

# WARWICKSHIRE AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

## NEWSLETTER

2<sup>nd</sup> December 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 412016, 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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## NEWS

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## EVENTS

A selection of training and events taking place in early 2010

# NEWS

## Make your pledge against domestic abuse

On Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November the Warwickshire Against Domestic Abuse (WADA) team were in Ropewalk Shopping Centre last week asking shoppers to sign their pledge wall to rid the town of domestic abuse.

Detective Superintendent Neil Hewison (Warwickshire Police) and county councillor Richard Hobbs were the first two people to sign up.



Kate Farmer (Domestic Abuse Counselling Service), Sue Ingram (County Council Domestic Abuse Manager), County Councillor Richard Hobbs, Zafar Siddique (Crown Prosecution Service), Det Supt Neil Hewison and Heather Wolfe (Solicitor)

Warwickshire County Council's domestic abuse manager, Sue Ingram, said "More than 8,000 incidents of domestic abuse were reported in the county last year, the equivalent of one in 6 people in Warwickshire. These are shocking figures which we hope will bring home just how serious the problem is."

"We are using this event to highlight the problem, get abusers to take responsibility for their actions and remind victims that help is available when they are ready to talk to someone."

The event coincided with the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

On the day 122 people signed the pledge wall and online pledges are still being made.

If you would like to make your own pledge "never to commit, condone or remain silent about violence against women" then please visit [www.talk2someone.org.uk/pledge](http://www.talk2someone.org.uk/pledge)

**Sign our pledge to  
end violence against women**



## Tackling serial perpetrators of violence against women

The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) has handed the government a review considering what new measures could be taken to tackle serial perpetrators of violence against women.

The review, which was undertaken over six months, was conducted by the ACPO lead on domestic abuse, Chief Constable Brian Moore, at the request of the former Home Secretary Jacqui Smith.

The review considered proposals including:

- Persons at risk of violence have the 'right to know' about relevant information;
- consideration of a new criminal offence whereby a prosecution may be brought on the basis of evidence of repeated violent behaviour (known as a 'Course of Conduct') against different victims of violence; and
- that the law should be changed to enable the police to issue a Domestic Violence Protection Order of up to 14 days duration, to prevent a suspected perpetrator of this form of violence from entering the address of the victim and/or to prevent contact with the victim.

Chief Constable Brian Moore said:

"At the heart of this review is ensuring that we are doing all we can to protect victims and the public from dangerous people who have repeatedly shown a propensity towards violence.

"Improving knowledge of these dangerous people and strengthening our strategies and tactics against them will mean the police can be more effective in keeping victims safe. Our first duty is, and remains, the protection of victims.

"We want to go after those serial perpetrators who go from relationship to relationship, growing in confidence and menace.

"We considered these proposals according to our remit to look at what can be done to protect people. We recognise they require further consultation and debate and may be controversial. It is for Government to take into account the wider perspectives as part of its full consultation."

The review was requested by the then Home Secretary as a contribution to the Government's consultation Together We Can End Violence Against Women And Girls.

As part of the consultation process, Chief Constable Moore was asked to undertake a full review of what additional powers the CJS might need to control the activities of perpetrators of gender-based violence – which includes domestic violence, stalking and harassment, honour-based violence, female genital mutilation, forced marriage, rape, sexual assault, sex trafficking, prostitution and elder abuse.

Beginning in March, the review involved consultation through the ACPO Domestic Abuse Working Group, liaison with victims and academics from Bristol University.

The review gathered data from a majority of forces in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and based on an extrapolation from those responses, estimate there may be as many as 25,000 serial perpetrators of domestic abuse whom the police are aware of.

- The review can be found at <http://www.acpo.police.uk/policies.asp>

## Together We Can End Violence Against Women and Girls: a Strategy

This cross-government strategy sets out a coordinated approach to ending violence against women and girls. It includes a range of actions for the police, councils, the NHS and government departments across three areas: prevention, provision and protection. It was informed by your views, gathered in a public consultation, which ran over three months between March and May 2009.

The **prevention** work addresses social attitudes and myths about violence, changing attitudes over the long-term and stopping violence happening in the first place. Part of this work will include an awareness raising campaign for teenagers aged 13 - 18.

The **provision** work focuses on ensuring women and girls have access to the right help and support for example counselling and access to specialist services, when violence does occur.

The **protection** work looks at how we can provide end-to-end support for all victims through the criminal and civil justice systems, from reporting the crime to going to court. It will also focus on bringing more offenders to justice by improving reporting and conviction rates, as well as working to rehabilitate offenders and manage the risk they may present to women and girls.

The Strategy and it's Annexes can be downloaded from:

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/vawg-strategy-2009/>

## Tackling Perpetrators of Violence Against Women and Girls – ACPO Review for the Home Secretary

The Review was commissioned as a contribution to the consultation *Together We Can End Violence Against Women and Girls*, launched 9 March 2009 to report back by Autumn.

The Review has concluded that in respect of some aspects of the management of violence against women and girls, adequate law or CJ policy is either not available or not directed at the extant risks. In response to this the Review makes 10 key proposals.

The proposals made have three intentions:

- Strengthening the 'right to know' for potential victims about dangerous individuals with whom they come in contact so that better decisions – with the right support – are taken by the people most affected by the risk.
- Wider recognition and improved management of serial perpetrators of violence against women and girls.
- A stronger 'bridge' between criminal and civil law that supports the needs of victims as well as the obligations of the State to manage dangerous and serial perpetrators.

The ACPO Review can be downloaded from: <http://www.acpo.police.uk/policies.asp>

## The Crime and Security Bill

A new Crime and Security Bill aims to protect our communities by making our streets safer and giving more help to victims of crime.

It covers four key themes:

- ◆ Making our streets safer
- ◆ Protecting vulnerable people from crime
- ◆ Shutting down criminal and exploitative markets
- ◆ Justice for victims and their families

Sections 21 – 30 cover the new **Domestic Violence Protection Notices** and **Domestic Violence Prevention Orders**.

Home Secretary Alan Johnson said that the new measures would 'help tackle a range of issues which can affect individuals and neighbourhoods, whether it's anti-social behaviour causing misery to local residents or young people engaging in violent gang behaviour.' He said, 'I want to help those most at risk; preventing the cycle of crime and violence. The new measures are tough, but they also include measures such as help to leave a gang and compulsory parenting orders when a young person breaches an ASBO.'

The full text of the Bill can be downloaded from: <http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2009-10/crimeandsecurity.html>

## 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)

### JANUARY

- **Adolescents – Perspectives on their violence & abuse in personal relationships** 20<sup>th</sup> January 2010 ([Click here for further details](#))

### FEBRUARY

- **Domestic Violence Prevention Work for Primary Schools and Youth Settings** 4th February 2010, London ([Click here for further details](#))
- **Children Under Five Years Old and Domestic Violence** 24<sup>th</sup> February 2010 ([Click here for further details](#))

### MARCH

- **Improving Your Working Relationships with Service Users Through Counselling Techniques** 22nd March 2010, London ([Click here for further details](#))
- **Working with Domestic Violence Perpetrators within a Substance Misuse Agency** 29th March 2010, London ([Click here for further details](#))