This is issue 53 of the Reducing the Risk e-bulletin. All information contained in this e-bulletin will be available on the Reducing the Risk website. Please use the website as your first port of call for information, advice and support regarding domestic abuse. Please feel free to forward this e-bulletin to anyone you consider would benefit from receiving this information.

If this email has been forwarded to you but you would like to be included on the mailing list please click here.

If you would like to unsubscribe from this e-bulletin please click here.

Also, if you would like to contribute to the content of the e-bulletin then email Julia.McCormack@oxfordshire.gov.uk

www.reducingtherisk.org.uk or www.amiabused.co.uk

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1. Domestic Abuse Champions’ Meetings and Training Sessions

Community Champion Training (2 full days 9.30 – 17.00)

The next training will be on:
1-2 May 2014 at Cottsway Housing, Cottsway House, Heynes Place, Witney OX28 4YG
3-4 July 2014 at South Oxfordshire District Council, Crowmarsh Gifford.
11-12 September 2014 at Banbury Hub
3-4 December 2014, Room 2 County Hall, Oxfordshire County Council

Schools Champion Training (1 day)


Champion Refresher Training (1 day 9.30 – 15.00)

20th June 2014 at South Oxfordshire District Council, Crowmarsh Gifford
7th October 2014 at Cottsway Housing, Cottsway House, Heynes Place, Witney OX28 4YG

Please book by contacting Julia.mccormack@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Network Meetings
22nd April 2014  9.30 – 12.30  SOHA, Didcot -  
Presentation by Natalie Brook – OSARC  
10th June 2014  9.30 – 12.30  Graham Hill House, Electric Avenue, OX2 OBY  
Presentation by Victoria Hedges of National Centre for Domestic Violence  

Details will also be on the Reducing the Risk web site.  

Any contributions or suggestions for speakers or offers of venues for Network Meetings would be gratefully received.  Just e mail me Julia.mccormack@oxfordshire.gov.uk  

2. Reducing the Risk News  

Refresher Training:  

Recently we have seen the numbers of those seeking to refresh their skills as a Domestic Abuse Champion somewhat reduced. If you would like to do this please come to one of our Refresher Training days. The next one is on 20th June at South Oxfordshire District Council, Crowmarsh Gifford. If you would like to attend please e mail me Julia.mccormack@oxfordshire.gov.uk.  

A Champion Choir for Christmas 2014!  

Do you love to sing? Would you like to join a choir (no auditions)? Have you experience as a music director or a conductor? Are you a musician? Do you belong to a band/music group?  

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| Play an instrument     | □  
| Be part of the planning team | □  

Reducing the Risk has been thinking about how amazing a Champions Choir would be (with nearly 1,000 Champions in the county, what a great opportunity- eat your heart out, Gareth Malone!)  

We are particularly looking for a team to work together to plan and organise the concert- would you like to help?
Starting this Spring, we should be ready for Christmas and a great celebratory concert, letting everyone know what fantastic domestic abuse services we have in Oxfordshire and raising funds to support our work.

With help from a member of a well-known Oxford choir we should be ready to start planning in April, so if you would like to sing, join a team to help organise, or play at the concert, just fill in your details below and email them by 10 April to julia.mccormack@oxfordshire.gov.uk. From the response we get, we'll get back to you quickly to see if we really can raise the roof at Christmas.

3. The Freedom Programme

Pat Craven is planning to run a three day Freedom Program Facilitators training course from 9th – 11th September this year in Witney.

The Freedom Programme is a domestic violence programme which was created by and is run by Pat Craven and evolved from her work with perpetrators of domestic violence.

The Programme was primarily designed for women as victims of domestic violence, since research shows that in the vast majority of cases of serious abuse are male on female. However, the programme, which is provided as an intensive two day course, is also suitable for men, whether abusive and wishing to change their attitudes and behaviour or whether victims of domestic abuse themselves.

The Freedom Programme examines the roles played by attitudes and beliefs on the actions of abusive men and the responses of victims and survivors. The aim is to help them to make sense of and understand what has happened to them, instead of the whole experience just feeling like a horrible mess.

The Freedom Programme also describes in detail how children are affected by being exposed to this kind of abuse and very importantly how their lives are improved when the abuse is removed.

The Facilitator Training teaches trainees how to run the Freedom Programme. It is very intense and lasts for three days. Each trainee receives a manual, Living with the Dominator and the Freedom Programme Home Study Course which must be read before attending the training.

They organise all three day training events and sell places directly. This means that organisations can purchase as few or as many places as they require for £450.00 each plus VAT.

Please see www.freedomprogramme.co.uk/ for full details or Contact Pat Craven 01547 520228 07789 871309 email

4. Facilitators for Making Changes Programme

We are looking for dedicated and competent individuals to become Facilitators within the Making Changes Programme.

Making Changes is a voluntary community programme for men who perpetrate domestic violence and abuse towards women.
The programme is an initiative from the West Berkshire Domestic Abuse Forum and has 8 years experience of delivering a Duluth based programme of group work sessions.

Making Changes is a registered Charity (Charity Number 1149275) and aims to reduce the number of men (aged 18 and over) perpetrating domestic abuse.

We are currently delivering programmes in Newbury, Oxford and Abingdon and we are exploring other potential locations for delivery.

Facilitators receive payment for all Assessments and Sessions.

All new Facilitators are required to attend 5 days assessed training on the Duluth Model and the next course will be in Newbury, Berkshire on: 7th, 8th, 9th, 12th and 13th May 2014.

We would welcome applications from both men and women and the closing date for the next round of training is: 11th April 2014.

Applicants will be invited to attend an Assessment on one of the following dates: 22nd, 23rd or 24th April

If you are interested in becoming part of a team committed to making a difference please contact us for further details and Application Form.

Louise Carrington-Dye – Case Manager – 07775 030523 makingchanges@westberks.gov.uk
Susan Powell – Chair of Trustees – 07881 856801 spowell@westberks.gov.uk

5. Oxford Parent Infant Project – Infant group work training
6. **OSARCC Training**

**What:** A multi-agency "Sexual Violence Awareness Training Course" run by OSARCC.

**When:** 24th of April

**Where:** Oxford

The course aims to increase awareness of sexual violence and improve confidence in working with survivors of sexual violence. The course covers the following topics:

- What sexual violence is
- The prevalence of sexual violence
Perpetrator tactics
The impact of sexual violence on survivors
Key referral pathways

This one day course is taking place in Central Oxford at a cost of £90.

Refreshments will be provided throughout the day, but participants are asked to bring their own lunch.

To find out more, or to book a place, please complete the attached form and email it to training@osarcc.org.uk or telephone 01865 725311

Eligibility: For service professionals wanting to increase their awareness of sexual violence.

Other Dates:

When: 9 June 2014
Where: Wallingford

Eligibility: For service professionals working within the South Oxon County Council Boundary who want to increase their awareness of sexual violence.

To see if you qualify please take a look at the boundary map for South Oxfordshire.

Cost: Free
(Bookings must be cancelled at least 48 hours before the training date or you risk being charged £20 to cover administrative costs)

To make a booking for either training date, please contact us at training@osarcc.org.uk or call 01865725311 to request an application form.

7. #nomakeupselfie for a different cause

Submitted by N. Brook on Tue, 25/03/2014

If you’ve seen any local Oxford news in the last couple of days, you’ll no doubt have heard the story of Jeanne Marie – a woman who was beaten up in an Oxford nightclub at the weekend for telling a man that it is 'completely inappropriate to touch a woman without her consent.'

Despite what she’s been through, Jeanne Marie started a campaign to raise awareness of how sexual assault and violence continues to be an ordeal than many women face when they’re just trying to have a good night out.

After posting a photo of her bruised face on Facebook and tagging it with #nomakeupselfie, Jeanne Marie’s story has been shared thousands of times. And what’s more, the fundraising page that Jeanne Marie set up has been inundated with donations to Oxford Sexual Abuse and Rape Crisis Centre (OSARCC).

We have been overwhelmed by the response to Jeanne Marie’s campaign and would like to give huge thanks to her for sharing her experience and drawing attention to what many women across the UK experience every day.

Over one thousand people have donated to her campaign so far, raising an incredible £9,000 to support the work of Oxford Sexual Abuse and Rape Crisis Centre. This clearly shows both the shared outrage felt by the public at what Jeanne Marie has experienced and an understanding of the need for services provided by organisations like Rape Crisis Centres. We would like to thank everyone who has donated so far. We provide confidential, independent and specialist support to over 350 women and girls every year who have experienced any form of sexual violence at any time in their lives. As a small local charity the donations will give our work a real boost and will help us continue to support women who are dealing with the impacts of sexual violence as well as
developing much needed services that we cannot currently offer due to lack of resources, like specialist counselling.

Sadly, this is not an isolated incident. We would like to see all clubs and pubs in Oxford adopting a clear zero tolerance policy on sexual harassment and for the police, schools and community leaders across Oxfordshire to do much more to prevent abuse of women and girls before it happens.

We warmly welcome any woman or girl who has been affected by sexual violence to contact us on 0800 783 6294 or support@osarcc.org.uk or visit www.oxfordrapecrisis.net for more info. To find a Rape Crisis Centre near you, please visit www.rapecrisis.org.uk.

8. Oxfordshire Sexual Health Services

The Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust won the Oxfordshire County Council tender to provide integrated sexual health services across Oxfordshire. From 1st April, 2014 existing Genitourinary Medicine and contraception services will be brought together into a new integrated service that should make it easier for people to access the range of care that they need.

Specialist services and service administration, as well as co-ordination of the C-card and chlamydia screening will be delivered from the Churchill Hospital in Oxford and the Orchard Health Centre in Banbury.

These clinics offer the full range of sexual health services including complex sexual health screening, tests and treatment, and all types of contraception including for women who have problems with contraception and who have other medical conditions. The coil fitting services will be located at these services. These services are open to everyone, but are especially designed for people with symptoms or a complex history.

We will continue to operate the existing outreach provision, for vulnerable young women not otherwise accessing contraception services, from the Churchill Hospital.

The new service will build on the existing contraceptive provision to provide a number of outreach sexual health clinics in Witney, Wantage, Bicester, Abingdon, Witney and Kidlington. These clinics will be run by specialist nurses and are for patients without symptoms, who do not need to be examined. They will provide sexual health screening, treatment, advice and contraception including:

- Free condoms
- Testing for asymptomatic sexually transmitted infections
- Contraception
  - Implants
  - Contraceptive pills
  - Depoprovera
  - Emergency contraception
  - IUD/IUS assessment

There will be enhanced provision in Didcot including IUD/IUS fitting and assessment of patients with external genital symptoms (ie those who do not require microscopy).

The contraceptive service at Raglan House, which was previously provided by Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust, will be temporarily offered from the Churchill Hospital until a suitable new location in East Oxford can be found. Oxford Health is reviewing its property portfolio and can no longer offer the space for this clinic to be housed in. The search to find an alternative location in the community, as quickly as possible, continues and GPs and patients will be kept informed.

For full details all new clinic times and locations see www.sexualhealthoxfordshire.nhs.uk. If you have any further comments or queries please do not hesitate to contact me or Paul Smith (implementation manager) paul.smith@ouh.nhs.uk. We are producing cards for patients and if you would like some, please contact Paul.
9. **BYP is looking for Trustees**

We are looking for new trustees that can help us strategically develop our services in a time of unprecedented change - significant welfare reform which has already meant a 10% increase in homelessness in the past 12 months, a rapidly changing welfare environment which puts the most vulnerable young people at risk and who will be hardest hit, a huge surge in demand for our services coupled with an immense competition for ever decreasing funds. In amongst all these challenges, we are seizing new opportunities every day to enable young people to transform their lives. We are looking for trustees from backgrounds like:

- Housing advice or housing
- Youthwork delivery
- Health
- Law
- Homelessness, or have experienced homelessness
- Policy and campaigns
- Fundraising
- Management
- Marketing
- Business
- Accountancy

We would love to hear from you. For a confidential discussion please call our Chief Executive, Anna Day on 01295 259 442 or email anna.day@byhp.org.uk for more information please visit our website at www.byhp.org.uk

**BYHP Supporting Young People in Housing Need**
*Transforming the lives of homeless, disadvantaged or vulnerable young people through person centred support.*
Telephone: 01295 259 442

10. **HMIC’s report into the police response to domestic violence and abuse 27.03.14**

*Everyone’s business: Improving the police response to domestic abuse* was published on HMIC website on 27 March 2014, along with an individual report for each police force in England and Wales.


11. **Northamptonshire domestic violence refuges reprieved**
Refuge cuts could put lives at risk, a charity has warned

The planned closure of refuges that protect female domestic abuse victims in Northamptonshire has been halted until operators can find other funds.

The county council said it would extend funds to the county's 68 refuge places after a government grant was cut.

But the reprieve would only last until September, it added.

Wendy Lovell from Northampton Women's Aid said it was unlikely all places could be saved, but that saving as many as possible would be its priority.

The charity, which provides some accommodation, has warned that lives could be put at risk if the emergency centres, which cost £750,000 a year to run, were forced to close.

**No staff funding**

The refuges had been funded by the government's Supporting People programme, but money for staff to run them is no longer available.

Victims of abuse will continue to be eligible for financial help enabling them to live independently or in bed and breakfast accommodation.

Northamptonshire County Council has asked organisations to tender for services for abuse victims, but has not included a requirement to provide centres.

Ms Lovell said it would be "unrealistic" to think that 68 places could stay open, but that the charity was looking to "talk some more to see if we can save at least some."

Robin Brown, cabinet member for health and adult social services, said the authority would back the refuges from July until September and continue to work with operators on funding.

A report by former Labour Northampton North MP Sally Keeble said Northamptonshire Police dealt with 12,211 incidents of domestic abuse in 2011-12.

**12. Call for case studies: research into the links between going missing, child sexual exploitation and forced marriage/honour based violence**

Nicola Sharp, a doctorate student at the University of Bedfordshire, is undertaking research into the links between going missing, child sexual exploitation and forced marriage/honour based violence.

Nicola is seeking to identify any cases involving British Nationals under the age of 18 who are at actual harm and/or at risk of any combination of these three issues.

Examples of relevant cases may include:

- A young person who has gone missing and been sexually exploited- their parents have threatened to force/forced the young person into marriage in order to curb their behaviour.
• A young person who has gone missing to escape a forced marriage (threatened or actual)/honour based violence but has ended up being sexually exploited.

She is interested in the ways in which these issues come together (there may be other patterns) and how they are responded to by different agencies. As such she is not seeking to talk to young people directly but to the case workers who have supported them.

If you think you have worked on /are working on a case that fits this criteria then please contact Nicola directly: Nicola.Sharp@beds.ac.uk or 07966 846119.

Following completion of her research Nicola will be disseminating the report with services to help inform future practice. She is also very happy to visit participating organisations to present this work to staff and board members.

13. **Greening: it’s time to break the silence on early and forced marriage**

Department for International Development

Ahead of International Women's Day, International Development Secretary says global action must be taken to stop girls being forced into marriage.

[read the full story here...](#)

14. **This week, something incredible happened: Protecting Girls against FGM**

17 year old Fahma Mohamed won her campaign for action from the Education Secretary, Michael Gove, with the backing of 235,000 Change.org users.

Here's how the campaign happened, all in less than three weeks...

February 6th: **Fahma launches her campaign** calling on Michael Gove to write to all schools to urge them to protect young girls against Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). *Despite being illegal, over 24,000 girls are estimated to be at risk of FGM in the UK each year.*

February 7th: Within 24 hours **100,000 people had joined Fahma's campaign.** Then 150,000. Then 200,000...
February 13th: Michael Gove is asked by Fahma's local MP during Education Questions in Parliament to meet Fahma and discuss her campaign. He agrees.

February 18th: UN General Ban Ki-moon describes Fahma’s campaign as "deeply inspiring" and praises her "desire to enlist headteachers and reach every girl at risk of FGM."

February 23rd: Malala Yousafzai, the Pakistani school girl who was shot for standing up for girls' right to education, voices her support for the campaign. She describes Fahma as her sister and says "I am at her side and I want her to be listened to as I was."

February 25th: VICTORY!

Michael Gove agrees to write to primary and secondary schools to support them in tackling female genital mutilation.

It's been incredible to see the power of a campaign led by a schoolgirl from Bristol and her classmates. Fahma's passion for the issue inspired nearly a quarter of a million signatures, the backing of a national newspaper and support of world leaders to convince the Education Minister to change his mind.

Personal stories can create inspirational campaigns.

If you're inspired, why not start your own campaign to change something you believe in?
15. **FGM Helpline makes dozens of referrals to agencies**

The NSPCC’s helpline for reporting suspected cases of female genital mutilation (FGM) has referred dozens of cases to police and children’s services since being set up last year. click here **FGM helpline makes dozens of referrals to agencies**

16. **Shocking impact of domestic violence in Leeds revealed**

Published 26/03/2014

**A disturbing report reveals the devastating toll domestic violence is having on families across Leeds.**

Child protection officers received over 3,620 referrals in one year highlighting concerns that children were believed to be at risk from violence, according to the report by Leeds City Council’s director of Children’s Services.

The report, which was made to the council’s executive board, revealed the rate of infants entering care in the city - for a shocking catalogue of reasons - is “well above” the national average.

Parental substance misuse, domestic violence, parents suffering from mental illness and parental learning disability are just some of the key reasons for children being taken into care.

Nearly one in 50 babies born in some of the most deprived parts of the city, including areas such as Beeston and Belle Isle, were taken into care at birth or in the first few months of their lives.

And the proportion of children entering care at birth or before their fifth birthday has increased “significantly”.

Figures show that six out of 10 children starting care are under the age of five - compared to four out of ten nationally.

But council chiefs say improved joint ways of working have helped to reduce the overall number of children and young people in care in Leeds over the last two years. They claim pioneering new initiatives are helping some of the city’s most vulnerable families to stay together.

And they warn that Leeds needs to be “serious” about tackling the number of children in care as it strives to be recognised as a Child Friendly City.
Councillor Judith Blake, executive member responsible for children’s services said: “If we are serious about Leeds being recognised as a child friendly city then we have to be ready to tackle these issues head on.

“That is why we have invested in our social work workforce, strengthened our multi-agency practice on the ‘front door’ and have significantly expanded our family group conferencing services.

“This approach is already producing encouraging results and feedback from children, families and other agencies has shown us that we are achieving a dramatic turnaround in lives of families in difficult circumstances, by using this innovative approach.”

Council bosses are also drawing up new approaches to help tackle the number of children in care including specialist support for parents whose children are at risk or "on the edge" of care and an extension of domestic violence programmes.

17. **Should victims of domestic violence be offered witness protection services?**

Survivors usually bear the financial and emotional costs of creating a new identity; and if they have children and need to flee, then the task can be particularly difficult. [Guardian Professional, Friday 21 March 2014](http://www.theguardian.com/social-care-network/2014/mar/21/domestic-violence-victim-witness-protection)

*Domestic abuse survivors often live in fear of their former partner being released from jail without their knowledge. Photograph: Philip Hartley/Alamy*

“She’s put a letter on file with us. It says: 'If you find me dead, this is who it is,'” says Dianne Whitfield, a Rape Crisis representative for the West Midlands.

The domestic abuse survivor she's speaking of – we'll call her Emma – lives in fear of her former partner being released from jail without her knowledge. He recently applied for early parole, but because Emma was a bad character witness at his murder trial – he has never been charged with the violent rapes he inflicted on her – she is not automatically informed, as a victim would be, of his release date.

When a violent perpetrator is arrested, charged and tried, the state is seen as having done its duty. The victim has been believed, a case has been built and the evidence is tested in court. But when a perpetrator of domestic abuse becomes subject to criminal proceedings, the risk to his victim does not disappear. As the case of Jane Clough - a pregnant A&E nurse murdered by her abusive ex on bail for rape - demonstrates, women and children can be attacked and are sometimes killed even when police and courts are aware of the danger.

For full story:


18. **Push to keep domestic abuse victims' addresses secret**

Nick Clegg backs Eve’s Law, which aims to remove requirement for details to be given in open court.
Domestic violence victims are being forced to compromise their safety by giving their addresses in open court, campaigners argue. Photograph: Tuomas Marttila/Rex Features

Victims of domestic abuse cases could be handed an exemption from having to give their safe addresses in open court after a change in the law was backed by Nick Clegg, the deputy prime minister.

The Liberal Democrat leader said his party supported calls for stricter measures to protect victims after one case came to light last year in which a woman was threatened with contempt of court for refusing to publicly hand over her safe address.

Clegg's backing has highlighted another division within the coalition government. The Tory home secretary, Theresa May, announced a code of practice to help protect victims in court when announcing the rollout of Clare's Law earlier this month.

But her plans were criticised by campaigners who were unhappy that May stopped short of proposing legislation to back them up. The deputy prime minister, however, has confirmed that May's Lib Dem coalition partners believe the measures should be enshrined in law.

Clegg confirmed his party's support for a parliamentary motion calling for the changes in a letter sent last month and seen by the Guardian. It was addressed to the police and crime commissioner for South Yorkshire, Shaun Wright, who is lobbying MPs to support it.

The early day motion, which was proposed by Labour and has been signed by 84 MPs so far, says that "victims of domestic violence and abuse are being placed at risk when forced to give their safe address in open court". It added that other victims would not come forward because of the fear of being exposed by the courts.

The law it backs has been dubbed Eve's Law by campaigners – after the domestic violence survivor Eve Thomas, who first proposed it. Thomas's husband was convicted of battery in 2011. When she later returned to court for an unrelated case, the judge ordered her to give her address. She refused, fearing for her own safety, and was threatened with prison for contempt of court before a friend intervened, paying the required costs to settle the case.

Thomas welcomed the news, saying that her fight to give the proposals "teeth" by backing them with legislation would continue.

Labour’s shadow victims minister Dan Jarvis said: “It’s simply unacceptable that victims of domestic violence and abuse currently risk being forced to disclose their address and contact details in open court. Victims need to know that the criminal justice system is on their side.

“Labour has been calling for months for the government to tackle this problem but ministers have resisted going any further than a voluntary code of practice. We need to go further so that victims' confidential information is properly protected.

“That’s why Labour will be putting proposals before parliament this week to make Eve’s Law a reality. I hope Nick Clegg and Liberal Democrat MPs will support closing this small legal loophole, which will have a huge impact on the lives of people who have suffered the horror of domestic abuse.”
In a statement released on 8 March this year, May outlined her proposals. She said they included a "commitment to put in place a new code of practice to ensure that safe addresses of victims of domestic and sexual abuse are protected".

She added: “This will take effect where victims might otherwise have to reveal details of their address to people who could threaten them – for example in court cases unrelated to their abuse, or when required for their children's school records, or the family's access to benefits.”

19. **Home Office Publication : A call to end violence against women and girls: action plan 2014**

Organisation: Home Office  
Page history: Published 8 March 2014  
Policy: Ending violence against women and girls in the UK  
Collections: Ending violence against women and girls: action plans

Action plan setting out the detail of the government's achievements on ending violence against women and girls.

**Document**

![A call to end violence against women and girls: action plan 2014](image)

**A call to end violence against women and girls: action plan 2014**

PDF, 949KB, 65 pages

**Detail:** This action plan sets out the detail of the government's achievements on ending violence against women and girls, and where activities will be focused over the coming year in response to emerging challenges.

20. **Gender difference in Domestic Abuse**

The Crime survey for England and Wales shows (of people aged 16-59) 4.4% of males and 7.1% of females have experienced "any form of domestic abuse" including partner/family abuse, sexual assault and stalking.

You may have seen this recent presentation on the CAADA website which is really interesting and helpful in understanding the gender differences in domestic abuse and why the crime survey shows a very different pattern (ie higher % of men) to that picked up by Domestic Abuse services.  

The key message seems to be that..
- General survey studies are biased toward situationally-provoked violence, which is perpetrated about equally by men and women.
- Agency studies are biased toward coercive controlling violence, which is perpetrated almost entirely by men.
The motives for and the severity of the outcome are different for each type, also the impact on children.

21. **The violence epidemic: Half of women in Britain admit they have been physically or sexually assaulted according to shocking new figures**

*Independent March 2014*

Around one in two women in Britain have been physically or sexually assaulted, according to the world’s biggest ever report into abuse suffered by women.

The plight of women in this country is part of a far wider problem across Europe, with millions of women attacked each year – often beaten, shot, stabbed, strangled or raped.

One in three of all women in Europe - 62 million people - have been a victim of violence during their lifetime, according to the Violence Against Women report by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), which is released today.

It is an “extensive but widely under-reported human rights abuse” faced by women at home, work, in public and online, warns the report.

The findings are from face to face interviews with 42,000 women in the 28 countries that make up the European Union. Participants, aged 18-74, were asked about their experiences of physical, sexual and psychological violence, as well as issues such as sexual harassment and stalking.

“Physical, sexual and psychological violence against women is an extensive human rights abuse in all EU Member States,” said FRA Director Morten Kjaerum. “Measures tackling violence against women need to be taken to a new level now,” he added.

**SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN UK**

| Percentage of women who have suffered from physical and/or sexual violence by a partner or non-partner since the age of 15 |
|---|---|
| UK | 44% |
| EU AVERAGE | 33% |

| Percentage of women who have suffered from sexual harassment since the age of 15 |
|---|---|
| UK | 68% |
| EU AVERAGE | 55% |

*SOURCE: FRA*

The report also reveals that more than four in ten women [43 per cent] have experienced psychological violence from their partner – from being humiliated in public to locked indoors, forced to watch pornography, or threatened with violence.

And stalking – aided and abetted by the social media websites, texting and emails – has plagued almost one in five [18 per cent].

As well as cyberspace, the workplace is another place where women suffer. A third [32 per cent] of EU victims of sexual harassment cited a boss, colleague or customer.

Britain ranks among the worst countries in Europe when it comes to women being violently abused, coming fifth worst in terms of violence suffered by women in their lifetime (defined as
being since the age of 15). The proportion of women affected, at 44 per cent, is far above the European average of 33 per cent. The only countries worse than Britain are the Netherlands, Sweden, Finland, and Denmark.

And the perpetrators, who are mostly male, are getting away unpunished due to most women not reporting crimes to the police. Only 22 per cent of British women contacted the police, similar to the European average [20].

Out of 28 countries, Britain ranks:

- Fourth worst for physical and/or sexual violence by a partner – with almost a third [29 per cent] reporting this, compared to the EU average of 22 per cent.
- Sixth worst for women avoiding places or situations for fear of being physically or sexually assaulted - two thirds [64 per cent] admit to this, a higher proportion than the EU average of just over half [53 per cent].
- Sixth worst for sexual harassment - more than two thirds [68 per cent] have suffered this, compared to the EU average of 55 per cent.

Dr Joanne Goodey, the co-author of the report, suggested that increased sexual harassment is the “flipside” of increasing equality in the workplace.

She also cited Britain’s drinking culture, with heavy drinking linked to domestic violence, as another factor in Britain faring worse than many other countries. “Also, overall violent crime rates are higher in the UK than some other parts of Europe,” she added.

Yvette Cooper, Shadow Home Secretary, said: “The Government needs to take urgent action to stop Britain languishing at the bottom of this EU-wide league table and to stop more women becoming victims of violence.”

Crime Prevention Minister Norman Baker said he would need to see the figures to ensure they were accurate. However, he said "any instance of violence is one too many”.

“The Coalition Government has made significant progress in tackling violence against women and girls.

"Last year, we extended the definition of domestic violence to include controlling and coercive behaviour, introduced two new stalking offences and in December launched the ‘This is Abuse’ campaign to highlight that it’s not just physical violence that makes a relationship abusive.

"We have also announced the roll out of Clare’s Law, domestic violence protection orders and ring-fenced nearly £40 million of funding for specialist local support services and national helplines to support people in abusive situations.

"Furthermore, we have commissioned Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) to conduct a review into how forces deal with domestic violence and are working with the Crown Prosecution Service to ensure the law is enforced.”

But Sandra Horley CBE, chief executive of Refuge, described the EU report as “a wake-up call” whose “findings should send shockwaves through governments across Europe – including our own.”

She added: “The report also shows that Britain ranks among the worst countries in Europe when it comes to women being violently abused – a shameful accolade.”

Among the report’s recommendations are that EU countries ratify the Council of Europe’s convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (the Istanbul Convention), draw up action plans to tackle violence against women, and ensure that police, doctors, employers and others are trained and equipped to help women victims of violence.
Ms Horley called on Prime Minister David Cameron to ratify the Istanbul Convention “without delay” and “put in place robust measures to ensure that women and children are given the most basic of all human rights – the right to live in safety”.

And campaigners are also calling for psychological abuse to be outlawed in a bid to protect victims of domestic violence. “It is possible for the law to criminalise a course of conduct and move beyond physical injury,” said Laura Richards, director of stalking advice service Paladin.

The BBC piece chose to use a different set of percentages from the same FRA report (see below) and their headline is:

Violence against women: One-third of EU women affected - survey
http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-26444655

Still shocking data however.

### 22. Violence against women: an EU-wide survey - Main results report

March 2014

This FRA survey is the first of its kind on violence against women across the 28 Member States of the European Union (EU). It is based on interviews with 42,000 women across the EU, who were asked about their experiences of physical, sexual and psychological violence, including incidents of intimate partner violence (‘domestic violence’).

Downloads:

Violence against women: an EU-wide survey. Main results report

[pdf](en) (3.41 MB)

The survey also included questions on stalking, sexual harassment, and the role played by new technologies in women’s experiences of abuse. In addition, it asked about their experiences of violence in childhood. Based on the detailed findings, FRA suggests courses of action in different areas that are touched by violence against women and go beyond the narrow confines of criminal law, ranging from employment and health to the medium of new technologies.


Violence against women: an EU-wide survey
(PS: there is an interesting chart on page 3 of the factsheet which shows sexual cyberharassment including emails/SMS messages by age group. Chart on cyberharassment since age 15 by country is on page 105 of the main report - UK is 13% compared with EU average of 11%)

24. Intimate partner violence victimization and alcohol consumption in women: a systematic review and meta-analysis

Devries et al's systematic review and meta-analysis identified 55 studies relating to women's use of alcohol and experiences of domestic and sexual violence. The included studies reinforced our understanding of a bidirectional relationship between domestic violence and substance use – victims are more likely to use alcohol and substance use is associated with increased risk of victimisation. The authors note, however, that the quality of evidence is limited and recommend further longitudinal research to develop a robust picture of women's experiences of domestic violence and alcohol use.

25. Fear of Past Abusive Partner(s) Impacts Current Posttraumatic Stress Among Women Experiencing Partner Violence

In their study of survivors' experiences of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), Jaquier and Sullivan found that fear of past abusive partner(s) was more strongly associated with the severity of current PTSD symptoms than the impact of current violence and abuse. This suggests that in supporting women who have experienced domestic violence and PTSD, the survivor’s subjective level of fear of the perpetrator should be considered when addressing PTSD symptoms. Fear of Past Abusive Partner(s) Impacts Current Posttraumatic Stress Among Women Experiencing Partner Violence

26. Homelessness, Behavioral Health Disorders and Intimate Partner Violence: Barriers to Services for Women

Published in the Community Mental Health Journal, this article describes some of the successes of a community drop-in service in the US for women who are homeless, have mental health problems and experiences of domestic and sexual violence. The authors note specifically that frequently women's reluctance or inability to engage with services was rooted in the experiences of violent partners: women feared being re-traumatised, losing relationships or jeopardising their safety by accepting support. Overall recommendations mirror those of the Rebuilding Shattered Lives campaign (see Reports, guidance and parliament section) in calling for gender-specific services that are non-judgemental, offer flexibility in location and structure and promote trauma awareness. Homelessness, Behavioral Health Disorders and Intimate Partner Violence: Barriers to Services for Women

27. Women’s Aid release report on online harassment and abuse

On Valentine’s Day Women’s Aid published Virtual world, real fear – Women’s Aid report into online abuse, harassment and stalking. The report was written following the online stalking conference Women’s Aid hosted in September 2013. The report found that the impact online abuse has on women’s lives has been underestimated by all statutory services. It is vital that online abuse, harassment and stalking is seen and dealt with as part of the spectrum of domestic violence. For a full copy of the report please visit website
28. **Women's Aid Federation of England**

**National Quality Standards**

These standards form a set of criteria through which dedicated specialist services addressing domestic violence perpetrated against women and children can evidence their quality. They have been developed in response to the needs of members, and have been reviewed by individual member services. These standards will strengthen our sector. The more services that come forward to demonstrate that they meet the standards, the stronger our sector will be, and the greater the ability of Women's Aid to advocate on behalf of members to both local commissioners and the government. The initial process for evidencing these standards will be a review of documentary evidence of the core standards. Participating services will then be able to contribute to a further review of the standards and the assessment process. We now invite you to come forward to apply for assessment, please register your interest by email to Sarah Davidge.

29. **NICE calls for greater awareness about domestic violence and abuse**

This was in last month’s E Bulletin as ‘stop press’ but we thought it might be useful to repeat it this month just in case you missed it the first time.

Domestic violence and abuse can affect anyone, both women and men regardless of their age or where they are from. The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence says there needs to be a wider understanding in health and social care, as well as in society as a whole, about how we can help people experiencing it. NICE has published new guidance which aims to help identify, prevent and reduce domestic violence and abuse. It outlines how health services, social care and the organisations they work with can respond effectively to domestic violence and abuse.

Domestic violence and abuse can be physical abuse, threats, emotional abuse, sexual assault or stalking by a partner, ex-partner or family member. Both men and women may perpetrate domestic violence and abuse, but it is more commonly inflicted on women by men. This is particularly true for severe and repeated violence and sexual assault.

PHE is supportive of this guidance and more information can be found online here.

30. **Lord Freud announces refuges are exempt from the Benefit Cap**

On 12 February Lord Freud, Welfare Reform Minister, appeared in front on the Work and Pensions Select Committee in the House of Commons. He was asked about the Department’s work on amending regulations for accommodation that can be exempted from the benefit cap and bedroom tax. His answer clarified that the definition of supported accommodation will become much broader.

A broader definition that includes virtually all refuges is good news. This represents the results of more than a year’s work for Women’s Aid which has included letters, meetings and written and oral evidence to the Work and Pensions Select Committee. Women’s Aid will continue to work with DWP and other supported housing sector representatives on this. Lord Freud announces refuges are exempt from the Benefit Cap.
31. **Rebuilding Shattered Lives**

Women who are homeless are among the most marginalised people in society. Sadly, women’s homelessness often occurs after prolonged experiences of trauma, including physical, sexual and emotional abuse, frequently within the home. It often follows from and results in a cycle of mental ill health and substance use, and a myriad of other problems. Many homeless women are left grieving for lost childhoods and lost children, and the impact is felt across generations.

These women’s histories are full of missed opportunities to get the right help at the right time. Working with a growing number of women, St Mungo’s has realised just how much women’s needs differ from those of men. We have also seen how women tend to do less well in support services which predominantly work with and are designed for men. With Rebuilding Shattered Lives we set out to change this.

“There is much good practice out there which warrants sharing more widely but we also need new approaches which fit the realities of women’s lives today. Our showcase is intended to be a crucible for new ideas which energise policy and good practice.” Charles Fraser, Chief Executive, St Mungo’s

*Rebuilding Shattered Lives* brought together different sectors all working with women who are homeless to share understanding of the particular experiences and challenges women face. We explored how organisations in different sectors are working with women to overcome these challenges, and how we can ensure women do get the right help, at the right time.

Drawing on the expertise of a panel of advisors we invited individuals, services and organisations to submit their experiences, ideas and research across nine themes.

**Women’s homelessness: why should we be concerned?**

Homelessness is a growing problem in the UK. Government figures show that the number of people accepted as homeless grew 10% between 2011 and 2012, 1 and the number of people recorded sleeping rough has risen by 37% since 2010.

2 Women make up 26% of people who accessed homelessness services in 2013, using approximately 10,000 bed spaces across the UK.

3 786 women were recorded sleeping rough in London in 2012/13, 12% of the total number. We believe many more women are ‘hidden homeless’, living outside mainstream.

Extracts taken from report:

- Shockingly almost half of our female clients have experienced domestic violence, and 19% had experienced abuse as a child, compared with 5% and 8% of men
- A third of the women we work with said domestic violence had contributed to their homelessness, compared to 8% of men

**Rebuilding shattered lives: Final report (PDF)**

32. **Ten Minute Rule Bill on Domestic Violence**

Elfyn Llywd introduced a Ten Minute Rule Bill on Domestic Violence to the House. He talked about the lack of recognition of coercive control by the police and criminal justice system and the importance of good quality training on domestic violence for all professionals in the criminal justice system. Women’s Aid is pleased that this issue is being raised in Parliament and that the importance of recognising the damaging effects of coercive control and psychological abuse are being highlighted. The Bill is scheduled for a second reading on June 6 2014. A full transcript can be found here.

33. **Police referrals for domestic violence cases fall**
Numbers down despite 11% increase in reports, and figures reveal significant disparities between police forces The Guardian, Monday 10 March 2014

Labour’s Yvette Cooper said her party would commit to publishing domestic abuse and sexual violence league tables for police forces in a bid to expose poor performance. Photograph: Chris Ratcliffe/Bloomberg

The number of domestic violence cases being referred to prosecutors, and the conviction rate, have dropped despite an increase in reports to the police, parliamentary figures have shown.

Reports of domestic violence to police increased by 11% from 2010/11 to 2012/3, but the percentage of successful prosecutions has dropped by 14% in the same period.

Just around 90% of all reports of domestic violence to police forces in England and Wales are taken no further, the data shows, as police in 2009/10 referred 12.1% of cases to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and in 2012/13 that had dropped to 10.5%.

CLICK HERE for full article http://www.theguardian.com/society/2014/mar/10/domestic-violence-police-referrals-numbers

34. IARS Press Release: New Pan European Project launch - Domestic Violence under the lens of Restorative Justice

The Dutch Verwey-Jonker Institute in partnership with IARS and 5 other European Organizations will come together on the 3rd- 4th March in Utrecht, the Netherlands for the launch of the 2-year EU funded project entitled “Restorative justice in cases of domestic violence: Best practice examples between increasing mutual understanding and awareness of specific protection needs”.

The project is aiming to bring domestic violence under the lens of restorative justice by developing an understanding of how restorative justice can be implemented in complex cases of domestic violence in the best interest of the victims.

Professor Theo Gavrielides, IARS Founder and Director said: “Despite the broad development of restorative justice over the last decades, its application on cases of domestic violence remains a controversy due to the complex dynamics that could be developed among the parties involved. We look forward to creating an evidence base for the safe development of restorative justice in this grey area of practice”.

The EC Directive on Minimum Standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime (2012), asks that victims must have access to safe and competent restorative justice services. However, in cases of domestic violence, it is particularly challenging to achieve and ensure safety and voluntary participation due to the intimate relationship of the parties involved.

This timely project is coming to bridge this legisatory gap by bringing evidence into fore that can be used by policy makers and practitioners to strengthen the application of Restorative Justice in cases of domestic violence.
It aims to produce scientific and evidence based practical guides and manuals that can be used directly decision makers, policy makers and practitioners, prosecutors, police officers, probation officers across Europe. A network of practitioners will be also established to increase understanding between diverse judicial systems and RJ practices in the member states.

The project will be carried out as part of a consortium of 7 European Organizations. The project will build on Gavrielides' research on domestic violence and restorative justice including his research report "Restorative Justice & Violence Against Women: Comparing Greece and the United Kingdom". Further here.

35. **Caring Dads, SAFER CHILDREN - Interim evaluation report**

Nicola McConnell, Matt Barnard, Tracey Holdsworth and Julie Taylor

Impact and Evidence series:
This report is part of the NSPCC’s Impact and Evidence series, which presents the findings of the Society’s research into its services and interventions. Many of the reports are produced by the NSPCC’s Evaluation department, but some are written by other organisations commissioned by the Society to carry out research on its behalf. The aim of the series is to contribute to the evidence base of what works in preventing cruelty to children and in reducing the harm it causes when abuse does happen. [http://www.nspcc.org.uk/Inform/research/findings/evaluation/caring-dads.pdf](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/Inform/research/findings/evaluation/caring-dads.pdf)

36. **Dads do make a difference!**

Support dads by letting them know how important it is for them to be actively involved in their lives of their children.

This great book explains why their role is so important for the positive well-being and successful development of their children. It provides the help and support needed for dads to develop relationships that will enrich not only the lives of their children, but also their own lives too.

For a FREE e-sample call David Harban on 01484 668008

SAVE up to 50% on orders placed before 1st April Click here for details.

More great books for Dads:
37. Claire Walker Consultancy - Newsletter
Domestic Abuse Training and resources – Mr. Right/Mr. Wrong cards etc.
http://us4.campaign-archive1.com/?u=60d6fc5e87d21c055cea54e83&id=ae5b12786f&e=ce74020b71

38. Safeguarding Vulnerable Children & Adults
Risk & Vulnerability
Monday 19th - Tuesday 20th May 2014,
Bucks New University, High Wycombe Campus, Queen Alexandra Road, High Wycombe,
Buckinghamshire HP11 2JZ

http://www.neilstewartassociates.com/sh315/agenda.php

For further information contact:
Katrina Wright on 020 7324 4330 or email katrina.wright@neilstewartassociates.co.uk

Click here to register


Dates 25 September 2014
Trainer Amanda Middleton
Venue Development House, 56-64 Leonard Street, London, EC2A 4LT
Price £99 vol / £140 stat

This one day course will run from 10am -4:30pm

Course Description

Domestic and Sexual violence is often present or has been present in the lives of 'troubled families', sometimes across multiple generations and has a significant impact on their lives. Problematic substance use can also be a defining factor of a 'troubled family' and is often linked with domestic and sexual violence. Participants will gain knowledge on the links between DV/SV and problematic substance use, as well as what support and interventions can be effective with individuals and families experiencing these dual issues. This course includes how to respond appropriately to disclosures and how to support a survivor of abuse by recommending appropriate services. Delegates will also learn about risk, harm and resilience in 'troubled families' and what tools and interventions are available to work with these complexities.

Learning Objectives

- To gain an awareness of the impact of domestic violence and sexual violence on 'troubled families'
- To gain knowledge about links between Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence and problematic substance use
- To learn about the myths and realities regarding domestic violence and sexual violence
To increase knowledge about support and interventions for individuals and families experiencing the dual issues of Domestic violence, Sexual violence and problematic substance use.

To Explore the complex issues of risk, change and accessing effective support.

To practise asking about domestic and sexual issues, and substance use and responding to disclosure

To increase best practice working with individuals and families affected by the dual issues.

Who should attend?

Professionals who are working with troubled families or as part of a family intervention team. As well as professionals wanting to explore family approaches to working with domestic and sexual violence and problematic substance use.

To gain an awareness of the impact of domestic violence and sexual violence on 'troubled families'

Troubled families, problematic substance use and domestic and sexual violence, 25 September 2014, London

40. AVA Training : April / May

14 April, Children under ten years old and domestic violence, London

1 & 2 May, Counselling and communication skills for frontline workers, London

15 May, Perspectives on adolescent to parent violence, London

FREE 22 May, The new child maintenance system, what does it mean for domestic violence survivors? London

28 May, Legal remedies and support for young people and vulnerable adults who have been sexually exploited, London

41. Perfect gift for Mother’s Day

Support Women’s Aid this Mother’s Day by making a donation in honor of your mum, grandmother or the other special women in your life. This year, mark Mother’s Day in a different way and give a gift with lasting impact. By bringing a smile to your mum’s face you can bring hope to thousands more…

Make a gift donation in her honour and receive a beautifully designed e-gift certificate (as shown to the right) which you can then either print out and send or forward by email to the recipient of your choice.

Please click here to purchase your e-gift, we would like to ask that you donate a minimum of £5 for the e-gift certificate or as much as you feel able to give. When purchasing your certificate please ensure that you e-mail Faye, providing us with your e-mail address so that we can send you your e-gift certificate.
I hope you find the above interesting and informative.

Julia

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Please Note: We are unable to specifically recommend or guarantee the quality of any of the courses or products listed in this E Bulletin as we neither have control of, nor accept any liability for, the content of external products.