



Reducing the Risk

Issue 21 : July 11

Domestic Abuse
Oxfordshire
Reducing the Risk



This is issue 21 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

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

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1. Romy Briant of Reducing the Risk honoured !

Romy has been awarded an MBE in the Queen's Birthday honours for her voluntary work with the Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Strategy Group. Romy is a tireless worker championing the need for early intervention to prevent the escalation of domestic abuse. She is deservedly proud of the integrated services that she has helped to develop in Oxfordshire. Congratulations Romy!

Diana Barran was also awarded an MBE. She is Chief Executive and founder of the Bristol-based national charity Coordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse (CAADA)

Diana founded CAADA in 2005. In six years, the charity has supported a transformation in the way domestic abuse is addressed in the UK through an increased focus on 'high risk' victims - those at most risk of severe harm or death. CAADA has trained over 1,000 highly skilled domestic violence advisors, improved coordination between multiple frontline public agencies and advocated a stronger risk assessment of victims across England, Wales and Northern Ireland. As a result of this new approach, over 50,000 high risk adult victims received specialist support in 2010.

2. Message from Cara Langford – Domestic Abuse Champions' Co-ordinator

After being on maternity leave for 10 months I'm and now back at work, albeit on reduced hours. I have missed the contact I had with all the Domestic Abuse Champions but my little boy, Sebastian has kept me busy and still does for that matter!

I am now only working two days a week and my role has changed somewhat. Although I am still the Domestic Abuse Champions' Coordinator, Katy White will continue to be the point of contact for Champions. I will be evaluating the role and network of the Domestic Champions in Oxfordshire. In order to do this I will be sending out a questionnaire to all Champions and I plead for all Champions to spend the five to ten minutes completing this. I am also interested in what everyone else thinks the value the Domestic Abuse Champions offer their team or service, and will therefore also be doing a web poll or something through eConsult on Insite around this. Your responses would be very much appreciated. Feel free to contact me if you have anything personal you would like to add. The outcome of this evaluation will hopefully help towards marketing the concept, knowledge and expertise of the Champions network to other local authority areas. This will enable us to bring resources into Oxfordshire, and help sustain the network in future.

3. Helping Families with Domestic Homicide Reviews

AAFDA (2011)

Formed in April 2008, AAFDA is a charity that helps families after fatal domestic abuse. It does this by listening to families tell their stories and by offering information, guidance, support and where appropriate, advocacy and practical help. This leaflet is mostly about how AAFDA can help you with Domestic Homicide Reviews. [CLICK HERE](#)

4. Sexualisation and the Bailey review

Holly Dustin and Jane Fae debate the issue of children's sexualisation and the government's call for action



Rihanna's X Factor performance has raised concern about sexualisation

From glittery padded bras for prepubescent girls to "raunchy" X Factor performances by Rihanna and Christina Aguilera, concern about the proliferation of sexualised products on the high street and highly sexualised media imagery is growing. In a review backed by No 10, [Reg Bailey of the Mother's Union is calling for voluntary regulation](#) by business and the media industry, followed by stronger action if this fails.

The risk is that this plays to a moralistic agenda that is less about women and girl's equality, and more to do with the repression of young people's sexuality and rights. Indeed, tasked by the government to look at this issue, the Mother's Union (and why not an expert child or women's rights organisation?) has focused on parental concern and not the rights of young people themselves. The [End Violence Against Women \(EVAW\) coalition](#) has repeatedly called for the review to be joined up with the [Home Office's strategy on violence against women](#), to make links with sexual consent and sexual exploitation (for example), but to no avail. [CLICK HERE](#) for full article

5. Silence – a documentary about partner rape

A ten minute documentary examining a personal experience of partner rape revealing the wider implications of rape myths. In this country victims of rape and particularly acquaintance rape are routinely disbelieved, blamed and treated in an insensitive and humiliating way which makes them seem more like the person on trial. Most victims never gain justice. [CLICK HERE](#) for further details

6. Welfare cuts 'will leave domestic violence victims at risk'

Charities warn home secretary Theresa May that ending the social fund will leave women trapped with violent partners

Critics say that without financial support women fleeing domestic violence are unable to set up in a new home. Photograph: Don McPhee for the Guardian

Women who suffer from domestic violence will be trapped in abusive relationships if the government goes ahead with a controversial reform of the welfare system, according to leading charities.

Women's Aid, Family Action and Platform 51 have written to the home secretary, Theresa May, about the government's plans to abolish the social fund, cash made available at benefits offices for those in direst need. They are calling for a rethink of the reform, claiming that the current arrangement is crucial in allowing women who flee violent relationships to resettle.

Under the welfare reform bill to be debated in parliament this week, local authorities will be given responsibility for looking after women in crisis, but will not have to offer financial assistance. The charities, who all work with victims of domestic violence, fear the change could condemn women and children to unnecessary misery by dissuading them from escaping their abusers.

[CLICK HERE](#) for full article from The Guardian

7. Home Office and CAADA pledge four year support for Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences

Victims of high risk domestic abuse will receive improved support as a result of a new, four year development programme for Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) (1), funded by the Home Office and delivered by national domestic abuse charity Coordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse (CAADA).

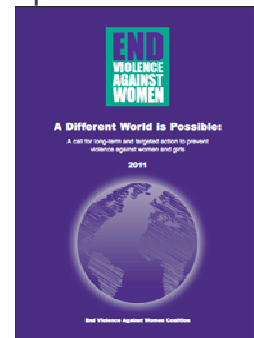
The programme builds on four years of work to establish a national network of 250 MARACs across England, Wales and Northern Ireland. In the past year alone these MARACs reviewed 40,000 high risk domestic abuse cases. Early analysis shows that following intervention by a MARAC and an Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) (2), up to 60% of domestic abuse victims report no further violence (3). CAADA's 'first phase' implementation programme included training over 3,000 multi-agency professionals across statutory and voluntary agencies, and completing quality assurance assessments for over 150 MARACs. [CLICK HERE](#) for full article

8. A Different World is Possible!

Violence against women and girls is not inevitable. We need urgent action to ensure that schools, colleges & Universities play their part in creating a safer world for women and girls.

- Nearly one in three 16-18 year-old girls have experienced unwanted sexual touching at school in the UK.
- It is estimated over 20,000 girls under 15 could be at high risk of female genital mutilation in England and Wales each year.
- 1 in 2 boys & 1 in 3 girls think there are some circumstances when it is okay to hit a woman or force her to have sex.
- 1 in 3 teenage girls has experienced sexual violence from a partner.
- In 2010 the Forced Marriage Unit received over 1735 calls to its helpline on suspected/potential forced marriage - 86% were from women.

Our '[A Different World is Possible](#)' report is calling for long-term and targeted action to prevent violence against women and girls. In particular, we want schools and other educational institutions to play their part.



They are calling for:

- Michael Gove to tell all schools that this is a national priority
- All teachers to receive training on violence against women and girls including domestic and sexual violence, forced marriage and female genital mutilation
- The National Curriculum must include sex and relationships education which discusses sexual consent and respectful relationships
- Ofsted should inspect schools on how well they are responding to violence against women and girls and all schools to collect and report data on violence against girls
- All schools to implement 'whole school' policies on violence against women and girls to create a school culture of respect and equality

Central and local government must also play their part by funding women's services and running public awareness campaigns

[CLICK HERE](#) for further details/web site

9. Honour-based violence 'massively under-reported'



Honour-based violence can occur in many communities, police say

Police have urged honour-based violence victims to come forward after warning that many crimes go under-reported.

North Wales Police says such incidents as violence and forced marriages are not confined to Asian communities.

At a conference to raise awareness in St Asaph, officers said the crimes can occur elsewhere, including in Gypsy and travelling communities.

However, the Gypsy Council responded later that forced or arranged marriages did not happen in its communities.

The conference was organised by police and north Wales community safety partnerships.

Det Insp Kelly Isaacs said: "We want people to know it's on our radar."

Police said honour-based violence can cover imprisonment and murder, where victims are punished by their family or community "for undermining the accepted code of behaviour, thereby bringing perceived shame and dishonour on the family".

"It was very violent, very abusive... nobody wanted to listen" *Saima Afzal Campaigner*

It also focused on forced marriages, where one or both spouses do not consent, or can not consent because of learning or physical disabilities.

[Continue reading the main story](#)

10. Domestic Violence Courts - closure programme

Written answers and statements, 10 May 2011

Andy Slaughter (Hammersmith, Labour)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice

(1) how many (a) constituencies and (b) local authority areas will not house a specialist domestic violence court at the end of the court closure programme;

(2) how many specialist domestic violence courts he plans to (a) open and (b) close in each of the next three years.

[CLICK HERE](#) for answers from **Jonathan Djanogly** (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (HM Courts Service and Legal Aid), Justice; Huntingdon, Conservative)

11. Better support for victims of domestic violence

 Home Office

UK Border Agency

Overseas spouses and partners of UK residents who are forced to flee their relationships as a result of domestic violence will be able to access vital support services, the Home Secretary has announced.

At present, some partners feel they have to stay in abusive relationships because they are in the UK on a spousal visa and have 'no recourse to public funds', meaning that they cannot access support services during the 2-year probationary period before they can apply for settlement.

Following a successful pilot project, these victims will be able to access services to ensure that they do not need to remain in violent relationships. Access to these services will be for a strictly limited period while the victim gathers evidence and makes a claim for residence based on the domestic violence, and while the UK Border Agency considers the application. [CLICK HERE](#) for further details

12. Home Office publishes report on children's attitudes towards the police

The Home Office has published a supplementary statistical bulletin to the main 2009/10 British Crime Survey looking at children's attitudes towards: the police; knife carrying; crime prevention behaviours; being in public spaces; and access to leisure activities. [CLICK HERE](#) for report

13. Family Procedure Rules – important changes

The new Family Procedure Rules (FPR) which came into force from 6 April 2011, have brought into effect two important changes when applying to the courts for an injunction. Affidavits are no longer acceptable; instead a 'statement of truth' needs to be prepared and signed by the applicant. The new procedures also clarify that injunctions must be served in person. The changes are explained by Steve Connor from the NCDV on a YouTube video [here](#).

14. Research into male domestic abuse

Berkshire East & South Bucks Women's Aid is conducting pioneering research into male domestic abuse. The study aims to:

- Gain a clear understanding of the needs of male victims of domestic abuse.
- Analyse trends in those perpetrating the violence, as well as those who are victims.
- Understand public attitudes towards male domestic abuse.
- Map the provision of services across the UK, including safe refuge and specialist services.

In order for the research to gain a realistic sample of all services available throughout the UK, the researchers are encouraging any frontline services which support male victims of domestic abuse to get in contact with Dan Lambeth (Male Research IDVA):

daniel@ebwomensaid.org.uk

telephone 01753 549865, mobile 07595781176.

15. Women's Migration and Asylum Network

Rights of Women's 'Women's Migration and Asylum Network' will exist primarily as virtual 'e-group' with occasional seminars and events being organised as and where necessary.

The objectives of the Women's Migration and Asylum Network are to:

- facilitate communication between and strengthen the understanding of network members on legal and policy issues that affect migrant and asylum-seeking women;
- improve the participation of network members in the legal and policy formation process;
- positively influence law and policy that affects migrant and asylum-seeking women;
- promote gender equality and work towards the elimination of discrimination on the grounds of gender, as well as discrimination against women where it intersects with age, disability, gender identity, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation or any combination thereof;
- to promote the human rights of all women in the UK.

The Network will focus on improving gender equality in relation to the following thematic areas:

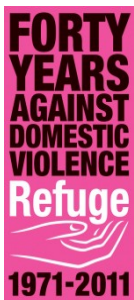
- asylum;
- economic migration;
- family migration (including family formation and reunion);
- settlement and routes to citizenship;
- violence against women issues (including trafficking).

The network is open to individuals and representatives from statutory and voluntary organisations across England and Wales. For further information about the network please read its [Terms of Reference](#)

To join the network please email [**info@row.org.uk**](mailto:info@row.org.uk).

The creation and facilitation of the network has been made possible by Unbound Philanthropy.

16. Refuge's 40th birthday



1971-2011 Refuge has come a long way since it opened the world's first refuge in 1971. What started out as a single house in Chiswick, West London, has grown to become the country's largest single provider of emergency accommodation and specialist support for women and children fleeing domestic violence.

On any given day, Refuge support 1,600 women and children through a national network of refuges and community based support. It costs £10million every year to provide life-saving and life-changing services and from every £1 they fundraise 83p goes directly to our services.

"The UK's three largest women's charities – including Refuge – have a combined annual income of £17m. In contrast, the Donkey Sanctuary received £20m in 2006"
Hard Knock Life, New Philanthropy Capital, 2008

Securing Refuge's funding is becoming more and more challenging – with worrying local authority cuts looming and an austere economic climate they are concerned about the future of services. **Which is why Refuge need your help.**

Please buy Refuge a birthday present and help maintain our vital and life saving support. Make a donation now or set up a regular gift to Refuge

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information and fund raising ideas.

17. Family Drug & Alcohol Court Evaluation Project: Final Report

This report presents the findings from the evaluation of the first pilot Family Drug and Alcohol Court (FDAC) in England and Wales. FDAC is a new approach to care proceedings, in cases where parental substance misuse is a key element in the local authority decision to bring proceedings. It is being piloted at the Inner London Family Proceedings Court in Wells Street. [CLICK HERE](#) for report

18. Something Brilliant at Thames Valley Partnership



Something Brilliant' is Thames Valley Partnership's contribution towards helping to spread the word about using the arts with vulnerable groups.

It is hoped that this website will:

- Encourage support workers to either employ an artist or have a go themselves
- Encourage artists to consider delivering projects within these settings

We have also produced a shortened version of this resource – a small pack of postcards to keep handy. There is a small charge for each pack, if you would like to purchase one of these please **contact us** Read more about the Something Brilliant website and our 'Barnstorming Day' [here](#)

[CLICK HERE](#) For web page

19. Thinking it Through DVD resource pack - for use with 12-16 year olds

DVD and resource pack for practitioners supporting young people affected by substance use and domestic violence.

The Thinking It Through DVD and resource pack is for facilitators, support workers or therapists to use with 12-16 year olds affected by substance use, and by domestic abuse, whether within the family or in their own peer relationships. The DVD contains five short films which are based on work by groups of young people around the country affected by domestic abuse and substance use. The pack contains introductory information, background to all the issues, guidance on safeguarding and suggestions for the group facilitators. [CLICK HERE](#) for further information.

20. Oxford Ethical Training - UPCOMING COURSES

14th July

Housing and Homelessness, Legal Rights.

Gerard Ward, 20 years at Oxford Housing Rights, now teaches housing law in FE colleges

29th July

Working with Domestic and Sexual Violence

Ashling Sans, IDVA/ISVA, Liz Jones, Domestic and Sexual Violence Coordinator
Oxford City Council

12th August

Working with people in trauma and distress (Mental Health)

Conroy Harris, former Manager Mind, now Dads worker Blackbird Leys

25th August

Working well with people from outside the UK (BME), Including No Recourse To Public Funds

Ruthanna Barnett, Immigration lawyer, Turpin Miller Solicitors.

Costs: £90/£110 vol/stat. Individuals negotiable. 10% early bird discount (booked more than 4 weeks in advance) - £81/£99.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information

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

September 15th Masterclass 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.

If you register for **both** the DASH Masterclass and DASH Train the Trainer sessions you will receive a **10% discount** and group bookings of 3 or more people will also receive a 10% discount.

New stand alone training on **Stalking and Honour Based Violence (HBV)** is also available. Laura can provide bespoke in-house training, which will enable you to understand:

- the nature of offending - using examples of actual cases
- the profile of the victim
- the profile of the perpetrator
- how to respond effectively
- how to identify risk and manage it
- lessons learned from homicide reviews.

Multiple case studies will be used throughout these interactive sessions and free support and resource material will be supplied. Either a half day or full day can be booked. For information with regards to Stalking or HBV training contact Laura directly: laura@laurarichards.co.uk.

To register for DASH training please contact the Events Co-ordinator Alison Bird: alison.bird@tiscali.co.uk. To view DASH in more detail please go to www.dashriskchecklist.co.uk. [CLICK HERE](#) for an outline of the DASH training.

22. Women's Aid National Conference 2011

Surviving together: partnership & good practice

Thu, 7th Jul 2011, 09.30 - Fri, 8th Jul 2011, 15.30

Hosted by: Women's Aid

Venue: University of Warwick

Contact: [Katie Ross](#) 0117 9837121

Women's Aid Annual National Conference remains one of the best value residential conferences across the UK so don't miss out! With a new format and over 20 different sessions including plenaries, round tables, training and information workshops, Women's Aid National Conference offers you the opportunity to expand your knowledge, learn new skills, and debate the burning issues facing specialist and dedicated services for survivors of violence and abuse. Whether you work in voluntary or statutory services, this conference will provide a vital forum for debate in these challenging and changing times.

[CLICK HERE](#) for speakers and other details

23. Training on Child Sexual Exploitation Prevention, Protection and Investigation

Multi-agency, whole-day training (Levels 1,2,3 & 4)

This course is aimed at all practitioners working with children, young people and families. It will be particularly relevant for those with responsibilities for preventing or investigating Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE). Delivered by our highly specialised trainers with many years of frontline experience, the course includes a diverse range of case studies, video clips and interactive workshop sessions.

Qualifies for CPD credits - enquire for details

In our impact monitoring survey, 93% of respondents said our training had helped them to deliver real improvements in their organisation's child protection practices.

Course content:

- Child Sexual Exploitation in context with normal child development
- Typical indicators of CSE
- Commonly used grooming tactics, the child's perspective and behaviour
- Factors that increase vulnerability to CSE
- Building trust and promoting engagement with children, young people and families
- How to respond to concerns
- Risk assessments and harm levels
- Sharing information with other agencies
- Improving multi-agency working in relation to CSE

- Taking emergency action
- The law relating to CSE and trafficking
- Complex CSE cases
- Raising awareness of CSE
- Statutory references, good practice and guidance

[CLICK HERE](#) for list of dates and other details.

24. Domestic Abuse & Mental Health: what practitioners need to know

Domestic Abuse and Mental Health: what practitioners need to know? Sue Penna worked in adult psychiatry for over 20 years specialising in working with adults that had been sexually abused as children. For the last 10 years she has specialised in working within the domestic abuse/violence sector. Over that time she had applied her mental health expertise to examining how best to support individuals that have experienced domestic abuse/violence. Her approach combines a psycho-educational model with simple Cognitive Behavioural Therapy believing that, unless we enable individuals to free themselves from the abuser's voice within, we leave them vulnerable to future abuse. This unique one day course will cover:

- The development of mental health issues with our clients
- De-mystifying psychiatry
- Coping with risk - How thinking alters when experiencing abuse
- The road to recovery – Using Cognitive Behavioural Therapy to repair distorted thinking
- What to do and when (Stages of Change Model, Prochaska and DiClementes)
- Strategies to support and empower clients

Wed, 3rd Aug 2011, 09.30 - 16.30

Hosted by: Sue Penna Associates
Venue: Radisson Blu Hotel
Contact: [Sue Penna](mailto:Sue.Penna@caada.org.uk) 01736 362374

25. Autumn IDVA training

CAADA has provided specialist training to over 1,000 IDVAs over the last few years. We are pleased to announce that we have now been awarded the Home Office contract to train IDVAs for the next four years, with a new programme of courses starting from September 2011. To register your interest, please email jdva.applications@caada.org.uk

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.

