



**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

August 2023

Hi All

We hope you all manage to get a break over the summer holidays ☺

The partnership are starting work on the new VAWG Strategy for April 2024 onwards and a key part of this is completing a thorough VAWG Needs Assessment, which is being done by the Research Team. We would really appreciate any information you may have to support this work and there are a number of mechanisms to feed into this, details in this newsletter.

Services have been out and about prompting messages and services across the sector. Peterborough Women's Aid have an end of Summer Fete on 20th August so it would be lovely to see you there!

Lots of opportunities to learn, train and job opportunities in this Newsletter.

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!

Opportunity for frontline professionals to contribute to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Violence Against Women and Girls Needs Assessment, September 2023

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Needs Assessment is currently being completed. This needs assessment will inform the future VAWG Strategy for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, including the types of support that might be funded in future.

We are inviting frontline professionals to contribute via face to face engagement events in September 2023. These engagement Events have been set up specifically for **non Domestic Abuse/ Sexual Violence specialist frontline professionals** to contribute to the assessment.

If you are a DA/SV Specialist, you can feed in directly by contacting Kat Webb at crime.research@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Book your place via Eventbrite at the link for each date and venue below. Refreshments will be provided for participants.

If you have any questions, access requirements etc. please email DASVEvents@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

East Cambs – 5th September 2023, 10.00 – 12.00 at East Cambs District Council Office, Ely <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/690736410197?aff=oddtcreator>

South Cambs – 6th September 2023, 13.00 – 15.00 at South Cambs District Council Office, Cambourne
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/690767633587?aff=oddtcreator>

Peterborough – 8th September, 11.00 – 13.00 at Peterborough City Council, Sandmartin House <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/690771515197?aff=oddtcreator>

Fenland – 11th September 2023, 11.00 – 13.00 at Clarion Housing offices in March
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/690776439927?aff=oddtcreator>

Cambridge City – 12th September 2023, 10.00 – 12.00 at The Guildhall in Cambridge <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/690777633497?aff=oddtcreator>

Huntingdon – 13th September 2023, 10.00 – 12.00 at Huntingdon Youth Centre, Huntingdon <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/690780191147?aff=oddtcreator>

We are also running a survey to capture the views of survivors who have used local domestic abuse and sexual violence services – the link to the survey is <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/l33GFH/>

Survivor programmes in Peterborough

Living Keys in Peterborough have let us know that they have the following courses for survivors of domestic abuse starting in September:

Freedom Programme starts on Tuesday 5th September at 10.30 – 1pm. And every Tuesday at same time for 12 weeks. (except for school holidays, as mums often find it difficult to get childcare in the school holidays). This is a rolling course so ladies can join at any time, however, only when completing the whole course, will they receive their certificate of completion. This will be a face to face course at Living Keys offices in Peterborough.

Hope2Recovery – a 6 week course looking at Coercive control and also covers the effects it has on our parenting when living with an abuser. This starts on Thursday 14th September at 11am until 1pm and will be completed on Zoom.

Domestic Abuse Recovery Toolkit – this course is for ladies that have left the relationship for at least 6 months, and is CBT based. The course is 12 weeks and will start on Friday 15th September from 11am until 1.30pm. This will be a face to face course at Living Keys offices in Peterborough

Ladies can self refer, or agencies can refer, the application forms are on our website <https://www.livingkeys.co.uk/courses> for further enquiries please email Linda@livingkeys.co.uk

Find out about the DARA

The Domestic Abuse Risk Assessment (DARA) is a risk tool for frontline police practitioners responding to domestic abuse. The DARA was developed by the College of Policing in consultation with survivors, frontline police officers, voluntary and charity sector support services, and leading academics. DARA is being rolled out to all police forces XXX and focuses on making it easier to identify coercive control so that responding officers can make better informed risk assessments.

This recorded webinar from Safe Lives (start about 20 mins in) explains how DARA works [Dash and Dara - Working together on multi-agency risk assessments | Safelives](#)

In the future Cambs police will be using DARA (date TBC) and other organisations will continue to use DASH.

New support for male survivors

Peterborough Women's Aid have launched the B:United Project which offers support to male survivors of domestic abuse across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

A short film has been created explaining how the project works and how to make a referral [B-United, supporting male victims of domestic abuse in Cambridgeshire - YouTube](#)

For more information please visit [B-United – Peterborough Women's Aid \(peterboroughwomensaid.co.uk\)](#)

Cambridgeshire Shared Lives Domestic Abuse Project launch

As you may be aware, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence (DASV) Partnership are working together with Cambridgeshire Shared Lives on a brand new project which aims to recruit a number of Shared Lives carers who will be trained and equipped to be able to offer care and support to people who are survivors / victims of domestic abuse where support such as refuges is not suitable.

In a Shared Lives arrangement, the Shared Lives carer opens up their home and family life to an adult with support needs once they have been matched for compatibility. This might be for a few hours a week; for regular overnight stays; for a defined period, as a long-term live-in arrangement, or any other combination. Each arrangement is totally person-centred and unique.

From the limited research in this area, we know that people with learning disabilities are both at a higher risk of domestic abuse, but also experience a greater severity of abuse, and are perhaps less able to access the support they need or have their needs met by existing services and refuges. The project is going to work only with people with learning disabilities for the initial stage, regardless of whether they meet thresholds for adult social care or not. This project aims to enable survivors/ victims to access practical and emotional support and build their self-esteem and independence through the supportive and nurturing environment of a family home.

Libby Swannell-Bell has recently been appointed as the Shared Lives Coordinator who is going to lead this work on behalf of Cambridgeshire Shared Lives and the DASV Partnership. Libby is new to CCC but comes with a wealth of experience, knowledge and enthusiasm from being an IDVA in Norfolk. Libby is really keen to link up with people and tell you a bit more about the project, and how it might work and will be including an update in the September newsletter.

NHS Gambling Service

The NHS East of England Gambling service launched on 24th July to people living in the region who are experiencing the negative impact of gambling.

The service, which is a collaboration between CNWL and Inclusion (MPUFT), brings together two NHS trusts with extensive experience and expertise in providing specialist gambling treatment. The service is keen to offer an 'open-door' approach and welcomes both self-referrals and professional referrals.

For more information follow this link to the website – [East of England Gambling Service :: Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust \(eofegamblingservice.nhs.uk\)](http://East of England Gambling Service :: Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust (eofegamblingservice.nhs.uk))

DA Commissioner raises concerns about Family Court

The Domestic Abuse Commissioner has released a report highlighting ongoing concerns about the traumatising experience of the Family Court for victims and survivors of domestic abuse.

The report outlines the Commissioner's plan for wholesale change in the Family Court process. This comes as new research with legal practitioners found that more than 80 percent of those surveyed felt that the Family Courts were likely to re-traumatise victims and survivors of domestic abuse.

The Commissioner regularly hears from victims and survivors who describe how allegations of domestic abuse are minimised during proceedings, which are often very lengthy and costly, placing their children at serious risk of harm. Many people going through the Court are fearful that their best interests aren't being considered as their family's future hangs in the balance.

The report amplifies calls to centre the experiences of children as victims of domestic abuse to ensure that their voices are clearly heard during proceedings. The voice of the child has been all but lost in the Court, and the Commissioner hopes that this report will bring it into the forefront of family law proceedings.

The Family Court operates behind a veil of secrecy and compared to the criminal courts, enforces very strict rules that stop proceedings being discussed outside its walls. The report sets out new plans for the Commissioner to launch a pioneering national oversight mechanism which will, for the first time, uncover proceedings; observing and gathering information in relation to cases in the Family Court involving domestic abuse. This will be key to rebuilding public confidence in the system.

Alongside the new mechanism, the Commissioner is calling for a series of critical measures to be implemented at pace by the Government, including funding to ensure victims and survivors can access specialist support and legal aid.

Ms Jacobs said: "I have heard from hundreds of victims and survivors. They tell me how they have been re-traumatised by private family law children proceedings and left fearing for their children's safety. It is imperative that the Family Court embodies a culture of safety and protection from harm, where children's needs and the impact of domestic abuse are central considerations, and that all victims and survivors of domestic abuse consistently feel listened to and respected. This is currently not the case.

"We have seen significant progress made by the government over the last three years, following the publication of the Harm Panel report, including allowing specialist advocates access to the court to support victims and the establishment of the pilot Pathfinder Courts in North Wales and Dorset to better support child and adult victims and survivors. But it's clear — listening to the harrowing experiences of victims and survivors — that pace of reform must be accelerated.

"That's why, I am pleased to set out plans for a pioneering monitoring and reporting mechanism to gain a much needed insight into the day-to-day of the Family Court in addressing domestic abuse. Public faith in the Family Court is essential: victims of domestic abuse must feel able to approach the court system with confidence that the safeguarding within the Domestic Abuse Act will be upheld to the highest level."

The Commissioner is calling for sufficient funding to be allocated for its pilot phase and, subsequently, its national roll out.

[DAC_Family-Court-Report-_2023_Digital.pdf \(domesticabusecommissioner.uk\)](#)

Domestic Homicide Sentencing Review

The Domestic Homicide Sentencing Review published on 20th July (which will overhaul the law to better protect vulnerable women) announced plans for longer sentences for ex-partners who murder following the end of a relationship,

Building on measures already announced in the interim response in March, the reforms will create a new aggravating factor for murder at the end of a relationship while also introducing a mitigating factor in cases where the perpetrator has been subjected to a campaign of controlling behaviour before lashing out against their abuser.

Research shows that around one in four homicides are committed by a current or former partner or relative. Recognising the complex nature of murder sentencing, Ministers will also expand a planned consultation on a 25-year starting point for domestic murders with a history of controlling or coercive behaviour to include murders using a knife or other weapon found at the scene.

This will seek the public's views on the current difference between sentences for murder where a knife is brought to the scene compared, for example, to one already in the home.

To further ensure the law is working to provide justice the government will ask the Law Commission to review the use of defences in domestic homicide cases. This will look at whether the gender of the defendant impacts how successful these defences are – with the Wade Review suggesting that female defendants are less successful than men. This includes examining the partial defences of “loss of control” and “diminished responsibility” and whether the law adequately considers circumstances where a victim of domestic abuse acts in self-defence.

The list of measures in the full government response to Clare Wade's review into domestic homicide sentencing includes:

- Bringing greater recognition to the specific circumstances of domestic murders by creating statutory aggravating factors for murder for:
 - Killing at the end of a relationship
 - Overkill and use of excessive violence
 - A history of coercive or controlling behaviour
- Creating a statutory mitigating factor for murder where the perpetrator has been subjected to coercive or controlling behaviour
- Continuing to improve the collection and recording of data on domestic homicides in England and Wales to identify patterns, trends, and risk factors via the Domestic Homicide Review Library
- Working with partners to implement and improve mandatory training for Crown Prosecution Service staff on understanding coercive control.
- Consulting on a 25-year starting point for coercive or controlling behaviour and sentencing for murders which take place with a weapon found at the scene
- Writing to the Sentencing Council to propose that they review their guidelines for manslaughter sentencing in light of Clare Wade's recommendations and the government's response.
- Asking the Law Commission to review the use of defences in domestic homicide cases

National Male Survivor Helpline

A dedicated service for adults and children who identify as male affected by recent/historic sexual abuse and for those who support a male survivor such as non-abusing family, friends and professionals. This service is funded by the MoJ and provides trauma-informed emotional support, advice and information and is open 7 days a week Monday to Friday 9am to 8pm and Weekends 10am to 2pm. The service can be contacted by:

- Freephone Helpline 0808 800 5005
- Text 07860 065187
- Webchat via our website [National Male Survivor Helpline and Online Support Service - Safeline - Believe in you - Surviving sexual abuse & rape](#)
- Email support@safeline.org.uk

National Telephone and Online Counselling Service for survivors of CSA

Free professional trauma informed counselling for individuals age 16+ of all genders who have experienced child sexual abuse and for those who support a survivor of child sexual abuse such as non-abusing family, carers and friends. This service is for residents of England and Wales and funded by the Home Office.

For further information please contact onlinecounselling@safeline.org.uk or visit our website [Telephone & Online Counselling - Safeline - Believe in you - Surviving sexual abuse & rape](#)

National Databank offer at Cambridgeshire Libraries

Cambridgeshire Libraries have joined [Good Things Foundation's National Databank](#) to pilot an offer at Cambridge Central, St Ives and Wisbech libraries, and very soon also at Bar Hill. The National Databank makes free data (via a SIM card or data voucher) available to anyone over the age of 18 from a low income household. People will be required to self-declare as eligible, and the support is available for a maximum period of 12 months. The data can be used with any SIM-enabled device.

The offer includes:

O2: 20GB of data and unlimited calls and texts; refreshes every month.

Vodafone: 40GB of data and unlimited calls and texts; refreshes every month.

Three: 24GB of data in total. No calls or texts provided; not refreshed.

All recipients have to do is visit Cambridge Central, St Ives or Wisbech libraries and speak to a member of staff. Bar Hill is also launching in the next few weeks.

Sound, Maaate

Two new campaigns have been launched in recent weeks, targeting men in the 18—34 age bracket to reconsider their views around gender based violence.

The Sound campaign, from the Welsh Government, encourages men to have conversations and seek advice around health relationships and challenge friends, encouraging them to change their attitudes [Sound | GOV.WALES](#)

Meanwhile, the Mayor of London launched the Say Maaate to a Mate campaign, encouraging men to step in when they feel a friend's behaviour is misogynistic or inappropriate [Say Maaate to a Mate | London City Hall](#)

Both campaigns include interactive videos and resources explaining how and when to step in.

Fire Arms Licensing – Home Office Consultation

The Home Office are carrying out a public consultation on a number of recommendations made to them on which they are seeking views. This is an opportunity to ensure that changes to gun licensing take account of the risk posed by those who perpetrate domestic abuse, and the DAC would encourage responses from the domestic abuse sector to ensure this fully reflects the experiences of victims of abuse and their concerns.

The consultation closes on 23 August: [Firearms licensing: a consultation on recommendations for changes made to the Home Office - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Free Training for Health and Social Care staff

SafeLives are offering free training for professionals on Non-Fatal Strangulation. Separate sessions are being delivered for Health professionals on 13th September and for Social Care professionals on 6th November.

To find out more and submit an expression of interest form, please visit [Non-fatal strangulation training for professionals | Safelives](#)

Job Vacancy – Domestic Abuse Worker CAPVA

The Family Respect Team are looking for a hard-working and resilient individual to take on the Domestic Abuse Worker role to primarily support parents and carers as the victims of Child and Adolescent to Parent Violence (CAPVA).

The successful candidate will have a sound understanding of domestic abuse and the wider statutory/non-statutory systems which support victims of domestic abuse and a relevant qualification at Level 3 or above.

The post is for 18 hours per week worked flexibly Monday – Friday. The role is likely to involve some evening work when necessary. This role will be offered on a fixed term contract basis ending January 2024, with potential for extension dependent on funding. The salary is £31,225.94 pro-rata.

Contact Melanie Khan 07771357187 or email Melanie.khan@ymcatrinity.org.uk

White Ribbon at the Cambridge Folk Festival

Cambridgeshire County Council were once again pleased to be invited to have a stall at the Cambridge Folk Festival highlighting the work we do around White Ribbon.

This year, as well as giving out stickers and white ribbon pins, we were asking people to 'grow their pledge' to speak out about male violence with seed-paper wrist bands featuring the White Ribbon and Cambs DASV logos. The wristbands can be planted after use and contain British wildflower seeds.

On the Friday, White Ribbon Ambassador Graeme Hodgson gave a brilliant interview to Cambridge 105 radio on Friday about the White Ribbon Campaign as part of their coverage of the Cambridge Folk Festival (thanks to White Ribbon Ambassador Dylan Wynn for arranging the interview and for distributing White Ribbon materials backstage at the festival).

You can listen again (from 1.09 on the 14:00 to 19:00 edition) at [Cambridge Folk Festival 28/07/2023 \(cambridge105.co.uk\)](https://www.cambridge105.co.uk)



Sexual harassment in schools

The Women and Equalities Committee has published a new report on sexual harassment and sexual violence in schools. The Committee calls on the Government to ensure that all schools have the funding they require to safeguard children and young people effectively and also asks Ofsted to investigate the level of abuse experienced by female staff in schools as part of its inspections.

In addition, the Committee calls for relationships, sex and health education (RSHE) be made compulsory in sixth forms and colleges and asks the Government, as part of its RHSE review, to develop a specific strategy for engaging with boys and young men in schools on topics of sexual harassment and gender-based violence.

Read the full report at [Sexual harassment and abuse of female students and staff a serious problem in education, find MPs - Committees - UK Parliament](#)

Peterborough
Women's Aid
Set yourself free

END OF

SUMMER FETE

Sunday 20th August
12-4pm

CROSS KEYS, UPWOOD, PE26 2QE

£2 ENTRY

JOIN US FOR LOTS OF FUN!

- Cakes
- Cookies
- Ice Cream
- Hog Roast
- Music
- Craft stalls
- Pub garden
- and much more!

Magpas 
AIR AMBULANCE 



THE
Dahlia
PROJECT
Supporting South Asian Victims

Peterborough Women's Aid 
Set yourself free

We can support you by offering:

Emotional support:

- About past or current abuse and any fears you may have about future abuse.
- If you have separated from your abusive partner but feel confused, alone, lacking in confidence or scared.
- We can help you with safety planning if you are thinking of leaving your relationship or if you are worried for your safety due to the relationship & your community.
- We can support you & be your advocate when speaking to other professionals such as social services, the job centre, GP's and any other agencies that might be involved.
- We can offer you free counselling sessions for up to 12 weeks.

Court support:

- We can attend court relating to Domestic abuse with you, we would be there as an advocate and to offer you extra emotional support.
- We can support you with reading through documents relating to your situation due to domestic abuse.



Multilingual:

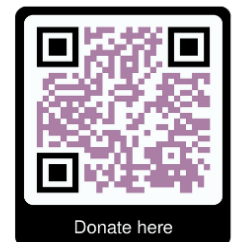
- Our workers are able to speak multiple languages such as Urdu, Punjabi, Mirpuri, Paharai, Potwari.

We can assure you that you will receive **specialist advice and support** which has your **safety** in mind.



Website

 01733 894964
 referrals@wa-support.co.uk

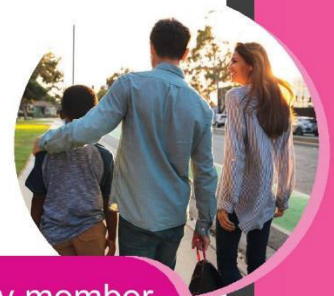


Donate here

Refer a **friend or family member** who could be a
Foster Carer

When you refer a friend or family member to us, and they become a Foster Carer, we will pay you **£1,000.***

Do you have a friend or family member in **Peterborough** or **Cambridgeshire** who could offer a **safe, secure, loving home** to a child?



If your friend or family member becomes a Foster Carer for:

- **teenagers**
- **sibling groups**
- **children with disabilities**

who we can sometimes struggle to find foster homes for, we will pay you **£2,000.***

Simply email their name and contact details to fosteringmarketing@cambridgeshire.gov.uk and one of our friendly recruitment officers will get in touch with you.

***T&Cs:** Only staff members or Foster Carers of Cambridgeshire County Council/ Peterborough City Council are eligible. The payment will be paid via your choice of payroll or vouchers once your friend or family member has been approved as a Foster Carer at panel.

fostering
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

