

WARWICKSHIRE AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

NEWSLETTER

7th October 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.

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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Wolverhampton Domestic Violence Forum

Working in partnership to tackle domestic violence

WOLVERHAMPTON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FORUM

Criminal Justice Support Services Co-ordinator

£24,000 - £26,000 depending on experience

Wolverhampton's Specialist Domestic Violence Court (SDVC) is in its seventh year of operation and has successfully developed a supportive environment to hear cases of domestic violence, whilst ensuring that justice is provided speedily.

Wolverhampton Domestic Violence Forum (WDVF) is working in partnership with key support agencies to ensure that victims of domestic violence receive appropriate support. The Criminal Justice Support Services Co-ordinator will have a key role in co-ordinating the safe attendance at Court of victims; ensuring that appropriate information is available to the victim; and in sign-posting and referring victims for appropriate on-going support and advice.

This post is subject to an Enhanced Disclosure from the Criminal Records Bureau.

For Job Description and Application pack, contact Kathy Cole-Evans at WDVF on 01902 572345.

Closing Date for applications: 16th October 2009, 4pm

Interviews: w/c 26th October 2009

Domestic Violence in Same Sex Relationships course

Survivor support and perpetrator awareness

2nd & 18th November 2009 – FULLY BOOKED

Due to overwhelming interest in the about training course, both dates are now fully booked. Attendees who have secured a place will be contacted in due course.

The Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 (Commencement No. 11) Order 2009

This Order brings into force on 30 September 2009 the provisions of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 listed in article 2 to the extent that they are not already in force.

[Click here to view http://www.familylaw.co.uk/images/Teasers/si20092501.pdf](http://www.familylaw.co.uk/images/Teasers/si20092501.pdf)

A new qualification for professionals who work directly with victims of domestic and sexual violence (and their children) or those whose work brings them into contact with victims and perpetrators

Women's Aid has developed and piloted a set of new qualifications for professionals who work with adult and child survivors of domestic and sexual violence (DSV). Run by highly qualified experienced practitioners and trainers within the domestic and sexual violence field, these accredited training courses will equip practitioners with the skills, knowledge and expertise to carry out their work to the highest standard. They are currently taking expressions of interest for part 1. Part 1 can be studied on its own as a qualification or can be used as a progression for parts 2 or 3. To find out more visit the [National Training Centre](#) section of the Women's Aid website.

Share your views on NHS services for victims of Violence and Sexual Assault

Health and public sector professionals are being asked for their views on how the NHS can improve its services for women and girls who have been victims of violence and sexual assault, Health Minister Ann Keen announced today.

Each year, across the UK, 3 million women experience violence including domestic violence, sexual violence, forced marriage and trafficking. The Taskforce on the health aspects of violence against women and girls is holding a month long in a listening exercise to collect feedback from health and other public sector professionals.

Health Minister Ann Keen said;

“Almost one in three women will experience domestic violence at some point during their lives and nearly one in four will experience some form of sexual assault. Furthermore, more than a third of all rapes recorded by the police are committed against children under 16 years of age.

“We know that victims of violence can find it easier to seek help from trusted health professionals and that is why we want health and public sector professionals to tell us what they think of the service provided by the NHS and how it might be improved.

“This will form a valuable contribution to a cross-Government strategy, to be published later this year, which aims to ensure that all frontline services work closely together to reduce violence against women and girls and provide the best possible support to victims.”

Health and public sector professionals will be asked for their views on areas including:

Service delivery - early identification, access to healthcare services, staff awareness and attitudes maximising NHS resources

Service commissioning – needs assessment, NHS commissioning, joint commissioning, commissioning from non-NHS providers

Partnership working – information sharing, service level agreements and protocols, collaborative service delivery

Health and public sector professionals should go to www.dh.gov.uk/vawg to register their views by the 14 October 2009.

New powers help victims break cycle of domestic violence

Violent partners will be banned from their homes and their victims given support to escape abuse under new government proposals.

The police will be able to issue domestic violence protection orders, known as 'Go' orders, to bar the perpetrators of domestic violence from their homes for up to a fortnight, giving their victims breathing space to consider their options.

Currently, victims can only be protected immediately if the perpetrator is charged and bail conditions set, or if a civil injunction is sought by the victim. This means that in many cases, the only option for victims is to escape to temporary accommodation. The 'Go' orders will allow police to give evidence on the victim's behalf, removing the perpetrator from the home and preventing contact with the victim where they are concerned about the on-going risk of violence.

'Go' orders will be a valuable tool

Home Secretary Alan Johnson said, 'It is not right that victims of domestic violence, who have already suffered so much, are forced out of their home. It is both safer and fairer to remove the abuser.

'"Go" orders will be another valuable tool to help protect victims, and tackle perpetrators of domestic violence.'

Chief Executive of Refuge, Sandra Horley OBE said, 'Protecting abused women and children is at the heart of what Refuge does. These new orders will protect women from further risk of domestic violence if they are implemented effectively.'

Restraining orders

These new powers will complement restraining orders which come into force on 30 September, to help protect victims of harassment (including domestic abuse), where an offender has been prosecuted for any criminal offence, not just harassment offences.

Criminal courts will also have greater freedom to grant restraining orders when abusers appear before them, giving victims immediate protection and sparing them the ordeal of starting a separate civil action.

Implementing the new orders

New legislation will be needed to implement the orders. They will be piloted in two, yet to be decided, police force areas to test the impact of the orders, in particular the impact on victim's safety.

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Children and families experiencing domestic violence: Police and children's social services' responses

By Nicky Stanley, Pam Miller, Helen Richardson Foster and Gill Thomson (September 2009)

[Children and families experiencing domestic violence: police and children's social services' responses \(executive summary\) \(PDF, 608KB\)](#) is a research report from UCLan (University of Central Lancashire) and the NSPCC.

In England and Wales, the Adoption and Children Act 2002 amended the definition of significant harm provided by the Children Act 1989, adding a new category of "impairment suffered from seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another".

Since domestic violence and children's exposure to it represent a widespread social problem, this amendment has acted to draw a potentially large group of families within the remit of children's social services. The growing mountain of police notifications to children's social services of domestic violence incidents where children are involved and the pressures that this has created have been noted by a range of commentators in the UK, North America and Australia.

The notification system has emerged against what is acknowledged to be a background of fragmented services for children and families experiencing domestic violence, and represents an attempt to improve communication and coordination between universal and highly targeted services.

This research examined both the notification process itself and the subsequent service pathways followed by families brought to the attention of children's social services in this way. It also explored which other agencies contributed to services for families experiencing domestic violence and captured young people's, survivors' and perpetrators' views of services.

Executive summary

[Children and families experiencing domestic violence: police and children's social services' responses \(executive summary\) \(PDF, 608KB\)](#)

Full report to follow in late 2009.

Lost boys

[Click here to read this item](#)

Summary: Fictional letter written by a child psychotherapist to a social worker, outlining the risk factors for two boys aged six and eighteen months old. Based on the case of two brothers aged 10 and 11 years who pleaded guilty in September 2009 to committing grievous bodily harm. Highlights maternal stress during pregnancy, parental substance abuse and domestic violence as risk factors. Explains how growing up in this environment would affect brain development and suggests the boys are immediately removed from their current situation.

Publication details: Nursery World, 2009 pp 16-17

Authors: Kent, John

New publication: Violence Against Women in South Asian Communities Issues for Policy and Practice

Edited by Ravi K Thiara and Aisha K Gill

Foreword by Professor Liz Kelly CBE

October 2009 256pp ISBN: 9781843106708 pb £25.00

'This book is powerful, challenging and inspirational, and is an important contribution to debates on the complex intersections between ethnicity, gender and inequality, as well as on human rights and violence against women. Thiara and Gill and the contributors to this text skillfully unpick the flawed thinking and policy initiatives directed at gender-based violence over the past 30 years and especially in the post 9/11 period community cohesion and anti-terrorism initiatives.' - Dr Lorraine Radford, Head of Research, NSPCC

This publication can be ordered on line from Jessica Kingsley Publishers:

<http://www.jkp.com/catalogue/book/9781843106708#>

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Consultations

Police responses to domestic violence

We are working with the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) to improve police responses to crimes of violence against women and children. Based on your local experience do you have any suggestions on how the police may improve their responses and increase the safety of victims and their children? Thanks to those of you who have already sent through information. We will provide feedback as this work proceeds. Please send your comments to [Deborah McIlveen](#), Policy Manager.

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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. To add your events to this webpage please send all details to helenjinks@warwickshire.gov.uk

OCTOBER

Recovering from the Impacts of Domestic Violence: Post-traumatic Stress Disorder 22nd October 2009, London ([Click here for further details](#))

'Outcomes? What Outcomes?' Imkaan Training Event 29th October 2009, London ([Click here for further details](#))

NOVEMBER

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

WSCB Level 2 Domestic Abuse and Child Protection: Exploring Links Between Domestic Violence and Harm to Children 19th November 2009, Leamington Spa ([Click here for further details](#))

Domestic Violence Perpetrator Work 16th - 20th November 2009 ([Click here for further details](#))

DECEMBER

Domestic Violence Awareness - Multi Agency Days 3rd December 2009, Wolverhampton ([Click here for further details](#))

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