



# WARWICKSHIRE AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

## NEWSLETTER

20<sup>th</sup> December 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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### Domestic Abuse at Christmas



Christmas is supposed to be a time for families to celebrate and enjoy being together. However, we know that for families experiencing domestic abuse this can be an especially difficult time of year. Agencies across Warwickshire have been working for several months planning how to raise awareness of support and services available, ensuring they are ready to manage the increase in demand for services and making provisions to help victims and their children enjoy this Christmas as much as possible.

#### **Awareness Raising:**

The WCC Domestic Abuse Team has been working with Rugby Community Safety Partnership and Warwickshire Police to run an awareness raising campaign on the back of both on and off street car parking tickets across the borough. Tickets should appear any day now ready to meet the January demand for services. We also attended the Rugby Community Safety Week in early December where we were able to talk to Christmas shoppers about local services and sources of support.

The past week has seen a hive of activity going on across the county as a number of support agencies prepared to appear in the media (newspapers, radio .... And TV!) to raise awareness of domestic abuse around Christmas and the support services that are available locally. We were also extremely privileged to have 2 survivors willing to talk to the media about their experiences, what helped them move forward and why others in similar situations should seek help. We are expecting the reports to appear over the Christmas period itself – so keep your eyes open!

## **Local Support for Families Affected by Domestic Abuse This Christmas**

I was delighted to hear from Warwickshire Domestic Violence Support Services that our local businesses have again recognised how difficult Christmas can be for families experiencing domestic abuse. Below are some of the donations that have been made to WDVSS this Christmas:

- Breakfast with Santa at Saxon Fields for children from WDVSS Refuges and floating support clients in Rugby
- Christmas Hampers for our all WDVSS families
- Christmas Presents for the refuges from Heart FM and Asda (Have a Heart Appeal)
- Christmas Presents for Floating Support Clients in Rugby from Mercia FM and Tower of Toys Appeal
- Christmas Presents for all families in refuge and Rugby Floating Support are from Stevens Enterprise Fund.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your hard work and commitment to domestic abuse and keeping families safe over the year. This year has seen an increase in referrals to all services and this is in no small part down to your raising awareness of domestic abuse and available services with clients, attending training to keep up to date with sector developments, vigilance when working to keep families safe from harm and your enthusiasm in keeping domestic abuse on the agenda within your agencies. I look forward to working with you all next year and continuing to drive the domestic abuse agenda forward in Warwickshire.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Sue

Sue Ingram

Domestic Abuse Manager

Warwickshire County Council

## **WARWICKSHIRE POLICE DOMESTIC ABUSE UNIT - CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS**

The Domestic Abuse Unit (tel: 01926 415000) will be open as follows over Christmas:

Friday 24th December - Open

Saturday 25th December - Closed

Sunday 26th December - Closed

Monday 27th December - Closed

Tuesday 28th December - Closed

Wednesday 29th December - Open

Thursday 30th December - Open

Friday 31st December - Open

Saturday 1st January - Closed

Sunday 2nd January - Closed

Monday 3rd January - Closed

Tuesday 4th January - Open

## **WDVSS Office Christmas opening hours - Tel: 01788 537112**

Friday 24th December - 10.00 am - 12.00 pm

Saturday 25th December - Closed

Sunday 26th December - Closed

Monday 27th December - Closed

Tuesday 28th December - Closed

Wednesday 29th December - Closed

Thursday 30th December - 10.00 am - 12.00 pm

Friday 31st December - 10.00 am - 12.00 pm

Saturday 1st January - Closed

Sunday 2nd January - Closed

Monday 3rd January - Closed

Tuesday 4th January - 10.00 am - 12.00 pm

The National Domestic Violence Helpline (with access to refuge spaces) will be open throughout the holiday period Tel: Freephone 0808 2000 247

**In an emergency, always dial 999**

## **NEWS & JOBS**

### **Yemshaw v Hounslow Borough Council**

Source: Women's Aid

Women's Aid was in the Supreme Court again recently, intervening in the case of Ms Yemshaw versus London Borough of Hounslow, thanks to the wonderful pro-bono support of Stephen Knaphler QC and Neil Jeffs, solicitor. The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government was also intervening in favour of Ms Yemshaw. The Supreme Court hearing was to appeal against the previous Court of Appeal ruling that the meaning of domestic violence under the housing legislation was limited to physical violence and did not include psychological violence. It will be several weeks before the outcome is known but we hope that if the case is not successful, further action will be taken by the government through its legislative powers.

### **A call to end Violence Against Women and Girls**

On 25th November, to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, the coalition Government launched a paper outlining its ambition and guiding principles to tackle Violence Against Women and Girls.

The principles of this vision are to:

- Prevent violence from happening by challenging the attitudes and behaviours which foster it, and intervening early where possible to prevent it;
- Provide adequate support where violence does occur;

- Work in partnership to obtain the best outcome for victims and their families;
- Take action to reduce the risk to women and girls who are victims of these crimes and ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice.

### **‘GO’ Order pilot**

The paper also outlines government proposals to pilot domestic violence protection orders which allow police to ban alleged abusers from returning to the victim's home for several weeks. Whilst free from the violence the victim is given support to consider their options. Evaluation of the use of these orders in Austria shows that this is an effective way of protecting victims and their children and helping them escape domestic violence in the longer term.

The government aims to publish an Action Plan in March 2011 that will provide further information on how the government will implement its vision.

Further information can be found at: <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime/violence-against-women-girls/>

### **Improving services for women and child victims of violence: the Department of Health Action Plan**

This action plan sets out how the Department of Health, in partnership with others, will take action by Spring 2011 to address many of the issues that came out of the Taskforce work. It aims to lay the foundations for embedding high quality evidence-based practice within the NHS in response to violence and abuse and is set around four key themes:

- Awareness-raising
- Workforce, education and training
- Improving quality of services
- Evidence and Information

Further information can be found at:

[http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH\\_122003](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_122003)

### **Department of Health VAWC Campaign – an update**

The Department of Health has added a range of support materials to help people to campaign at a local level including:

- key messages for patients and the public;
- key messages for professionals including tailored messages for different staff groups;
- campaign activity ideas;
- information on the campaign materials;
- guidance on how to use the materials effectively;
- an overview of local and national activity;
- a list of national support helplines;
- sources of local special support services;
- facts and statistics on Violence against Women and Girls;
- Q&A information on government-produced resources for health professionals.

Further information can be found at:

[http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/PublicHealth/ViolenceagainstWomenandChildren/DH\\_119216?dm\\_i=674,BPLS,KIR2J,X3KY,1](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/PublicHealth/ViolenceagainstWomenandChildren/DH_119216?dm_i=674,BPLS,KIR2J,X3KY,1)

## **Communities and Local Government publish 'Meeting the needs of households at risk of domestic violence in England: The role of accommodation and housing-related support services'**

This study by Deborah Quilgars and Nicholas Pleace, Centre for Housing Policy, University of York, explores the extent, scale and regional distribution of a wide range of housing related support for those at risk of domestic violence. It explores access to housing advice, refuge provision, other specialist accommodation, access to settled accommodation and the role of floating support. Women's Aid worked with the researchers and thanks all the services in the national network that provided data and information for this in the Women's Aid Annual Survey in 2009. The findings and recommendations in this report are those of the consultant authors and do not necessarily represent the views or proposed policies of the Department for Communities and Local Government.

To read the report, please go to:

[http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/pdf/1778600.pdf?dm\\_i=674,BPLS,KIR2J,X3KZ,1](http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/pdf/1778600.pdf?dm_i=674,BPLS,KIR2J,X3KZ,1)

## **Applications for domestic violence remedies in county courts increase** Source: Women's Aid

The Ministry of Justice Judicial and Court Statistics for 2009, as reported in the November edition of Family Law, show that applications made in the county courts for domestic violence remedies increased from 24,880 in 2008 to 26,030 in 2009 (5% increase).

Within that overall increase:

- applications for non-molestation orders increased by 10% (from 17,140 to 18,900);
- applications for occupation orders decreased by 8% (from 7,740 to 7,120).

The numbers of orders made increased by 2% from 24,420 (i.e. 1.8% of applications did not result in order) in 2008 to 24,870 in 2009 (i.e. 4.4% applications did not result in an order). It seems that a greater number and proportion of applications did not result in an order in 2009.

# **CONSULTATIONS**

## **Ministry of Justice: reform of Legal Aid in England and Wales**

This consultation seeks views on proposals for reform of legal aid in England and Wales. The proposals represent a radical, wide-ranging and ambitious programme of reform which aims to ensure that legal aid is targeted to those who need it most, for those cases in which legal advice or representation is justified. This consultation is aimed at providers of publicly funded legal services and others with an interest in the justice system. You are encouraged to use the online questionnaire to provide your response. The closing date for this consultation is 14th February 2011.

For further information or and to complete the questionnaire please go to:

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/legal-aid-reform-151110.htm>

# PUBLICATIONS

## **Together we can end violence against women and girls: young people's consultation response collated by NCB.**

**Summary:** Presents the views of young people aged 14 to 19 years, gathered through a survey and focus groups, to contribute to the government's Violence against Women and Girls strategy. Findings are presented on healthy relationships and the roles of schools; social attitudes and their impact; responding to early signs and offering support; working with the criminal justice system; feeling safe; next steps and key messages. Lists conclusions with recommendations.

**Publication details:** London: National Children's Bureau (NCB), 2009 pp 55

**Corporate authors:** NCB

To read the final report please go to:

[http://www.ncb.org.uk/pdf/VAWG\\_young\\_peoples\\_consultation\\_final\\_report.pdf](http://www.ncb.org.uk/pdf/VAWG_young_peoples_consultation_final_report.pdf)



*Wishing you all a Merry Christmas  
and a Happy New Year!*

