

# WARWICKSHIRE AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

## NEWSLETTER

21<sup>st</sup> July 2010

**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](mailto: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](http://www.talk2someone.org.uk).

*Helen Jinks*

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## NEWS & JOBS

### **National Women's Aid conference**

**Written by Sue Ingram, Domestic Abuse Manager, Warwickshire County Council**

I was able to attend the Women's Aid National Conference on 15th and 16th July, here is a flavour of the discussions and speakers:

The conference was titled **Keeping Women and Children Safe: New Directions, New Challenges**.

Clearly the highlight was hearing the Home Secretary and Minister for Women and Equality, Theresa May, give her first speech on Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG). She began by acknowledging the fact that her dual role placed her in a unique position to bring about change for women, stating that her "ambition is nothing less than ending VAWG".

In terms of the coalition government's position on the issue, she confirmed that they would not disregard the Cross Government Strategy started by the previous government, and they would be considering proposals from both of the coalition parties. She stated that in the past government has been too focussed on the criminal justice system and acknowledged that "we need to deal with the causes as well as the consequences" of VAWG. Hence prevention will be at the heart of the work programme which will be published next spring. This will include work on "consent" and respectful relationships in schools and improvements in early identification across all sectors.

The big announcement was that the Home Office will be **extending the Sojourner Project until April 2011**, whilst a long term solution to supporting women with no recourse to public funds can be found.

The government will also be considering how best to use the Victims surcharge money for funding rape crisis centres and they will be officially responding to the Stern Review. The Interministerial team on VAWG will be meeting for the first time this week. There was an opportunity for questions, obviously dominated by sustainability and funding, but also about the proposal for anonymity of rape defendants pre-charge. The message from the Home Secretary was that we must write to our MP's or use the national lobbying organisations such as Rights of Women (<http://www.row.org.uk/>) to make our voices heard on this issue.

Other speakers included:

- Ceri Goddard, CEO of the Fawcett Society - The impact of gender inequality on women's safety
- Natalie Samarasinghe of the UN Association of the UK - In international perspective on VAWG and the UN's initiatives
- Jan Frances of Women's Aid - A local service's perspective of survival within the current climate
- Eleri Butler of Brighton & Hove - The challenges and opportunities within current strategic commissioning processes
- Sarah Learmonth of Rape Crisis - Examining the problems faced by specialist sexual violence services in relation to commissioning and exploring solutions
- Sumanta Roy of Imkaan - The value of BAMER services for women and children
- Carlene Firmin of Race on the Agenda - Female Voice in Violence: Skilling up to meet the needs of gang affected women and girls
- Nicola Weller, the Nia Project - Working with new risks: young women, violence and sexual victimisation
- Fiona Dwyer, Women's Aid - Prevention, Protection, Provision: policy and practice impacting on child and young people survivors

I also attended 3 workshops:

- Responding to Homicide Reviews and the victim's perspective
- Integrated or Independent - challenges for domestic abuse services
- Violence against Women strategy development

I made notes on everything I attended, so if any of you have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch!

Kind regards, Sue

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Tel: 01926 412016

## **President issues new guidance on McKenzie Friends**

Published in Family Law: 12 July 2010

The Master of the Rolls and the President of the Family Division have issued new guidance on McKenzie Friends in light of the increase in litigants-in-person in all levels of the civil and family courts.

The guidance is intended to remind courts and litigants of the principles set out in the authorities and supersedes the guidance contained in Practice Note ([Family Courts: McKenzie Friends, 14 April 2008](#)).

The guidance sets out what a McKenzie Friend is permitted to do, for instance they may quietly give advice on any aspect of the conduct of the case but they may not address the court, make oral submissions or examine witnesses.

It makes clear the situations in which the court could refuse to permit a litigant receiving the assistance of a McKenzie Friend. Examples of circumstances where this might arise include where the McKenzie Friend "is using the litigant as a puppet", "is directly or indirectly conducting the litigation" or the court is not satisfied that they "fully understand the duty of confidentiality".

Litigants can enter into agreements to pay fees to McKenzie Friends for the provision of administrative assistance in or out of court, the guidance clarifies. However, such fees cannot be recovered from the opposing party.

The guidance also cautions judges not to justify refusing the litigant assistance because a McKenzie Friend "belongs to an organisation that promotes a particular cause".

Families Need Fathers (FNF) broadly welcomes this clarification and the greater recognition of the value of McKenzie Friends to litigants in person. However, they are concerned about paragraph 13 which provides for litigants to be denied the assistance of a McKenzie Friend.

Becky Jarvis, FNF's Policy Officer, said: "We hope that [paragraph 13] does not limit or restrain the support that a McKenzie Friend can provide in Court which generally supports the efficient administration of Justice.

"We are pleased that remuneration is specified, although we believe that to further support the Litigant in Person, costs need to be recoverable if costs are made against the opposing party.

"This is an important step forward for users of the Court Service, who increasingly rely on McKenzie Friends in these difficult financial times," she added.

To view the new Practice Note go to:

[http://www.familylaw.co.uk/system/uploads/attachments/0000/8125/McKenzie\\_Friends\\_Practice\\_Guidance\\_July\\_2010.pdf](http://www.familylaw.co.uk/system/uploads/attachments/0000/8125/McKenzie_Friends_Practice_Guidance_July_2010.pdf)

## **UKrefugesonline Service Information Update 2010**

Source: Women's Aid

This year we are undertaking our biennial update of all information contained on UKrefugesonline to ensure that the information about all the services is accurate and up to date. Thank you to all the services who have updated their information, we are working hard to update the information as it comes in. There are still a significant number of services who have not yet completed their online update form so please can Project Admin users for these services please log on to UKROL and complete their forms as soon as possible. As well as enabling all services to access the UKROL database for effective referrals and admissions, this information is also used to update the UK Gold Book.

If you are unsure how to locate your update form or have any other queries please contact [Sarah Davidge](#)

## **Registration with the Vetting and Barring Scheme (VBS) halted to allow the government to remodel the scheme**

Source: NSPCC

Voluntary registration with the VBS for new employees and job-movers working or volunteering with children and vulnerable adults was due to start on 26 July. This registration has now been stopped.

Existing arrangements under the scheme which will continue include the following:

- Since January 2009, the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) has been making independent barring decisions. It will continue to maintain two constantly updated lists, one for

those barred from working with children, the other for those barred from working with vulnerable adults.

- Existing requirements concerning Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) and Access Northern Ireland checks will remain in place, and those entitled to such checks can continue to apply for them.

Employers are still legally obliged to refer information to the ISA if they have moved or removed an individual because they have harmed or there is a risk of harm to a member of a vulnerable group.

The scope of the remodelling process – to be co-ordinated by the Home Office in partnership with Department of Health and Department for Education – is currently being finalised and will be announced shortly. Up-to-date information is also available to businesses, other organisations and individuals on the [DirectGov Website](#) or on the [Businesslink Website](#) VBS sections.

## Facebook Installs Online Safety Application

Source: Sky News Online

Young Facebook users will be able to report suspicious or inappropriate online behaviour with the launch of a new safety application.

Children can use the facility to report abuse to the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (Ceop) and Facebook.

An advert to download the ClickCEOP application will automatically appear on the homepage of every user aged between 13 and 18.

The launch follows months of negotiation between Facebook and Ceop, the Government law enforcement agency tasked with tracking down online sex offenders.

Click here to read the article in full

To download the ClickCEOP button on facebook go to <http://apps.facebook.com/clickceop/>

To add the ClickCEOP button to your web browser go to

<http://www.ceop.police.uk/browsersafety/>

## Rock Choir single in aid of Refuge - buy it now!

We are excited and delighted to announce a new partnership between Refuge and Rock Choir – and we desperately need your help to spread the word.

Rock Choir, a nationwide phenomenon of 150 choirs and 4,500 members, is launching its debut album, Rock Choir Vol.1 **today, July 5**. Generously Rock Choir is **donating profits from the single track 'Something Inside So Strong' to Refuge**. We know you will love this stirring empowering song, which fits wonderfully with everything Refuge stands for, and we really hope you will want to buy it.

**See all 4,000 Rock Choir members in a moving performance of the song here:**

[http://www.rockchoir.com/the\\_rock\\_choir\\_album.html](http://www.rockchoir.com/the_rock_choir_album.html)

Please **spread the word** to all your friends and family about this great opportunity – it could raise some brilliant funds and awareness for Refuge's work so we really need your support to get the message out there.

The Rock Choir phenomenon is sweeping the country offering pop, gospel and Motown singing. Membership is open to everyone, although is mainly female, with the only qualification being an enthusiasm for singing. Described as the 'Feel good album of 2010' Rock Choir Volume 1 has already gone straight to the top of the best sellers chart as a pre-order purchase, knocking acts like Kylie, Eminem, Scissor Sisters, Glee, and Oasis down the charts.

One of the most defining qualities of Rock Choir is the sense of **empowerment** and belonging it brings its members. For many, the weekly rehearsals have become welcomed havens through which they can express themselves and escape their everyday life whilst enjoying an entertaining

and exhilarating singing session. This positive life affirming experience is a perfect compliment to **Refuge's life changing and empowering work** with women who experience domestic violence.

Please support Refuge and Rock Choir and help us raise much needed funds by downloading this song and, if you like that, buying the album. And don't forget to tell everyone you know by **forwarding this email** or adding to your **Facebook** or **Twitter**.

This is just the start of Refuge and Rock Choir working together to empower women to live a full and happy life – so please do help us make the most of this wonderful opportunity.

**The album and single can be bought and downloaded from [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk), [www.itunes.co.uk](http://www.itunes.co.uk), [www.play.com](http://www.play.com) and [www.hmv.com](http://www.hmv.com).**

## CONSULTATIONS

### **NICE - Pregnant women with complex social factors - Pre publication check**

The Pre publication check for the Pregnant women with complex social factors began on the 8th July 2010 and ends at 5pm on 29 July 2010

Details of this consultation can be found at

<http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/index.jsp?action=folder&o=46995>

### **Safeguarding review panel revealed**

Warwickshire's children's services chief has been named as a panel member for a national safeguarding review.

Marion Davis, Warwickshire County Council's Strategic Director of Children, Young People and Families and President of the Association of Directors of Children's Services will assist Professor Eileen Munro in her review of the child protection system.

Eileen Munro, esteemed child protection expert, and Professor of Social Policy at the London School of Economics, was invited by the government to perform an independent review of frontline child protection systems last month. Her recently appointed review panel has put out a call for evidence and is making preparations to begin investigations into procedures. They will report back to government with final recommendations in April 2011.

Ms Davis joins Professor Sue White, from the University of Lancaster and former member of the Social Work Task Force, district judge Nicholas Crichton of the Inner Family Proceedings Court, Barnardo's outgoing chief executive Martin Narey, a care leaver, Daniel Defoe, Melanie Adegbite, a self-employed social worker, and foster carer, Avril Head.

In their review, the panel will be looking at obstacles which may prevent improvements and the steps required to bring about better social work practice, including consideration of how effectively children's social workers and professionals in other agencies work together.

Marion Davis said: "I am delighted to be asked to join this important review which is designed to strengthen child protection services, freeing social workers from the obstacles that impede their professional practice and re-building trust and confidence in the system."

**Further information and Professor Munro's call for evidence can be found at:**

<http://www.education.gov.uk/munroreview/>

Submissions should be sent, using the enclosed template, to [munro.review@education.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:munro.review@education.gsi.gov.uk) **by Friday 30 July, 2010.**

For enquiries, please contact Roger Parr, Secretariat to the Review, email [roger.parr@education.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:roger.parr@education.gsi.gov.uk) telephone 020 7340 7010.

Please feel free to draw the Call for Evidence to the attention of others you think may wish to submit evidence to the Review.

## **Family Justice Review**

Source Ministry of Justice: <http://www.justice.gov.uk/reviews/family-justice-intro.htm>

**The Family Justice Review is a review of the family justice system commissioned by the Ministry of Justice, the Department for Education, and the Welsh Assembly Government.**

The family justice system is a network of organisations and individuals from many different professions all working co-operatively and collaboratively so that the system achieves its aims.

It is our aim to improve the system so that it is quicker, simpler, more cost-effective and fairer whilst continuing to protect children and vulnerable adults from risk of harm.

### **The need for change**

The family justice system is under strain, with rising case volumes and lengthening case durations. The cost to the State is now over £800m each year. Long and complicated legal processes are emotionally and financially draining for parents and distressing for children. Fathers and grandparents regularly tell us that they do not feel well served by the current system.

We believe we can and should create a better family justice system; this review aims to do so.

### **About the Review**

The Family Justice Review has been launched to examine the effectiveness of the family justice system and the outcomes it delivers, and to make recommendations for reform.

The Review will:

examine both public and private law cases, explore if better use can be made of mediation and how best to support contact between children and non-resident parents or grandparents, examine the processes (but not the law) involved in granting divorces and awarding ancillary relief, and look at how the different parts of the family justice system are organised and managed.

We are aiming to produce a system which allows families to reach easy, simple and efficient agreements which are in the best interests of children whilst protecting children and vulnerable adults from risk of harm.

### **Within scope of this Review**

The agencies and professionals directly involved in the family justice system are all in scope for the Review, including:

- courts
- local authorities
- Cafcass and CAF/CASS Cymru
- family lawyers
- mediators, and
- the Legal Services Commission

We will also consider their relationship with agencies and professionals indirectly involved in the family justice system such as children's centres, health services and the voluntary sector.

### **How we will carry out this Review**

The Review is being led by a panel of experts with an independent chair, David Norgrove.

The first stage of the review is to carry out intensive fact-finding activity and formal evidence hearing sessions over the summer months. This started with the launch of a 'call for evidence' in June 2010.

The call for evidence will allow us to take evidence from everyone involved in the family justice system: parents and children, families, professionals and representative bodies, regardless of their level of expertise. We are particularly interested in hearing from children and young people, and will do specific work with children's organisations to gather their views.

Further work is planned throughout the year and we will provide updates on this as we have them.

The Panel will produce a report and final recommendations based on our work in 2011.

### **Contact us**

Tel: 020 3334 4200

[Email](mailto:familyjusticereview@justice.gsi.gov.uk): familyjusticereview@justice.gsi.gov.uk

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## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Keeping it Legal - A guide for third sector organisations on public law and equality rights**

This report explores how groups can use public law to challenge unfair decision making. An updated version is available to download [here](#).

### **Equality Action - An equality and equality impact assessment guide for the voluntary and community sector**

This practical and innovative guide offers a set of tools, techniques, case studies and best practice resources for second tier voluntary and community sector organisations. The guide aims to help develop effective equality audits and equality impact assessments (EIA's).

The guide will be available from:

[http://www.wrc.org.uk/what\\_we\\_do/our\\_projects/national\\_equality\\_partnership/nep\\_publications\\_2.aspx](http://www.wrc.org.uk/what_we_do/our_projects/national_equality_partnership/nep_publications_2.aspx)

### **Anti-Trafficking Monitoring Group**

The UK's new anti-trafficking measures are 'not fit for purpose' and the government is breaching its obligations under the European Convention against Trafficking, said a coalition of British human rights organisations as it published a new report on trafficking to the UK. To view the full report, published by the Anti Trafficking Monitoring Group on the 16 June, please [click here](#).

## **Rebuilding lives after domestic violence: understanding long-term outcomes**

**Summary:** Examines in-depth the long-term outcomes for women who have suffered domestic violence and abuse, based on interviews conducted over seven years. Through these interviews it reveals the factors which help or hinder a successful transition from abusive relationship to independent living. The women interviewed provide an insight into the lengthy and difficult process of rebuilding their lives, and offer messages and advice to those working with women who have endured similar experiences. It examines issues the women commonly face such as finding safe and independent accommodation, building practical and emotional support systems and relationships, and issues surrounding their children. It also discusses service provision and draws together the factors that contribute to a successful and independent life.

**Publication details:** London: Jessica Kingsley, 2010 pp 208

**ISBN:** 9781843109617

**Shelf mark:** QJN JE

**Authors:** Abrahams, Hilary

## **EVENTS & TRAINING**

### **Events in Warwickshire**

**Raising awareness of domestic abuse and its impact on children**

20<sup>th</sup> September 2010, Warwick

[Click here for more details](#)

**Domestic abuse and child protection: Exploring links between domestic violence and harm to children**, 27<sup>th</sup> September 2010, Stratford upon Avon

[Click here for more details](#)

### **Events in the UK**

**Developing a whole school approach to domestic abuse**, 23<sup>rd</sup> September, Aylesbury

[Click here for more details](#)

**Forced marriage: gaining protection through the law**, 20<sup>th</sup> October, London

[Click here for more details](#)

**Triple P – Positive Parenting Program Courses 2010/11**

[Click here for more details](#)