

WARWICKSHIRE AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

NEWSLETTER

February 2011

WELCOME to the latest edition of the Warwickshire Against Domestic Abuse newsletter. We hope you find the information and articles useful and informative.

If you have anything you would like us to include in a future edition please contact me directly on 01926 412417, or email helenjinks@warwickshire.gov.uk.

Please forward this newsletter onto any colleagues you think may wish to receive it, or contact me with names and email addresses of anyone to be added to the circulation list. This newsletter is also available to download from the "Professionals" page of www.talk2someone.org.uk.

Helen Jinks

NEWS & JOBS

Important change to the lockout procedure on UKROL - Message from Women's Aid

UKROL user accounts are now set to lock for a period of 24 hours only if incorrect information is entered. After that time accounts will be unlocked and you will be able to log on as usual with your correct username and password.

If you need your password or security questions to be reset please follow the usual procedure. In the first instance you should contact the Project Admin user at your service who will be able to reset your account information or unlock your username.

If you do not know who the Project Admin user at your service is please contact Sarah Davidge on 0117 9837136. Project Admin users only need to contact the lock out line if they need to have their details reset. The number for this is 0117 9157459.

Strategic Review of Domestic Abuse Support Services in Warwickshire

As described by the Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) domestic abuse services in Warwickshire are acknowledged as greatly improving. The report states that “the last 4 years have seen big changes in the way the police, the NHS, councils and voluntary organisations support people subject to abuse.” The strategic review aims to build on the good practice noted in the CAA in order to deliver high quality support to those affected by domestic abuse in Warwickshire.

We are now able to invite you to give us your views on the recommendations made by the review, including a proposed service model for Warwickshire. We strongly believe it is important to hear from as many people as possible so we can be sure that moving forward we are delivering the best services possible to help us in protecting the community and making Warwickshire a safer place to live.

This consultation is aimed at a number of different groups including:

- Victims/ Survivors of domestic abuse
- Perpetrators of domestic abuse
- Friends and family of those affected by domestic abuse
- Professionals working with those affected by domestic abuse

You are able to download the following documents from this email or by visiting: www.talk2someone.org.uk/consultation

- Strategic Review Executive Summary
- Strategic Review Consultation paper

Please return completed responses to this consultation by no later than: 12.00 pm Tuesday 26th April 2011.

Responses can be emailed to: helenjinks@warwickshire.gov.uk

Or posted to:

Helen Jinks

Domestic Abuse Administration Officer
Customers Workforce and Governance
Warwickshire County Council
Shire Hall
PO Box 9
Warwick
CV34 4RR

Telephone: **01926 412417**

If you require this information in another language or format, or need help to complete the form, please contact Helen Jinks on the above contact details.

Cyber-stalking exceeding traditional stalking

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) said cyber-stalking is becoming more of a problem than traditional stalking in Britain. Stalkers are using GPS tracking technology involving mobile apps and internet to track victims' locations. In September, the CPS warned stalkers could be barred from targeting their victims on Facebook and other social networking sites. According to the CPS guidance, prosecutors could issue restraining orders that could include orders "not to display any material relating to the victim on social networking sites including YouTube, Facebook and Twitter".

For further information go to: http://www.cps.gov.uk/news/press_releases/138_10/index.html

To view the guidance visit: http://www.cps.gov.uk/legal/s_to_u/stalking_and_harassment/

Yemshaw (Appellant) v London Borough of Hounslow

The 26th January saw the ruling in the Supreme Court that the **definition of domestic violence in housing and homelessness law should include not only physical violence, threatening or intimidating behaviour but also any other form of abuse which may give rise to the risk of harm**. The case of Yemshaw v the London Borough of Hounslow, in which Women's Aid was intervening alongside the Dept for Communities and Local Government in support of Ms Yemshaw, was referred to the Supreme Court following Hounslow's refusal to recognise Ms Yemshaw as homeless (and therefore eligible for housing assistance) because she had not been subject to physical violence. The previous decision by the Court of Appeal, which upheld the Local Authority's decision, would have led to a restrictive interpretation by all local housing authorities, limiting the definition to physical assault and physical contact, which would have undermined the government's own Code of Guidance which recognises psychological abuse. This new decision sets a precedent for housing legislation to recognise psychological violence, bringing it into line with family law.

The press summary and full judgment can be downloaded here:

<http://www.supremecourt.gov.uk/decided-cases/>

Support domestic violence victims and their families - buy *The Survivors' Cookbook*

Support domestic violence victims in your local community by buying *The Survivors' Cookbook* for friends and family.

The cookbook is a selection of recipes and stories from both survivors and those who work to support them and make their lives safe. Thank you to those of you who contributed a recipe!

The Survivors' Cookbook combines a wide range of easy-to-prepare recipes, which can be made on a budget, and include contributions from Gordon Ramsay and Jo Brand who are friends of Women's Aid and Standing Together Against Domestic Violence.

A suggested donation of £5.00 is proposed for the Cookbook (with £1.00 for postage and packaging) with all proceeds supporting the work of Women's Aid and Standing Together Against Domestic Violence.

To order *The Survivors' Cookbook*, email cookbook@standingtogether.org.uk with your name, delivery address, phone number and the number of copies that you wish to order. Donations for the cookbook can be made by cheque, debit or credit card. If paying by debit/credit card, we will send you an online invoice from Paypal (you will not need an account for this service).

A survey by the Havens finds a quarter of young men ‘won’t take no for an answer when it comes to sex’

The ‘Where Is Your Line?’ survey found that:

- A quarter of young men don’t believe it is rape if a woman says no to sex and the man continues anyway.
- Nearly half of the men questioned don’t think it’s rape if the other person changes their mind during sex.
- More than 40% said they had been pressured into sex they did want.
- A tenth of women in London aged between 18 and 25 had been ignored after saying no to sex.
- One in five men in the age group expect to have sex after kissing.
- One in 20 men said they would try to have sex with someone if they thought the other person was asleep.
- Around one in eight men (12%) would try to have sex if they thought the other person was being flirty.
- 6% of men would try to have sex if the other person was drunk.
- A quarter of women have been silent and allowed sex to happen even though they did not want it to.
- 17% of 18-19 year-olds have been pressurised into sex because there had been previous sexual contact.
- 17% of 24-25 year-olds have said no to sex but changed their minds as a result of pressure from their partner.

To read the report summary please go to:

http://www.thehavens.co.uk/docs/where_is_the_line.pdf?dm_i=674,CA3T,KIR2J,YT70,1

Assessors wanted for training programme

Women’s Aid requires assessors for their OCN Accredited Training Programme. For expressions of interest please contact Angela Lecomber on 0117 9447190 or by email:

a.lecomber@womensaid.org.uk

FUNDING

Ministry of Justice Funding for vulnerable victim of crime

Vulnerable victims of crime will be helped by £29.4 million of dedicated funding over the next three years, Justice Secretary Kenneth Clarke announced on 28th January 2011. The money will be used to support the most seriously affected, vulnerable and persistently targeted victims and witnesses.

For further details on the different funding streams available please visit:

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/guidance/victim-witness-support-funding.htm>

PUBLICATIONS

Islands in the Stream: an evaluation of four London independent domestic violence advocacy schemes

Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy support to high-risk victims can enhance safety and reduce repeat incidents according to a new evaluation report by Child and Woman Abuse Studies Unit at London Metropolitan University, commissioned by the Trust for London and the Henry Smith Charity.

To read the summary or full reports please visit:

<http://www.henrysmithcharity.org.uk/Research.html>

CPS Violence against Women crime report 2009-2010

This is the third Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) Violence against Women (VAW) annual report, and covers the following strands of Violence against Women for 2009-10: domestic violence; forced marriage; honour based violence; female genital mutilation; rape and sexual offences; human trafficking; prostitution; child abuse; and pornography.

Click here to download the report:

http://www.cps.gov.uk/publications/docs/CPS_VAW_report_2010.pdf

NB – Warwickshire County Council and Warwickshire Police are currently undertaking a benchmarking exercise with our “most similar force” areas on this very issue...

Homicides, Firearm Offences and Intimate Violence 2009/10: Supplementary Volume 2 to Crime in England and Wales 2009/10

The Home Office has published the latest **homicide statistics**, in Homicides, Firearm Offences and Intimate Violence 2009/10 (Supplementary Volume 2 to Crime in England and Wales 2009/10). Includes statistics on homicide victims under 16 and the relationship with the principal suspect.

The report can be downloaded from: <http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs11/hosb0111.pdf>

Justice Committee publishes response to consultation

The Justice Committee has published its response to the Sentencing Council's consultation on assault. This includes the oral and written evidence provided to the Justice Committee, along with their comments to the Sentencing Council.

The first report can be read by visiting:

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201011/cmselect/cmjust/637/63702.htm?dm_i=674,CW2D,KIR2J,1002K,1

Forced Marriage Unit publishes guidelines for the forced marriage of people with learning disabilities

These new practice guidelines have been developed to assist professionals encountering cases of forced marriage of people with learning disabilities. The guidance was developed in conjunction with learning disability charities the Ann Craft Trust and the Judith Trust. It is aimed at frontline workers, to help raise awareness of the issue and support practitioners to identify the warning signs of this complex and often hidden practice. The guidelines also set out the steps that practitioners should take when dealing with cases. You can download the guidelines at: www.fco.gov.uk/fmu

NB – The Warwickshire multi-agency forced marriage and honour based violence group will be discussing the local implementation of these guidelines at our next meeting.

Domestically Abusive Fathers

The charity Family Rights Group has published the findings from a two year research study which examined how social workers work with **domestically abusive fathers**. Key findings include: 88% of fathers surveyed were still in contact with their children; a lack of assessment and information about the parenting capacity of 61% of these fathers.

To read the press release please go to:

http://www.frg.org.uk/family_rights_group_press_releases.html

Murder in the family.

Summary: Highlights the lack of support for the children of families where one parent has been murdered by the other. Looks at the impact domestic homicide has on children, and the lack of policies and guidance available to frontline practitioners. Presents a list of warning signs that a child may be struggling to cope, and a number of strategies social workers can use to help a child after domestic homicide.

Publication details: Community Care Issue 1848, 2011 pp 16-17

Authors: Griffiths, Julie

This article can be read in full at:

<http://www.communitycare.co.uk/Articles/2011/01/10/116068/helping-children-who-have-witnessed-family-homicide.htm>

Review of UK Border Agency *Gender issues in the asylum claim* guidance

As part of its continuing efforts to make the asylum process as gender-sensitive as possible, the UK Border Agency has been working closely with Asylum Aid as part of its 'Charter of rights for women seeking asylum' campaign. This has reviewed gender-sensitivity in the asylum process, specifically looking at the Agency's asylum determination system, detention services and support services.

The Agency has recently published a well received revised version of its *Gender issues in the asylum claim* guidance for asylum decision-makers. The guidance covers issues such as childcare, internal relocation and the protection available in the applicant's country of origin, and the need to create a reassuring interviewing environment that allows applicants to disclose their fear of persecution. This guidance can be found on the Agency's website:

www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/asylumpolicyinstructions

CONSULTATIONS

Breaking the cycle Effective punishment, rehabilitation and sentencing for offenders

Start Date: 7th December 2010 End Date: 4th March 2011

This Green Paper sets out how the government proposes to break the destructive cycle of crime and ensure more offenders make amends to victims and communities for the harm they have caused.

This Green Paper sets out proposals to break the cycle of crime, based on four principles:

- Protecting the public
- Punishing and rehabilitating offenders
- Transparency and accountability
- Decentralisation

To find out the key facts about the consultation, read the reports and submit responses please visit the consultation website: <http://sentencing.cjsonline.gov.uk/?id=1&id2=>

Legal aid reform - Rights of Women template available

The [Ministry of Justice](#) is consulting on a number of proposed changes to legal aid which will have significant negative effects on women, particularly women experiencing violence.

The reforms include limiting the availability of legal aid in particular types of legal cases and increasing the level of financial contribution that those eligible for legal aid must make themselves.

[Rights of Women](#) is campaigning against these proposals and has developed a [response template](#), endorsed by the Women's Resource Centre, which it is encouraging as many people to use as possible.

The Ministry of Justice said they will be looking for volume of responses to it, so the more people respond the better.