

WARWICKSHIRE AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

NEWSLETTER

29th May 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 5th June 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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Funding to Break Cycle of Domestic Violence in Warwickshire



DOMESTIC ABUSE COUNSELLING SERVICE

A vital service to break the cycle of domestic abuse in Warwickshire has been given the backing of the Big Lottery Fund today with a grant of £428,110 to the Domestic Abuse Counselling Service.

The grant will enable a new project to be launched, the Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Intervention Project, with the aim of preventing domestic abuse by tackling the root causes of the problem.

The funding is from BIG's Reaching Communities programme, which aims to help those most in need and build stronger communities.

The aim of this new project is to reduce repeat victimisation and work towards building family relationships. This project will provide a free, easily accessible programme of one-to-one counselling to perpetrators of domestic abuse in order to challenge their patterns of behaviour and reduce abuse of the vulnerable in Warwickshire.

Therapy will be offered after an in-depth assessment to ensure there is a willingness to change. The programme offered will be in blocks of 10 sessions, up to 50 in total, and includes workshops and cognitive tasks. The service will be offered to male and female perpetrators of domestic abuse within a heterosexual or same sex relationship.

Kate Farmer, Service Manager at Domestic Abuse Counselling Service, said:

"We are dedicated to reducing intimate partner abuse/violence in our community by offering a program of individual counselling to men & women who are being violent or abusive, who want to change"

"Our aim at DACS is to increase the safety of those who are suffering from the impact of domestic abuse and to help the abuser to STOP being violent and abusive.

This vital and much needed funding will help us to 'break the cycle of abuse' by enabling us to offer services to both victim and perpetrator. This new service will be available to all those who recognize that their negative behavior and pattern of relating is impacting on their intimate relationships children & family and want help to change.

Along side this program, we will run a 'partner support program' for partners of those on our perpetrator program. I want to send a very clear message, that we have ran and will always continue to run, a county wide counselling service for victims of abuse.

We have dedicated counsellors in all area's available please ring 0845 0044075 to make an appointment.

John Taylor, Big Lottery Fund Head of Region for the West Midlands, said: "This Lottery grant will ultimately help to establish greater protection to those at risk of domestic abuse by treating the perpetrators of violence. The Domestic Abuse Counselling Service will help perpetrators overcome their problems and go on to establish better family relationships."

The Survivors Trust is recruiting!!

GEO/DoH Funded Project - National Team of Development Officers

England Regions and Wales

Extraordinary people needed for extraordinary project

The Survivors Trust has been awarded funding for a one year project to develop and deliver organisational, governance, strategic and funding support for specialist rape, sexual violence and abuse services in England and Wales.

In order to best meet the aims of this exciting project, we are therefore seeking to recruit an extraordinary team of individuals to take this project forward.

We aim to second or appoint individuals with existing knowledge of the complex needs of the sexual violence and abuse sector. We are also able to meet the reasonable costs of office accommodation for a Development Officer at a member agency's offices for the duration of the project. The Development Officers will be managed by The Survivors Trust and will work locally, regionally and nationally as necessary.

Click here for National and Regional Profiles

We are currently liaising with Survivors Trust member agencies to secure office accommodation in the North, Midlands, Southern Regions and Wales. **If you are a member of The Survivors Trust and would like more information on hosting a Development Officer [please click here](#)**

National Development Officer

Salary £28,353, (NJC SO2, Point 34), full-time, fixed-term

[Click here for further details on this position](#)

Regional Development Officers

(Northern England, Midlands, Southern England, Wales) x 4 positions

Hours : 21 hours per week, flexible, part-time, one-year fixed-term contract

Salary : £26,016 pro rata, (NJC SO1, Point 31), 3 days per week flexible

[Click here for further details on this position](#)

Closing date for receipt of completed applications is Friday 5th June 2009

New health taskforce to spot signs of violence against women

13 May 2009

A new taskforce of health professionals working together to spot early signs of violence and abuse against women and girls, investigate the scale of the problem and ensure victims across the NHS get the support they need, was announced today by Home Secretary Jacqui Smith and Health Secretary Alan Johnson.

Responding to issues

The taskforce has been set up in response to issues raised during the [Violence against Women and Girls consultation \(new window\)](#) which began in March. The government recognises that victims may talk more freely with health professionals about their fear of violence – even when they are not ready to take the next step to reporting the crime.

The government wants to make sure that health professionals are prepared to give victims of violence and abuse information about local support services. The taskforce will also look at helping health workers to identify women at risk earlier and how they can offer these women support to reduce repeat victimisation.

Professor Sir George Alberti, former national clinical director for emergency access and service design, will lead the work of the taskforce. The taskforce will comprise health professionals, NHS managers and representatives from the public, social services and voluntary sector.

Alongside this, the government also pledged to double funding for the 24-hour national domestic violence helpline, bringing total support to £1 million for this year.

Terms of reference for the new taskforce are as follows:

Taskforce summary

To identify the role and the response of health services in preventing, identifying and supporting women and girls who are victims of violence and abuse, and to make recommendations on what more could be done to meet their needs.

The taskforce will work to:

- estimate the prevalence and cost to the NHS of all forms violence against women and girls
- review the evidence on the health care needs of women and girls who are or have been victims of violence or abuse, and to assess the extent to which their needs are currently met by the NHS
- review the role of NHS in local strategies for reducing violence against women and girls - including participation in Multi Agency Risk Assessment Centres, Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships, children's trusts arrangements; and the potential for improving data sharing with other local agencies
- establish the case for earlier interventions to prevent violence against women and girls and beneficial impacts on health and other public services.

And we expect the taskforce to make recommendations on:

- improving the early identification of women and girls who are victims of violence and abuse
- improving the quality of, and access to, services for women and girls who are victims of violence or abuse
- raising the profile of violence against women and girls amongst NHS frontline staff and commissioners as well as their partner agencies
- staff training and development
- embedding improvements in the NHS by making the most effective use of existing NHS resources.

Family advice - just a phone call away

11 May 2009

The Legal Services Commission announced today the creation of approximately 40 jobs as a result of the expansion of its Community Legal Advice phone line to provide family law advice.

The addition of family law advice follows the recent extension to Community Legal Advice's opening hours. Clients can now get help for debt, housing, employment, education and welfare benefits problems between 9.00am and 6.30pm on weekdays and 9.00am and 12.30pm on Saturdays.

Carolyn Regan, Chief Executive of the Legal Services Commission, said:

"The Legal Services Commission is investing around £7million over three years in the Community Legal Advice family service. From August, people who need help but can't afford it will be able to call 0845 345 4 345 to get free help for family related legal problems. During the current recession, debt, eviction or redundancy can put a strain on relationships. Equally, splitting families can cause housing or debt problems."

- In addition to the new family service Community Legal Advice offers free, confidential help with debt, welfare benefits, tax credits, housing, education and employment problems call on 0845 345 4 345.
- People can also access the Community Legal Advice website at www.communitylegaladvice.org.uk
- People can also text their name and 'legalaid' to 80010 and Community Legal Advice will call back.
- The phonenumber offers a translation service, available in 170 languages.
- Advice is also available to people for whom British Sign Language is their first language via the website. <http://www.communitylegaladvice.org.uk>
- People experiencing domestic abuse are treated as emergency clients and referred directly to a face-to-face provider.
- The opening hours of Community Legal Advice will be extended further to cover weekday evenings later in 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. To add your events to this webpage please send all details to helenjinks@warwickshire.gov.uk

JUNE

Substance use and sexual violence: Good practice guidelines in service provision and interventions 3 June 2009, London

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

Adolescent Domestic Violence Training: for domestic violence workers 16 June 2009, London

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

Double oppression: Disabled women and gender violence 23 June 2009, Warwick

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

JULY

Domestic Violence and the Arts 2 1 July 2009, Derby [\(Click here for further details\)](#)

Double oppression: Disabled women and gender violence 1 July 2009, Nuneaton

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

Enhancing the Participation of Children and Young People in Family Proceedings, 1 July 2009, Coventry [\(Click here for further details\)](#)

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

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

NOVEMBER

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

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