



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

October 2023

Hi All

As the nights draw in, the Partnership Team continue to be very busy working on a number of projects, some of which are highlighted in this month's newsletter. One large piece of work is the development of a VAWG Needs Assessment – and we extend thanks to everyone who has fed into this via various mechanisms. The Focus Groups were held in each district and it was great to see so many DASV Champions there.

There are numerous opportunities to learn more, with reports and webinars highlighted here. Please remember we also have free Elearning on the Partnership website as well as a number of DASV related SWAYs on the Safeguarding Board website.

The DASV Champions sessions this season focused on Suicide and Adult Safeguarding, if there are particular topics you would like to see in future sessions, please let us know.

We have a number of events linked on Eventbrite; the MARAC Development Day, sessions for Employers and for Private Landlords, so if there is anyone you know that would find these beneficial, any promotion is most welcome.

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



CPSL Mind support groups for mums and dads

Pregnancy and parenthood is often imagined to be a time of great joy, happiness and excitement. However, the reality for many mums can be far from this whilst coping with changes in emotions, relationships, sleep, routine and other areas alongside physical changes.

CPSL Mind offer a range of services for women and men aged over 18 years old across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to support wellbeing during the perinatal period. You can find out more about each of these at [Supporting Parents \(cpslmind.org.uk\)](https://cpslmind.org.uk)

Non-fatal strangulation video

NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire have created a short video explaining what non-fatal strangulation is and how it is used in domestic abuse and sexual violence as well as the signs that professionals need to look out for. The film also covers the long-term effects of non-fatal strangulation. [NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire - Non Fatal Strangulation - YouTube](#)

Knowledge event on Non-Fatal Strangulation

The Institute for Addressing Strangulation (IFAS) will be hosting a Knowledge Event on Tuesday 28 November 2023. This is a half-day event reflecting on IFAS's work over the last 12 months whilst also looking at what the future holds.

In October 2022, following the introduction of strangulation and suffocation as a stand alone offence (June 2022), the Home Office funded the Institute for Addressing Strangulation (IFAS) to increase awareness of strangulation amongst the public and professionals, conduct research, and create resources and guidance.

This Knowledge Event will showcase our findings so far and highlight areas for further development.

Date/Time: Tuesday 28th November 2023, 9.30 - 13.00

Venue: Online

Event link: <https://fflm.ac.uk/event/ifas-knowledge-event-nov-2023/>

Mankind Annual Conference

The ManKind Initiative charity who support male victims of domestic abuse are holding their annual National Conference on Male Victims of Domestic Abuse conference “**Supporting Male Victims of Domestic Abuse**” on 16th November (am). It is online and free.

Topics include the latest research, male peer-to-peer recovery programmes and the experiences of two survivors.

To register, please visit [National Annual Conference on supporting male victims of domestic abuse \(mankind.org.uk\)](https://mankind.org.uk)



Friends of SADA

Survivors Against Domestic Abuse

**FRIENDS OF SADA
CHARITY BALL
LAUNCH 2023**

**SATURDAY 25TH
NOVEMBER 6PM - 12PM**

LETCHWORTH HALL MERCURE HOTEL
TICKETS STILL AVAILABLE £49.50

DINNER | DISCO | DRINKS

WWW.FRIENDSOFSADA.CO.UK

FRIENDSOFSADA@GMAIL.COM



The Angels Foundation launch service is Cambs

The Angels Foundation UK Counselling and Therapy are delighted to be able to offer **12 FREE** weekly counselling sessions. You will be offered a safe, non-judgemental space where you will be able to speak openly and explore how you are feeling.

Referrals are now open to Domestic Abuse Professionals, and Survivors wishing to Self-Refer, ready for services commencing early December 2023. Early registration advised due to high demand.

What we offer

We provide free, individual online and telephone, person-centred counselling for adult survivors of domestic violence.

We have teamed up with Aloe Counselling Training, a local training centre, who offer robust, safe, ethical and competent student counsellors, who undertake their counselling placement hours at the Property Angels Foundation.

All our counsellors are Level 4 trainees and are thoroughly supported, supervised and abide by all the same rules, regulations and privacy as qualified counsellors. They all hold personal liability insurance, belong to a professional membership and are DBS checked.

*The counselling provided is not crisis counselling, if you are in crisis due to domestic abuse or in immediate danger, **please click here** for further appropriate/immediate support.*

What's the process?

A short 30-minute assessment will take place prior to your sessions with our agency manager. This allows us to understand your needs, and for us both to decide if counselling would be the right way forward for you.

From this point, you will be matched with an appropriate counsellor where you will both decide a convenient time and day for your sessions to proceed.

For more information, please visit [Counselling and Therapy | The Property Angels Foundation](#)

New resource for Christian Youth Leaders

National charity Restored have worked with Sally Hope, a Christian writer, speaker and trainer, who works to engage churches on the issue of domestic abuse, to develop a new resource to help Christian youth leaders talk to young people about healthy relationships.

The resource is free to download from [V2-Talking-to-Young-People-about-Healthy-Relationships.pdf \(alwayshopeful.org.uk\)](#)

Practitioners study on abuse of older people

Dr Hannah Bows, a specialist in older survivors of domestic abuse and sexual violence, has published a new study in *The British Journal of Criminology*. The article reports data from interviews with 66 professionals working across safeguarding, health, criminal justice and specialist domestic abuse services exploring their views about older victims' experiences of domestic abuse.

The findings reveal that older victims, despite embodying many of the criteria of Christie's ideal victim, are not *ideal enough* as they fail to conform to the stereotype of the young, female victim of intimate-partner abuse.

Similarly, their perpetrators, whether older partners or younger sons/other family members, fall short of the necessary criteria to be seen as legitimate offenders—they are *not quite* ideal—meaning domestic abuse against older adults is frequently repackaged as a health issue, with significant implications for professional practice.

[Practitioner Understandings of Older Victims of Abuse and Their Perpetrators: Not Ideal Enough? | The British Journal of Criminology | Oxford Academic \(oup.com\)](#)

If you're working with an older survivor in Cambridgeshire or Peterborough, remember that the specialist charity Hourglass have a 24/7 advice line available to professionals as well as the public and also a contract to provide advice and support to professionals in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The local contact is Karen Hunt (karenhunt@wearehourglass.org) and the helpline number is 0808 808 8141.

Publication of Domestic Homicide Review 'Jack'

The Home Office have recently approved a Domestic Homicide Review report for publication. The report relates to 'Jack' who took his own life in South Cambs in 2021.

The multi-agency review has led to a number of actions, many of which are already in place:

- An amendment to Home Care contracts around responsibilities for the safety of other members of the household.
- Working closely with Hourglass to raise practitioner awareness of domestic abuse in relation to older people – as part of the work commissioned by the Police & Crime Commissioner.
- A multi-agency project around Unpaid Carers and Domestic Abuse which has led to domestic abuse being identified as a priority in the new All Age Carer's Strategy, awareness raising for professionals and ongoing work to develop resources for carers who are subjected to domestic abuse.
- Review of processes at the GP surgery around identifying and supporting carers.

The full report can be read at [Community Safety Partnership - South Cambs District Council \(scams.gov.uk\)](#)

New website to help younger people understand harmful sexual behaviours

Shore is a new website from the Lucy Faithful Foundation that aims to provide a safe and anonymous place for young people to get help and support to prevent harmful sexual behaviours among young people.

It's for anyone who:

- has questions about healthy sexual relationships
- wants to change their own behaviour
- is looking for reliable information to help them respond to someone else's behaviour

[Home - Shore \(shorespace.org.uk\)](https://shorespace.org.uk)

Grooming and Coercive Control Summit

The neurodivergent-led organisation, Neurodiverse Connection, is hosting a summit on grooming and coercive control in the context of neurodivergence, focusing on victimisation and perpetration and responses to this. Key speakers include Dr Amy Pearson (Sunderland University), Dr Nicole Renehan (Durham University), Meena Kumari (HOPE), Naomi Donald and Bridie Anderson (Surrey Domestic Abuse Service Manager), Imran Manzoor (founder of Breaking the Silence), and many more. Topics include:

- Autism, Grooming and Coercive Control: An introduction and overview
- Supporting Neurodivergent people impacted by coercive and controlling behaviour
- Supporting autistic adults who have experienced intimate violence and abuse
- Working with neurodivergent perpetrators of domestic abuse.
- The experience of parenting South Asian neurodivergent children in modern Britain
- Applied Behaviour Analysis and Coercive Control
- Engaging and working with neurodivergent young people impacted by unhealthy relationships / coercive controlling behaviour
- Unravelling Complexity: Autistic Insights into Grooming and Exploitation Through an Intersectional Lens

To find out more about this exciting summit and book your free space, please access the site [here](#).

Household Support Fund Awareness Week, 16-22 October 2023

To further support households with the cost of living, the Government allocated £842 million to local authorities in England to extend the Household Support Fund for a year from 1 April 2023 until 31 March 2024.

The Household Support Fund is there to help households who are struggling with the cost of essentials including families, pensioners, unpaid carers, care leavers and disabled people.

Between 16-22 October 2023, DWP is holding a Household Support Fund Awareness Week, to promote the good work that local authorities have done in delivering the scheme so far, and to encourage people to visit their council's website or contact their local council office for more information on support available in their area.

You can help to promote the awareness week across your channels by using the assets available in the [Household Support Fund awareness week toolkit](#) which contains social media assets, a downloadable poster, suggested newsletter copy, easy read guidance and more.

The scheme is one of many to support households with the cost of living, including Cost of Living Payments, Social Tariffs and help with childcare costs.

Visit the [Help for Households website](#) to find out about the support available.

New report from Women's Aid on attitudes of young people

Women's Aid have published a new report providing vital insight into the attitudes held by children and young people on gender roles, relationships and sex, and what influences them.

The report '[Influencers and Attitudes: How will the next generation understand domestic abuse?](#)' explores the influence of online spaces on children and young people's attitudes towards healthy relationships shows a direct link between the viewing of harmful misogynist content online and the normalisation of unhealthy behaviours in relationships.

key findings include:

- Children and young people exposed to **misogynistic social media content** like Andrew Tate were almost 5x more likely than those not exposed to view **hurting someone physically as acceptable** if you say sorry afterwards.
- **1 in 3 women** experienced the RSHE they had in school as **rushed** and **awkward**.
- **1 in 4 women** felt that it had **no understanding of pre-existing trauma**.
- Whilst **70%** of children and young people said they **would seek support** if affected by domestic abuse, **61% of them were unsure or did not know where to go for this**.