

WARWICKSHIRE AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

NEWSLETTER

6th July 2009

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 746818, or email helenjinks@warwickshire.gov.uk. The deadline for information to be sent for inclusion for the next edition is **Friday 10th July 2009**.

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

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* * * * DATE FOR YOUR DIARY * * * *

"Meet & Eat!" Networking Event Tuesday 4th August 2009

We are planning a "Meet and Eat" networking event for domestic abuse services on Tuesday 4th August 2009 from 12 noon - 2pm (venue to be finalised). The event is designed to provide professionals with the opportunity to showcase their services and network with others working in the field. Organisations will be receiving an invitation to exhibit at this event in due course.

I am also delighted to announce that the Domestic Abuse Counselling Service will be launching their new perpetrator service at this event.

Final venue details and booking forms will be circulated very shortly so pencil this event into your diary now to avoid disappointment!

Victory for Women's Aid in House of Lords Appeal decision which allows women and children in refuge services to retain homeless status

Women's Aid is celebrating the House of Lords judgment in the appeal case taken by Sharon Moran against Manchester City Council that women fleeing domestic violence are entitled to homelessness assistance. The House of Lords held yesterday that women, who are occupying rooms in women's refuges, having fled domestic violence, do not have any accommodation which it is reasonable to continue to occupy. As a result, they are "homeless" within the statutory definition of homelessness and entitled to the benefit of homelessness assistance from local housing authorities under Part 7 Housing Act 1996.

The House of Lords rejected an argument by Manchester City Council and the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government that women living in refuges had "accommodation" and would not necessarily be homeless.

Giving the leading judgment, Baroness Hale of Richmond referred to the submissions by the Women's Aid Federation of England on the role of women's refuges which can only be temporary relief and a breathing space for victims of abuse, and should be protected from bed-blocking.

The House of Lords judgment reverses a 2008 decision by the Court of Appeal which put into question the previously accepted view that women and children who go into a refuge to escape domestic violence would be regarded as homeless by their local authority.

[View a copy of the full judgment in available on the House of Lords website.](#)

Home Office Violence Against Women Consultation

[The End Violence](#) Against Women Coalition has announced that thousands of responses have been received to the Home Office Consultation. Key issues to emerge have included the need for a programme aimed at prevention of violence, and the need to secure more funding for specialist services. The strategy is due to be published later this year.

[Follow this link to visit The End of Violence Against Women website](#)

New CRB Code of Practice

The CRB launched its revised Code of Practice for recipients of Disclosure information on 6th April 2009. The new Code of Practice brings together all of the legislative changes which have come into force since 2001 into one document for easy reference and clearly outlines the eight key obligations for Registered/Umbrella Bodies.

[Download the new Code of Practice.](#)

Please make sure all previous copies of the Code of Practice are destroyed.

Rights of Women Survey

Rights of Women are currently undertaking a major research project to assess the Government's initiatives to address violence against women and whether these meet our international human rights obligations. Some of you have already made very valuable contributions to this debate by attending our recent seminars in London, Manchester, Cardiff and Birmingham.

Here is another opportunity to let us know whether you think the Government is doing enough on violence against women. We would be very grateful if you would spare a very small amount of your precious time to complete our survey at the link below. It will only take about 5 minutes.

Thank you in advance for sharing your thoughts and experience with us.

Is the Government doing enough on violence against women? Take our survey now.

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm= 2fxW1xI3RmUj4UMAxAWLPjA_3d_3d

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To have or to have not: a practitioner's guide to addressing issues of domestic abuse.

Summary: Presents an overview of the issues involved in domestic violence and discusses appropriate responses to various levels of perceived abuse. Aims to encourage agencies and organisations to work together to encourage those affected to seek help and to break the cycle of repeat victimisation.

Publication details: Ilfracombe, Devon: Arthur H. Stockwell Ltd., 2009 pp 48

ISBN: 9780722339442

Authors: Atkin, Dennis A.

Forced Marriage: Revised practice guidelines on handling cases published (July 2009)

These have been designed to provide step-by-step advice to frontline workers and have been produced to complement the statutory guidance (that came into force with the launch of the Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act) in November 2008), which sets out the broader strategic responsibilities of chief executives and senior managers in tackling forced marriage locally.

The forced marriage multi-agency guidelines cover:

- the responsibilities and obligations of different agencies working victims
- information on protecting, advising and supporting victims
- information on making referrals to other agencies and where to turn to for help
- and although forced marriage is primarily an issue of violence against women, the guidelines provide advice and information for practitioners assisting both male and female victims of forced marriage.

The guidelines can be downloaded from the '[Information for professionals](#)' page on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) website.

The right to choose: Multi-agency statutory guidance on forced marriage was published on 25 November 2008. It describes strategic responsibilities of statutory agencies and will be supplemented by revised practitioner guidelines early in 2009. All schools and local authorities should be aware of the functions outlined within the guidance and ensure that they are meeting the requirements which complement existing guidance. The guidance followed a [consultation](#) allowing practitioners and the public to comment on the draft guidance.

Watch this Space - Training on handling cases of Forced Marriage will be delivered locally later this year

Who Does What to Whom? Gender and Domestic Violence

Hester, M. (2009) Who Does What to Whom? Gender and Domestic Violence Perpetrators, University of Bristol in association with the Northern Rock Foundation. This report considers the nature of domestic violence reported to the police and the outcomes and is based on research carried out in Northumbria.

http://www.bristol.ac.uk/sps/research/projects/reports/2009/rj4843/whodoeswhat.pdf?dm_i=674,1C HX,P578Z,417N,1

Families Need Fathers launches new online resource to support Sure Start Centres

Families Need Fathers has announced the launch of Separated Families Matter, an online resource supported by The Parenting Fund, designed to help social care professionals working with children and separated parents.

Separated Families Matter is for anyone who works with children in any capacity or sector and anyone who works with adults who may be separated parents. The website provides information, ideas, tools and resources and links to other helpful organisations with the intention of helping professionals.

The charity hopes that the success of the website will lead to further collaborative work between Families Need Fathers and public services across the country.

The Separated Families Matter website was produced by Families Need Fathers in collaboration with Geoff Read, a practitioner with over thirty years experience in frontline community and education work and a member of Families Need Fathers, and The Parenting Fund (part of the Department for Children, Schools and Families).

The website also offers legal guidance and includes example paperwork and tools for working directly with clients.

For more information, visit the Separated Families Matter website:

www.separatedfamiliesmatter.org.uk

New Comic Relief grants launched

UK Grants: Tackling Domestic and Sexual Abuse.

Comic Relief is pleased to announce the launch of eight new UK funding programmes including one on Domestic and Sexual Abuse.

[Click here to read their full information sheet](#) (34KB)

Further details can be found at: www.comicrelief.com

To talk to someone about the Domestic and Sexual Abuse Programme call 020 7820 6954 or drop them a line at j.davies@comicrelief.org.uk

The first of in the series of **closing dates is July 24 2009.**

Equality and Human Rights Commission

The Equality and Human Rights Commission has launched a Strategic Funding Programme available to organisations offering legal advice on equality and human rights issues.

The funding programme is primarily aimed at projects providing specialist legal advice and representation in equality and human rights. The Commission is also particularly keen to fund activity where there is currently no provision or access to advice, as well as to projects which promote awareness and understanding of equality and human rights laws.

The fund will cover two main areas:

- 1. The provision of legal advice, casework and representation to individuals about matters falling within the Equality and Human Rights enactments.**
- 2. Raising awareness and knowledge of equality and human rights.**

The maximum available funding for a single organisation is £150,000 per year and projects providing advice, casework and representation may be funded for up to three years. The deadline for applications for legal projects is 5pm, August 7th, 2009. Applicants will be informed of the outcome of their applications during the first week of October 2009. The legal funding initiative forms part of the £10.2 million Strategic Funding Programme announced earlier this year by the commission, which aims to provide three-year project-based funding of up to £450,000 for community and voluntary sector organisations.

Further information and an application form is available in word format on the EHRC website: <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/media-centre/funding-programme-launched-for-legal-equality-and-human-rights-projects/>

I hope you will find this funding of interest and of good value.

Events

Please find below a selection of events taking place in the UK. Further details for any of the events below, plus the full listing of events can be found at www.talk2someone.org.uk. To add your events to this webpage please send all details to helenjinks@warwickshire.gov.uk

JULY

Women's Aid National Conference 16 & 17 July 2009, Leicester

[\(Click here for further details\)](#)

AUGUST

Domestic Violence & Housing 15th September 2009, London [\(Click here for further details\)](#)

SEPTEMBER

Bright Ideas Conference 15th September 2009, London [\(Click here for further details\)](#)

NOVEMBER

Alcohol Doesn't Rape: People Do 6 & 7 November 2009, Windermere [\(Click here for further details\)](#)

What Did I Do Wrong? 9 & 10 November 2009, Bristol [\(Click here for further details\)](#)

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