

WARWICKSHIRE AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

NEWSLETTER

Wednesday 10th September 2008

WELCOME to our new Warwickshire Against Domestic Abuse newsletter. We hope you find it a valuable source of information. If you have anything you would like us to include in a future edition, such as agency updates, event information or articles, please contact Tracey Davis, Domestic Abuse Admin Assistant, on 01926 746818, or email traceydavis@warwickshire.gov.uk. Please note that owing to holiday, the next edition will be sent out on Thursday 2nd October. Please email Tracey any items to be included in the next issue by Friday 26th September. Please forward this newsletter onto any colleagues you think may wish to receive it, or contact Tracey with names and email addresses of anyone to be added to the circulation list. Should you wish not to receive this newsletter, please let us know.

Introduction by Sue Ingram, Domestic Abuse Manager, Warwickshire County Council:

"Welcome to the first edition of the Warwickshire Against Domestic Abuse Newsletter. I hope this will help provide an opportunity to keep abreast of the latest developments in the domestic abuse field both locally and nationally. It's something I have wanted to produce for sometime, and now Tracey has joined the team we have the capacity to deliver it. I like to think of it as a work in progress, so all feedback will be very welcome, and any suggestions for content will be gratefully received.

For some the summer months can be quieter due to holidays, but this year they have seen a lot of behind the scenes work to develop a number of exciting initiatives in Warwickshire.

The process of preparing the county wide Domestic Abuse Strategy 2008-2011 and accompanying action plan for 2008-2009 is nearing completion, and both papers are being presented to Warwickshire County Council's Cabinet on 11th September. Once any final amendments are made and they have been approved I will circulate both papers to partners. They will also be available on the Warwickshire Against Domestic Abuse website: www.talk2someone.org.uk

The final documentation has been completed to commission an Independent Domestic Violence Advisory (IDVA) Service for Warwickshire. The invitation to tender is due to be advertised imminently, and I will keep you informed of our progress. Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs) are going from strength to strength, providing a consistent and co-ordinated approach to reducing the levels of risk faced by victims of domestic abuse. I continue to work with a number of partners to seek funding and develop joint commissioning opportunities with the aim of increasing the capacity, accessibility and levels of support available for victims, children and perpetrators of domestic abuse.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that the newly developed Warwickshire Against Domestic Abuse partnership website: www.talk2someone.org.uk contains a wealth of information about domestic abuse, service provision, strategies and policies. The website is designed for professionals, as well as the public so please take a look and if you have any ideas for improving the site do let us know. If you can't find the information you are looking for then please don't hesitate to contact us. We still have publicity materials from the campaign available, please contact Tracey Davis if you would like to order any of these."

EVENTS

The next National Practitioners Network will be held at The Royal Clifton Hotel, Southport, Merseyside on 30th-31st October 2008

NSPCC have arranged some workshops focussing on the impact on women and children & there will be opportunities for other members to discuss their work, offer workshops and share ideas.

There is still time to book a place! If you are interested, please contact Carolyn Welsh NSPCC Liverpool at cwelsh@nspcc.org.uk by **Thursday 11th September**.

Hosted by: NSPCC Liverpool Domestic Violence Team. Proposed workshops from NSPCC:

- Domestic Violence Education Programmes in Primary Schools – experiential workshop
- Working with children who have experienced domestic violence – experiential workshop
- Working with Female Partners of Male Perpetrators
- Domestic Violence and Mental Health issues –discussion workshop

Other workshops to be arranged. Any offers? Please contact them with any offers of workshops.

Please indicate which workshops you would be interested in as soon as possible, so that they can plan the day.

Thursday Evening Social - quiz; games and late evening disco

Cost £85 per day – sharing or £100 per day single room

2 nights - £160 sharing or £190 single

Includes lunch, dinner, bed & breakfast

Day delegates £40 – incl dinner

To book your place or offer a workshop contact:

cwelsh@nspcc.org.uk, or Carolyn at NSPCC, Hargreaves Centre, 112 Great Homer St, Liverpool, L5 3LQ. Tel: 0844 892 0264.

Online charity career course opens

An online course designed to assist people seeking a new career in the voluntary sector has opened for enrolment.

Effective Voluntary Sector Management, run by the [Working For A Charity](#) initiative at the [NCVO](#), is aimed at people who have recently joined the sector or who are looking to make a career move into it.

Modules include Introduction to the Voluntary Sector, Marketing and Communications, Fundraising, Employment, Volunteering, Financial Management and Governance.

Working for a Charity is part of the [UK Workforce Hub](#), which is hosted by the NCVO. It is run to make voluntary and community organisations better places to work.

Candidates can enrol for the next course that runs from October 2008 to May 2009.

**Greater London Domestic Violence Project (GLDVP)
Teenagers and Domestic Violence Training Update - 8 Sep 2008**

Teenagers & Domestic Violence

Working with teenagers as victims and perpetrators of domestic violence

Date: Monday 17 November 2008

Costs: £75 vol / £120 stat

Venue: GLDVP's offices at 1 London Bridge

The course will explain how to ask about violence in teenagers own intimate relationships, how to give advice and how to risk assess and safety plan. There will be networking opportunities to discuss your own practice and meet other professionals working in similar fields.

[Click here for more information or to download a booking form](#)

Child Contact and Domestic Violence Conference - Places still available!

Date: Tuesday 7 October 2008

Time: 9.30 - 4.30

Venue: Hamilton House, Mabledon Place, London WC1H 9BD

Disputes over child contact continue to be a key risk indicator for the homicide of both women and children. This important conference will explore the latest developments in this challenging area of work.

[Click here for more information and to access a booking form](#)

If you are having problems accessing the link above, please copy and paste this link into your web browser: <http://tinyurl.com/5kbyyk>

**CIS'ters (Childhood Incest Survivors) Conference
Saturday 1st November 2008
Southampton University, Hampshire**

Responding to New Threats, New Responses to Sexual Abuse

Keynote Speakers include:

Colin Turner: Head of Safeguarding and Child Protection at CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre). CEOP is part of UK police and is dedicated to protecting children from sexual abuse wherever they may be. Amongst many successful detections of those who use technology to groom and abuse children, CEOP have also been instrumental in creating the unique ThinkUKnow educational programme. www.ceop.gov.uk

Libby Jones: is the Manager of New Pathways, a frontline service within Wales providing therapy for adult and child victims of sexual violence and abuse. New Pathways also host a number of SARCs (sexual assault referral centres) within Wales. www.newpathways.co.uk

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Judith Mulcahy: is a children's therapist, based at New Pathways.

Information about this Conference:

This is our NINTH major one-Day Conference. It aims to bring together representatives from voluntary and statutory services to explore and better understand the impact of sexual abuse and how agencies like CEOP are working to facilitate the protection of children.

Delegates from previous events have told us that they have found our conference to be: inspiring and providing an increased insight into better ways of facilitating recovery for those who have been sexually abused. With the frontiers of technology constantly being changed, parents, caregivers, educators and legislators need to be on their constant guard to protect children from those that seek to exploit their innocence. And, how best to help children when they do become victims.

Contact:

Conference Organisers @ CIS'ters

Tel: 02380 338080 or email admin@cisters.wanadoo.co.uk

PUBLICATIONS

Domestic Violence and the Effects on Children and Young People:

The Scottish Government has published some materials around domestic violence and its effects on children and young people.

Source: [Review of literature on domestic abuse and its effects on children and young people](#)

05 August 2008

Further information:

- [Making A Difference: Young People Speak to Scottish Ministers About their Priorities for the National Domestic Abuse Delivery Plan for Children and Young People](#)
- [National Domestic Abuse Delivery Plan for Children and Young People](#)
- [Consultation with Children and Young People with Experience of Domestic Abuse on The Scottish Government National Domestic Abuse Delivery Group Draft Proposals: Main Report](#)

Support for women substance users

Using the Gold Book, the UK Directory of Domestic Abuse Services published by Women's Aid, the Stella Project has compiled a list of domestic violence organisations whose refuge services may accept women substance users who have experienced domestic violence. You can [access the list here](#). Stella are trying to monitor access to these services. If you have any experience of trying to get into a refuge, or referring women with problematic substance use, please contact [Karen Bailey](#) at GLDVP (Greater London Domestic Violence Project) on 0207 785 3862.

Interim evaluation of DVCVA 2004

The Ministry of Justice has produced an [interim evaluation](#) of some of the sections of the Domestic Violence Crime and Victims Act 2004 (DVCVA) which were introduced in recent years. The researchers looked at national level data and interviewed both professionals and survivors.

The results of the evaluation are ambiguous: making common assault an arrestable offence does not seem to have resulted in an overall increase in arrests; and there is no clear evidence that the criminalisation of breach of non-molestation orders has resulted directly in a fall either in applications or in orders made, since the small decrease could be the result of other factors (such as the availability of legal aid) and/or simply a continuation of a long-term trend. However, it was highlighted that survivors agree with a breach of a non-molestation order being made a criminal offence. The researchers recommend that the long-term impact of the DVCVA should be evaluated, taking into account legal aid availability, and the views of survivors. They also recommended the early implementation of sections 12 and 13 of the DVCVA relating to restraining orders.

Implementing National Policy on Violence & Abuse in mental health services

Department of Health policy is that adult mental health services should acknowledge and address the links between violence and abuse and mental ill health by:

- Ensuring staff, once satisfactorily trained, raise issues of violence and abuse routinely and consistently in assessments (both at "first contact" and at assessment reviews)
- Providing appropriate care and support to survivors of abuse through the care programme approach (CPA) subsequent to disclosures.

This follows on from the completion of the Mental Health Trusts Collaboration Project - which was a pilot project focusing on training for and implementation of routine enquiry about child sexual abuse in mental health care. The DH is aiming for 100% sign-up to their programme - the preparatory phase takes place May to October 2008; implementation phase (which involves training and distribution of practice based guidance) November 2008 to March 2009, followed by implementation.

Although the focus will be on sexual abuse - and in particular child sexual abuse, which is seen as having the greatest and most damaging impact, leading to long-term reliance on mental health services - the recommended question to be used will relate to all forms of abuse, at any time in the patient's life, and is therefore likely to bring up current and past non-sexual domestic violence as well.

Further information can be sought from Sarah Joy Boldison – email: sarahjoy.boldison@csip.org.uk

SARB – Sale-and-Rent-Back

Supporting People in conjunction with Trading Standards and Warwick Housing CAB have produced a fact-sheet on Sale-and-Rent-Back agreements for the public and service providers.

The Sale-and-Rent-Back fact-sheet is included as an attachment to this newsletter. Please distribute this to your colleagues and partner agencies.

Domestic abuse: Best Practice Papers — Written by and for Practitioners and Trainers

Standing Together against Domestic Violence and its partner agencies have extensive experience of developing best practice guidance for many aspects of operational domestic violence work, by both single agencies and multi-agency groups. A number of publications they have produced over the past 10 years specifically address best practice, for example the SDVC (Specialist Domestic Violence Court) Toolkit (2007), and Equal Voices, about the experience of policing and the courts for LGBT survivors.

Standing Together have now produced the first in a new series of shorter publications called:

- [Best Practice Paper Number 1:
Good Practice Checklist for Interpreters Working With Domestic Violence Situations](#)

The Checklist is designed for one to one interviews, and not specifically for court or to take account of the codes of guidance covering police interview settings. However, many of the good practice ideas are generic.

These papers will summarise best practice and ideas for practitioners who are responding to domestic abuse from within a range of statutory, community and voluntary sector services and agencies. They will be disseminated free by email and on the Standing Together website: www.standingtogether.org.uk

If you have any suggestions or requests for future papers in the series, please contact Standing Together. If you would like to offer to provide material for a Best Practice Paper, they would like to hear from you!

Procurement and Negotiation

Acevo and the DTA have undertaken a project commissioned by the Finance Hub on Successful Procurement & Negotiation in the Third Sector. The Hub has responded to the need for a greater national picture of co-operation between statutory and voluntary agencies to promote and standardise funding advice. This includes building understanding of good practice, and ensuring that services to the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector are aligned.

Improving the relationships between third sector organisations and statutory commissioners is widely regarded as the number one priority in order for the sector to be more effective in winning and delivering contracts. Improving the skills of third sector leaders in working with commissioners is vital in building these relationships.

Acevo has now published the 4 updated briefings which cover the following areas:

- **Tendering and Bidding Briefing:** Give your tender a winning chance
- **Impact Briefing:** Putting impact at the heart of the tendering process
- **Negotiation Briefing:** Effective negotiating to secure better outcomes

The outcomes from this project will be of particular interest to:

- **Third Sector Organisations** - In learning to manage these processes third sector organisations can benefit from growing and diversifying their income revenue.
- **Funding bodies** - By enhancing their skills in procurement and negotiation funding bodies will learn how to work with the third sector in delivering first rate services.

For further information please go to: <http://www.acevo.org.uk/procurement>

Umbrella groups publish guide to local councils

Two national third sector bodies have published a guide to help charities and community groups get the most out of their local councils.

How Your Council Works: a Handy Guide for Community Groups has been published by [Urban Forum](#) and [Navca](#).

It explains the structures and workings of local councils as well as who is responsible for which issues, how to get involved with local councils and what councils are legally bound to do to properly engage with charities.

Tony Hillman, a spokesman for Urban Forum, said: "It is becoming more and more important for everyone to find out how their council works. The guide is written at quite a basic level, but it will explain how community groups and local people use their local councils to their advantage."

NEWS ITEMS

New Rights of Women Project to assist asylum-seeking women who are survivors of sexual violence

Rights of Women (ROW) has announced the start of a new project, funded by Comic Relief, that will benefit asylum-seeking women who have experienced sexual violence as well as the organisations that support them. The project has enabled them to open up the ROW Sexual Violence Legal Advice Line to asylum-seeking women and women who have an insecure immigration status. The Sexual Violence Legal Advice Line will now be able to take calls on general immigration and asylum law as well as sexual violence, criminal law and procedure. Individual women and organisations supporting them can call the line for free and confidential advice. ROW will also produce a range of new and revised information sheets on sexual violence and asylum law available to download free of charge from their [website](#). For further information, see article by Catherine Biddick (Legal Officer of ROW) in the Refugee Council's current women's newsletter: [RCO Women's News Issue 29, July/August 2008](#)

RESEARCH

Completing the Jigsaw — Help-seeking by survivors of domestic violence: What's the problem?

In 2007 Standing Together Against Domestic Violence were commissioned by London Councils to undertake research into the extent of help seeking by known victims of domestic violence across various statutory and voluntary agencies.

The report, gives an insight into the extent of domestic violence as a cross-cutting theme and the responses that agencies deliver, both when domestic violence is identified and when it has not been recognised.

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The research supports the assertion that this crime remains hidden from public view and often from the view of the worker who is trying to resolve the presenting issues of an individual who is unsafe, lacking confidence and suffering from significant abuse. Unless the causes of these symptoms are identified it is axiomatic that solutions offered to those symptoms are unlikely to be effective.

- [Completing the Jigsaw — Help-seeking by survivors of domestic violence: What's the problem? Full Report](#)
- [Completing the Jigsaw — Help-seeking by survivors of domestic violence: What's the problem? Summary and Recommendations](#)

Further information about Standing Together can be found at: www.standingtogether.org.uk

CONFERENCE REPORTS

Coordinating the Future: A National Conference For Those Delivering The Coordinated Community Response to Domestic Violence

Standing Together held their national conference for domestic violence coordinators on the 23rd April. Over 300 delegates attended the event at Imperial College, Kensington and the feedback has been very positive. We think this was the largest gathering of coordinators held in the UK and a very packed day saw discussions around the key issues facing the domestic violence sector.

The coordinated community response underpinned the speeches and workshops and the post-conference report brings all the themes together for the benefit of those working in this field.

- [Coordinating the Future: The Post-Conference Report](#)