



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

November 2025

Hello Everyone

November is the month which begins the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence on the 25th November – there are several webinars you can join (for free) – details later in the Newsletter.

To begin the 16 Days, Peterborough City Council will be raising the White Ribbon flag, outside the Town Hall at noon on 25th November, with poetry from Peterborough's Poet Laureate and from Charis, a survivor of domestic abuse.

Cambridgeshire County Council will also be raising the White Ribbon flag outside New Shire Hall with a short speech from Cllr Laurence Damary-Homan, White Ribbon Ambassador.

There are a range of resources and podcasts for you to dip into when you have time, listed at the end of the newsletter.

As always, please let us know of any updates or developments in your services that we can include in future newsletters.

Best Wishes

Julia & Vickie

Julia Cullum, DASV Head of Service – Cambridgeshire

Vickie Crompton DASV Manager - Peterborough



IDVA Service contact details

Cambridgeshire:

New telephone number: 01480 376200

Email: idva.referrals@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Peterborough:

Telephone: 07983345580

Email: peterboroughidvas@peterborough.gov.uk

16 Days of Action

16 Days of Action against domestic abuse is the International Campaign running annually from November 25th, White Ribbon Day, to December 10th raising awareness of violence against women and girls. As a Partnership we will be raising awareness through social media posts and webinars throughout the campaign.

Please see details below details of the 6 sessions and click on the links if you would like to book:

26th November 2025 14.00 – 15.00

[Angels Foundation - The Impact of Furniture Poverty](#)

Caroline Deeprise, Founder & CEO of The Angels Foundation, will speak about the work of the Angels Foundation and the Impact of furniture poverty.

27th November 2025 12.30 – 13.00

[Stand Up Against Harassment - Suzy Lamplugh Trust](#)

With 80% of women reporting harassment in public spaces and 75% of harassment victims saying no one helped, the need for action is urgent. We are excited to be working with the [Suzy Lamplugh Trust](#), to deliver bystander training. This globally approved programme empowers individuals to safely step in and support victims of public harassment by teaching them five practical tools. Most people want to help but don't know how - this training changes that.

28th November 2025 13.00 - 14.00

[Predatory Marriage - Daphne Franks](#)

Daphne Franks tells the story of a secret marriage, a revoked will, an unmarked grave, grooming, gaslighting, a Private Member's Bill and a campaign to highlight all the issues

2nd December 2025 11.00 – 12.00

[Local Support for Lithuanian Victims of Domestic Abuse](#)

The Peterborough IDVA Service and PWA will be sharing the support available for Lithuanian victims of domestic abuse.

5th December 2025 11.00 – 12.00

[Domestic Abuse and Women with High Income Levels](#)

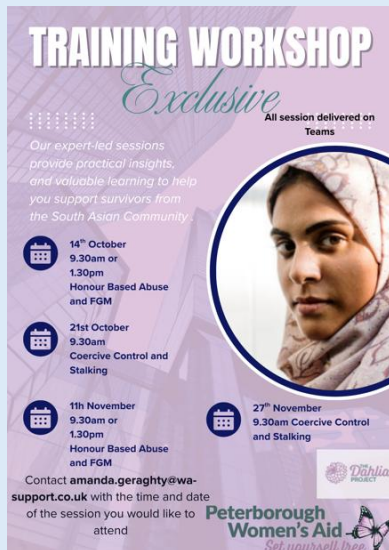
Hear from Angie Stewart, CEO Cambridge Women's Aid, as she talks about the often-overlooked reality of domestic abuse among women with high level incomes.

10th December 2025 10.00 – 11.00

[The Role of the Young Person's IDVA](#)

A presentation by the Young Person's IDVA explaining their role, referral criteria and how to refer.

Peterborough Women's Aid are also running some excellent training workshops some of which will coincide with 16 Days of Action – please see the poster below and contact Mandy Geraghty Amanda.geraghty@wa-support.co.uk to book a place



White Ribbon

25th November 2025 11.00

White Ribbon is also holding a free webinar with three men who speak up for women and girls and have dedicated their lives to this work: Dr Michael Flood, Michael Kaufman and Jackson Katz. Michael Kaufman is the co-founder of the White Ribbon campaign in Canada and the start of the global White Ribbon movement.

Dr Jackson Katz is the author of *Every Man* and a pioneer in the movement to prevent gender-based violence.

Professor Michael Flood is one of the world's leading researchers on how to effectively engage men and boys in the prevention of violence against women.

For the first time ever as a White Ribbon UK exclusive, the three men will come together from across the globe in Australia, Canada and the United States. They will be discussing how far the movement in engaging men and boys to prevent violence against women has come, the challenges that remain, and what men must do now to help achieve true gender equality in the future.

Secure your free ticket, [available here](#).

Standing Together Against Domestic Abuse

Additionally Standing Together is hosting a series of events throughout the 16 Days of Activism. Please see a couple below and click the link to reserve tickets, the rest can be found on their website.

[Standing Together](#)

Wednesday 26th November 12.00 – 13.00

Click, Control, Coercion: Understanding Digital Domestic Abuse Course

We are delighted to bring you a taster Click, Control, Coercion: Understanding Digital Domestic Abuse course. From smart devices to social media, technology can become a weapon in domestic abuse. This one-hour taster session is a condensed version of our longer, in-depth course. This taster offers a snapshot of how to spot tech-facilitated abuse, preserve evidence, and respond safely using trauma-informed, collaborative approaches.

[Click, Control, Coercion: Understanding Digital Domestic Abuse Course](#)

Monday 1st December 2025 14.00 – 16.00

The Girl in the River – The Price of Forgiveness Screening and Panel Discussion

Nominated for the 2016 Academy Award for Best Documentary Short, this 40-minute film tells the harrowing true story of Saba, a young woman from Pakistan's Punjab region who survives an attempted 'honour' killing by her own father and uncle after marrying for love. After the screening, a panel of experts will explore the film's central themes, including so-called 'honour' -based abuse, justice, and gender equality, positioning this in the UK context.

[The Girl in the River - The Price of Forgiveness Screening & Panel Discussion](#)

Faith & VAWG Coalition

FaithOn4th 2025: Faith and Online Harms Against Women

Friday 28 November 2025 12:00–13:30

Part of our annual **#FaithOn4th campaign**, held on the 4th day of the **16 Days of Activism**, highlighting the vital role of faith in ending violence against women and girls.

As digital spaces become more central to everyday life, online harm increasingly shapes women's safety, wellbeing, and participation in public life. Women of faith often face layered abuse that targets both gender and belief.

This year's **#FaithOn4th** event explores how faith, gender, and technology intersect - and how faith can be a source of resilience and justice in creating safer online spaces.

Speakers include:

- **Seyi Akiwowo** – advisor, author, and founder helping brands, platforms, and policymakers build ethical and inclusive technology.
- **Mischa Gerrard** – postgraduate student, activist, and independent researcher examining algorithmic bias, online misogyny, and radicalisation.
- **Emily Chebanu** – from Illuminate Tech, whose mission is to build a safer, more trusted internet

- **Imogene Resnick** – Policy and Commissioning Manager at MOPAC, leading work on violence against women and girls across London.

Part of our annual **#FaithOn4th campaign**, held on the 4th day of the **16 Days of Activism**, highlighting the vital role of faith in ending violence against women and girls.

[BOOK HERE](#)

The Elms SARC Building work

Update on building work from Rebecca Summerskill: SARC Regional Contract Director, East. The SARC building work commenced Monday 27th October and is likely to be ongoing until the middle of January 2026.

What does that mean for our patients?

- Our patients will still receive the same service during this time.
- The SARC service will continue to function as we are now, operational hours are the same we will continue to be open 9-9. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough patients will still be seen by the Cambridgeshire SARC team.
- Contacting the SARC will still be via our PSS call centre on 0330 223 0099 and they will transfer the call through to the Cambridgeshire team.
- SARC staff will still be on site and available for telephone triage / strategy meetings / MARACs.
- Examinations will not be completed at The Elms whilst building work is ongoing, they will be completed at The Emerald Centre Bedford.
- Police will assist in getting patients to the SARC if required if the patients have reported to the police.
- For our self-referrals we will still see and offer the same service, we will look at what SARC is closest for the patient and if required we can assist with transport costs.

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Safeguarding Board

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough safeguarding board have published 3, 7-minute briefings following recent Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs). For the details, please visit the website:

[Safeguarding Adults Reviews | Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Partnership Board](#)

Business Against Abuse



Peterborough City Council hosted two Business Against Abuse training events on 29th October 2025 with a range of businesses across Peterborough.

The police and Peterborough Rape Crisis talked about men's violence against women in the city, how to respond to victims, and how to spot predators and what to do to intervene where they witness predatory behaviors.

There are 4 more sessions in January and February please use the link to book a place:

[Business Against Abuse training tickets](#)

Thank you to all those who attended and their commitment to make their businesses safer for women across Peterborough.

Respect

VAWG Takeover at Labour Party Conference

Respect was privileged to be part of the coalition of charities that organised the VAWG Takeover at this year's Labour Party conference, calling on the government to turn its pledge to halve VAWG within a decade into meaningful action. Particularly thanks to SafeLives for their leadership in securing the space, which enabled a group of charities with limited budgets to play a part at this important policy event. Here's to more collaboration in the future.

[Learn more](#)

Lack of Government momentum to tackle domestic abuse is failing children and young people

The UK Government, has issued its formal response to the Domestic Abuse Commissioner's report into the experiences of children subject to domestic abuse.

[Learn more](#)

Loughborough University Research – Everyday Business: Addressing Domestic Abuse and Continuing Harm through a Family Court review and reporting mechanism (14th October 2025)

Five years have passed since the publication of the government's Harm Panel report which shed light on the deep-rooted issues within the Family Court in responding to domestic abuse.

I have seen small steps forward in terms of the introduction of Pathfinder Courts, improved guidance for court professionals and heightened activity to raise awareness of domestic abuse. Yet, this new report, drawing on evidence from 300 child arrangement case files, extensive observations of three Family Court sites, interviews with judges and magistrates and focus groups with survivors reveals a disturbing truth: that the level of change required remains largely unfulfilled.

As Domestic Abuse Commissioner for England and Wales, it is my duty to scrutinise the systems that should protect some of the most vulnerable people in society. I have long made clear the reforms needed within family courts to ensure survivors are better protected and supported - and why I am deeply concerned that adult and child victims continue to be put at significant risk.

Despite overwhelming evidence of domestic abuse in most cases —73% in hearings and 87% in case file reviews— my office found evidence of how a pro-contact culture and a failure to recognise abuse contributed to decisions that may have put children in harms way. Affirming what survivors and the domestic abuse sector have long stated.

Survivors repeatedly described how they were dissuaded from raising allegations of domestic abuse as it would have no sway over whether the abusive parent would be granted contact. In nearly half of the cases reviewed, unsupervised overnight contact was ordered. Others said they felt pressured into accepting potentially unsafe child arrangement orders out of fear that if they contested, an even worse outcome would be granted. This is deeply disturbing.

An outdated understanding of domestic abuse amongst some legal professionals frequently saw physical violence and sexual abuse taken more seriously, while coercive and controlling behaviour — which often underpins physical abuse — were often dismissed. This antiquated thinking, coupled with a severe lack of resource and siloed working is leaving many survivors feeling unheard, unsupported, and unprotected.

While this report highlights significant shortcomings, it was encouraging to see pockets of good practice emerging within the family justice system. Some judges, magistrates, solicitors, domestic abuse services and Cafcass staff are working tirelessly under heavy workloads to shield survivors from further harm and to ensure trauma-informed approaches are being integrated into proceedings. These efforts are commendable, but more must be done.

With an ambitious target to halve violence against women and girls within a decade, immediate, meaningful reforms are essential if the family justice system is to play its part in safeguarding victims and supporting the government to achieve this priority. We must see sustainable funding and a firm commitment to a national rollout of Pathfinder Courts across England and Wales, combined with

ministers acting to remove the presumption of parental contact, so that decisions are always taken in children's best interest.

This is not just about improving survivors experience of the Family Court — it is about saving and protecting lives. That is why the necessary funding must be provided to the family court review and reporting mechanism pilot to allow for rigorous oversight and continued accountability. Until these steps are taken, the risk to survivors and their children remains very real. It is time for this to change.

Dame Nicole Jacobs

Domestic Abuse Commissioner for England and Wales

Link to the full report [Everyday business: Addressing domestic abuse and continuing harm through a family court review and reporting mechanism - GOV.UK](#)

Mum of killed boys says 'law change will save lives'

Claire Throssell's Campaign:

A mother whose sons were killed by their father has said she hopes they would be proud after a decade of campaigning in their names resulted in a promised change in the law on parental contact. Claire Throssell's sons Jack, 12, and Paul, nine, were killed in a house fire started by their father in October 2014, after he was granted access to the boys. Claire, from Penistone, met Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer on Tuesday 21st October 2025 to discuss changes to the **"presumption of contact"** law, which assumes children benefit from contact with both parents.

The government has now said it will repeal the law under the Children Act 1989, which Claire said "will save so many children's lives".

The news came on the 11th anniversary of her sons' deaths.

The boys had been lured to their father Darren Sykes's home with a new model train set, before he set fire to the building, also killing himself. He had been granted access to his children for five hours a week, despite Claire's evidence that he had previously threatened to kill them and himself.

The Ministry of Justice said while this current presumption could be overturned if there was evidence that a parent could put the child at risk of harm, removing this particular law completely should lead to quicker decisions to restrict the involvement of abusive parents. Claire, who was made an MBE in 2020 for her campaigning on behalf of children subjected to domestic abuse, said presumption had no place in a court of law. "It's not for judges who are strangers to children and only get snapshots of their lives to make decisions that then end their lives," she said. "There is this noise around parental rights but a deafening silence around children's rights."

Speaking to BBC Woman's Hour about her sons, she said: "I was so proud to be their mum.

"It is a privilege to have children, but they are not a God-given right and they have their own feelings and wishes, and so often they are not heard."

She said she had applied to the court for an emergency residency order, stating that their father was capable of killing the boys. She said: "I had lived with him, they had lived with him, I had ended up being punched on my arm and thrown down the stairs with the force of it, the boys had seen that.

"I had to protect the boys and many times I got in the way between the boys and him. There was a red mist in his eyes, he was pure evil."

She had warned authorities that their father was a danger to them.

Claire said the change must come urgently as "children can't wait", "whilst there's no change in place, children are still at risk of dying, children are still at risk of harm," she said.

She said her love for her sons inspired her to keep fighting and she now hoped "that they'd be proud" of her achievement. "It doesn't feel like a victory or a win, but it does feel that there is a change coming in the country, and it will save so many children's lives," she said. "I hope that one day I can go to where they sleep and say to them that all the children around them, all the children in this country, will have a safer, brighter future."

Deputy Prime Minister David Lammy praised Claire, calling her "simply remarkable". "Her courage in the face of unimaginable tragedy, her determination to prevent other families from suffering as she has, and her relentless advocacy for children's safety has been instrumental in bringing about this vital change," he said. "As we mark this important step forward in the law, I pay tribute to her sons, Jack and Paul, whose memory drives our commitment to ensuring no other child suffers a similar fate."

The Meadows Children and Family Wing

Life After Abuse services available in Cambridge - we run a package of support which includes The Freedom Programme, Freedom Forever, All About Me (Self-esteem course) as well as 2 weekly drop-ins.

For more details contact Michele on info@mcfw.co.uk or 07871780932

Practical Ways for Professionals to engage with and support dads under 25

This very helpful guide, [Young Fathers: What Works in Practice](#), has been developed by Leeds Trinity University in collaboration with Swindon Borough Council, and sets out practical ways for professionals to engage with and support dads under the age of 25. The new resource is aimed at practitioners across different care settings and includes activities, case studies and templates to use.

Institute of Domestic Violence, Religion & Migration

The Institute of Domestic Violence, Religion & Migration (IDVRM) C.I.C. is a highly specialised evidence and practice institute that produces innovative research and intervention approaches to domestic violence and interconnected forms of violence in non-western contexts and migrant communities internationally. For more information visit their website:

[Home - Institute of Domestic Violence, Religion & Migration](#)

National Drug Awareness Campaign

At the beginning of October, the government launched a new national drugs awareness campaign to alert people to the dangers of ketamine as well as synthetic opioids in counterfeit medicines and adulterated THC vapes.

The campaign highlights particular risks including:

- **The potentially irreparable damage ketamine can cause to the bladder**
- **The dangers of counterfeit medicines containing deadly synthetic opioids purchased online**
- **The risks from so-called 'THC vapes' that often contain dangerous synthetic cannabinoids like spice rather than THC.**

National resources will be available for schools and universities, and local public health teams with content available on FRANK, the drug information website. Influencer content will be posted on social media platforms such as Instagram, TikTok, and Snapchat.

See below links for access to the national resources

FRANK pages:

Page to request factsheets: [New frank campaign launches today to raise awareness of the risks of prolonged use of Ketamine. | FRANK](#)

Link to harms on synthetic opioids: [Drugs cut with dangerous substances | FRANK](#)

Ketamine: [Ketamine | Effects of Ketamine | FRANK](#)

Synthetic cannabinoids: [Synthetic cannabinoids | Effects and Risks | FRANK](#)

Links to film content:

Ketamine: [Ket: While each high lasts minutes. For some the damage to their bladder could last forever.](#)

Synthetic opioids: [Synthetic Opioids: What are they and why are they so dangerous?](#)

As a reminder there are specialist drug and alcohol treatment services across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough providing advice and support to both young people, adults families and professionals

Young People's Drug & Alcohol Treatment Services

CASUS Service (Cambridgeshire) [CASUS, casus, Cambridgeshire child and adolescent substance use service, | CPFT NHS Trust](#)

CGL ASPIRE (Peterborough) [Aspire Peterborough Young People's Service](#)

Adult Drug & Alcohol Treatment Services

CGL Cambridgeshire [Cambridge - Drug & Alcohol Service Cambridgeshire | Change Grow Live](#)

CGL ASPIRE (Peterborough) [Bridge Street - Aspire Recovery Service Peterborough](#)



'THC Vapes' Laced
with other substances



Ketamine use is
increasing and so are



High risk of overdose
from fake medicines.

Fact sheets:

Podcasts

Peterborough Womens Aid

As we know research shows that as many as 1:4 women and 1:6 men will experience domestic abuse in their lifetime and in Peterborough alone, there could be as many as 7,000 victims.

Peterborough Women's Aid (PWA) launched The Peacock Project at the beginning of October, part of the council's Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy.

This Peacock Project offers support to anyone experiencing domestic abuse—regardless of sex, gender, or sexuality—whether the abuse comes from a partner or a family member.

Hear more from Mandy Geraghty, CEO of PWA, as she speaks on The Peterborough Podcast about the facilities and support they have available.

[The Peterborough charity helping victims of domestic abuse - YouTube](#)

Institute for Addressing Strangulation

How should we talk about Strangulation with Young People?

[Podcast: How should we talk about strangulation with young people? - YouTube](#)