



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

March 2023

Hi All

Welcome to the March Newsletter, as I type this it is snowing outside, but I hope Spring is around the corner. We have lots coming up over the next few months – read below to find out.

We are coordinating the first Peterborough City Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Conference on the 22nd June, at the Allia Centre in Peterborough, we would love to see you there. We will be hearing from a range of local services with a guest speaker from Karma Nirvana in the afternoon to talk about so called “Honour Based Abuse” – to register for a space, please register on Eventbrite **Peterborough Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Conference Tickets, Thu 22 Jun 2023 at 09:15 | Eventbrite**

There are also some really interesting topics for our DASV Champions sessions for the rest of this year, with dates already in the diary – we look forward to welcoming you online.

We celebrated International Women’s Day on 8th March and hope you have seen some of this work that happened with services across the county. We encourage you all to follow us on social media.

There are a range of posters and information about domestic abuse for you to display – if you would like us to send you some, please don’t hesitate to get in touch.

Thanks all

Vickie & Julia

Vickie Crompton & Julia Cullum
DASV Partnership Managers



DASV Champions

Dates have now been set for the rest of the year:

April – Family Courts & Children & Young People’s ISVA’s

July – Family Carers & Trauma Informed Practice

October - Suicide risks for victims of abuse & Adult Safeguarding

If you are a CCC employee, you can book on your chosen session via Our Development. For external attendees (including Peterborough City Council) you will need to register with an account on the external booking system first. Please visit [Cambridgeshire County Council DASV Partnership - DASV Champions \(cambsdasv.org.uk\)](https://cambsdasv.org.uk)

New briefing paper on DA and Suicide

Agenda Alliance has published a new briefing paper, Underexamined and Underreported, which found that female victims of DA are 3 times more likely to attempt suicide.

The paper, released on 22 February, found that:

- Women who experienced abuse from a partner are THREE times more likely to have made a suicide attempt in the past year compared to those who have not experienced abuse.
- Women living in poverty are especially at risk. Around half of women (47%) who are unemployed or are unable to work due to sickness or disability, have experienced domestic abuse from a partner.
- Sexual abuse puts victims at raised risk of self-harm, suicidal thoughts and suicide attempts. Women are TEN times more likely than men to experience sexual abuse by a partner.

To read the full report, please visit: [New Figures Reveal Link Between Suicidal Thoughts and Domestic Abuse - Agenda Alliance](#)

Coercive Control and Child Victims – Ben’s story

Timekeeper is a short film commissioned by Lewisham Council and funded by the Home Office. Based on real experiences, it details the life of 11-year-old Ben who is desperate to protect his mother from the physical and psychological abuse dished out by his father.

Instead of being able to save his Mum, he is drawn into his father’s coercive control, through a game involving timing his Mum’s trips to the local corner shop. Traumatized by fear and guilt, he withdraws into himself. His only salvation comes in the form of a school learning mentor.

The film tackles very sensitive issues and could be triggering
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gFwZF2YeDEI>

Please visit https://www.cambsdasv.org.uk/web/children_and_young_people_/96818 to find local resources and guidance in working with children living with abuse

I'd Ask, Would You?

STOP Suicide campaign focuses on relationship breakdown.



We have worked with Cambridgeshire, Peterborough and South Lincolnshire (CPSL) Mind to call on local people to sign up for [community suicide prevention talks and workshops](#) so that they can ask directly about suicide when someone might be experiencing a relationship breakdown, loss and conflict, isolation or domestic abuse.

STOP Suicide seeks to empower ordinary people to spot warning signs in those around them whether that's a family member, colleague, neighbour or stranger – being alert to key signs and helping those who are feeling suicidal stay safe. There's no evidence that asking directly about suicide causes anyone to act on suicidal thoughts, but there is evidence that asking saves lives.

The March 2023 campaign highlights the significant impact relationship breakdown has on mental health and experiencing suicidal thoughts. This might include family conflict, loss, including loss of access to children, isolation, domestic abuse and often more than one of these; while research show us that one-third of female suicides could be related to close partner abuse*.

Kathy Hartley, Public Health Consultant, says, "Suicide is complex, but we know relationship breakdown in many forms including controlling or violent behaviour can impact hugely on mental health. But we also see how relieved someone can be when asked about their suicidal thoughts for the first time, it can be the important step towards getting support".

Isabel Cross, Head of Campaigns and Communication CPSL Mind says, "Suicide prevention is everybody's business. We should all learn how to spot signs that someone might be having suicidal thoughts. If you think someone might feel trapped in a relationship or is experiencing emotions like hopelessness or despair, it's time to say something."

Isabel goes on to add, "Asking directly about suicide can begin a conversation which saves a person's life. We want to make sure that individuals and organisations in our community are confident in doing this."

A series of open, free-to-attend [STOP Suicide training workshops](#) will be hosted throughout the year by CPSL Mind, providing an opportunity for members of the local community to equip themselves with the knowledge to save lives. In addition, courses will equip pharmacy staff and volunteers working with domestic abuse charities and organisations.

Find out more about helplines, free-to-access STOP Suicide talks, workshops, resources at www.stopsuicidepledge.org

Victim Services website gets an update

The [Victim Services Website](#) has recently been updated to make it more accessible and to enable victims and witness across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to find the information they require as easily as possible.

The Victim Services Website for Cambridge and Peterborough is designed to provide victims and witnesses of crime with information about the support available to them and make it easier for them to access this support.

The Victim and Witness Hub provides emotional and practical support for anyone affected by crime, whether they report it to the police or not. A number of specialist victim services also link into the Hub. The Hub can refer victims or witnesses to these specialist services and vice-versa. Not all victims or witnesses may know that these services are available to them, or they may want support, but are unsure about the process and may put off making a call.

Unwanted Prisoner Contact Service

A new HMPPS led service called 'Unwanted Prisoner Contact' went live in November 2022. This is a service anyone can use, whether that be the victim themselves, the police or another organisation on behalf of the victim, in order to stop contact from serving prisoners.

Once the report is submitted, it will be the responsibility of HMPPS to implement the block of the relevant phone numbers, other contact methods and provide an update to the person making the request.

The issue of serving prisoners being able to contact victims of crime using the prison PINS system or an illicit mobile phone has been problem for both policing and HMPPS for many years.

The project uses a PINS system that prisoners can use for contact. This method can also be used to report further contact, should a prisoner decide to use another prisoner's PINS access or an illicit mobile phone.

The Unwanted Prisoner Contact service will also potentially identify intelligence for HMPPS on illicit phones operating within individual prisons, providing an opportunity to seize phones through targeted searching.

[Unwanted Prisoner Contact \(justice.gov.uk\)](https://justice.gov.uk)

Neurodiversity Celebration Week 2023!

Neurodiversity Celebration Week takes place from 13-19 March and there is a week of free online events on a range of related topics, including why more women and girls are coming forward identifying as neurodiverse.

All events are free of charge and open to all. Please do sign up to as many events as you like and share with your networks.

[2023 Events Schedule | Neurodiversity Celebration Week \(neurodiversityweek.com\)](#)

The Unseen: Blind and partially sighted people's experiences of domestic abuse

One in 12 visually impaired people in the UK is believed to be a victim or survivor of domestic abuse, meaning that 188,000 of the 2.19 million blind and partially sighted people living in this country have experience of domestic abuse.

Safe Lives were commissioned by **the Vision Foundation** to undertake the first ever research into the scale and nature of domestic abuse among this particularly vulnerable sector of the population. Although data shows that people with a disability are nearly three times more likely to have experienced domestic abuse than non-disabled people, until now there has been no specific research into the impact on the sight loss community.

Key findings:

- Blind and partially sighted victims and survivors experience many of the same abusive behaviours as fully sighted people, but they also face additional forms of abuse such as the perpetrator moving things around the house so that the victim or survivor trips or is unable to find items they need or withholding support like sighted guiding or accessible equipment.
- Those with a visual impairment might have a dependence on individuals for support, which may include the person perpetrating the abuse. This can result in complex risk-benefit negotiations for victim and survivors. Victims described being encouraged to stay with their carer-perpetrator by professionals and family members.
- It is difficult for blind and partially sighted people to access information on domestic abuse and domestic abuse services aimed at the general public since much of this information is in printed format or on inaccessible websites.
- Participants found that, in general, formal services including domestic abuse services, the police, GPs and housing services usually did not understand their visual impairment and did not take their visual impairment into account when supporting them.
- Professionals talking to a visually impaired person's carer rather than to the visually impaired person themselves can increase the risk of and exacerbate abuse. Lack of accessibility and confidentiality are major barriers to visually impaired victims seeking help.
- Professionals do not report a good understanding of the types of abuse, perpetrator tactics and needs of survivors with a visual impairment.
- Accessing support is particularly difficult for visually impaired victims and survivors who are male, Black and/or from cultures that are minoritised in the UK owing to social prejudices and a lack of professional understanding and specialised support, which compounds with the lack of support for blind and partially sighted victims and survivors.
- Viewing visually impaired people through the medical rather than the social model of disability means that professional services have a preconceived idea that blind and partially sighted people always depend on others which may prevent them from recognising abusive behaviours or supporting a victim to leave an abusive relationship.

<https://safelives.org.uk/research/the-unseen>

Amanda is developing awareness materials and training resources around victims with sight loss, if you'd like to be involved please contact her Amanda.Warburton@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

New data on older victims of domestic abuse

At the beginning of November's 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, the ONS published the first data on victims of domestic abuse of **all** ages since the age limit on the Crime Survey for England and Wales was removed in 2020.

This data shows that 1 in 30 people aged 60 to 74 and approximately 1 in 50 people aged 75+ have been subjected to domestic abuse in the past year. That means more than 400,000 older people have been victims of domestic abuse in the past year in England and Wales alone.

If you are working with older victim survivors in Cambridgeshire or Peterborough, we have an Older People's DASH risk assessment that can help to more accurately identify risk for victims aged 60+ and we also have a number of guidance documents for practitioners available on our website at [Cambridgeshire County Council DASV Partnership - Older People \(cambsdasv.org.uk\)](https://cambdasv.org.uk)

External Training offer

Bal Kaur Howard has been advocating on the issues of BME women and men on domestic violence, honour based crimes (Forced Marriage & Female Genital Mutilation) and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) since 2008.

She has developed and delivers training for front-line practitioners in Health, Social Care, Police, Education and the voluntary sector throughout England and Wales in the subjects of Domestic Abuse, Risk Assessment, Honour Based Abuse, Forced Marriage, Female Genital Mutilation, Radicalisation / Extremism, Modern Day Slavery and Addiction.

Cambridge City Council have asked us to share that Bal is offering various short online courses in March including *Harmful Practices Training*, *Suicide Prevention* and *Domestic Abuse in the Workplace and more*

Please see link for more information [Online Training Courses for March, 2023 - Bal Kaur Howard Training \(bkhtraining.co.uk\)](https://bkhtraining.co.uk)

Explaining Coercive Control

We're often asked what exactly coercive control is, and this short film gives some great examples.

Coercive control is at the core of all ongoing abuse, it is the systematic pattern of a perpetrator's behaviour towards their victim. Its purpose is to disempower a victim's self-esteem, self-worth, and independence, creating isolation and barriers to support. Reach out, help is available.

The animation was conceived and created by Ards and North Down PCSP, North Down and Ards Women's Aid, South Eastern Sexual and Domestic Violence Partnership and Neep Pictures.

[Coercive Control - Where is the line? - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)



HM Prison &
Probation Service



**Receiving unwanted contact
from a prisoner?**

**Concerned about a prisoner's
release?**

**The Unwanted Prisoner Contact
Service can help.**

**Go to:
gov.uk/stop-prisoner-contact**

**Call: 0300 060 6699
(all enquiries confidential)**

FREE TRAINING!

CALLING EMPLOYERS IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH

**Do you understand your responsibilities to your staff
around domestic abuse?**

- ✓ Free 1 hour online training session
- ✓ Find out what you can do to support your employees and get free templates
- ✓ Open to businesses and charities of any size

Sharon Livermore, creator of 'Sharon's Policy', is a survivor of domestic abuse who uses her personal experience to create a culture of openness and change within businesses.



CHOOSE FROM 9TH MAY, 12TH SEPT, 5TH DEC 12.30 - 13.30



**Cambridge
& Peterborough**
Domestic Abuse & Sexual
Violence Partnership

**SIGN UP AT: DOMESTIC ABUSE AWARENESS
FOR EMPLOYERS IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE &
PETERBOROUGH TICKETS, MULTIPLE DATES
| EVENTBRITE**

Domestic Abuse Awareness for Employers in Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Tickets, Multiple Dates | Eventbrite

Child Maintenance changes to help DA survivors

Domestic abuse victims in England and Wales will be able to allow the Child Maintenance Service (CMS) to collect and make payments on their behalf, without the consent of an abusive ex-partner.

This will prevent perpetrators from using the benefit as a form of ongoing financial abuse and control, and reduce the need for victims to contact their former partner, according to the Westminster government. The CMS will also have new powers to report suspected cases of financial coercion to the Crown Prosecution Service to help bring abusers to justice.

The planned changes come after the Department for Work and Pensions commissioned domestic abuse expert Samantha Callan, in the autumn of 2021 to review CMS support for parents who had experienced domestic abuse in setting up a child maintenance arrangement. This followed the tragic death of Emma Day, who was murdered by her ex-partner, Mark Morris.

For more information please visit [Child Maintenance Service to clamp down on domestic abuse - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

KNOW Violence Against Women makes a splash across Cambridgeshire!

KNOW Violence Against Women has officially launched three campaigns tackling violence against women and girls and is starting meaningful conversations across the county. The trio of sister-campaigns work together to deliver an overarching message, while each individually targets particular goals and objectives.

'KNOW Violence Against Women' focuses on educating everyone about what is classed as violence and how to identify it. 'Call Them Out' gives tips on becoming an active bystander and gives men the confidence to call their mates out when they've crossed the line. The newest campaign is 'Safe After Hours', which specifically tackles night-time harassment as research shows many women feel more unsafe after dark.

The campaign is proud to be supported by DAVS, Cambridgeshire Constabulary, Cambridge United Football Club, Rape Crisis, and leading forensic healthcare specialist, Mountain Healthcare.

You can find out more about the campaign online at: <https://knowviolence.org/>

We encourage any stakeholders interested in this campaign to contact Rebecca at rebecca@social-change.co.uk for marketing materials, digital assets, or more general information about how you can get involved.

DHR Panel Member training

If you missed out on the free training for Domestic Homicide Review Panel Members that we provided last year, AAFDA are running an online session in June (£75pp) – details are at [DHRs: Being an Effective Panel Member Tickets, Mon 12 Jun 2023 at 10:00 | Eventbrite](#)

Safeguarding Board Survey

In line with Section 11 of the Children's Act 2004 and Working Together 2018 partners of the board are currently completing the section 11 Self- Assessment Audit for their individual agencies.

The findings from the self-assessments will enhance the partnership board's understanding of agencies safeguarding processes across the area by identifying effective safeguarding practice and areas for improvement.

As part of this process a survey has been designed to ascertain the thoughts and experiences of safeguarding practitioners working across Peterborough and Cambridgeshire with children and their families. The survey is very short and should only take around 10 - 15 minutes to complete.

Please share the survey link to the professionals within your organisation and ask them to complete the survey by **28 April 2023**.

Here is the link to the survey <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/JXVFNYY>

Referring to SARAC

If you are working with a sexual violence survivor who fulfils the following criteria, you are encouraged to complete and submit a referral to the SARAC panel:

1. An identified need for intensive support.
2. A rationale regarding how and why this could be achieved in a multiagency context.
3. A significant risk of repeat victimisation / repeat offending regarding the individual
4. Confirmation that they are not already being supported via another existing forum (MARAC / MAPPA / Op Farmington or any other multiagency process including mental health or wellbeing support).

For referral form and flowcharts, please visit [Cambridgeshire County Council DASV Partnership - Sexual Assault Risk Assessment Conference \(SARAC\) \(cambsdasv.org.uk\)](https://cambsdasv.org.uk)

Love for Dr Emma Katz

10 red flags to identify domestic abuse

Dr Emma Katz is a renowned expert on domestic abuse and violence and has put together a blog details 10 key signs of domestic abuse. These 'red flags' include the relationship moving very quickly, pushing of boundaries and consent and feeling you're not the person that you used to be.



To read all ten signs, please visit [10 signs of domestic violence and abuse \(substack.com\)](https://substack.com)

Dr Katz also features in the latest Coercive Control Chat magazine where she talks about coercive control and how it impacts on survivors as well as children and young people. A brilliant quote from her interview is below.

You can read CCChat at [CCChat-Magazine 29 2 - Flipbook - Page 1 \(paperturn-view.com\)](https://paperturn-view.com)

“People have the idea that the abuse is caused by the relationship and so when the relationship is over, then the abuse will be over. We hear this when we talk about toxic relationships, turbulent relationships, a bad dynamic between a couple, marriage problems, but actually the abuse isn't being caused by the relationship it is being caused by the perpetrator's attitudes, beliefs, mindset, and their belief that they are entitled to abuse, that they are entitled to control, that they are entitled to punish people for not constantly obeying them.”

More listening and learning recommendations

Social Work Sorted – this episode hears from Ciara Bergman, Head of Perpetrator Services at Respect. Ciara Bergman | Respect about Ciara's career path and journey and Social work attitudes towards domestic abuse -Challenges of working with perpetrators in practice [Social Work Sorted: The Podcast | Podcast on Spotify](#) (Available on Apple too)

The Conference on Crimes Against Women (CCAW) produces the Podcast on Crimes Against Women (PCAW) and releases new episodes every Monday [Podcast on Crimes Against Women \(buzzsprout.com\)](#)

And Dr Emma Katz pops up again on the Crime Analyst podcast, talking about deconstructing coercive control and the impact on children [114: The Crime Analyst | Ep 114 | Deconstructing Coercive Control and the Impact on Children with Dr Emma Katz | Crime Analyst \(crime-analyst.com\)](#)

The Kite Trust seeks volunteers in Fenland

The Kite trust have been awarded funding from the DCMS Know Your Neighbourhood Fund to pilot new ways to enable meaningful and impactful volunteering and tackle loneliness amongst the LGBTQ+ community in Fenland district. If you live, work or study in Fenland and would like to give volunteering a go, they'd love to hear from you.

Opportunities include helping out at groups and one-off events, or supporting with behind the scenes activities like distributing flyers, making social media content or even helping with the maintenance and decoration of our building in Ely.

If you're interested, [fill out the form here](#) or email info@thekitetrust.org.uk with any questions!

Could you help a child harmed by crime rebuild their life?

Peterborough-based national children's charity Embrace Child Victims of Crime is looking to recruit volunteers who can give their time to listen and talk to young people to help them recover from trauma caused by crime.

The charity is looking for those with experience of working with families such as housing officers, social workers, children's services officers, former teaching assistants, or teachers, healthcare workers who can spare a few hours a week to become **emotional support volunteers** to provide emotional support to children and young people affected by serious crimes such as domestic and sexual abuse, violence and exploitation.

How you can help?

Often young victims or witnesses to crime just need someone totally independent to talk to.

As an emotional support volunteer you'll spend a **minimum of 2 to 3 hours a week** speaking to young people on the phone about their feelings and help them overcome their trauma. Ideally you would be able to commit to working at the **same time each week** to support the same child providing a reassuring routine and consistency for those children.

Our emotional support programmes are typically six weeks in length.

Where you'll be based

You will work from **our HQ in Copse Court, Thorpe Wood, Peterborough.**

Who can volunteer for us?

We are particularly looking for people with a passion for and experience of:

- Working with families
- Helping young people and children
- Working in a team
- Experience working in safeguarding or child protection roles is particularly welcomed but not essential.

We are looking for people who are:

- Empathetic and compassionate and good listeners.
- Friendly and helpful
- Non-judgemental and emotionally resilient.
- Able to maintain confidentiality
- Able to work independently using initiative and as part of a team.
- Able to commit to volunteering for us for at least six months.

How to apply

Visit our website and fill in the webform <https://embracecvoc.org.uk/volunteer-for-us-form/>

More information can be found at <https://embracecvoc.org.uk/volunteer-for-us/>

Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Champions

The Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Champions Network is open to anyone working with the public in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough – including health and social care staff, volunteers, schools, employers – anyone!

We offer free quarterly online training on a variety of topics related to domestic abuse and sexual violence. The sessions last two hours, with two topics each session, and we run each one three times on different dates and times to give as many people as possible a chance to attend.

April DASV Champions - The impact of Family Court and Child Contact Proceedings on DA and Children and Young People's ISVAs

For the **April** sessions we will be joined by Simon Kerss to hear about how family court and child contact proceedings impact on domestic abuse and how these can also be used to carry out further abuse. We are also pleased to be joined by the Children and Young People's ISVAs from Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Rape Crisis Partnership who support children across the county who have experienced sexual abuse.

20th April 10.00 – 12.00

25th April 14.00 – 16.00

27th April 10.00 – 12.00

The **July** sessions will be focussing on family carers as victims and, occasionally, perpetrators of abuse and we'll also be hearing about Trauma Informed Practice and how to ensure you work in a trauma informed way.

5th July 10.00 – 12.00

11th July 14.00 – 16.00

20th July 12.00 – 14.00

The **October 2023** sessions will hear from CPSL Mind about suicide risks for victims of abuse and from Christine Jones who will be talking about adult safeguarding in the context of domestic abuse and sexual violence.

5th October 13.00 - 15.00

12th October 14.00 - 16.00

19th October 10.00 - 12.00

If you are a CCC employee, you can book on your chosen session via Our Development.

For external attendees (including Peterborough City Council) you will need to register with an account on the external booking system first. Please visit [Cambridgeshire County Council DASV Partnership - DASV Champions \(cambsdasv.org.uk\)](https://cambsdasv.org.uk)

For any enquiries, please email DASVChampions@cambridgeshire.gov.uk