



Reducing the Risk

Issue 18 : April 2011

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

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1. Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) opening in April

Solace provides a comprehensive sexual assault support service to men, women and children. Crisis Workers offer free 24/7 telephone, information and referral services to all survivors of sexual violence, their family and friends. Crisis Workers also support clients through forensic medical examinations, whether or not the client has made a firm commitment to make a formal complaint to the Police at the initial stage.

An Independent Sexual Violence Advisor provides follow up care, referrals to other services as well as practical support. For those clients whose complaints proceed to a criminal trial, preparation prior to the trial and support at the trial may also be provided. Solace also offers counselling services to people who have experienced sexual assault. Finally, information and consultation services are also provided to other professionals in the community.

The aim of the service provided at Solace is to empower and support clients following a sexual assault, inform them of their options and assist them to make their own decisions about their care.

The staff's focus is on the needs and wishes of the survivor and helping clients get through and move on from what can often be a very traumatic experience.

Solace has been established through a partnership between Harmoni ForHealth, Police, the National Health Service and relevant charities.

2. Sojourner Project, - Good News for Victims with NRPF.

The Government has reached a decision regarding a permanent solution to financial support for victims of domestic violence on Spouse visas with NRPF. From the 1st April 2012 victims of domestic violence who entered the UK on a Spouse Visa will have access to public funds for a limited period. They will receive benefits for five weeks while they prepare and submit their application for Indefinite Leave to Remain under the Domestic Violence Rule and a further five weeks while the application is being considered by the UKBA. Up to April 2012, The Sojourner Project will continue in its current arrangements.

For more information, see: <http://tinyurl.com/37mjkk5>

3. Oxfordshire Drug and Alcohol Service

From 1st April 2011, SMART are changing the way they offer adult drug and alcohol services across Oxfordshire.

What will be different?

By integrating our four existing drug and alcohol services into a one-stop-shop, we are able to meet the individual needs of our service users more efficiently.

By becoming more efficient we can ensure that:

- Accessing our services is simpler.
- Each service user is assigned to a worker for their whole journey, meaning we can offer more consistent support.
- We are able to focus more on a person's recovery, and how to rebuild their life free from drugs or alcohol.

[CLICK HERE](#) for further details

4. Mia's Marathon Madness

Take a look at 'Mia's Marathon Madness' on the 'just giving' website to support Mia run 15 marathons in 10 months! Mia is **raising money for [Oxford Sexual Abuse & Rape Crisis Centre \(OSARCC\)](#)**

"As some of you know, for about 7 years I have been involved with OSARCC, a charity which offers a free and confidential service to women and girls who are dealing with the effects of sexual violence. Our work includes direct support for survivors and educational outreach in local schools, as well as campaigning to end all forms of sexual violence against women. We are constantly battling to retain funding for our vital service, which can only survive through the dedication of trained volunteers. Now, in order to try and raise some desperately needed funds for this invaluable resource, I am going to attempt to run 16 marathons in 10 months..."

Charity Registration No. 1131054



5. PACT BB4K

(programme to support children who witness domestic abuse – known as "Bounce Back For Kids" or BB4K.)

It had been planned to run a course in May but due to our new children's centre opening and new programmes it is throwing up issues with staffing, venues and not enough hours in the day!! Therefore I do not know how likely it will be to go ahead as planned. Therefore I have proposed that we run a mini 4-5 week group just for children to build self esteem and explore feelings/emotions and how to manage them safely through activities and play. The aim was to use a little of BB4K, anger management strategies, and protective behaviours rolled into one.

Referrals show a need for support for behaviour management. Parents can attend our Family Links programme but I was finding I was doing a lot of 1-1 with children on this so I wanted to respond to this need in some other way.

I am happy to take referrals for children who may still benefit from this adapted course and

the criteria would remain the same.

Parents and Children Together

7 Southern Court, South Street, Reading, RG1 4QS

Tel 0776 6601266

wwwkarenh@pactcharity.org

6. Thames Valley Partnership : An exciting new development for Family Matters!

The Thames Valley Partnership is pleased to announce a successful bid to the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation for a three year programme of work building on our successful Family Matters initiative. The new programme will be called a ***Family Approach to Criminal Justice Services in the Thames Valley*** and will develop some significant and exciting new areas of work:

- *A new volunteer staffed service for families in some courts*
- *Recruitment and training of volunteers through New Leaf (volunteer providers)*
- *More training and provision of resources for practitioners*
- *Awareness raising for sentencers and court staff*
- *Improved referral pathways into children and family support services*

We look forward to working with the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, with New Leaf and with our Local Authority and Criminal Justice colleagues across the Thames Valley to continue to improve support services and outcomes for the families of prisoners and offenders.

We also thank our current funders the Henry Smith Charity for continuing to support the programme.

Thames Valley Probation is generously supporting the development of the volunteer service in year 1.

For more details contact Project Coordinator Saj Khan

Sajida.khan@thamesvalleypartnership.org.uk

7. How have the cuts affected domestic violence services?



Photograph: Sarah Lee for the Guardian

An estimated 40% job losses are predicted across the domestic violence sector.

Total cut: £36m

Women's Aid figures show that 60% of refuge services have no council funding after April 1 and neither do 72% of floating support services – help provided in people's homes.

Redundancies: 320

An estimated 40% job losses are predicted across the domestic violence sector, according to a survey by Women's Aid of 89 organisations employing 800 full-time and part-time staff.

Services

Women's Aid estimates that 70,000 women and children could be without support as a result of the cuts. With around 400 refuge spaces in England, a 60% cut would reduce that to 160. Domestic violence charities suggest that 200 women a day are already unable to access a refuge place. Campaigners warn cuts could lead to a rise in murders, rape and assaults.

8. End Violence Against Women and Girls Action Plan

This action plan provides an overview of the wide range of actions the government will be taking forward with key partners to deliver its strategy to tackle violence against women and girls (VAWG). It was launched on 8 March 2011. Click [here](#) for paper.

9. 'Honour' killings plan does not go far enough, says women's rights group

Some police officers, teachers and social workers still do not understand the problem, organisation claims

New government plans for tackling violence against women and girls will not go far enough to help victims of "honour" violence, campaigners have claimed.

The Iranian and Kurdish Women's Rights Organisation said there were not enough proposals to protect women attacked or threatened by family members. It added that its workers regularly came across police, teachers, social workers and other professionals who still did not understand the problem.

The action plan will outline the government's next steps after publication of a strategy document in November calling for an end to violence against women.

It is expected to recommend developing police training programmes on sexual and [domestic violence](#), including so-called honour-based violence, and continuing specialist training for prosecutors in violence against women. [CLICK HERE](#) for full article from The Guardian.

10. Women's Aid's survey reveals fear that over half of refuge and outreach services could face closure

National charity warns that cuts to domestic and sexual violence services will cost lives

National domestic violence charity Women's Aid today launch the results of their survey of the effects of the proposed cuts to domestic and sexual violence services. The survey (1) shows that:

- 60% of refuge services have no funding agreed from 1st April 2011
- 72% of outreach services have no funding agreed from 1st April 2011

Women's Aid is concerned about disproportionate impact of the cuts on specialist domestic and sexual violence services.

For example, Devon's domestic abuse services were recently cut by 42% from 1st April - far more than the 27% overall cuts the local authority are implementing over the next 4 years, meaning that the domestic abuse services are taking an unfair proportion of the hit.

Nicola Harwin CBE, Chief Executive of the national charity, Women's Aid, said:

"The proposed cuts to the national network of domestic and sexual violence services are absolutely devastating, although sadly not unexpected. We are particularly concerned that the removal of ring fenced funding for Supporting People last year coupled with cuts to local authority budgets has created a situation where councils across the country are making disproportionate cuts and rash decisions at the expense of protecting some of the most vulnerable people in society. Reducing specialist domestic violence services will inevitably result in increased demands on other shrinking services such as healthcare, police and social service departments, also under pressure, as well as putting the lives of the most vulnerable women and children at risk. It has taken 40 years to build the current national network of services which enables us to take women out of their area when needed to protect them and their children from their violent partner. Even with the current level of service provision, we still only have three-quarters of the bedspaces we need, yet we are in a position where we could potentially lose half of our services. As we celebrate 100 years of International Women's Day, and 100 years of work to end violence and promote women's equality this seems particularly sad. We urge all local authorities to consider the damaging effect withdrawing specialist domestic and sexual violence services will have and rethink."

[CLICK HERE](#) for full article

11. Eve Women's Wellbeing Project

<http://evewomenswellbeing.org/>

Eve is a long term project and registered charity for women of all ages, ethnicity, disability and background.

The core aim of the eve project is to help women to fulfill their full potential, bring back the laughter and enrich their lives.

We do this through several social groups held throughout the week, combining various activities with women's wellbeing awareness.

All women are welcomed and treated with respect, courtesy and kindness. We always take a non judgmental approach in all that we do.

Drivers Wanted!

Eve Women's Wellbeing Project requires drivers to pick up ladies throughout Oxfordshire. We pay 40p per mile.

This service is absolutely essential to enable women to gain independence and access our project.

If you feel able to helping this way please contact us on 01869 232461 or email eveproject@btinternet.com

12. Stalking and Harassment

(Research report published by Dr Lorraine **Sheridan** is a Chartered Forensic Psychologist)

Lives are at risk because not enough young victims of stalking are reporting it, according to the Association of Chief Police Officers.

New figures show women under 25 are almost twice as likely to be harassed or stalked, but research shows they are significantly less likely to seek help.

Victims and forces need to take the issue more seriously, says the officer in charge of the police's response.

Campaigners say it is vital that young women ask for help as soon as possible.

See news article on the BBC website: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsbeat/12679107>

13. Government Response to the Stern Review:

An independent review into how rape complaints are handled by public authorities in England and Wales

Baroness Stern was commissioned by Jacqui Smith, then Home Secretary, and Harriet Harman, then Minister for Equalities, in November 2009 to conduct an independent review into how rape complaints are handled by public authorities in England and Wales. She was asked to consider how to encourage more victims to report rape, how to improve the response of the criminal justice system and the conviction rate in line with the principles of justice long established in the UK, and how to build confidence and satisfaction in the handling of rape cases.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view the home office paper

14. Course of Justice - Charging in cases involving rape and/ or domestic violence allegations

Introduction

On 16 December 2010 Keir Starmer QC, Director of Public Prosecutions, announced a series of measures to strengthen rape prosecutions. One of the key elements was to seek the views of interested parties about the factors the Crown Prosecution Service should consider before charging a person involved in rape or domestic violence allegations with an offence of perverting the course of justice. We have drafted Interim Guidance designed to assist prosecutors making decisions in this type of case. We want to know what you think about it.

What is the Interim Guidance on Perverting the Course of Justice about?

Legal Guidance is central to how CPS makes decisions and is regularly updated to reflect changes in the law and procedure. As part of our commitment to open and transparent decision making, it is freely available on our website. The aim of the Interim Legal Guidance is to set out the issues we should consider when deciding whether or not to charge people involved in rape and/ or domestic violence allegations with perverting the course of justice.

We want to make sure that the final version of our Legal Guidance is clear, fair and right.

To help us do this we would like you to read the Interim Guidance and answer some questions.

We would appreciate your comments and views on developing the final version of the Legal Guidance.

Read the [Interim Guidance on Perverting the Course of Justice - Charging in cases involving rape and/ or domestic violence allegations](#).

Download the [Interim Guidance on Perverting the Course of Justice - Charging in cases involving rape and/ or domestic violence allegations PDF file](#).

What are the questions?

1. Is the description of perverting the course of justice clear?

2. Do the observations on the evidential stage of the Full Code Test clearly set out the issues we should address when deciding whether there is sufficient evidence to justify a prosecution? If not, please suggest how this could be achieved.
3. Does the section on the public interest stage of the Full Code Test clearly set out factors which we should consider when deciding whether it is in the public interest to prosecute? If not, please suggest how this could be achieved.
4. Have we provided sufficient explanation of what we mean by “double retraction” and are the factors to be considered in such cases clearly set out? If not, please suggest how this could be achieved?
5. Any other comments about the document?

How to respond to the consultation

By email: Read the [Interim Guidance on Perverting the Course of Justice - Charging in cases involving rape and/or domestic violence allegations](#)

- Download [the response form](#)
- Answer the questions on the response form by typing in the spaces
- Save the completed form on your computer
- Send the completed form to us at the address below:

Perverting the Course of Justice Consultation
Strategy and Policy Directorate
Crown Prosecution Service
Rose Court
2 Southwark Bridge
London
SE1 9HS

- Send an email to us at: consultations@cps.gsi.gov.uk
- Your response must reach us by 6 May 2011

By post: Read the [Interim Guidance on Perverting the Course of Justice - Charging in cases involving rape and/or domestic violence allegations](#)

- Print [the response form](#) and fill it in
- Please tell us your name, organisation (if applicable), postal address and email address (if you have one).

Thank you for telling us what you think. We will read all responses and consider them when writing the final Legal Guidance. The information you send us may be passed to colleagues within the CPS, the Government or related agencies.

Find out more about [confidentiality of responses](#)

Find out more about [Government Consultation criteria](#)

Domestic Abuse, Money and Education project 02.03.11

15. Domestic Abuse, Money and Education (DAME) project: providing specialist money advice service for women experiencing domestic violence

Women's Aid is working in partnership with money advice plus services (MAPS) to develop a three-year project - Domestic Abuse, Money and Education project (DAME).

This project provides a specialist money advice service for those experiencing domestic violence.

Money worries and domestic abuse

[Download a poster](#)



It is recognised that financial abuse is a common feature of domestic abuse and many survivors face financial difficulties as a consequence of the abuse they experience. These can act as a barrier to making the final decision to leave an abusive relationship, and/or to making a fresh start after escaping from abuse.

Despite this, support in relation to these financial difficulties is limited; domestic abuse services often lack the resources to provide in depth money advice, and most money advice projects do not specialise in dealing with domestic abuse cases.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information

16. The Percy Bilton Charity

deadline: various

The Percy Bilton Charity offers grants to UK registered charities whose primary objectives are to assist one or more of the following groups:

- Disadvantaged / underprivileged young people aged under 25
- People with disabilities, including physical or learning disabilities or mental health problems
- People over the age of 60.

The Charity has two programmes for organisations to apply to:

- Large grants – offering one off payments for capital expenditure of £2,000 and over
- Small grants – offering up to £500 towards furnishings and equipment for small projects. This programme is more suitable for smaller organisations.

There is no set deadline, but Board meetings are held quarterly in March, June, September and December to consider large grants.

Applications may be submitted at any time and will be considered at the next appropriate Board meeting. Applications for small grants are considered monthly.

For more information, visit www.percybiltoncharity.org.uk/index.htm

17. New Book - Forced Marriage: Introducing a social justice and human rights perspective, London : Zed Books

This book brings together leading practitioners and researchers from the disciplines of criminology, sociology and law. Together the contributors provide an international, multi-disciplinary perspective that offers a compelling alternative to prevailing conceptualisations of the problem of forced marriage. The volume examines advances in theoretical debates, analyses existing research and presents new evidence that challenges the cultural essentialism that often characterises efforts to explain, and even justify, this violation of women's rights. By locating forced marriage within broader debates on violence against women, social justice and human rights, the authors offer an intersectional perspective that can be used to inform both theory and practical efforts to address violence against diverse groups of women. This unique book, which is informed by practitioner insights and academic research, is essential reading for practitioners and students of sociology, criminology, gender studies and law.

[Click here](#) to view book on Amazon

18. DASH 2009 Risk Masterclass and Train the Trainer Events May and September 2011

Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Harassment and Honour Based Violence (DASH 2009) Risk Masterclass and 'Train the Trainer' Events Series 5 and 6

May 5th and September 15th (Masterclass) and May 19th and September 22nd (Train the Trainer) 2011

Saving lives through early risk identification, intervention and prevention

Due to the success of the last series of Masterclasses, Laura Richards who developed the DASH on behalf of the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and in partnership with

Coordinated action Against Domestic Abuse (CAADA), will be holding further training events in central London introducing all agencies, working in public protection, to the DASH (2009) Risk Identification, Assessment and Management Model.

[CLICK HERE](#) for further details and how to apply

19. AVA toolkits on sale!

Hard copies of AVA toolkits are now on sale. Buy a copy for your service for just **£20/£15 (statutory/voluntary)**.

[Domestic violence, drug and alcohol: good practice guidelines](#) provides practitioners and service managers within the domestic violence and substance misuse sectors with the basic knowledge and skills they require to respond to service users safely and appropriately. It has been compiled in consultation with practitioners from both sectors and provides practical guidance, case studies and sample documents enabling workers to use the toolkit as a reference and workbook. [Download order form.](#)

[Sane Responses: good practice guidelines for domestic violence and mental health services](#) aims to promote the understanding and good practice of frontline workers. It provides information on domestic violence and mental health, guidelines for good practice and details of existing services across London. [Download order form.](#)

20. Safeguarding Children - Living with Parental Substance Misuse and Domestic Violence, 15 April, London

This course looks at the overlapping issues of domestic violence and substance use and examines the impact of these on families, with a particular focus on safeguarding children. Participants will gain a better understanding of the factors that contribute to a 'risk of harm' to children's development when growing up with these dual issues. The course involves skill development on practice based issues such as asking questions about children, risk assessment and referral, as well as providing an oversight of the relevant legislation, policies and procedures for workers who support family members.

£90 vol / £130 stat

This course will run from 10am-4.30pm.

Delegates attending this course will receive a copy of the Stella Project toolkit. For more information or to book your place, [click here](#).

21. June 2011: Not Just Our Daughters - A one day training event to highlight the sexual exploitation of boys and young men

A training course for professionals who work with boys and young men.

The training will cover;

- Defining child sexual exploitation

- Intelligence gathering
- Forms of child sexual exploitation
- Roles and responsibilities
- Local and national procedures
- Barriers to overcome
- The grooming process
- Local and national resources
- Stereotypes: who grooms and who's at risk?
- Sex and the law Routes into child sexual exploitation

A DVD will also be shown to highlight the sexual exploitation of boys and young men

The training runs from 9.30am - 4.30pm and is being held on Thursday 2nd June 2011

To request a booking form or for further details please contact Bel Connolly

Tel: 0113 2444209

Email: b.connolly@mesmac.co.uk

This can also be delivered to groups of professionals within their own organisation

22. CAADA Leading Lights accreditation

What is the CAADA Leading Lights programme?

Leading Lights is an accreditation programme which recognises and rewards good and safe practice in IDVA services across the UK. The programme offers IDVA services, partner agencies and commissioners a set of standards for supporting high risk victims, and is designed to ensure that survivors of domestic abuse receive the same level of service, regardless of where they are in the country.

Leading Lights supports IDVA services to reach accreditation through a series of tailored support visits and training days. The programme covers the core aspects of running an IDVA service – from case management to strategy and governance – offering complete guidance to the entire IDVA service team. At the end of the accreditation process, IDVA services are evaluated by an external accreditation panel of domestic abuse sector and quality assurance professionals.

Currently six IDVA services are accredited; Worth (2008) Berkshire East Women's Aid, Let Go (2009), Advance, Blackpool Advocacy and WRASAC (2010), with 32 more currently engaged in the programme. [Read about the experiences of two of CAADA's Leading Lights services](#) and find out how it feels to be recognized for good and safe

practice.

Further information

Is your service ready to become a Leading Light in the domestic abuse sector? CAADA is now registering interest for the **Spring 2011** intake of its Leading Lights accreditation programme. If you'd like to find out more, why not [find out how the programme works](#) or email [Karen Clark](#) for further details or to register interest.

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.

