

**Domestic Abuse  
Oxfordshire  
Reducing the Risk**



## ***Reducing the Risk***

**Issue 14 : December 2010**

This is issue 11 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 point of call for information, advice and support regarding domestic abuse. Feel free to forward this e-bulletin onto anyone you feel would benefit from receiving this information.

If this email has been forwarded onto you but you would like to be included on the mailing list please [click here](#)

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Also, if you would like to contribute to the content e-bulletin then email [Julia.McCormack@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Julia.McCormack@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

[www.reducingtherisk.org.uk](http://www.reducingtherisk.org.uk) or  
[www.amiabused.co.uk](http://www.amiabused.co.uk)

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### **1. Ending violence against women and children**

Oxfordshire's Domestic Abuse services are supporting a national campaign to end violence against women and children.

The campaign, which is being led by the Department of Health, will be launched on White Ribbon Day (25/11), the International day for the elimination of violence against women and will continue until 10 December.

**CLICK HERE** to read the full press release



### **2. Oxfordshire Family Information Service – request for Feedback**

Oxfordshire Family Information Service (OxonFIS) is looking to find out how we can work more effectively with our partners to support children and families in Oxfordshire. We want to know which aspects of our service are particularly valuable to you, your colleagues and your service users, what we could do more of, and what we could do differently, in order to meet the needs of all families in the county, and particularly those who would most benefit from the information & support that OxonFIS offers.

We are carrying out a time limited survey (to the end of January 2011) to collect feedback from partners working in different relevant fields and would ask for your help in:

- a) completing and returning a questionnaire yourself and
- b) passing this to relevant colleagues asking that the forms be emailed to

[fis.enquiries@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:fis.enquiries@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

or post to Freepost RSCL-EEKT-KJHK, Oxfordshire Family Information Service, County Hall, New Road, Oxford OX1 1ND

We would appreciate a few moments of your time to help us with this.

If you have any queries about the survey or would like to discuss anything in more detail, don't hesitate to contact us on the address above, by telephone

on 08452 262636, or directly to the  
FISManager,[gavin.barber@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:gavin.barber@oxfordshire.gov.uk)  
**CLICK HERE** for Questionnaire



### **3. Oxfordshire Family Mediation Service : launching a new service.**

Family plus - Oxfordshire Family mediation - supporting children of separated parents.

[www.ofm.org.uk](http://www.ofm.org.uk)



### **4. Domestic violence perpetrators: working with the cause of the problem**



**NEW (Nov 2010)**

Respect has put together a document making the case for work with domestic violence perpetrators.

**Download: Domestic violence perpetrators: working with the cause of the problem**

Respect members will also receive a hard copy of this document.

**Resources pack**

Respect has produced a resources pack for Respect members to assist them with efforts to sustain their services and lobbying efforts.

**Download: Members' Resources Pack**



### **5. Call to end violence against women and girls**

**On 25 November, to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, the coalition government launched a paper outlining their ambition and guiding principles to tackle violence against women and girls.**

The principles of this vision are to:

1. prevent violence from happening by challenging the attitudes and behaviours which foster it and intervening early where possible to prevent it
2. provide adequate support where violence does occur
3. work in partnership to obtain the best outcome for victims and their families
4. take action to reduce the risk to women and girls who are victims of these crimes and ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice

The Home Office - Date: Thu Nov 25 10:00:00 GMT 2010 **CLICK HERE** or  
CLICK LINK BELOW to see the paper

Call to end violence against women and girls (PDF file - 1mb - Warning: large file)



## **6. Domestic violence suspects face being banned from home**



Similar schemes in other countries have been viewed as a success

People suspected of abusing a partner could be banned from their homes for up to four weeks under government plans to tackle domestic violence.

The proposed "go orders" could be used even if there was not enough evidence to charge a suspect.

A year-long pilot scheme will start next summer in the Greater Manchester, Wiltshire and West Mercia police areas.

The idea was first put forward by the previous government and Labour welcomed the introduction of the initiative.

**CLICK HERE** for this BBC article



## **7. Domestic Violence Protection Orders**

New measures have been announced to help to tackle domestic violence in the UK and abroad. These include piloting Domestic Violence Protection Orders which allow police to ban alleged abusers from returning to the victim's home for several weeks.

How to protect yourself and where to get help - Domestic violence

Greater Manchester, Wiltshire and West Mercia police forces will be given the power to use Domestic Violence Protection Orders from summer 2011 as part of a 12 month pilot programme.

These Civil Orders will stop alleged abusers from contacting the victim, or from returning to the victim's home.

Where there are reasonable grounds to believe a case of domestic violence has taken place, the police can issue a Domestic Violence Protection Notice (DVPN) that lasts for 48 hours.

During this 48 hours the police must apply to a court for a Domestic Violence Protection Order. If the court rules that the victim needs continued protection, it can issue a Domestic Violence Protection Order lasting from 14 to 28 days. Similar schemes already running in Austria, Germany, Poland and Switzerland have been successful.

**CLICK HERE** for full article from directgov



## **8. Go4it newsletter and case studies**

Go4it, is a funding subsidy for children and young people to access out of school activity.

It has been running for around 6 months in all school Partnerships, and around 18 months in the pilot Partnerships.

It's had lots of positive impact for children and families. These are all celebrated in the newsletter.

A range of case studies has also been produced.

Rosa  
Extended Services  
Witney Partnership

**CLICK HERE** for Go4it Newsletter

**CLICK HERE** for Go4it Case Studies



## **9. Department of Health : Ending violence against women and children campaign: 25 November – 10 December 2010**

To coincide with International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (25 November 2010) and the following 16 days, a communications campaign is taking place to raise awareness with the public, patients and health professionals.

There is a range of support materials to help you plan and carry out your campaign locally. They have been developed with the help of the voluntary sector so please let The Department of Health know what activity you undertake by emailing [violence@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:violence@dh.gsi.gov.uk).

**CLICK HERE** for further campaign details



## **10. Improving services for women and child victims of violence: the Department of Health Action Plan**

Report dated 25 November 2010

This action plan sets out how the Department in partnership with others will take action by Spring 2011 to address many of the issues that came out of the Taskforce work

It aims to lay the foundations for embedding high quality evidence based practice within the NHS in response to violence and abuse and is set around four key themes:

- Awareness-raising
- Workforce, education and training

**CLICK HERE** for further information



## **11. Defence law changes for killing after domestic abuse**

The **Coroners and Justice Act 2009** came into force on the 4th October. These provisions:

- replace the partial defence to murder of diminished responsibility with a modernised definition based on the concept of 'an abnormality of mental functioning which arose from a recognised medical condition';
- abolish the existing partial defence to murder of provocation. This will be replaced by the partial defence to murder of 'loss of control'. The

partial defence will be available where a person's loss of self control was attributable to a fear of serious violence, or in response to words or conduct which caused the defendant to have a justifiable sense of being seriously wronged; and

- amend the Infanticide Act 1938 so that it is clear that the offence and defence of infanticide are available only in respect of a woman who would otherwise be found guilty of murder or manslaughter.

These changes are based on Law Commission recommendations made in their review of homicide law in 2006 and were fully debated by Parliament and passed into law in 2009.

**CLICK HERE** for further information



## **12. Women's National Commission abolished**

The Coalition Government has announced that the Women's National Commission is one of the bodies to be axed in the 'bonfire of the quangos'. It will close at the end of the year. The **Women's National Commission** (WNC) which was set up in 1969 as the national, independent organisation to present the views of women to government is to be axed, the Government Equalities Office announced yesterday. WNC has been an independent voice for women across the UK (England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland) for over 40 years on issues of tackling violence against women, supporting women into positions of leadership and decision making, providing a voice for asylum seeking women, widows and raising awareness of the needs of minority ethnic women. Its work has been ensuring that women's voices are heard at central government level. WNC will be closed down on 31 December 2010 and its core functions will be brought into its sponsor department, the Government Equalities Office (GEO).



## **13. Multi-agency support to tackle severe domestic abuse could save £740 million a year to the public purse**

An innovative way of supporting victims of severe domestic abuse could save £740 million to the public purse if rolled out nationally, a new report launched today shows.

Saving lives, saving money: MARACs and high risk domestic abuse reveals that for every £1 spent on Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs), at least £6 could be saved in direct costs to agencies such as the police, health, criminal justice system and children's services. Written by Coordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse (CAADA), the report is supported

by data collected by the national charity on behalf of the Home Office, as well as early evaluation studies, which show that up to 60% of victims report no further violence after a MARAC.

A MARAC is a voluntary meeting where information is shared on the highest risk domestic abuse cases between local public agencies, including the police, health, children's services, housing and Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs)\*, amongst others. After sharing all relevant information about a victim, the meeting then discusses options for increasing their safety, and turns this into an action plan.

Over 28,000 adult victims and 40,000 children were supported by a MARAC in 2009. With more than 120,000 adult victims of high risk domestic abuse estimated to be living in the UK, more support is urgently needed. The report calls for legislation to embed a commitment to MARACs across the UK, along with further resources for IDVA teams to support MARACs to manage the full volume of cases in their area. The need for better links between MARACs and public agencies that support families is also highlighted, to ensure that identified children receive adequate protection.

Saving lives, saving money: MARACs and high risk domestic abuse reveals that the average high risk domestic abuse case costs an estimated £20,000 per annum to the public purse, through key support agencies such as the police, health, housing and children's services. This figure can be broken down to approximate costs of £5,000 for health services, £5,500 for the police, £7,500 for the criminal justice system and £2,500 for remaining agencies including children's services and housing. The total direct costs of all high risk victims is around £2.4bn.

Using an independently verified analysis, the report shows that MARACs save at least £6,100 of these costs per victim; they would only have to be successful in 16% of cases to pay for themselves. The net return on investment for the health service is 533%; for the police 550%; for children's services 276% and for the criminal justice system, 1109%.

Diana Barran, Chief Executive of CAADA said: "MARACs have genuinely transformed the choices and support available to victims of severe domestic abuse and their children. However, currently these choices are available to just a quarter of the victims that need them. With proper support from Government we have the chance to save lives, save public money and help give children back the futures they deserve."

Debbie\*\*, a survivor of severe domestic abuse who was supported by her local MARAC said: "My husband was a real Jekyll and Hyde character. As

well as physical abuse, he told me that he would kill me and the kids if I ever left him. This made me terrified of leaving, so for 18 years I stayed.”

“I’d never have been able to move on in my life without the package of support that was offered to me through the MARAC and IDVA service. All the agencies did everything they could to make our lives safer – they supported the children in school, made our home more secure, the police undertook a criminal investigation; I was encouraged to get injunctions to prevent him from contacting me, fire safety checks were undertaken – the works. I would have left him years ago had I known that this support was available. We’re now living a life that is free from violence and we’re a lot happier as a result.”



#### **14. Thames Valley Partnership - New Project**



**Vodafone  
Foundation**

The Partnership is pleased to be facilitating the roll out of a brand new project, funded by the Vodafone Foundation, which will be piloted across the Thames Valley over the coming year, in conjunction with Thames Valley Police. The new Tescos initiative, which has already successfully been introduced in other parts of Europe, will dramatically improve the outcomes for known domestic violence victims by equipping them with a secure device which will highlight and prioritise their calls in case of emergency – and ultimately save lives by improving response times. For further information on this exciting new venture please contact [john@thamesvalleypartnership.org.uk](mailto:john@thamesvalleypartnership.org.uk)



#### **15. Preventing Intimate Partner & Sexual Violence against Women : World Health Organisation paper**



The World Health Organization and London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine have produced a paper entitled Preventing Intimate Partner & Sexual Violence against Women.

**Number of pages:** 94

**Publication date:** 2010

**Languages:** English

**ISBN:** 978 92 4 156400 7

This document aims to provide sufficient information for policy-makers and planners to develop data-driven and evidence-based programmes for preventing intimate partner and sexual violence against women

**CLICK HERE** for further information



## **16. Harman call to tackle global violence against women**



AFP *In countries like the Congo, it is more dangerous to be a woman than a soldier, Ms Harman said*

Ministers must show more commitment to tackling violence against women overseas, Harriet Harman has said.

Having only male ministers at the Foreign Office and the Department for International Development sent the wrong signal, Labour's deputy leader said.

Progress on overseas aid commitments must not be allowed to slip, she added. **CLICK HERE** for full BBC article



## 17. Launch of NEW Support Group – Commencing January 2011



### Female survivor of sexual abuse and/or rape?

Interested in joining a support group that will provide a safe space where you can draw upon strength and support from other survivors?

If so then you may be interested in joining Oxford Sexual Abuse and Rape Crisis Centre's new Support Group. **CLICK HERE** for details



## 18. Oxfordshire Safeguarding Adults: Guidance for All Staff

For information and guidance on Safeguarding Adults, a handbook is available to download.



SAF003aGuidan  
:forallStaffbook.

Safeguarding people who are at risk from harm as a result of abuse, neglect, exploitation or mistreatment and improving the choice and control people have in their lives are key priorities for the Oxfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board, including Oxfordshire Social & Community Services and its partners.

Paid carer or care professionals have a duty to prevent abuse and report it where it is thought to be happening. This handbook is intended to help do that. Please take time to look at it and if you think a vulnerable person may be at risk of serious harm, abuse, mistreatment or crime - **report it**.

For information and guidance on issues relating to safeguarding adults, please look at the Safe from Harm website: [www.safefromharm.org.uk](http://www.safefromharm.org.uk)



## 19. Training: AVA - Last few places available on Improving Your Working Relationships with Service Users Through Counselling Techniques

**Date:** 13 December 2010

**Venue:** AVA offices, 1 London Bridge, London, SE1 9BG

**Price:** £90 vol / £130 stat

### **Course description:**

This course explores the means to develop a powerful working relationship with clients who have experienced domestic violence, through respect, fostering control, setting boundaries and being trustworthy. Concepts such as non-judgmental acceptance and empowerment are explored. There will be opportunities to practise basic counselling skills including listening and responding in ways that empower clients. We explore ways to make any discussion

more safe and effective, such as by acknowledging the stage the woman has reached, her external safety and boundaries of confidentiality. A framework for structuring a session is presented along with basic guidelines for building and maintaining an effective working relationship.

### **Learning objectives**

- To increase knowledge of and apply listening and responding skills
- To consider the costs and benefits of structuring a session with a client
- To review the meaning of basic principles such as respect and empowerment
- To learn about pacing and containment
- To promote the development of healthy working relationships with women who have experienced domestic violence.

### **Who should attend?**

Counselling strategies, such as how to structure a meeting, can be applied to all sorts of conversations, including key-work sessions and individual support meetings. This course is designed for professionals working with victims of domestic violence who have had no training in counselling techniques. [Click here for more information and to book](#)



## **20. CAADA Internship Programme**

**CAADA is launching its first internship programme. We plan to recruit interns on a rolling basis throughout the year. [CLICK HERE](#) for details on how to apply.**

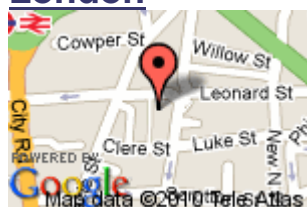
It is hoped that the opportunity to work in an intellectually challenging and practical environment will provide valuable experience for successful candidates, giving great experience and insights into the work of a young and rapidly growing charity whose work has an impact on the lives of individuals

suffering abuse, on the professionals who seek to support them and on policy makers and funders

**CLICK HERE** for full details



## **21. Training: Safeguarding Children - Living with Parental Substance Misuse and Domestic Violence, 17 January, London**



Dates 17 January 2011

Venue Development House, 56-64 Leonard Street, London, EC2A 4LT

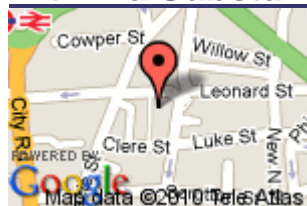
Price £90 vol / £130 stat

### Course description

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.

**CLICK HERE** for further details

## **22. Training: Working with Domestic Violence Perpetrators within a Substance Misuse Agency, 25 January, London**



Dates 25 January 2011

Venue Development House, 56-64 Leonard Street, London, EC2A 4LT

Price £90 vol / £130 stat

### Course description

This course looks at identifying domestic violence perpetrators, giving safe messages and making appropriate referrals upon identification. It will also explore theoretical perspectives around domestic violence, the links to substance misuse and the perpetrator's choice to use violence.

**CLICK HERE** for further details



I hope you find the above interesting and informative and wish everyone very best wishes for the festive season and the New Year.

### 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.*

## Seasons Greetings



