambridge – a trauma-informed, safe, welcoming and stable overnight space for homeless and vulnerably housed women to drop into in Cambridge. The project will offer food, clothes, showers, laundry facilities, and an opportunity for (but not a requirement to engage with) signposting to other support in the city.

Summary of Terms & Conditions of Service:

- Part time: 24 hours/week. The Haven is a new service which will initially be open for 2 overnight shifts/week from 8pm-8am
- Fixed-Term: This is a temporary short-term contract based on available funding for around 9 months from mid-March 2024 to end of December 2024.
- Pay: Salary negotiable from £14.50- £16 per hour, circa £18 - 20k salary per annum for 24 hours (equivalent to £30,000 - £33,000 FTE) based on experience.
- Location: Cambridge City Centre (further details of exact location on enquiry)
- Occupational Requirement: This post is only open to women as per the Equality Act 2010, Schedule 9, Part 1.
- Safeguarding: The post is subject to an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check.

To apply: To apply, please send your CV and a Cover Letter explaining how you meet the requirements of the role to itacinfo@ittakesacity.org.uk.

The closing date for applications is 12 noon on 29th January 2024.

Interviews will be taking place in person on 5th February 2024.

For full details go to <https://www.ittakesacity.org.uk/news-article/were-recruiting/>

Job vacancies at DASS

Impakt Domestic Abuse Support Services currently have 3 full time vacancies in the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough DASS team:

- Domestic Abuse Outreach Services Triage – based in Peterborough - £25-£29k
- Domestic Abuse Outreach Services Coordinator - Hybrid role with office in Peterborough - £24-£28k
- Domestic Abuse Outreach Services Coordinator – Hybrid role with community bases in Cambourne & Northstowe - £24-£28k

Please follow the link to apply: <https://impakt.org.uk/careers/>

Or call 01234 307040 for an informal chat.