

Dear All,

Due to the volume of useful information we would like to share with you, we felt it would be helpful to instead send this as one monthly e-bulletin. This is the first one to be sent and in future the e-bulletin may look a little different than it does today as I am hoping to spend a bit more time designing it properly. As I didn't want you to miss out on all this information I thought it best to send out now. Feel free to forward onto anyone you feel would benefit from receiving this information. If you would like to contribute to the content e-bulletin then email cara.langford@oxfordshire.gov.uk

In this e-bulletin:

1. [The Reducing the Risk Campaign Award Nomination](#)
2. [Domestic Abuse Forum](#)
3. [Mass Lobby: Abolish No Recourse to Public Funds](#)
4. [White Ribbon Day – 25th November 2009](#)
5. [DASH risk assessment tool](#)
6. [Children's Risk Assessment tool](#)
7. [Recovery Tool Kit](#)
8. [Stalking and Harassment Conference](#)
9. [Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Helpline](#)
10. [Alcohol Strategy Campaign](#)
11. [Sexual Assault Referral Centre \(SARC\)](#)
12. [Honour Based Violence and Forced Marriage research](#)
13. [Reducing the Risk Website](#)
14. [LGBT Domestic Abuse Partnership Launch Event](#)
15. [Children, Young People and Domestic Violence Toolkit](#)
16. [Domestic Violence and Hate Crime Manager Secondment Opportunity](#)
17. [Getting it right first time conference](#)
18. [Juggling the Balls - Managing the Risk Conference](#)
19. [NSPCC Report - 'Children and Families Experiencing Domestic Violence: Police and children's social services' responses'](#)
20. [National Domestic Violence Awareness Month - USA.](#)
21. [Greater London Domestic Violence Project Newsletter](#)

- 22. [Working With Gypsies and Travellers Living With Domestic Violence](#)
- 23. [Embrace Project – Alcohol and Domestic Abuse](#)
- 24. [Women’s Aid Newsletter](#)
- 25. [Launch of Oxfordshire Community Alcohol Service](#)

1. The Reducing the Risk Campaign Award Nomination

We are delighted to announce that the Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Campaign has been nominated for an award with the Chartered Institute of Public Relations. Picked from over 1,400 submissions, the finalists were judged by a panel of senior PR practitioners and faced stiff competition from across the thirteen regions and nations that took part in this year's Awards. The Domestic Abuse Campaign is one of four nominations in the public sector with the award ceremony taking place on Friday 27 November 09. Well done to all those involved it is a real achievement even to just get nominated.

2. Domestic Abuse Forum

An Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Forum will be taking place on the 22nd of October 2009 from 09:30-12:30am at the West Oxon District Council Offices. This is open to anyone and gives you the opportunity to find out what is happening in the domestic abuse field as well as highlighting issues to the Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Steering Group. We will be delivering information regarding the new risk assessment checklist - DASH (Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Harassment, Honour Based Violence). If you are interested in attending complete a booking form and return to julia.mccormack@oxfordshire.gov.uk Subject - DA forum by the 16th October 2009.

3. Mass Lobby: Abolish No Recourse to Public Funds

On Wednesday November 4th, Amnesty International UK is leading on a mass lobby of parliament that will bring hundreds of activists together to urge the UK government to protect all women from violence and abuse in the UK.

[Click here for full details](#) (Word, 47Kb)

4. White Ribbon Day – 25th November 2009

White Ribbon day an international day aimed at raising awareness about violence against women. Michelle Plaisted-Kerr is working with Domestic Abuse Coordinators across the Thames Valley so we can do an event together to raise awareness on this day. We are hoping to get a large number of people together in the south of the County (Benson) to make up a human white ribbon which can be seen from the air. If you have some time spare we would very much appreciate your support to help us create this, all you need

to do is bring along a white tee-shirt to wear! If you can help us please give drop Michelle an email at michelle.plaisted-kerr@oxfordshire.gov.uk

5. DASH Risk Assessment Tool (Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Harassment, Honor Based Violence)

All designated MARAC officers should now have been training on this new risk assessment tool. We are now looking at how we can roll this training out to Champions across Oxfordshire. We will let you know when this training will become available.

6. Children's Risk Assessment tool

A new children's risk assessment tool will be rolled out across Oxfordshire and we are currently looking for funding to provide training on this. We will keep you updated on the progress of this tool.

7. Recovery Tool Kit

The Recovery Toolkit is a new group programme for women who have experienced domestic abuse/violence. It uses a psycho educational model believing that by giving individuals knowledge we enable them to better understand and deal with their previous experiences. The individuals own strengths, resources and coping skills are reinforced contributing to their own health and wellness on a long-term basis. Each group will run on a weekly basis over 12 or 24 weeks. A 'train the trainer' model has been developed with the first group of facilitators being trained at the beginning of November. We will keep you updated as to where and when the first recovery toolkit groups for women who have experienced domestic abuse will be running.

8. Stalking and Harassment Conference

The last LGBT conference for the Thames Valley was such a success we thought it would be good to do another one. The next conference will be on Stalking and Harassment and held on the 11th February 2010 so make sure you put the date in your diary! Times and venue is still to be confirmed and more information will be emailed out separately.

9. Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Helpline

The helpline now has an email address Oxfordshiredomestic@a2dominion.co.uk If your enquiry is not urgent then please use the email instead of calling as they only have two incoming lines which they like to keep open for those urgently need it. The email is checked at least twice a day, in the morning and afternoon so you should get a response the same day or the following day. Of course if you are with a client and need information immediately then use the phone line.

10. Alcohol Strategy Campaign

Community Safety partners across Oxfordshire are launching a four-month campaign to tackle alcohol-related harm. The campaign, which runs from October to January 2010, will encourage local people to get the facts, weigh up the risks and live with the consequences of alcohol misuse, including heavy drinking and binge drinking.

Alcohol misuse can impact on individuals' and families' health and wellbeing and on the wider community through anti-social behaviour, vandalism, violence, domestic abuse and road casualties.

One of the main events for professionals working in Oxfordshire is an Alcohol Conference being held on Monday 9th November 1pm to 4.30pm at the Town Hall Oxford. The conference is free to attend and is aimed at frontline staff. The conference is split into two halves, the first section is a networking session for delegates to interact with local services offering support to alcohol misuser's. The second half is a formal presentation with speakers covering the five alcohol strategic priorities for Oxfordshire:

- Reduce alcohol related disorder
- Provide alcohol awareness for all ages
- Health and Treatment
- Planning and the leisure economy
- Young People

The conference is free to attend. If you would like more information or to book a place please contact Sarah McHardy, Alcohol Coordinator for Oxfordshire on 01865 290 800 or via email sarah.mchardy@oxfordshiredaat.org

11. Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC)

The Government, as part of their Sexual Violence Action Plan, want all areas to have a SARC. A SARC is a one-stop shop for victims of sexual violence and assault. They are able to get medical care, such as emergency contraception, and if appropriate a medical examination by an experienced doctor. A crisis worker will be there for support and to do an initial need assessment. If the victim wants make a complaint to the Police they can be interviewed at the SARC.

The Thames Valley SARC working group have decided to have one main SARC, located in Slough (Berkshire) and an outreach in Bletchley (Buckinghamshire). It will be accessible to females and males. It is hoped that the SARC will be operational by April 2010.

12. Honour Based Violence and Forced Marriage research

The Oxford City Council Communities & Partnership Scrutiny Committee commissioned Equality in Diversity, a specialist management, research and

training consultancy, to carry out research into the prevalence of Forced Marriage (FM) and Honour Based Violence (HBV) in Oxford and also to review the effectiveness of the existing services and make recommendations for the future improvement. The key recommendations relate to developing a City, or preferably a County-wide, strategy to deal with FM and HBV, establishing a strong multi-agency Steering Group on FM and HBV, appointing a Coordinator to drive the agenda, setting up a central data logging and monitoring system, developing a rolling training programme in multiagency settings for all agencies and voluntary sector service providers.

To view the full research paper please click on the link below (PDF 431 Kb),

[FM%20 HBV%20draft%20report July%202009.pdf](#)

13. Reducing the Risk Website

We are always looking at ways the website can be improved so if you have any ideas then email them to Cara Langford at Cara.langford@Oxfordshire.gov.uk or Michelle Plaisted-Kerr at michelle.plaisted-kerr@oxfordhsire.gov.uk

14. LGBT Domestic Abuse Partnership Launch Event

The LGBT Domestic Abuse Partnership is inviting you to join them on the 21 October 2009 for an exciting afternoon of learning and information-sharing!

[Click here for full details](#) (PDF, 228Kb).

15. Children, Young People and Domestic Violence Toolkit

Greater London Domestic Violence Project is proud to announce that the 'Improving Safety, Reducing harm' Children, young people and domestic violence: a practical toolkit for front line practitioners

This toolkit is free of charge and available to order now. You can order copies through the Department of Health order line www.orderline.dh.gov.uk Quote reference: 292071/Improving safety, reducing harm: a practical toolkit for frontline practitioner. You can order up to 5 copies per organisation, any more than that and the Dept of Health will need to authorise the order. It will also be available online and we will link to it when it is ready.

16. Domestic Violence and Hate Crime Manager Secondment Opportunity

London Borough of Barking and Dagenham

[Click here to view the full job advert](#) (Word, 32Kb)

[Click here to view the job description](#) (Word, 73Kb)

[Click here to view the person specification](#) (Word, 45Kb)

As detailed in the attached advert, the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham would like interested officers to send a CV and Personal Statement linked to the Person Specification to Valerie.jones@lbbd.gov.uk by 5pm on Friday 23rd October. Interviews will take place on Wednesday 28th October.

17. Getting it right first time conference

Monday 19 October 2009

The Cassandra Learning Centre is running a second conference which is designed to be innovative and interactive. They are offering an opportunity to enhance your knowledge and experience of how to effectively assess risk in domestic violence situations. The event will include speakers, case studies and interactive workshops.

[Click here to view the event flier](#) (PDF, 77Kb)

[Click here to view the programme for this event](#) (Word, 36Kb)

[Click here to download the booking form](#) (Word, 271Kb)

For more information email: jennifer@clcentre.org.uk

18. Juggling the Balls - Managing the Risk Conference

A one day conference on Wednesday 11 November 2009 from Sutton Women's Aid Limited in association with London Borough of Merton about domestic abuse and managing risk. This exciting event will culminate in a performance by Geese Theatre in the afternoon.

[Click here to view the event flier](#) (PDF, 592Kb)

[Click here to download the booking form](#) (Word, 54Kb)

For more information email: snls19543@blueyonder.co.uk

19. 'Children and Families Experiencing Domestic Violence: Police and children's social services' responses' - NSPCC Report

In England and Wales, the Adoption and Children Act 2002 amended the definition of significant harm provided by the Children Act 1989, adding a new category of "impairment suffered from seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another". Since domestic violence and children's exposure to it represent a widespread social problem, this amendment has acted to draw a potentially large group of families within the remit of children's social services. The

growing mountain of police notifications to children's social services of domestic violence incidents where children are involved and the pressures that this has created have been noted by a range of commentators in the UK, North America and Australia. The notification system has emerged against what is acknowledged to be a background of fragmented services for children and families experiencing domestic violence, and represents an attempt to improve communication and coordination between universal and highly targeted services. This research examined both the notification process itself and the subsequent service pathways followed by families brought to the attention of children's social services in this way. It also explored which other agencies contributed to services for families experiencing domestic violence and captured young people's, survivors' and perpetrators' views of services.

[Click here to access the report](#)

20. National Domestic Violence Awareness Month - USA

In recognition of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month in the USA they have sent us a 30 sec video to watch. Here are some vows you want to avoid at all cost!

http://www.preventabusiverelationships.com/v_abuse_vows.php

21. Greater London Domestic Violence Project Newsletter

The latest GLDVP Newsletter is now available online

[Click here to access a copy of their October 2009 newsletter.](#) (PDF, 140Kb)

22. Working with Gypsies and Travellers living with Domestic Violence

Guidance leaflet has been developed for Refuge workers and other domestic violence

Workers, [click here](#) to download the leaflet. There is also a resource list of specialist domestic violence services working with Travellers and Gypsies, case studies, books and publications to download, please [click here](#) to access these. For any advice or policy information, email fft@gypsytraveller.org , phone our helpline 01273 234777 or visit their website www.gypsy-traveller.org

23. Embrace Project – Alcohol and Domestic Abuse

Embrace aims to develop alcohol services' capacity to work more effectively with children and families and to address issues of domestic violence/abuse, by enabling them to improve their ability to make risk assessments and care plans involving children and families develop more 'family focused' services. [Download a copy of the Embrace leaflet](#). The need for this project emerged from previous work that Alcohol Concern carried out on its [Parenting and](#)

[Alcohol Project](#). They work in close collaboration with the Mental Health Research and Development Unit at Bath University, as well as with the University of Bedfordshire (Dr Sarah Galvani), Adfam and the Stella Project.

The EMBRACE project published its fifth newsletter in September, 2009. [Download a copy here](#).

The EMBRACE project has also published a Resources Supplement, [which can be downloaded here](#).

From January 2010 the EMBRACE project will be running a series of one-day training sessions to equip alcohol services with the basics they need to introduce family and domestic abuse issues into their mainstream work. [Find out details...](#)

The Embrace project's first Knowledge Set is now available. Developed for alcohol services, commissioners and policy makers, as well as their partners in the children, families and domestic abuse fields, the Knowledge Set aims to provide the alcohol and related fields with basic information that they will need in order to think family and think safety. The first Knowledge Set is on domestic abuse and covers: The evidence base, myths and realities; Policy frameworks; Practice issues including case studies; Recommendations; Safe practice guidance for alcohol services; Useful contacts. [Download a copy of Knowledge Set One: Domestic Abuse](#)

An external and independent evaluation of the first year of Embrace, Alcohol Concern's Children, Families and Domestic Violence Project has concluded that much has been achieved in the first year and that what has been achieved by the pilot sites may not have happened, or happened so quickly, had it not been for the commitment, passion and support offered by the Embrace Team. [Read the full evaluation report](#).

24. Women's Aid Newsletter

Women's Aid produce an excellent monthly newsletters which provides a national overview of what happening in the field of Domestic Abuse. We would recommend that you subscribe to this useful newsletter. You do this by following this link; [subscribe to Women's Aid Newsletter](#)

25. Launch of Oxfordshire Community Alcohol Service

SMART would like to invite you to the launch of its Community Alcohol Service in Oxfordshire on Wednesday 21st October between 12.00 – 14.00 at SMART, Marlborough House, Marlborough Lane, Witney OX28 6DY

You are welcome to call in at any time over lunch to meet staff and discuss the services we offer for people with alcohol issues across Oxfordshire.

As part of that service we offer the following:

- advice

- assessment
- brief interventions
- structured interventions
- peer group support
- group sessions including alcohol awareness and CBT
- and more ...

If you are travelling by car, parking is best in either the High Street or in the Waitrose Car Park (free). Access to Marlborough Lane on foot is through the rear courtyard of the Marlborough Hotel, High Street, Witney and Marlborough House is adjacent to the Citizen's Advice Bureau.

Find out more about the service at

<http://www.smartcjs.org.uk/services/details.php?id=20>

That's all for now folks!

Kind regards

Cara Langford

County Domestic Abuse Champions Coordinator

Safer Communities Unit

Rewley Rd

OXFORD

OX1 2EH

Telephone: 01865 25842

Mobile: 07788190248

Fax: 01865 258500

Email cara.langford@oxfordshire.gov.uk

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>