



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

July 2024

Hi All

We are now halfway through the year, and busy working with agencies on how they are contributing to the new 2024-2027 DASV Strategy.

Two Domestic Homicide Reviews have recently been published and you can find these on Fenland District Council and Peterborough City Council websites.

Look out for us at the Cambridge Folk Festival at the end of July, we'll be sharing information about the White Ribbon Campaign as well as details of local support services for victims and survivors of domestic abuse and sexual violence.

Please get in touch if you need information, materials, advice, or you would like someone to come and talk to your teams about domestic abuse and how they can improve their response to domestic abuse.

We hope you manage to get a break over this holiday period.

Thanks for all that you do.

Vickie & Julia

Vickie Crompton & Julia Cullum
DASV Partnership Managers



Guidance for Police Management of Strangulation

The Institute for Addressing Strangulation (IFAS) has been working with the Police since the Institute was launched in 2022 after the introduction of new legislation on strangulation, establishing this crime as a standalone offence. From this work, guidance for police officers has been developed to embed within their work to support the response to and management of cases of strangulation.

There is now a consultation on these guidelines to gather feedback from professionals seeking to input into their development, **the consultation will close at 5pm on Friday 26th July.**

Please read and download the [Guidance for Police Management of Strangulation](#)

Please respond to the consultation survey: <https://forms.office.com/e/hfTM4pJG51>

CPS update guidance on controlling behaviour

Updated guidance on controlling behaviour published by the Crown Prosecution Service today emphasises the need for prosecutors to closely scrutinise the actions of a suspect, who can often take steps to disrupt or mislead criminal proceedings.

The CPS prosecution guidance on controlling and coercive behaviour and stalking or harassment has been updated and advises prosecutors about the different tactics a suspect can use, including 'love-bombing' which is where they will intermittently carry out loving acts (eg. sending flowers) between other behaviour to confuse the victim and gain more control.

Once an investigation is underway, a suspect may then make counter-allegations of abuse, argue their actions were in self-defence, actively mislead the investigation with their behaviour and even apply for non-molestation orders or ask courts to vary restraining orders to exert more control over the victim.

By looking at the evidence surrounding a suspect's actions, prosecutors can help inform and support investigators in building a robust case. This evidence will also enable an accurate assessment of the risk, so that the necessary support can be put in place for a victim.

New legal guidance for survivors

Rights of Women have a legal guide that sets out information about what happens once the perpetrator has been charged with a criminal offence. The guide can be downloaded at [From charge to trial: A guide to criminal proceedings | Rights of Women](#)

Day of Memory for victims of Honour Based Abuse

The Day of Memory for victims of Honour Based Abuse is 14th July. To mark the day, the DASV Partnership will be adopting the sector-wide definition of HBA that was developed by Karma Nirvana in partnership with a number of national organisations in the domestic abuse and VAWG sectors. The sector-wide definition (below) stands in lieu of a statutory definition which is yet to be developed.

‘An incident or pattern of violence, threats of violence, intimidation, coercion, control or abuse (including but not limited to psychological, physical, sexual, economic, spiritual, faith-related or emotional abuse) motivated by the perpetrator’s perception that an individual has shamed, or may shame, the perpetrator, the family, or community or has otherwise broken, or may break, the perceived norms of the community’s accepted behaviours, including by speaking out about the abuse and where the perception of shame may also prevent a victim from accessing support or help.’

We encourage partner agencies to consider adopting the sector-wide definition in your organisations.

For more information, please visit: [Sector Partners Agree and Push for Statutory Definition \(#Push4Change\) – Karma Nirvana](#)

New CSA podcast

About the Podcast: How do we break society’s reluctance of discussing child sexual abuse and sexual trauma? We know silence stops survivors from speaking out and prevents the lifelong effects of abuse from being understood. Candice and Gemma believe meaningful change is possible through courageous conversations which confront the darkness alongside the strength in survival. Their podcast is a beginning and they invite you to take part. This is a **call to action** to break the stigma and shame of child sexual abuse so that children, young people, and families can build thriving relationships and communities. It is also a **groundbreaking new roadmap** for those working with survivors of trauma and those making key policy and funding decisions on how to better provide effective support.

[Conversations we’ve never had](#)

DA & Housing Conference

On 10th July the DASV Partnership held a conference focusing on domestic abuse and sexual violence support in the housing sector. Over 75 attendees came along to the Lady Olivia Centre in Brampton to hear presentations about the Housing IDVA service, trauma, supporting Deaf survivors and the journey of a survivor through the housing system.

We're really grateful to all the speakers who gave up their time to deliver engaging presentations and to everyone who came along and helped make the day a success.



Latest Femicide data released

A new report shows that at least 147 women were killed by men in 2021, with 144 men convicted of their killing and with one last case outstanding.

The report covers up to 2021 because it also includes criminal justice outcomes for the men accused of killing women in the year in question, and this process usually takes around 3 years to conclude. After 2 years of declining numbers, the number of women killed by men in 2021 increased.

Key findings:

- ❖ Most women killed by men were killed by a current or former partner (53%) and of those at least half had left or were taking steps to leave him.
- ❖ Almost three quarters (74%) were killed in their home and a sharp instrument was used in 52 per cent of cases.
- ❖ Top 4 methods of killing
 - Sharp instrument
 - Strangulation
 - Kicking, hitting, stamping
 - Blunt instrument
- ❖ Top 4 victim relationship to perpetrator (all ages)
 - Intimate partner (including ex)
 - Immediate relative
 - Extended family
 - Known to each other
- ❖ Top 4 victim relationship to perpetrator (victim age 66+)
 - Spouse
 - Relative Mother
 - Stranger
 - Relative Grandmother
- ❖ Eighty-eight perpetrators (62%) were known to have histories of violence against women (including or in addition to the victim) and/or were subject to monitoring or restrictions by a statutory agency at the time of the femicide.
- ❖ Ten per cent of men killed themselves after they killed a woman.

Read the full report at [2021-Femicide-Census-Report.pdf \(femicidecensus.org\)](https://www.femicidecensus.org/2021-Femicide-Census-Report.pdf)

Mountain Healthcare Annual Conference

Mountain Healthcare will be hosting their Annual Conference on Wednesday 18th September from 9.30am – 4.00pm. This year's topic is [Navigating the Patient's Journey to Justice: Collaborative Interdisciplinary Approaches](#).

This conference brings together colleagues across the Health and Justice sector such as those working in the fields of forensic healthcare, policing, the criminal justice system, social care, safeguarding, charity, criminology, and psychology to discuss extensively the process and the available special measures that exist to support victims of sexual assault through the journey of reporting, investigating to seeking justice.

Attending the conference will enable you to:

- Increase awareness in successful initiatives created to support the patient journey
- Understand how forensic evidence is analysed and how results are used within the criminal justice system
- Reflect on national developments and learning
- Improve the way in which we support victims throughout the investigation process
- Identify key strategies for SARC and Custody Suite service providers to support the criminal justice process
- Ensure you are up to date with the latest on developmental trauma
- Self-assess and reflect on your own practice
- External tickets cost £75 and can be purchased from <https://www.healthcareconferencesuk.co.uk/conferences-masterclasses/supporting-sexual-assault-survivors>

Look after yourself

The issue of secondary trauma in the VAWG sector is getting some welcome attention recently. It was a topic at our Housing day earlier this month and we encourage everyone working in the sector to focus on your own wellbeing too.

Dare to Care is a free, self-paced online course designed by the Sexual Violence Research Initiative about self- and collective care for people who work to prevent and address violence against women and violence against children.

[Dare to Care: Wellness, self and collective care for those working in the VAW and VAC fields \(thinkific.com\)](https://www.thinkific.com)

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Libraries Safe Spaces

All Cambridgeshire and Peterborough libraries offer access to computers so that people can contact domestic abuse support services without their searches being traced. Some also offer a telephone and private room. Library staff across the county have received training on how to signpost survivors to specialist support services.

The following libraries can provide a private room and telephone:

Cambridgeshire Libraries

- Cambridge Central
- Clay Farm
- Ely
- Huntingdon
- March
- St Ives
- St Neots
- Sawston
- Wisbech
- Ramsey

Peterborough Libraries:

- Bretton Library
- Peterborough Central Library
- Dogsthorpe Library
- Hampton Library
- Orton Library
- Werrington Library

Children, Technology & Tech Facilitated Abuse (Taken from Refuge Tech Safety Newsletter)

What online sites children use, how much time children spend online, who children are speaking to online, are all issues on the forefront of many parents' minds. Indeed, **68% of parents said they worried about how much time their children spend online** ([Internet matters](#)) whilst these issues are discussed frequently in different media outlets.

However, the fact that **children's devices and accounts can be used to perpetrate abuse**, is not talked of as much, but is an ever-growing issue. A recent small-scale [study](#) in Australia found that **27% of domestic violence cases involve abuse of children through technology**, which speaks the prevalence of this issue. It also, found that tech is often used as a way manipulate, bribe or harass children.

Whilst not designed for the purposes of abuse, many children's accounts and devices are misused by perpetrators. We'll look at some common concerns that involve children's tech:

Toys

Whilst speakers will always be popular with children, many children's gadgets can connect to the internet, play music or videos and allow children to socialise via the internet. Moreover, [Ofcom](#) found that **more than 8 in 10 children use smart speakers** and there is a huge market for kids speakers. Unfortunately, this has opened another door for abusers into the family home and is another means to exert power and control over the family. **Abusers can use the latest toys to manipulate or bribe children, as well as using toys to spy on the children via video, listen to conversations inside the home or even reveal the new safe location of the survivor.** It's important to be aware of the features a new toy or gadget has especially if it has been gifted by the perpetrator.

Parental controls & Devices

Parental controls were designed to share passkeys, monitor children's transactions and restrict the times that a child can spend online. However, in the wrong hands, **parental controls can give an abuser a huge amount of access** to a child's device, revealing location, conversations and messages and even stopping a device from being used efficiently. **A device with parental control can also be extremely difficult to reset and make safe.**

It's also important to **consider who bought a device for a child** and who set up a device. Even without parental control, if an abuser has access to the device's main account, this could also give the perpetrator many ways to abuse survivors and children.

Banking

A [recent survey](#) found that **3 in 5 children (61%) use a banking app to manage their money.** Whilst banking apps can be a good way to teach financial literacy, a perpetrator could misuse these apps.

Transaction list may be visible to an abuser with access to the app. This could **reveal the location of where a child frequently spends money**, including local shops and train stations, **revealing where the child lives.** Freezing a card could allow perpetrator to stay in control of the child. Survivors should be aware of the features of different banking apps as well as who can access and how to secure the app.

Gaming

Gaming can be fun and can be a way for children learn cooperation and teamwork. However, gaming can pose issues for survivors and their children. **Game consoles can have serial numbers which can be traced by perpetrators as well as accounts which can have financial information stored in them.**

Additionally, it's common for gamers to play as part of an online team. **Abusers have posed as online friends** to contact their children through gaming platforms, often to extract information from the child, sometimes compromising a safe location. Ensuring that children are gaming safely and that children know about the risks of gaming is hugely important.

Social media

With [Ofcom reporting that some children as young as 5-7 have social media account](#), it's clear children's social media should be part of safety planning. Just as we speak to adult survivors about what they share and who they are speaking to on social media, this also applies to children as well. Ofcom also found that **children often had multiple accounts for the same social media platforms**, usually one for friends or hobbies and one for family. Speaking to children about their social media use and what they are sharing online is hugely important, as well being aware that they have more than one account.

Despite the risks, there are ways for children to use their accounts and devices safely.

What a survivor can do:

- Research devices and apps to understand their features.
- Discuss internet safety with children especially- what they are sharing online and who they are communicating with.
- Play your child's favourite game with them to encourage communication about technology.
- Check settings on an apps or devices to see who has access to the accounts.
- Ensure that devices and apps are secure with a strong password.
- Check to see if a device can be reset, muted or set up with another account.

Just like survivors, children should also have the right to have an online life without being subjected to abuse or manipulation. Being aware of some of the issues round children's accounts and devices can help ensure the safety of survivors and their children.

For more information on tech safety, please visit [Information and support on tech abuse | Refuge Tech Safety](#)

Online police reporting portal

Cambridgeshire Police have relaunched their online reporting portal for partner use. The portal aims to provide a more efficient way for partner agencies, such as schools, hospitals, prisons, care homes, to contact the police in non-emergencies.

The online portal can currently be used to report a missing person or report a crime. However, after 9 July, its capabilities will increase meaning it can be used to report intel, concern for welfare, missing people and crime / incidents. It will also be used to submit interview, statement, and arrest requests.

All reports made using the portal will be reviewed and processed by call handlers, in the exact same way as calls to 101 would be. The relaunched portal aims to alleviate waiting times for partners, which can happen during busy periods on 101.

The new portal is available [via the force website](#), and can be accessed 24/7.

Spotting the signs: A guide for friends and family

This new resource from Surviving Economic Abuse offers advice on how to recognise whether a loved one is experiencing economic abuse and offers guidance on what you can do to offer support. To read the full guide click [here](#).

Research round-up

Information on recently published research papers:

The impact of mind–body therapies on the mental health of women victims of violence: A meta-analysis - Koroglu & Durat, 2024

This study aims to evaluate the effect of mind–body therapies on women's mental health. The authors find that mind–body therapies may reduce anxiety, depression, and PTSD in women victims of violence. To read the full paper published in *Archives of Women's Mental Health* click [here](#).

The relationship of intimate partner violence on depression: the mediating role of perceived social support and the moderating role of the Big Five personality – Luo et al, 2024

This study aimed to explore the influence of Intimate Partner Violence on depression, the mediating role of social support, and the moderating role of the Big Five personality traits in the relationship between social support and depression. To read the full paper published in *Frontiers in Public Health* click [here](#).

Job vacancy – Family Respect Project Manager

The Family Respect project delivered by YMCA Trinity Group is part of a larger domestic abuse program across Peterborough and Cambridgeshire. Its aim is to provide support to families and children in need, with particular focus on working with children who display abusive behaviours towards their parents, carers, and other family members. It's a crucial

initiative that contributes to creating safer environments for families and preventing child/adolescent-to-parent violence and abuse (CAPVA).

Location: Cambridge or Peterborough, with optional flexible home working opportunity. The position includes outreach support across Cambridgeshire in a number of face-to-face locations.

You will be managing the Family Respect Project, delivering a range of Individual & Group interventions, designed to address/reduce risk of youth domestic abuse Providing support to the Programme Manager, to help ensure the smooth operational running of the service in line with project and organisation policy and procedure.

Skills and Experience:

- A sound understanding of domestic abuse and the wider statutory/non-statutory systems that support victims of domestic abuse.
- Relevant qualification at Level 4 or above.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- Line management and leadership experience, managerial experience
- Ability to assess and manage risk.
- A current driving licence and access to a car for work.

Salary and Benefits

In return we offer an annual salary of £34,145 (£17.51 per hour).

Closing date: Applications will be assessed on receipt so early application is advised.

For more details and to apply, please visit [Family Respect Project Manager - YMCA Trinity Group](#)


Policing and Crime public consultation

Police and Crime Commissioner, Darryl Preston, has launched a widespread public consultation on policing and crime within Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

The purpose of the consultation is to help inform the content of a new Police and Crime Plan for the county. Following conversations with members of the public, a number of priority areas have emerged which can be captured within the five broad themes included in the graphic below:





Tackling Crime & Keeping Communities Safe

Safe Communities



From initial contact to response, we will support the Chief Constable to ensure police officers are visible and accessible within communities, listening and responding to your concerns.

Whether you live in a town, city, or village, we will ensure you get the police service you expect.

<p style="text-align: center;">Early Intervention and Prevention</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p>We will work with police and partners to take an early intervention approach to help prevent crime and serious violence, including violence against women and girls, from happening in the first place.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Tackling Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p>We will support and encourage communities to work with the police and other organisations to resolve local issues such as anti-social behaviour, road safety, rural crime, and business crime - issues that matter to them.</p> <p>We will continue to support the county's Community Safety Partnerships so that local issues can be quickly resolved.</p> <p>We will work with the police and agencies such as courts, prosecutors, probation, and local authorities to ensure they are using criminal justice and other enforcement processes effectively to tackle crime and disorder.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Supporting Victims and Witnesses</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p>We will ensure victims can access support services which offer a bespoke response to their individual needs.</p> <p>We will provide opportunities for victims and witnesses' voices to be heard.</p> <p>We will work in partnership with criminal justice agencies to ensure victims and witnesses continue to be placed at the heart of the criminal justice system and offered the services they are entitled to under the Victims Code.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Building Trust and Confidence</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p>We will hold the Chief Constable to account to ensure police officers and staff always carry out their duties with integrity and social responsibility.</p> <p>We will aim to strengthen public trust and confidence through independent scrutiny of police powers.</p> <p>We will support the Chief Constable and senior officers to continue to promote a culture that is inclusive and diverse and reflects the communities they serve.</p>
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The survey runs from 12 noon on 15th July 2024 until 17:00 on Friday 16th August 2024 and can be accessed [via this link](#).