

KENT DV FORA NEWSLETTER

October
2014

Issue 63

**Kent & Medway
domestic abuse
Strategy Group**

www.domesticabuseservices.org.uk

This newsletter is meant for agencies and practitioners who work with those affected by domestic violence in Kent.

We hope to keep everyone in touch with the good work that is going on in Kent already as well as pass on any useful information or ideas.

All contributions are welcome, so if you have any **news, ideas, suggestions**, to share with colleagues in different agencies or in a different part of Kent, then don't be shy, contact Alison to get your news into the next edition of the newsletter.

Please be aware, articles in this newsletter may not be representative of the views of the Kent & Medway Strategy Group and readers are encouraged to explore any topics raised themselves to verify any information given.

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Annual Report: Domestic Abuse One Stop Shops

A network of Domestic Abuse One Stop Shops are in place across Kent and Medway offering free advice, information and support from a range of agencies under one roof to help victims of domestic abuse.

During 2013/14 a thirteenth domestic abuse one stop shop opened, in Tonbridge, with a fourteenth, in Tunbridge Wells, being planned to open in the autumn of 2014.

Increasing numbers of visitors are attending the One Stop Shops. Between July 2013 and June 2014 1835 people came to the One Stop Shops, an increase of 46% compared to the previous year.

As in the previous year, Ashford had the highest number of visitors to a single one stop shop (316 visitors), however when the two Canterbury District one stop shops are combined (Canterbury and Herne Bay) they saw the most visitors overall within a local authority area (357 visitors).

Herne Bay recorded the largest percentage increase (191%) in total visitors during 2013/14, possibly due in part to the Herne Bay one stop shop opening part way through the previous year, with Medway recording the second largest percentage increase in visitor numbers to a one stop shop (95%).

The vast majority of visitors to the one stop shops were female, 96% of all visitors. Although the number of male visitors overall is low, excluding the newly opened Tonbridge one stop shop, for the first time all the other one stop shops did receive male visitor(s) during the year.

82% of all visitors describe their background as 'white british'. As found in previous years, Gravesham visitors report the highest levels of diversity in their ethnic background, closely followed by Dartford. Overall 'white european' is the second highest reported ethnic background across the one stop shops, accounting for 5% of all visitors.

In common with last year, the majority of visitors to the

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one stop shops are between the ages of 26-39 years old (44%). Last year only one visitor from all the one stop shops was under 18, this year 19 visitors were under 18 (1% of the total visitors).

From July 2013 to June 2014, 2555 children were recorded as living in households with a parent or carer who visited one of the domestic abuse one stop shops, this compares to 1865 children during the previous year.

Of the 1835 total visitors who came to the one stop shops, 80% reported that they had found their visit helpful and 20% did not record a response to this question.

If you would like to be emailed a copy of the Annual Report please send your request to:

alison.gilmour@kent.pnn.police.uk

All the locations and timings of all of the Domestic Abuse One Stop Shops can be found on the Domestic Abuse Website:

www.domesticabuseservices.org.uk

Speaking Up About Male Domestic Abuse in Kent

Tackling the misconception that men are always the perpetrators in abusive

relationships, two local young men are hoping their campaign will encourage more male victims to seek help.

Tamer Maclean, 19, and Danny Scott, 17 have teamed up with Fixers – the national charity that supports young people aged 16-25 to tackle any issue that matters to them, however they choose – to create a short film.

The film portrays the main character in the pub with his friends with interspersed shots of his private life, which he keeps hidden from them.

“The message is that this can also happen to men. It’s always better to speak about your problems than to keep it to yourself”, explains Tamer.

To view the film they have made follow the link below:

<http://bit.ly/1oITmNe>

If you would like to use the film online at all, Fixers have asked that you please embed the film from their YouTube channel. This will enable them to access the reach/impact of the film over time.

<http://bit.ly/1tJgVFfa>

Multi- Agency Domestic Abuse Training Courses

The Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy Group has developed a specialist suite of 3 training courses delivered by

MARAC Development and DA Perpetrator Programmes

The KMDASG in partnership with Kent Police have commissioned work on two project areas:

1. To research the needs around sustainability & function of the MARAC system within Kent and Medway and to develop a business case and strategy report for future commissioning partners.
2. To review current perpetrator services and consider options for the future to expand the availability of services based in the community.

These pieces of work are due to be completed by the end of 2014 and will help inform areas of work to be taken forward during 2015.

Progress on both of these project areas will be shared in future issues of this newsletter as and when available.

Job Opportunities

Domestic Abuse related job vacancies within Kent and Medway can now be viewed on the Domestic Abuse Website:

<http://www.domesticabuseservices.org.uk/professionals/>

experienced multi-agency trainers.

Understanding Domestic Violence and Abuse – ½ day Course

Tuesday 18 November 2014 – Southern Education Leadership Trust, Sittingbourne – 9.30–1.00

This event will help improve basic awareness and understanding of the dynamics and scope of domestic abuse; expand understanding of various types of abuse that may be present in domestic abuse and the immediate and long-range effects they might have. It will help early recognition of an abusive relationship in order to encourage early and effective multi-agency intervention and increase awareness of community services and available resources and identify appropriate intervention strategies

Risk Indicators and Safety Planning – 1 day course

Tuesday 3 March 2015 – Ashford Business Hub – 9.30-4.30

This event will consider the risk factors linked to domestic abuse that may indicate future risk to victims to ensure these are not overlooked or discounted and that there is an understanding of the factors which indicate a higher risk to the victim of domestic abuse and even serious violence/murder.

Domestic Abuse - the effects on children/young people – 1 day course

Tuesday 16 June 2015 – The Friars, Aylesford – 9.30-4.30

This event will highlight the effects of domestic violence and abuse on children and young people; highlight the relationship between domestic abuse and child abuse and the role and responsibilities of individual agencies

Places are limited and early booking is advised through CPD online at: www.kentcpdonline.org.uk

For more information on these, and other, multi-agency training opportunities please contact:

kscbtraining@kent.gov.uk

MARAC Co-ordinator Contact Details

In a single meeting, a Domestic Abuse MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference) combines up to date risk information with a comprehensive assessment of a victim's needs and links those directly to the provision of appropriate services for all those involved in a case: victim, children and perpetrator.

To find out more about your local MARAC contact the appropriate area's MARAC Co-ordinator.

North Kent (Dartford and Gravesham):

Chris Cochran

Tel: 01474 366335

Email: marac.north.kent@kent.pnn.police.uk

West Kent (Sevenoaks, Tonbridge & Malling, Tunbridge Wells):

Jo Cordery

Tel: 01892 502023

Email: marac.west.kent@kent.pnn.police.uk

Mid Kent (Maidstone and Swale):

David Philpot

Tel: 01622 604301

Email: marac.midkent@kent.pnn.police.uk

Medway:

Sarah Baker

Tel: 01634 792387

Email: marac.medway@kent.pnn.police.uk

East Kent (Canterbury, Thanet):

Nick Symons

Tel: 01227 868114

Email: marac.east.kent@kent.pnn.police.uk

South Kent (Ashford, Dover, Shepway):

Claire Frost

Tel: 01303 289402

Email: marac.south.kent@kent.pnn.police.uk

Kent and Medway Freedom Programme Good Practice Protocols

These protocols have now gone through their annual review in November 2013 and have been reissued (version 6).

The area programmes that have signed up to follow the Good Practice Protocols so far include:

- Thanet
- Shepway
- Ashford
- Dartford
- Gravesham
- Maidstone
- Canterbury
- Tonbridge & Malling
- Tunbridge Wells
- Swale
- Strood & Peninsula
- Sevenoaks

All programmes need to ensure that they sign up to the new version of the protocols to receive acknowledgement of their local programme in this newsletter during 2014.

All programmes that sign up to the new version of the protocols will be acknowledged in the KMDASG newsletters over the next 12 months.

Email:

alison.gilmour@kent.pnn.police.uk

Home Office Consultation

The Home Office has launched a consultation on strengthening the law on domestic abuse by explicitly stating that it covers coercive and controlling behaviour as well as physical harm.

Offences the new law could cover include threatening a partner with violence, cutting them off from friends and family or refusing them access to money in order to limit their freedom.

Controlling behaviour is currently covered by legislation that covers stalking and harassment but it does not explicitly apply to intimate relationships.

Among questions asked in the consultation is whether the current law is sufficient to tackle domestic abuse, is a new law needed and if brought in how could a new law of domestic abuse be effectively implemented.

The consultation closes on 15 October and all the relevant information can be found via the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/strengthening-the-law-on-domestic-abuse>

Free Domestic Abuse Training with the National Centre for Domestic Violence (NCDV)

In the training we discuss who NCDV are, what NCDV can do to help and how to access NCDV.

The training also advises on what domestic abuse is, how NCDV obtain emergency injunctions (the legal process in making the application), and how you can refer survivors (with consent) to NCDV and then, if required, receive email updates on the status of the injunction application.

We also discuss how funding is considered, reviewing the option of Legal Aid, as well as the benefits of civil orders and Domestic Violence Protection Notices and Orders. We also discuss our apps, available for android and i-phone.

The NCDV training is made up of 3 modules detailed below:

Module 1: Information about NCDV and injunction services.

Module 2: Introduction to Assist Website.

Module 3: Introduction to Refer Direct Website.

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The training generally lasts around forty minutes although we ask that you allow up to an hour for any Q&A.

Our trainers travel to sites so we kindly ask that there are at least three delegates on each training course.

If you would wish to book please contact:
sally.herzog@ncdv.org.uk
or
call Sally on 07534 096879.

<http://www.ncdv.org.uk/>

Female Genital Mutilation – E- Learning Course (FGM)

The Home Office has launched free online training for frontline professionals in identifying and helping girls at risk of female genital mutilation (FGM).

This comes as figures are released revealing that police forces have now investigated dozens of FGM cases over the last three years.

To register for free to access the Home Office e-learning learning course, follow the link below.

<http://www.fgmelearning.co.uk/>

Tender – Training Hub Launch

Tender has launched a new Training Hub – an interactive learning platform for professionals wanting to build practical skills in responding to the issue of relationship abuse.

Organisations can purchase a range of different E-learning courses, which can be accessed by multiple members of their staff team.

They are currently offering an on-line course on ‘Young People & Intimate Relationships – Awareness and Support’.

This short training session aims to develop understanding of the issues that can arise for young people as they begin to engage in intimate relationships. Participants will receive information about risk factors for young people, explore why abuse and culturally specific forms of violence occur, and be given guidance on approaching this issue with young people.

For more information about the course contact Tender’s Education Manager Jake Tily on 0207 697 4249 or jake@tender.org.uk

<http://tender.org.uk/>

Forced Marriage Briefing

CAADA have issued a practice briefing on identifying and engaging with young people at risk of forced marriage. It explores the following issues:

- What is forced marriage?
- Warning signs and risk-aggravating factors.
- Risk assessment.
- Best practice and safety planning.

http://www.caada.org.uk/documents/forced_marriage_briefing.pdf?utm_source=CAADA+Mailchimp+Database&utm_campaign=d2cd8590e6-CAADA_eNews_Jan_Feb_2014_General&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_8480a90584-d2cd8590e6-316796229

KMDASG Domestic Abuse Website

The KMDASG Domestic Abuse Website is now available.

Please use it and help us to promote its availability.

Additional work to develop the site further will take place over coming months so remember to check back regularly to see what has been added!

www.domesticabuseservices.org.uk

Domestic Violence/Abuse Forum Chairs:

North West Kent: Gravesend and Dartford

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01474 337195
john.britt@gravesham.gov.uk

Canterbury and District:

Sari Sirkia-Weaver
01227 472050
sari@homestartcanterbury.org

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Kelly Webb
Kelly.webb@sevenoaks.gov.uk

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Deborah Cartwright
01843 223 094
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park_i@sky.com

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Temp. Chair: Yvette Hazelden
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Next edition expected in December

This newsletter is only available electronically.

If you would like to be added or removed from the distribution list please e-mail Alison:

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