

# WARWICKSHIRE AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

## NEWSLETTER

21<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:helenjinks@warwickshire.gov.uk). The deadline for information to be sent for inclusion for the next edition is **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.talk2someone.org.uk).

*Helen Jinks*

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## **"Meet & Eat!" Networking Event** **Tuesday 4th August 2009 12 noon – 2pm** Coventry TechnoCentre, Puma Way, Coventry CV1 2TT

We are hosting a "Meet and Eat" networking event for domestic abuse services on Tuesday 4th August 2009 at Coventry TechnoCentre between 12 noon - 2pm. The event is designed to provide professionals with the opportunity to showcase their services and network with others working in the field. We are delighted to announce that the Domestic Abuse Counselling Service will be launching their new perpetrator service at this event.

Places are booking up very quickly so if you would like to attend, please contact Helen Jinks by email [helenjinks@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:helenjinks@warwickshire.gov.uk) or by phone 01926 746818 as soon as possible!

## **Feeling Safe?**

The Feeling Safe programme is creative group work with children and young people and their female carers who have experienced domestic abuse.

The children's pack and the women's pack are written by practitioners from CAMHS in the North and Children's Services who have now run 13 groups in the Nuneaton area, but access to the programme has so far only been possible via a referral to CAMHS. The publication of the Feeling Safe Group materials has been sponsored by The Ragdoll Foundation and is published by Pavilion Press.

We are now pleased to have facilitators trained to deliver the programme, across the county and would welcome referrals for anyone you may be working with who would benefit from this opportunity to attend therapeutic group work. This is appropriate for any women, children and young people who have experienced domestic abuse in the past.

Group work with children and young people who have experienced domestic abuse has been shown to be an effective use of scarce resources. Group work is powerful for children and young people and for women as it reduces the feeling of isolation often created by the perpetrator of the abuse and compounded by society in failing to recognize that abuse has occurred. This abuse, like any other abuse, can only continue to occur if secrecy is maintained.

Our experience of this group work shows that children and young people and women have been better able to 'break' the secrecy and rebuild their own confidence and self-esteem. This is a result of being supported in recognizing where the responsibility for the abuse rests: the abuse was not their fault and they are not to blame. The perpetrator of the abuse chooses to abuse and it is therefore their responsibility to choose to stop.

There is published research, statistical and anecdotal feedback from attendees of the Feeling Safe Groups. This evidences the efficacy of the programme and indicates that children and women are able to recover from the abuse they have experienced.

The future outcome for the children and young people is likely to be more positive and healthy in terms of their adult relationships and general mental health. This would suggest that the children and young people will be more likely to be 'good enough' when they become parents. It has been seen to help the present parents/carers reconnect with their own parenting skills to the benefit of their children.

**If you would like to make referral, or find out more information, please contact Lorraine Jaeger at the Parenting Development Team on 01926 742468 or [lorrainejaeger@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:lorrainejaeger@warwickshire.gov.uk)**

# Publications

## **After domestic abuse: children's perspectives on contact with fathers**

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**Summary:** Outlines the findings of a Master's thesis. This qualitative study involved 11 children aged 8 and 14 years who had experienced domestic abuse in which their fathers were the perpetrators and had previously had contact with their fathers following parental separation. The research explores the feelings the children have towards their fathers, their understanding of their relationships with both parents and their preferences for contact with fathers.

**Publication details:** Edinburgh: Centre for Research on Families and Relationships, 2009 pp [4]

**Authors:** Morrison, Fiona

**Corporate authors:** Centre for Research on Families and Relationships

## **Practice direction: residence and contact orders: domestic violence and harm**

[CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD YOUR COPY](#)

**Summary:** Practice guidance for family proceedings in which an application is made for a residence order or a contact order between a child and family member. Covers cases where there is reason to suppose that the child has experienced domestic violence or there is a risk of violence.

**Publication details:** London: Judiciary of England and Wales, 2009 pp [7]

**Authors:** Potter, Mark

## **ECPAT have published a new report - Stolen Futures: Trafficking for forced child marriage in the UK**

This research from ECPAT UK and WISE has found that children are being trafficked out of and into the United Kingdom for forced marriage. This includes British born children trafficked out of the UK to be forcibly married abroad and children who have been trafficked to the UK on the basis of a false promise of marriage only to end up in sexual exploitation. ECPAT UK has also found evidence that migrant children have arrived in the UK on forged identity documents to make them appear older having been forced into a marriage in their country of origin to a UK citizen, or more rarely, to be married in the UK.

The research for this report documented 48 cases of suspected trafficking for forced child marriage. There is little data on this aspect of trafficking internationally or within the UK, partly because of a lack of systematic data collection on child trafficking in all its forms. It is hoped this exploratory study will contribute to a clearer understanding of this issue from a UK perspective and offer some new insights into how we address the needs of the children involved.

**Source:** [ECPAT press release](#) 15 July 2009

**Further information:**

[Stolen Futures: Trafficking for forced child marriage in the UK](#)

## Channel 4 Dispatches Study

Channel 4 Dispatches has published its **Child Homicide study**, highlighted in its TV documentary - The children Britain betrayed.

Data collated from serious case reviews, court reports and inquests by Channel 4 programme 'Dispatches' on children killed by parents or carers between 2004 and 2008. Presents information on 183 child homicide cases in 92 local authorities; included are children killed by biological parents, sexual partners of biological parents and children killed by child minders. Factors covered include domestic violence, parental separation, mental health problems, substance abuse issues and child welfare services failings.

**Source:** [Channel 4 Dispatches](#) 14 July 2009

**Further information:**

[Dispatches Child homicide research](#)

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## Funding

### \*\*\*New UK Funding Programmes available through Comic Relief\*\*\*

Details can be found on the [Comic Relief website](#).

One of these programmes will focus on **tackling domestic and sexual abuse**. Since the early 1990's, Comic Relief has worked to tackle domestic violence at a local and national level. This year they have widened their focus to include sexual abuse.

#### Tackling Domestic and Sexual Abuse

Programme Aims: To provide support for young people aged 11-25 who have witnessed or directly experienced domestic and sexual abuse. There are two strands to the programme:

- 'Crisis Support' for work around the provision of support services to young survivors;
- 'Young Voices' for initiatives that help young survivors to heal through having a voice.

*Please note: This funding stream is only for work with young people aged 11-25.*

#### Other Programmes

You might also be interested in Comic Relief's funding streams around 'Vulnerable Refugee and Asylum Seeking Women' and 'Sexually Exploited and Trafficked Young People'.

#### Next Steps...

Please visit the [Comic Relief website](#) for more information including:

- The Comic Relief UK Grants Strategy 2009-12
- Details of closing dates for applications
- Who can apply, the work they will fund... and the size of grants they make!

You can also call Comic Relief directly for a chat about the Domestic and Sexual Abuse Programme on 020 7820 6954 or email [Joanne Davies](#).

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

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# 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](http://www.talk2someone.org.uk). To add your events to this webpage please send all details to [helenjinks@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:helenjinks@warwickshire.gov.uk)

## SEPTEMBER

**Teenage partner violence in intimate relationships** 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2009, London  
([Click here for further details](#))

**Working together to safeguard children living with domestic violence** 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2009, London  
([Click here for further details](#))

**Supporting women and children from Asian communities who experience domestic violence** 30<sup>th</sup> September 2009, Nottingham  
([Click here for further details](#))

## OCTOBER

**How should we most effectively tackle domestic violence, abuse and sexual exploitation** 5<sup>th</sup> October 2009, London  
([Click here for further details](#))

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