

Reducing the Risk

Monthly E-Bulletin

Issue 2: December 2009

**Domestic Abuse
Oxfordshire
Reducing the Risk**



Dear All,

Hello everyone. Apologies that I did not get an e-bulletin sent out for November 09. I am still chasing my tail a bit but hopefully you will now receive an e-bulletin at the beginning of every month. Feel free to forward onto anyone you feel would benefit from receiving this information. Also, if you would like to contribute to the content e-bulletin then email me; cara.langford@oxfordshire.gov.uk.

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1. [The Reducing the Risk Campaign Award](#)

Community Safety partners across Oxfordshire have won a top gold award from the Chartered Institute of Public Relations. The prestigious PRide award was for the 2008/2009 countywide campaign "It Could be You", which promoted awareness of domestic abuse and highlighted new and extended services for those affected by abuse. Over sixty short-listed organisations from the Thames and Chiltern region - one of thirteen areas taking part in the Awards across the UK- gathered at the Runnymede Hotel in Egham on Friday 27 November for the CIPR PRide Awards 2009. The PRide Awards is the only awards scheme which showcases the best Public Relations work being carried out across the UK, and this year, the Awards attracted well over 1,440 entries. The judging process was rigorous, with a national panel of industry experts assessing the short-listed entries. The campaign, which ran from November 2008 to February this year, was launched by journalist and broadcaster, Nick Ross. Congratulations to all those involved in the Reducing the Risk Campaign. To win out of 1,400 entries is a real achievement especially as one of the other finalist was category was a Public Relations limited company! To have a look at some pictures please follow this [link](#).



2. [Advice and guidance for Victims from Champions](#)

Please can you ensure that in an emergency, victims are directed to the Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Helpline 0800 731 0055 and not Domestic Abuse Champions. DA Champions should only be a contact point for advice and information for other professionals unless of course they have given their permission for their contact details to be given to clients or service users. If you are likely to receive calls from victims of Domestic Abuse then it is also good practice to ensure that the Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse helpline phone number is answer machine messages.

3. Freedom programme Facilitator Training

As most of the Freedom programme courses are held miles away from many victims, the Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Service (ODAS) would like to know if anyone is interested in becoming a facilitator so that the programme can be delivered in other areas. The training is normally a two day event and the cost would have to be covered by individual agencies. If you would like to know more or would like to more or want to receive this training then please contact; Michelle Charlesworth at ODAS; michelle.charlesworth@a2dominion.co.uk

4. Thames Valley Stalking and Harassment Conference

Thursday 11th February 2010 – The Kassam Stadium, Oxford

AIMS & OBJECTIVES

- To raise awareness of the seriousness of stalking and harassment in both domestic and non domestic settings
- To understand the impact that stalking and harassment has on victims
- To improve delegates knowledge around current risk assessment models
- To improve delegates understanding around working with stalkers
- To reduce the likelihood of future harm from stalking and harassment
- To strengthen partnership working and co-ordinated responses
- To improve confidence and satisfaction of victims (and their families) of stalking and harassment
- Networking

CONFERENCE FEES

Statutory / private sector	£50
Voluntary sector / students	£35

Please [click here](#) to access the flyer for this event

Please [click here](#) booking form and instructions on how to book you place.

Please [click here](#) for the conference programme.

5. Reducing the Risk Website

This month we have had 1,460 visits to the website by 1,348 different visitors. The average number of pages viewed per visit is 2.4 which mean's that many of the visits are from individuals who are seeking information and not an accidental hit on the website.

We now have a search facility and quick links to pages on the reducing the risk website which will hopefully make it more user friendly. I have the quick links below; if you think I have missed any or other links that you think would be useful please contact [Cara Langford](#).

<http://www.reducingtherisk.org.uk/champions>
<http://www.reducingtherisk.org.uk/injunctions>
<http://www.reducingtherisk.org.uk/resources>
<http://www.reducingtherisk.org.uk/IDVA>
<http://www.reducingtherisk.org.uk/MARAC>
<http://www.reducingtherisk.org.uk/freedom-programme>
<http://www.reducingtherisk.org.uk/outreach>
<http://www.reducingtherisk.org.uk/effects-on-children>
<http://www.reducingtherisk.org.uk/women>
<http://www.reducingtherisk.org.uk/men>
<http://www.reducingtherisk.org.uk/freedom-programme>
<http://www.reducingtherisk.org.uk/forced-marriages>
<http://www.reducingtherisk.org.uk/HBV>
<http://www.reducingtherisk.org.uk/training>
<http://www.reducingtherisk.org.uk/internet-safety>
<http://www.reducingtherisk.org.uk/LGBT>
<http://www.reducingtherisk.org.uk/elder-abuse>
<http://www.reducingtherisk.org.uk/links>
<http://www.reducingtherisk.org.uk/safety-planning>
<http://www.reducingtherisk.org.uk/support-numbers>
<http://www.reducingtherisk.org.uk/solicitor>

6. Support Young People Experiencing Victimisation – Free Training Event in Oxford City.

Monday 18th January 2009, Venue to be confirmed - full day - Lunch and Refreshments provided.

Completion of the training will entitle you to a free copy of the resources shown below: 'Are you Ok' Guidance for adults, 'Why Me?' Resource pack/course for young people, and 'Crime Hurts' DVD due to be published spring 2010, retailing at £50

Areas covered: Understanding victimisation (crime, domestic violence and bullying) and its effects, Signs, How to respond, Restorative Enquiry, 'Why Me?' Resource Pack, Establishing a support network for workers.

Target Audience: Youth Workers, CYP & F staff working with young people, School Student Support Managers, Pastoral Assistants and School Counsellors, Support Workers e.g. Victim Support, PCAMHS etc.

Trainers: Shellie Keen, Oxfordshire Young Victims of Crime Project
Pete Wallis, Youth Offending Service
Tracey Lott, Oxfordshire Victim Support

Jo Brown, Anti-Bullying Co-ordinator

For more information and a booking form, please follow this [link](#) or contact Shellie Keen, Young Victims of Crime Project Manager; shellie.keen@oxfordshire.gov.uk

7. Women's Aid: Expect Respect Education Toolkit

Women's Aid has produced a toolkit entitled 'Expect Respect Education Toolkit'. The toolkit consists of one easy to use 'Core' lesson for each year group from reception to year 13 and is based on themes that have been found to be effective in tackling domestic abuse. Although the Expect Respect Education Toolkit is targeted for use by teachers within schools, it can just as easily be used by a range of other professionals working with children and young people in a variety of settings such as youth clubs or play schemes. This is an excellent free resource and I would recommend that you have a look at it. The toolkit can be downloaded for free from the [Women's Aid website](#).

TOP TIP: They also have a number of other useful educational resources. To find out more click [here](#)

8. Improving safety, Reducing harm: Children, young people and domestic violence

Produced by the Department of Health this document provides specific information about children, domestic violence and related issues; an overview of Every Child Matters and the tiers of intervention; principles of commissioning services; risk assessment and safety planning information; guidance for schools; clear explanations of key standards and policies; sample forms and key fact sheets. Each person can order up to five copies for free by contacting the Department of Health Order Line; telephone: 0300 123 1002 or alternatively it can be **downloaded** [here from their website](#)

9. Violence Against Women Strategy and Action Plans

The CPS Violence Against Women (VAW) strategy sets out the vision for developing our VAW work, building on the work of 2006-07, and provides supporting action plans for future work.

Available to download

[Violence Against Women Strategy and Action Plans](#)

[Violence Against Women Strategy and Action Plans - English - PDF](#)

[Violence Against Women Strategy and Action Plans - Welsh - PDF](#)

10. Guidance on Restraining Orders - Section 12 Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 (in force from 30 September 2009)

Trish Walsh found some guidance from the Crown Prosecution Service website which she thought was useful particularly when CID case is being dealt with by Criminal Investigations Department and not by the Domestic Abuse Unit. [Click here](#) for the full guidance.

11. Greater London Domestic Violence Project Training Programme. January to April 2010

The Greater London Domestic Violence Project (GLDVP) is a second tier service for the domestic violence and related sectors. We work to strengthen the sector by identifying common goals, promoting joint planning and minimum standards between agencies and ensuring good practice in domestic violence work. Training is an essential part of this aim.

Their training sessions are currently divided into the following areas:

- The Stella Project is a joint initiative between the GLDVP and the Greater London Drug and Alcohol Alliance. It works at a practice and policy level to develop inclusive, integrated service provision for survivors and perpetrators of domestic violence who experience problematic substance use.
- The Children and Young People's Project works to improve the safety and redress the imbalances in opportunity for children & young people witnessing or experiencing domestic violence. This is done via training, strategic lobbying, integrating domestic violence work into schools, developing work to support young women experiencing adolescent domestic violence, promoting and rolling out models of good practice, improving coordination across services and supporting organisations working with children and domestic violence.
- The Mental Health Project began in 2003 having identified both a strong link between women's experiences of domestic violence and mental distress and huge gaps in services for these women. The Mental Health Project delivers domestic violence and mental health awareness training across both sectors.

[Click here to visit their training page and download the new programme.](#)

If you have any questions, please contact Sophie Taylor, Training and Events Coordinator, 020 7785 3860, sophie.taylor@gldvp.org.uk

12. Home Office announces new powers to combat domestic violence

New proposals could mean violent partners may be banned from their homes for a short period while their victims are given support and information to enable them escape abuse. Police will be able to initiate a Domestic Violence Protection Order, also known as 'Go' orders, barring perpetrators of domestic violence from their homes for up to a fortnight, giving their victim breathing space to consider their options. The proposed new orders are based on successful models in other countries and are one of the emerging recommendations of a review of powers to address violence against women and girls being carried out by Brian Moore, Chief Constable of Wiltshire police, in his capacity as ACPO lead on domestic abuse. New legislation is required to implement the measures and will be introduced as soon as Parliamentary time allows.

13. Housing Support Road show in Abingdon

Monday, 7 December at
Abingdon Guild Hall
10.30am-1.30pm

This event is intended for the general public to find information on support and advice services for:

- An older person
- A person with a physical or learning disability
- Living with mental health issues
- Facing homelessness
- Experiencing domestic abuse
- A person with drug or alcohol problems
- A teenage parent or young person who needs support

14. SMART's Family and Carer Support Group Open Evening

SMART deliver substance misuse services across Oxfordshire. They are having a Family and Carer Support Group open evening from 7pm–9pm on Tuesday 8th December at Banbury Health Centre, 58 Bridge Street, Banbury. This support group is open to anyone whose life is affected by the drug and alcohol use of a friend or family member. Their open evening will offer you the opportunity to speak to SMART workers about their plans for the new Family and Carer service and provide you with advice and information.

For more information please contact Muiread Ambrose on 01865 403215 or MAmbrose@smartcjs.org.uk

15. Information from Asylum Aid regarding their campaign to obtain rights for women seeking asylum in this country

Asylum Aid is currently working on a campaign to obtain rights for women seeking asylum in this country. They have created the Charter of rights of women seeking asylum which demands the UK Border Agency (UKBA) end the discriminatory treatment of women asylum seekers.

Although the policies of the police, Crown Prosecution Service and Prisons Service towards women are not always implemented, they believe that UKBA could learn something from these services about developing a more gender sensitive culture. So far over 160 organisations have endorsed the Charter, mostly from the refugee, women's and human rights sectors. Endorsers include the Women's Resource Centre, Rape Crisis and Scottish Women's Aid. They are now seeking further endorsements to show the UK Border Agency that this is a major concern. Asylum Aid believes that;

- Women asylum seekers have a right to the equivalent standard of treatment as other women in the UK in similar situations.
- A woman asylum seeker is entitled to the equivalent standard of treatment at all stages of the asylum determination system as a woman victim of crime in the criminal justice system.
- A woman asylum seeker in an Immigration Removal Centre is entitled to the equivalent standard of treatment as a woman in prison in the UK.
- A woman asylum seeker is entitled to the equivalent financial benefits and healthcare during pregnancy as a British woman.

If you agree with these statements, they hope that your organisation will endorse the Charter. For the Charter and current list of endorsers, please go to www.asylumaid.org.uk. To endorse the Charter, just send an email to charter@asylumaid.org.uk with your organisation's name stating that you are endorsing the Charter.

For the full article which includes a case study relating to Domestic Abuse please go to this [link](#).

16. Tackling Sexual Violence Conference: Improving Prevention, Prosecution and Support

Tuesday 8th December 2009 - Central London

Key Speakers Include: Claire Phillips, Deputy Director, Health Inequalities and Partnerships, Department of Health and Lead for the Health Taskforce

- A range of key issues will be explored including:
- Improving investigation and prosecution of rape
- Working in partnership with specialists in the voluntary sector to empower victims to come forward
- Emerging support services from the Health Taskforce in relation to sexual violence and repeat victimisation

- Safeguarding vulnerable adults from sexual abuse and understanding their individual needs
- Using early intervention and preventative education strategies to stop young perpetrators from re-offending

[Please click here for full programme details and booking information](#)

17. Survey: Women, Rape and the Law

The Campaign to End Rape coalition is conducting a survey on women's attitudes to and experiences of rape and the law

The survey aims to collect some fresh information about what women think and know about rape. It is aimed at any woman, whether or not you have experienced rape, as they want to know what you think on this topic. They are using the word rape to mean unwanted sexual acts that you are willing to tell us about. The questionnaire is limited to women because the Campaign to End Rape focuses on the rape of women and girls and not on the rape of men and boys. This is not because they don't care about the rape of men, but simply because they believe the issues are different.

[Click here to find out more and to take the survey.](#)

18. 'Take My Hand' – the new single from Women's Aid

To mark November 25th - International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, and to celebrate Women's Aid 35th Birthday as a national network, they are releasing 'Take My Hand', a charity single, to raise money for their work to end domestic violence and violence against women. The track is performed by 13 year old Olivia, a rising star with an incredible voice, and Natasha Benjamin, a survivor of domestic violence. All profits from sales of the single will be used by Women's Aid to support and protect abused women and children. You can [download](#) the single from iTunes.

19. Sojourner Project - No Recourse to Public Funds Pilot

The Sojourner Project is a pilot scheme run by Eaves and funded by the Home Office to provide support for women escaping violence who have 'no recourse to public funds'. The Project will be operational from Monday 30th November 2009 until the end of February 2010. Eaves will be working in partnership with a range of other voluntary providers to co-ordinate support, accommodation and subsistence for women and their dependents throughout the country.

Please [Click here](#) (Word, 65Kb) to view more information about the Sojourner Project and how you can make referrals The Pilot is being funded by the Home Office and will start on Monday 30 November 2009 and end on 28 February 2010.

Eaves will also be providing national training on the pilot for potential service providers. The Service Information sets out details of the Pilot and training dates, [click here to view the Service Information](#) (Word, 56 Kb). The training will be rolled out by Southall Black Sisters.

The next training dates are:

9th December 09 – London
11th December 09 – London
15th December 09 – Wales
16th December 09 – Sheffield

If you would like to book onto the above training, or receive a Sojourner Project referral pack please contact the Sojourner Duty Worker on sojourner@eaveshousing.co.uk. If you would like to receive training but are unable to attend the training dates or locations listed, please contact sojourner@eaveshousing.co.uk.

Kind regards

Cara Langford
County Domestic Abuse Champions Coordinator

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The Safer Communities Unit and Oxfordshire Domestic Violence Steering group are tackling the frequency and consequences of domestic abuse and increasing the safety and options for all those affected. For further information visit <http://www.reducingtherisk.org.uk>

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