



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

July 2023

Hi All

It has been really lovely to see so many of you at recent events, especially the first Peterborough Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Conference, and the DA & Housing Day at Hinchingsbrooke Country Park, and thanks to all the speakers which made each day such a success.

We were really grateful to Dr Emma Katz who delivered a webinar for us about coercive control in children's and mother's lives at the end of June. Emma kindly gave permission for us to record the webinar and it's available to watch on our website at [Cambridgeshire County Council DASV Partnership - Children and Young People \(cambsdasv.org.uk\)](https://cambsdasv.org.uk) (scroll to the bottom of the page).

We also recommend watching the short film Timekeeper on YouTube which follows 11-year-old Ben who is desperate to protect his mother from the physical and psychological abuse dished out by his father [TIMEKEEPER - YouTube](#)

We recently published two annual reports from the Partnership covering our partnership work during 2022-23 and our Safe Accommodation Strategy update for 2022-23. Both can be found on our website at [Cambridgeshire County Council DASV Partnership - Strategic Documents \(cambsdasv.org.uk\)](https://cambsdasv.org.uk)

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.

We hope everyone gets chance to have a break over the summer.

Thanks all

Vickie & Julia

Vickie Crompton & Julia Cullum
DASV Partnership Managers



First Peterborough Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Conference is a huge success

On Thursday 22nd June, the first domestic abuse and sexual violence conference in Peterborough was held at the Allia Future Business Centre. Professionals and volunteers from across the district were invited to learn more about how they can support people subjected to domestic abuse and sexual violence and the range of services available.

Over 180 people attended from a vast range of organisations to hear speakers including Peterborough Women's Aid who shared details of their new services – including a new support service for male victims - and Peterborough Rape Crisis Centre talking about how they support survivors of sexual violence in a trauma informed way.

The conference also heard a moving presentation from Sharon Livermore from Domestic Abuse Education who spoke about her experiences as a survivor and how it led to her setting up her own organisation to train employers on how they can support staff subjected to domestic abuse. She also developed 'Sharon's Policy' – a template that employers can use that has had wide acclaim, including being used by Channel 4 for its staff. Sharon is working with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership to offer free online awareness sessions for employers about their responsibilities to employees (see link below).

The conference was opened by Rob Hill, Service Director for Peterborough City Council who introduced the first speaker – Youth MP Eva Woods who is leading the development of a VAWG Commission for Peterborough. Eva spoke about the impact of domestic abuse and how a multi-agency approach in Plymouth has benefitted the community and how it could be replicated in Peterborough.

The keynote speaker in the afternoon was from national charity Karma Nirvana, sharing information and resources about how they support people subjected to honour based abuse. Karma Nirvana, who are celebrating their 30th anniversary this year, were speaking ahead of the National Day of Remembrance for Honour Based Abuse that takes place on 14th July. We'd like to thank the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for sponsoring the keynote speaker.

In addition to the speakers, the conference also provided space for stalls which included Dog's Trust sharing information about their pet fostering schemes to help survivors of domestic abuse flee safely, whilst knowing their beloved pet is safe from abuse.



YMP Eva Woods



Karma Nirvana

Summer Holidays support for families

Bookings are now open for the [Summer Holiday Activities and Food \(HAF\) Programme](#). This programme offers enriching experiences and a nutritious meal in the summer holidays, for primary and secondary school children in Cambridgeshire who receive income-related [free school meals](#). The programme will run between 20 July to 31 August.

Support for parents and carers of children with special educational needs and disability (SEND) in Cambridgeshire is available on a [new information hub](#). The website has been developed by local experts and contains useful information and advice. The hub is also an essential tool for professionals such as teachers and those working in health.

Update on Shared Lives Domestic Abuse Project

We have appointed to the Coordinator post for this project exploring how the Shared Lives approach could support older people and people with disabilities who are subjected to domestic abuse. The Coordinator has been in post from early July so look out for further updates in the next newsletter.

Support for businesses at risk of cyber attack

Some sectors are at greater risk of cyber attack than others, perhaps because of sensitive information they deal with, or because they're seen as an 'easy target' for cyber criminals. The National Cyber Security Centre are offering funding to small organisations who have a low level of cyber maturity, and work with data that is sensitive and would have significant impact if disrupted, to deliver the Cyber Essentials Plus programme.

Eligibility criteria is in place so the funding is for small companies or charities with up to 49 employees who haven't already participated in the Cyber Essentials Plus programme.

For more information please visit [Funded Cyber Essentials Programme - NCSC.GOV.UK](#)

Changes to Legal Aid

More domestic abuse victims-survivors will have access to legal aid in England and Wales after Westminster government reforms have ensured 6m-plus more people are eligible.

Those on universal credit and seeking a protection order for themselves or their children against their attackers can more easily obtain legal aid without a means test, the ministry of justice said.

The upper income limit for magistrates' court representation has been raised to £34,950 from £22,325, and for civil cases to £34,950 from £31,884. Also, disputed or inaccessible assets will no longer be considered when assessing someone's financial eligibility for aid, the ministry added. That is expected to benefit those who have a joint mortgage with their abuser.

The government has pledged £25m annually to boost the legal aid system.

Housing and Domestic Abuse Day

The Domestic Abuse Act (2021) makes clear the need for housing professionals to be trained and informed as to how best to respond to survivors of domestic abuse. It also made the implementation of a Safe Accommodation Strategy a duty of Local Authorities.

Central to the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Safe Accommodation Strategy, is the Whole Housing Approach, which emphasises the need for agencies/professionals across a variety of roles to come together to ensure the best response and outcomes for survivors of domestic abuse in housing crisis.

As part of its Safe Accommodation Strategy the DASV partnership held its first Housing and Domestic Abuse Development Day on the 6th of July.

The day brought together over 70 housing professionals from across Cambridgeshire & Peterborough at Hinchingsbrooke Park Country Centre. Attendees came from Housing Associations, Housing Advice teams and Council teams linked with housing.

There were engaging and informative speakers, who were well received by the attendees, talking about a range of subjects linked to domestic abuse and housing: DAHA, Housing Association DA support, perpetrators, the Safe Accommodation Strategy, Refuge, Changing Futures.

One of the positives of the event, was for those attending to physically rather than virtually or via emails meet and talk to others working in housing in the area and share their knowledge of working with survivors of domestic abuse.

From the development day it is planned that we will in partnership with housing teams develop more shared learning/training opportunities for housing professionals across the region in 2023/24. Focusing on specific topics/themes pertinent to housing. Suggestions have already been made by attendees of areas they would like to learn more about.

The DASV partnership would like to thank the speakers and those who gave up their valuable time to attend the day.



Luke from Respect



Lauren from Clarion Housing

Updates from the Terence Higgins Trust

The www.youngandfree.org.uk website allows young people between the ages of 13 and 24 years old to access the C-Card scheme which is a condom distribution scheme to allow young people access to condoms for free. People over the age of 16 can also use the site to order condoms by post and Chlamydia and Gonorrhoea testing kits in the post too.

Organisations who work with young people with Cambridgeshire and Peterborough can train to become a C-Card site to join young people to the scheme and to facilitate the collection of condoms too by using our Eventbrite page to book onto a training session:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/terrence-higgins-trust-cambridgeshire-10626531641#events>

Professionals can also use the Eventbrite link above to book onto free training around sexual health. The training sessions include information around HIV, PEP and PrEP, STIs and contraception. Training is always updated on this page so it is worth keeping an eye out for any new sessions. For further information regarding our services and professional's training, please email cambridgeshirecso@tth.org.uk

THT are also able to offer organisations within Cambridgeshire and Peterborough free Chlamydia and Gonorrhoea testing kits to give out to their patients/service users/young people. Again, for further information around this, please email cambridgeshirecso@tth.org.uk



Free, quick and confidential
chlamydia & gonorrhoea screening
for people aged 16 and above

To order your free
test kit and condoms visit:

www.youngandfree.org.uk

 Follow Terrence Higgins Trust Cambridgeshire
on Facebook to receive regular screening venue updates



A partnership between Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS
Trust and Terrence Higgins Trust, providing integrated sexual health
services across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

The HIV & sexual health charity for life
Registered charity no. 288527 (England and Wales) and 5039986 (Scotland). Company reg. no. 1776149



Guidance around No Recourse to Public Funds

The No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) Network have released a guide to assessing and supporting adults with no recourse to public funds in England which has been endorsed by the Association of Directors of Adult Social Care Services (ADASS).

The guidance is intended to assist local authorities to establish which duties and powers will need to be considered when an adult who is ineligible for benefits is experiencing homelessness, who may need to be involved in delivering support, and what can be done to help establish a long-term solution to the person's situation of homelessness or destitution.

The guidance can be referred to by adult social care, housing, public health and NHS professionals who are responsible for making decisions about entitlement to support or who are advising adults with no recourse to public funds who are experiencing homelessness.

Access the guidance at [NRPF Network | Introduction](#)

Non-Fatal Strangulation: One year on

On 7 June 2022, the new offence of non-fatal strangulation and suffocation came into force in England and Wales. While published statistical analysis on charging rates and sentencing outcomes are still limited, increasing media and legal attention is being devoted to the high-level dangers which the offence presents.

An article in Counsel Magazine takes a thorough look at the dangers of strangulation, importance of expert evidence and sentencing practices.

[Non-fatal strangulation one year on – why it matters | COUNSEL | The Magazine of the Bar of England and Wales \(counselmagazine.co.uk\)](#)

Upcoming non-fatal strangulation training

Non-fatal strangulation webinar for professionals working with perpetrators of domestic abuse & sexual violence:

Date: Wednesday 19 July, 10.30am – 1pm

Time commitment: 2.5 hours

Cost: Free

This webinar will introduce learners to the following:

- NFS as a stand-alone criminal offence
- Risk levels and prevalence of NFS
- Link between NFS and coercive controlling behaviour
- Risk assessing perpetrators of NFS

To book a place, please visit [Non-fatal strangulation training for professionals | Safelives](#)

Domestic Abuse in the Christian Community

The Christian charity Restored — which speaks out against violence against women and equips the Church to stand against domestic abuse and support survivors — have worked in partnership with Broken Rites, and the University of Chester on new research into domestic abuse in the Christian Community.

The research, for which there were 192 respondents, was carried out by the chair of the British Psychological Society safeguarding advisory group, Professor Lisa Oakley, who is Professor of Safeguarding and Knowledge Exchange at the University of Chester, and Dr Clea Wright, a senior lecturer in the University's School of Psychology.

Teachings about the part played by men and women, marriage, and forgiveness, were all reported to contribute to some survivors' feeling trapped with abusers. The research found that 71 per cent of abusers used Christian teachings to support or excuse it, and 60 per cent of those who said that they had been abused had experienced spiritual abuse.

The findings also demonstrated that “where church leaders are adequately trained, the support of a church community can empower survivors to flourish and find restoration.” The research found a wide range of responses from the Christian community to disclosures of domestic abuse. Thirty-six per cent had found that the situation was made worse, although 18 per cent said that it had helped positively to change the situation; 29 per cent said that it made them feel supported.

Eighty-four per cent of respondents disclosed to a person with a position in the Christian community. A large majority (71 per cent) of all of those who disclosed were not referred for support by anyone in that community. Fewer than half had heard about domestic abuse in sermons, prayers, or church meetings.

The report emphasises the importance of churches, and statutory and other agencies working in partnership. “Church should be a safe place for everyone and those who need help need to know how to find it. The more openly domestic abuse is talked about and acknowledged, the better those who have been subjected to it can be sorted.”

The chief executive of Restored, Bekah Legg, said: “The research has highlighted the impact a church can have on the life of a survivor, for good, or for bad. At Restored, we are committed to equipping churches to be places of safety and hope, where survivors can feel heard, supported and, critically, be empowered to find freedom and flourish.”

Emerging Forms of Coercive Control webinar recording

Making Research Count held a webinar on 20th June highlighting research into emerging forms of coercive control that professionals should be aware of.

We recommend watching the recording which features the following topics:

Use of chemicals and medications in coercive control

- Faith and coercive control
- Pets being used in coercive control
- Mental health and economic abuse

The webinar recording can be viewed [here](#);

Ground-breaking ruling in death of Kellie Sutton

Kellie Sutton told police that she was 'very frightened' of her abusive partner Steven Gane, just weeks before she took her own life, aged 30 in 2017.

He was jailed after her death, for controlling and coercive behaviour and assault. And now, in an unprecedented conclusion, an inquest jury has ruled that Kellie was unlawfully killed.

At the original inquest her death was recorded as suicide but her family have fought to get this ruling overturned and a new ruling to take into account the abuse she was subjected to.

Kellie's family spoke to Channel 4 about their hopes for changes to the way domestic homicide deaths are dealt with [Groundbreaking ruling in UK domestic abuse case – Channel 4 News](#)

The CPS are considering further charges against Gane.

New law to ensure domestic abuse victims receive child maintenance gets Royal Assent

A Bill ensuring victims of domestic abuse can receive child maintenance without contact from their abuser has received Royal Assent.

The Child Support Collection (Domestic Abuse) Act 2023 will allow the Child Maintenance Service (CMS) to intervene in cases where abuse is evident, using its powers to collect and make payments.

This set-up, called Collect and Pay, is already used by 37% of parents using the CMS. It provides extra protections for parents who have experienced domestic abuse by managing payments and avoiding the need for contact - preventing perpetrators from inflicting financial abuse and control.

The new law will build on the CMS's existing procedures to protect both paying and receiving parents who are vulnerable to domestic abuse, ensuring more children in separated families are supported. The Bill was taken through Parliament by Sally-Ann Hart MP and Lord Farmer, with support from the Government.

DHR Library launches

The Home Office have launched the beta version of the Domestic Homicide Review Library, allowing all published DHRs to be accessible to the public, relevant stakeholders, and researchers.

A single home for DHRs means that it will be easier to analyse the reports to understand key trends, factors and risks relating to domestic homicide enable easier access to material that can help learning from previous reviews and ultimately, prevent future deaths.

The DHR Library currently contains a selection of historical DHRs, which will continue to be added to over the coming months. From this point all newly completed DHRs will be published on the DHR Library. [Search the domestic homicide review library - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

New Forced Marriage Research

Research published in May from the University of Bristol and the University of Lincoln into use of Forced Marriage Protection Orders uncovered the scale of the problem in England and Wales and proposes new measures urgently needed to better protect victims.

Over the past decade, around 250 Forced Marriage Protection Orders - a civil injunction designed to prevent forced marriages – have been approved, which amounts to approximately five per week.

Key findings from the research include:

- The most common age of women and men subject to forced marriages was 16-21, but girls (and boys) as young as 11 were also victims.
- People with disabilities and lesbian, gay, bisexual, Trans, queer+ (LGBTQ+) were especially vulnerable to forced marriage.
- While it is commonly believed that forced marriages occur in South Asian or Middle Eastern diaspora communities, they were also found to occur in Irish, Nigerian and Somali communities, among others.

The main recommendations from the research are:

- Gain an understanding of more subtle forms of coercion, such as emotional pressure, and new types, for example institutional imprisonment in another country.
- Implement better and more co-ordinated safeguarding between different agencies which also continues after the FMPO has been obtained.
- Systems to flag up and follow up when FMPOs expire, as this is often when the pressure to marry resumes.

The full report can be read at [Anitha_Gill@_Noack-Lundberg_FMPO_Full-Report_May2023.pdf \(bpb-eu-w2.wpmucdn.com\)](https://www.bpb-eu-w2.wpmucdn.com/anitha_gill@noack-lundberg_fmipo_full-report_may2023.pdf)

Honour Based Abuse Day of Memory

There are an estimated 12 ‘honour’ killings each year in the UK, although the exact number is unknown.

Karma Nirvana, with the support of many other organisations and individuals, actively choose to remember and to celebrate those lost in the name of Honour Based Abuse by holding a Day of Memory on 14th July each year.

The Day of Memory was inspired by Shafilea Ahmed who was murdered by her parents in 2003 after suffering years of abuse for becoming ‘too westernised’ – a term that appears regularly in reports of honour based murders, mostly recently in the case of Fawziya Javed who was pushed to her death by her husband in Scotland – also killing her unborn baby.

Shafilea’s birthday was on 14th July – and this year the event coincides with the 30th anniversary of Karma Nirvana. Karma Nirvana was founded by Dr Jasvinder Sanghera CBE, after she escaped forced marriage at age 15 and also lost her sister to Honour Based Abuse.

Karma Nirvana have a range of resources on their YouTube Channel, including animations and videos about a range of topics related to honour based abuse. [Karma Nirvana - YouTube](#)

Substituted Parenting’: Are parents with learning disabilities being supported or supplanted?

The report 'Substituted Parenting' - what does this mean for parents with learning disabilities in the family court context? (publication date 7 June 2023) [SP Report.pdf](#) (bristol.ac.uk) made a series of recommendations that aim to develop more transparent, consistent and fair processes for parents with learning disabilities and their children.

The authors of that report, Beth Tarleton and Nadine Tilbury, are offering a free webinar as an opportunity for practitioners working with learning disabled parents in the family court context to look in more detail at some of the report’s key findings and to reflect on how their own policies and practices measure up.

The webinar will take place over Zoom and joining details will be emailed 24 hours ahead of the seminar. Please check your junk folder if you believe you have not received the link. Places are free but must be booked via Eventbrite.

[Parents with learning disabilities – supported or supplanted? Tickets, Mon 17 Jul 2023 at 09:30 | Eventbrite](#)

HM Inspectorate of Probation report on domestic abuse

HM Inspectorate of Probation have released a thematic inspection of work undertaken, and progress made, by the Probation Service to reduce the incidence of domestic abuse and protect victims.

Key recommendations in the report include that HM Prison and Probation Service should:

- Publish a domestic abuse strategy for the Probation Service and review progress against it regularly.
- Ensure that all people on probation who require an intervention receive one in a timely way.
- Develop a comprehensive system to manage requests for disclosures of past perpetrator behaviour to new partners in relation to domestic abuse.

The full report can be read at: [A thematic inspection of work undertaken, and progress made, by the Probation Service to reduce the incidence of domestic abuse and protect victims](#) (justiceinspectorates.gov.uk)

Driving change for domestic abuse survivors with visual impairment

On Tuesday 13th June Cambs DASV were invited to a round table session on ways key organisations can act on the findings from [The Unseen](#) report – which highlighted gaps in support for domestic abuse victims with visual impairment.

The event was attended by victims of domestic abuse who also live with sight loss, as well as representatives of The Met Police, the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), Refuge, Safe Lives and Standing Together (amongst others).

The morning opened with two domestic violence and abuse survivors who live with sight loss, sharing their experiences.

The experiences shared with attendees included:

- Family courts not making transcripts accessible, meaning visual impairment put you at an instant disadvantage in court.
- Social workers not having capacity to accommodate visually impaired people in shelters, and so suggesting that staying with an abusive carer could be preferable.
- Concerns about abusers breaking restraining orders being dismissed by police.

The solution-based discussion resulted in a clear action plan that included:

- Consulting professional bodies and revisiting policies to ensure that VI victims / survivors can speak to somebody on a one-to-one basis, in a safe space, without being in the presence of a carer.
- Encouraging the revision of widely used risk assessments, such as the DASH and DARA, to ensure they cover the nuances of disability-specific types of abuse.
- Ensure that the Domestic Abuse Matters training includes specific VI and disability-awareness modules.
- Encourage meaningful collaborations between sight-loss organisations and refuges, to ensure that spaces are accessible and staff are sufficiently trained to support VI victims / survivors
- Ensure survivors networks have VI representatives and create opportunities for these representatives to talk to relevant bodies and professionals, to influence changes in practice and policy.

We will continue to be part of the group and liaise with visual impairment services across the county as the main group develops resources.

White Ribbon Campaign Stall – Report and photograph provided by Louise Walker, Cambridge City Council Community Safety Team

A Cambridge City Council White Ribbon stall was held at the Abbey People’s Big Lunch on Sunday 11th June. It was a well organised outdoor community event with a friendly atmosphere bringing together local residents for a range of intergenerational activities. The [White Ribbon campaign](#) aims to engage men in ending all forms of violence against women and girls.

There was much support for the White Ribbon stall attended by the Mayor of Cambridge Councillor Jenny Gawthrop Wood, The Mayor’s Consort Nick Gawthrop, City Councillors; Naomi Bennett and Elliot Tong, County Councillor Alexandra Bulat, Community artist and campaigner, Hilary Cox Condron, and Simon Wall (Community Engagement Manager, Cambridge United Foundation), who brought along Cambridge United Mascot, Marvin the Moose, to join the fun.

Simon Wall, Community Engagement Manager of Cambridge United Foundation, said:

“It was an extra special Big Lunch as Abbey People were celebrating their 10th birthday, and yet again the local community were out in force, which was great to see. As always, these community events give an opportunity for local organisations and campaigns to raise awareness about what they are doing, so it was a privilege for Cambridge United Foundation to attend alongside the Cambridge City Council Community Safety Team who were there promoting the White Ribbon campaign”.

Cambridge City Mayor Councillor Jenny Gawthrop Wood said:

“I was delighted to attend the Abbey Big Lunch and to support the White Ribbon campaign. It was fantastic to see so many people in attendance and supporting the event. I fully support the Council’s work on the White Ribbon Campaign, and I emphasise the importance in understanding that Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) is completely unacceptable. We must work together as a community to tackle this issue.”



Pictured from left: James Pilgrim (Abbey People Chair of Operations Group), Nicky Shepard (Abbey People Chief Executive Officer), George Stannard (Volunteer), Mayor’s Consort Nick Gawthrop, Marvin the Moose (Cambridge United Football Club Mascot), The Mayor of Cambridge Councillor Jenny Gawthrop Wood, Louise Walker (Cambridge City Council Community Safety Team), Hilary Cox Condron (Community artist and campaigner), City Councillors Naomi Bennett and Elliot Tong, and County Councillor Alexandra Bulat.

What is the RCE Wellbeing Hub?

We are one of over 85 Recovery Colleges throughout the UK, offering an educational approach to understanding and managing our mental and physical health and wellbeing.



We offer a flexible approach and a range of online and face to face courses, which are designed and delivered by a unique mix of expertise – from people with lived experience of mental and physical health challenges, health professionals and qualified trainers.

Our aim is to enable our learners to recognise and develop their personal resourcefulness and awareness so that we can all become experts in managing our own mental and physical health and wellbeing.

Throughout our courses, there is an emphasis on recovery and making positive choices to build/sustain a healthy life.

Everyone over the age of 18 in the Peterborough and Cambridgeshire area can enrol and access our range of free courses.

What's coming up at the RCE Wellbeing Hub this Summer?

- **Mindful Summer sessions** (online mindfulness sessions running weekly)
- **Face to face sessions** in our Peterborough and Cambridge Hubs
- **Find Out More** sessions online and in our Hubs- An ideal opportunity to explore the RCE Wellbeing Hub
- **Open Day/ Registration Days** at our Peterborough and Cambridge Hubs

Open Days / Registration Days:

Peterborough Hub (Eco-Innovation Centre, Peterborough)	Cambridge Hub (128-130 Tennison Road, Cambridge)
21 st August 11am-4pm	24 th August 11am-4pm

Drop in anytime during the times above or come for our **Find Out More** sessions at: 11:30am & 2:30pm

These sessions will be followed by an activity from one our courses if you would like to join in.

Come along for an **opportunity** to:

- Find out about our **courses** and the hub!
- Have a go at one of our **activities**
- **Meet** the team
- **Register** as a student
- Ask **questions**
- Take home a **free pen!**

Drop us an email at RCEWellbeingHub@cpft.nhs.uk for more information

Annual Angels Ball

FRIDAY

20TH OCTOBER 2023

ENTERTAINMENT - DINNER - DANCING

ANNUAL FUNDRAISING EVENT

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6.30PM TO 12AM


THE PROPERTY ANGELS
FOUNDATION