

Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Newsletter
A monthly newsletter brought to you by the
Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Partnership

February 2025

Hello All

You may notice that our website has had a bit of a revamp – the updated design will hopefully make it easier to navigate quickly to the information you need. We always appreciate your feedback.

You may be aware there is currently a restructure underway within the DASV Partnership Team and IDVA service, if you would like a copy of the consultation document, please get in touch. As you can imagine this is a difficult time for the team but are confident that the service will continue to support professionals and those who require support.

As commissioned contracts for services are coming to an end this year, tendering processes will begin. The first of these are Market Engagement events with our procurement teams – details can be found below.

It is International Women's Day on Saturday 8th March – please look out for events across the area.

There are a number of webinars and events over the coming months, and we look forward to seeing you there. If there is anything specific you would like to hear about, let us know.

Anything you need from us here at the Partnership Team, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Vickie & Julia

Vickie Crompton, DASV Partnership Manager

Julia Cullum, DASV Head of Service



Tender opportunity for Domestic Abuse Mobile Advocacy Service

Cambridgeshire County Council are looking to procure a Domestic Abuse Mobile Advocacy Service across Cambridgeshire, which will begin from 1st October 2025.

Cambridgeshire County Council are running a 1 hour session for potential bidders at 3pm Monday 24 Feb 2024. The session will cover how to submit a tender and an overview of the services being procured. To request an invitation please email david.isaacs@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

For more information on the tender documents, please visit [24108 CCC Domestic Abuse Mobile Advocacy - Find a Tender](#)

Peterborough City Council are looking to procure a Domestic Abuse Mobile Advocacy Service across Peterborough, which will begin from 1st October 2025.

Peterborough City Council are running a 1 hour session for potential bidders at 9am Friday 28th February 2025. The session will cover how to submit a tender and an overview of the services being procured. To request an invitation please email helen.davies@peterborough.gov.uk

April DASV Champions sessions

We have moved our booking system for the DASV Champions to Ticket Tailor. **All sessions will need to be booked on Ticket Tailor now, including CCC staff.**

Our Spring Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Champions sessions are spread out over April and May due to Easter timings.

We will be hearing from the **Department of Work & Pensions** about how they can support and work with people who are experiencing domestic abuse, including safety measures they can implement regarding benefits information.

Our second topic for these sessions will cover support to **unpaid carers** who are being subjected to domestic abuse from the person they care for - setting out some of the complexities and also some of the options for support.

Link to book:

<https://buytickets.at/cambridgeshirepeterboroughdomesticabusesexualviolencepartnership/1588669>

New report on Child to Parent Abuse

A new report from the Respect Young People's Service – *Unsafe and Unheard: Lessons from families affected by Child and Adolescent to Parent Violence and Abuse (CAPVA)*. This work was made possible thanks to the support of the Noel Buxton Trust and co-production with young people was done in partnership with Respect member TLC: Talk, Listen, Change.

Unsafe and Unheard brings together families' and practitioners' experiences of CAPVA, gathered through a variety of methods including co-production with young people, roundtable discussion and a national survey. The report highlights CAPVA as a hidden harm that requires a multi-agency, government supported, cross sector response.

Key findings from the report include:

- The lack of an agreed definition creates barriers to addressing CAPVA.
- Knowledge of CAPVA in front-line services is low. 68% of parents surveyed who didn't access support were ashamed or worried about stigma and judgement.
- A system-wide approach is needed. 25% of parents said they didn't ask for help because they were worried about what might happen if they did.
- While there are pockets of good practice, parents often have nowhere to turn. 64% of parents who didn't receive support said they didn't know where to go.
- Professionals dismiss and minimise the risk of harm. Where parents didn't approach services, 39% said it was because they lacked trust in them.

[Unsafe and Unheard: Respect Young People's Service launches new report on CAPVA | Respect](#)

New resource for parents about CPA

PEGS have developed a new downloadable resource booklet filled with helpful information, practical advice, and ideas to support parents who are subjected to abuse from their children.

[Resource for Parental Figures: What is CPA?](#)

Free online learning about brains and long term health

The aim of this initiative is to help professionals understand the science of how experiences shape our brains and the long-term implications for mental and physical health. The Story aims to articulate the intergenerational cycle of adversity within families and how we can use our scientific understanding to improve outcomes for children and adults in the future.

[Resources For Professionals | Oxford Brain Story — Oxford Brain Story | AFWI](#)

Promoting safety and support for women and girls at Cambridge Station

Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council work with local partners to help women and girls to stay safe at night and on public transport, especially during the festive season.

On Friday 13 December, the two councils ran an information stall at Cambridge Railway Station, offering valuable resources and guidance for travelling and navigating the city in the dark. Cambridge Station is a gateway to the night-time economy for visitors from connected villages and towns.

This is just one part of the work being done in and around Cambridge to keep women and girls safe. The Businesses Against Abuse initiative has trained over 3000 people at over 300 businesses across Cambridgeshire in how to spot signs of abuse; Cambridgeshire Constabulary's Operation Armour tackles predatory behaviour that could lead to sexual assault or harassment; and the two councils' White Ribbon accreditation sees them champion changes to men's attitudes and behaviours towards women and girls.

The event held at Cambridge Station was a joint initiative with the Meldreth, Shepreth, and Foxton Community Rail Partnership, Cambridgeshire Constabulary, the British Transport police, Dardan Security, White Ribbon, Cambridge Businesses Against Crime (CAMBAC), Cambridge Rape Crisis Centre and Businesses Against Abuse (BAA). The event was hosted by Greater Anglia and supported by Stagecoach.

Volunteers from the councils were able to speak to passersby and signpost to support available to women in Cambridge. They handed out over 50 leaflets and cards to the public, providing information on who to call if a crime is spotted, signs of abuse, and helplines.



Cambridgeshire County Council male staff invited to White Ribbon event

The Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Partnership are hosting a 'It starts with men' event on Friday 7 March 2025. The event is specifically for men at Cambridgeshire County Council, as part of our White Ribbon Accreditation to understand more about how you can contribute to reducing male violence. 'It starts with men' is the theme for the White Ribbon Campaign 2024-25.

This event will consider:

- Tackling Male Violence Against Women and Girls as an Issue that needs to be led by men, about men.
- What does gender equality mean for your organisation and those you serve?
- In your role how can you facilitate work to prevent male violence?

We request all attendees to sign up as Ambassadors and become part of the Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Champions Network: [Ambassadors and Champions — White Ribbon UK](#).

For more information contact Vickie Crompton, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Partnership Manager at Vickie.crompton@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Event facilitator

The event will be facilitated by Rizwan Rahemtulla, who currently works within Cambridgeshire Constabulary where he is responsible for the Operational Leadership courses for Police Sergeants and Inspectors representing Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire Constabularies.

Additionally, Rizwan delivers training on Honour Based Abuse, Female Genital Mutilation, Forced Marriages and Community Cohesion. He currently serves as the Vice President of the Husaini Islamic Centre and also works with and supports the Dahlia Project (Women's Aid) on a voluntary basis.

In March 2023, Rizwan received his commission of appointment to the role of Deputy Lord Lieutenant representing the Lord Lieutenant in performing public duties when required.

Event details

Friday 7 March 2025 at 9.30am to 12.30pm

Meet us in the meeting room upstairs at Huntingdon Library

Register your attendance by emailing amanda.warburton@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Ready to start a new opportunity in 2025?!

The Cambridgeshire Shared Lives DASV Project is openly looking for new carers to join their team.

You will be joining the only service in the UK that is supporting survivors of domestic abuse with learning disabilities and/or Autism with the Shared Lives model of support.

We know that there are many people in Cambridgeshire who are looking for a way to give back to their community, and our project offers a flexible way to do this. Being a Shared Lives Domestic Abuse Carer is a paid role, and you will be entitled to regular supervisions and support from the scheme.

No experience needed; all training is provided. You just need to be passionate about providing the best care and support to survivors of abuse.

This is an amazing opportunity to potentially have a huge positive impact on someone's life, as well as your own. Someone in our service as told us ***'I am happy now and I feel safe.'***

Shared Lives Domestic Abuse Carers can offer a range of support based from your home. This can look like having someone over for tea once a week, right through to providing respite to someone for a week or long weekend. You can commit as much or as little time as you have available, from one day a month right through to having weekly availability, the scheme will work with you to find your 'match'. This project is about supporting a survivor to become confident, learn new skills and thrive in everyday life.

If you would like to know more about the project and this opportunity, please contact us on cambridgesharedlives@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Trauma, Mental Health and Sexual Violence webinar

The Violence, Abuse & Mental Health Network are holding a webinar, ***“Normal Trauma and Abnormal Diagnosis: The Role of Mental Health Evidence in Sexual Violence Trials”***, delivered by Dr Emma Yapp, Senior Research Associate at the University of Bristol. Emma's research explores the intersection of sexual violence and mental health through a critical feminist lens, incorporating critical disability studies to examine the legitimacy of sexual violence testimony. The webinar takes place on **19th March from 12pm - 12.45pm**. To register your attendance, click [here](#).

Updated Lived Experience of the Child Guidance

The updated and refreshed multi-agency 'lived experience of the child guidance' is now available on the Safeguarding Partnership website at [Lived Experience of the Child Practice Guidance | Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Partnership Board](#)

Cambridge City Council Supports Sexual Abuse and Sexual Violence Awareness Week 2025 - Report by Louise Walker

Cambridge City Council supported [Sexual Abuse and Sexual Violence Awareness Week](#) (3 to 9 February 2025) – a national week to raise awareness about the unacceptability of sexual abuse and violence.

To raise awareness, information was published on the council's website. Colleagues and Councillors were asked to provide messages around the campaign's theme of #ITSNOTOK. These were posted internally as a collage, and you can see some of these contributions in the image and others below:

- how often sexual abuse doesn't get reported.
- that 1 in 4 women have been subjected to some form of sexual violence since the age of 16.
- that 1 in 6 children have been sexually abused.
- that 1 in 18 men have been subjected to some kind of sexual violence since the age of 16.
- that 53% of LGBT+ people in the UK have been subjected to sexual violence in their lives.
- that people with disabilities are sexually assaulted at nearly three times the rate of people without disabilities.
- How long rape victims have to wait for police to charge an offender.

If people wanted to get involved, they were encouraged to:

- Join in on social media using the hashtag #ITSNOTOK.
- Share social media posts by [Cambridge City Council](#), [Cambridge Rape Crisis Centre](#) and [Cambridgeshire and Peterborough DASV Partnership](#)
- Consider volunteering - local charity and council partner Cambridge Rape Crisis Centre will be recruiting for emotional support volunteers from 31 March 2025.
- You can email volunteering@cambridgerapecrisis.org.uk to register your interest and be sent the application pack. Find out more at <https://cambridgerapecrisis.org.uk/emotional-support-volunteers/>

Help and advice

If you or someone you know are affected by sexual abuse or sexual violence, you can get help from:

- [Cambridge Rape Crisis Centre](#) - free specialist support for women and girls across Cambridgeshire who have been subjected to rape and sexual violence, no matter when the abuse happened.
- [Men's Advice Line](#) - helpline for male victims of domestic abuse.
- [Survivors UK](#) - specialist service for boys, men and non-binary people aged 13+ who have experienced sexual violence at any time in their lives.
- [Galop](#) - UK's LGBT+ anti-abuse charity working with and for LGBT+ victims and survivors of abuse and violence.
- [Choices Counselling](#) – a confidential trauma-informed counselling service throughout Cambridgeshire and Peterborough for women and men who have experienced sexual abuse in childhood.
- [Childline](#) - access to every child for free, confidential support whenever they need it.