

**Domestic Abuse
Oxfordshire
Reducing the Risk**



Reducing the Risk

Issue 20 : June 2011

This is issue 20 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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www.reducingtherisk.org.uk or www.amiabused.co.uk

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1. IMPORTANT INFORMATION - National and Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Helplines

Please be aware when you call the Helpline, calls from landlines will NOT show up on an itemised bill. However, calls from mobile telephones WILL show up on itemised bills.

Please exercise caution if using a mobile telephone. Dialling 141 will block the number to the recipient but may still appear on itemised telephone bills.

2. Councillor Louise Chapman on her violent relationship

An Oxfordshire county councillor who was attacked by her partner hopes her story will give other women who experience domestic violence the confidence to come forward.

Louise Chapman's partner Dale Clack was jailed for 12 months.

Click on <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-13518708> to see the interview

3. Women's convictions for domestic violence 'double'



Some experts think male victims of domestic violence are now more likely to report it to police.

The number of women convicted of domestic violence in England and Wales has more than doubled in the past five years, an investigation by BBC Radio 5 live Breakfast has found.

Figures obtained from the Crown Prosecution Service showed that almost 4,000 women were successfully prosecuted in the past year, compared with 1,500 women in 2005, a 169% increase. [Click Here](#) for full article

4. A quarter of girls say they had been victims of physical violence from their boyfriends

Is the increasingly networked, online world of teenagers contributing to emotional bullying and violence among teen girlfriends and boyfriends? This is one of the questions raised by the research of Christine Barter of the University of Bristol.

She is one of the few UK researchers to study the incidence and impact of emotional and physical violence within teenage sexual relationships.

Dr Barter and her colleagues have surveyed and interviewed both a general school population between the ages of 13 and 17 years old, and also disadvantaged teenagers who were excluded from school or in foster or care homes. Perhaps unsurprisingly, girls are much more likely to be on the receiving end of aggressively controlling and physically violent behaviour.

The researchers were surprised themselves however that as many as a quarter of girls say they had been victims of physical violence from their boyfriends. With emotional violence or controlling behaviour, three quarters of teenage girls said had been on the receiving end of this. The researchers were also disturbed that the incidences of these behaviours doesn't vary much from the youngest to the oldest teenagers.

Emotional violence ranges from name calling to being frequently checked up on through texting and social networking sites. This includes keeping tabs on their girlfriends by monitoring their movements through mobile phones. One young woman interviewed by Dr Barter said she frequently had to send photos of herself by camera phone to prove to her boyfriend she was where she said she was. New technologies give teenagers many more opportunities to exert control over their partners.

The studies suggest the impact, particularly on girls, can be very damaging for self-esteem. However, a significant number of young women, particularly from disadvantaged backgrounds, feel that these controlling and aggressive behaviours indicate that their boyfriends are showing they care about them. Christine Barter worries that this suggests these attitudes are becoming normalised among young people.

Part of the BBC Radio 4 series all in the mind <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b011jrhf>
Listen now <http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/console/b011jrhf>

5. Women mobilise for first British 'SlutWalk' rally



Thousands of provocatively-dressed women are expected to march through London when the growing "SlutWalk" phenomenon reaches these shores.

Thousands have taken part in such marches in Canada and the US, after a protest movement was sparked by the comments of a Canadian police officer suggested women should "avoid dressing like sluts" if they wanted to avoid being raped. On SlutWalk London's Facebook page, 3,500 people have already said they will take part in the march from Hyde Park to Trafalgar Square on 4 June. Previous protests in North America have seen many women marching in lingerie.

[Click Here](#) for full article from the Independent

6. Respect Directory of Professionals able to undertake expert assessments of domestic violence risks in family court proceedings

Respect is establishing a directory of professionals who are suitably qualified, trained, experienced to undertake assessments of domestic violence risks and impact in families involved in legal proceedings in relation to children. Respect aim is to provide solicitors, Cafcass, our members and others with a list of suitable assessors they can contact when an expert assessment is required.

Respect is taking this step following the recommendation in a report by Chris Newman which explored what should be included in an expert assessment of domestic violence risks and the skills and experience necessary to undertake these assessments.

A full copy of the report can be downloaded here <http://www.respect.uk.net/pages/risk-assessment.html>

7. Save the Poppy Project

Eaves pioneered UK support services for victims of trafficking almost a decade ago. Now, as a result of the government awarding the next two years of funding to the Salvation Army, Poppy will lose 90% of the project's funding. Eaves need to raise £1.8 million every year to keep providing high quality support and accommodation to women who have been trafficked for sexual or domestic exploitation, and their children. [CLICK HERE](#) for further information.

8. Access to benefits for women in refuge services – work suitability assessments and provision for survivors in paid employment

Women's Aid is aware that some Work Capability Assessors are refusing to accept that domestic violence victims, who have been signed off by their GPs, are unable to work and therefore are entitled to benefits. Domestic violence victims should be given the correct entitlements to benefits whilst being supported by refuge services, including the three month exemption on job seeking. We are also concerned that the current economic climate may make it more difficult for refuge services to provide support for women in paid employment who have no/or little eligibility to benefits. Proposals in the Welfare Reform Bill are likely to make this even more difficult.

Please provide Women's Aid with any information about whether this is a problem in your area, to [Deborah McIlveen](#), Policy and Services Manager.

9. Ofsted: The voice of the child: Learning lessons from serious case reviews

Ofsted has published *The voice of the child: learning lessons from serious case reviews*. This is Ofsted's fifth report evaluating serious case reviews and considers 67 carried out

between 1 April and 30 September 2010. The cases involved 93 children, 39 of whom died.

The report has a single theme: the importance of hearing the voice of the child. It provides an in-depth exploration of this key issue. It draws out practical implications and lessons for practitioners and Local Safeguarding Children Boards.

There are five main messages with regard to the voice of the child. Ofsted says that in too many cases:

- the child was not seen frequently enough by the professionals involved, or was not asked about their views and feelings;
- agencies did not listen to adults who tried to speak on behalf of the child and who had important information to contribute;
- parents and carers prevented professionals from seeing and listening to the child;
- practitioners focused too much on the needs of the parents, especially on vulnerable parents, and overlooked the implications for the child;
- agencies did not interpret their findings well enough to protect the child

[CLICK HERE](#) for report.

10. New report - Safe and Sane

In April 2001, Southall Black Sisters (SBS) received funding to establish a Domestic Violence and Mental Health Project for black and minority ethnic (BME) women. The Project undertook action based research aimed at developing new models of intervention to reduce the incidence of mental breakdown, suicide and selfharm amongst BME women experiencing domestic violence.

This report mainly deals with the work of the Project over a period of six years, April 2001 to March 2007 with an update from April 2007 to March 2009, and therefore covers a total period of eight years from 2001 to 2009. It helps to address the gap in knowledge and action in this area and seeks to describe and evaluate the SBS model of intervention, and use this as evidence to advocate and influence social policy reform and best practice.

11. Stalking Victims Urged 'Trust Your Instinct'

For the full report [click here](#)

Stalking victims are being urged to trust their instinct in a new campaign being launched today.

It's a crime that's often not taken seriously but can ruin lives and even lead to murder, according to Network for Surviving Stalking

The charity has devised a [quiz](#) to help people identify stalking.

"We know people still don't recognise stalking behaviour when it's happening to them" says Network for Surviving Stalking Chief Executive Alexis Bowater "even though we may feel uncomfortable with someone's obsessive behaviour – all too often we put up with it.

We *think* stalkers are sinister figures – like in films. In reality stalkers can be ex-partners; friends or people you know.”

More than 1 million women and 900,000 men report being stalked in the UK every year.* Despite the seriousness of the crime, there’s a huge problem of under-reporting – putting lives at risk.

The charity’s Trust Your Instinct campaign features two short films featuring a woman asking whether she should be worried about the behaviour of a man who seems to be becoming obsessed with her.

Alexis Bowater wants Trust Your Instinct to change attitudes. “So often we don’t trust our own instinct. People make us feel uncomfortable but we’ve been conditioned to ignore it – laugh it off; hope the problem goes away”

The charity has a new website www.trustyourinstinct.org which features the Stalking Quiz, created by Chartered Forensic Psychologist and criminal profiler Dr Lorraine Sheridan. “Stalking is often many separate incidents – the quiz will help people to see the ‘bigger picture’.”

The campaign website also features tips on how to report stalking to the police, written by former BBC Crimewatch presenter and Metropolitan Police officer Jacqui Hames, “The police have made mistakes investigating stalking cases in the past. It’s a difficult crime to police and we want to help victims to help officers – it’s the best way for everyone to get the most positive outcome to a situation.”

The campaign went viral on 16 March, 2011 on both Facebook and Twitter

12. Early intervention online to improve mental wellbeing



www.bigwhitewall.com

Big White Wall has two online services for improving public mental wellbeing:

Wellbeing websites

- Client branded websites
- Constantly updated content to enable self management of common mental health problems
- Local wellbeing service directories

Support network

- Community of thousands providing peer support
- Talk therapy in community, groups and one-to one
- Creative self expression through art and writing therapies
- Guided groups informed by recognised therapies such as cognitive behaviour and interpersonal therapies
- Relationship building using online social networking practices

- Extensive Useful Stuff for self managing psychological distress
- Member safety through anonymity and 24/7 facilitation from trained staff
- Accessible at any time of day or night

Independent review findings

- 73% of members share an issue on Big White Wall Support Network for the first time
- 95% experience improvement in wellbeing
- 80% self-manage their psychological distress

Who benefits

- The 50% who never go to a GP for fear of stigma
- 1 in 3 who visit a GP for conditions that are not physical or with medically unexplained symptoms
- People who want choice over when and how to manage psychological distress
- People who are isolated and vulnerable through mental illness and their family/friends
- Those on waiting lists for psychological therapies or who want complementary out of hours support
- Health trusts, employers and others who want high health outcomes at a reasonable cost

Further information

Currently offered in a wide range of PCTs, Mental Health Foundation Trusts and SHAs. A key new

offering for employers. Find out more:

Jenny Hyatt, CEO, Big White Wall

jenny@bigwhitewall.com + 44 (0)20 7060 1677

13. UK must send a clear message on domestic violence

Ministers from countries all across Europe gathered in Istanbul in May to sign a new Council of Europe convention on domestic violence at the Istanbul summit of the committee of ministers. Incredibly, the UK wasn't one of the signatories. The British government so far has not commented on its reasoning, but for a country that prides itself on being a leader on women's rights, its failure to sign so far is both a mystery and a serious disappointment.

The UK government has been sending out mixed messages when it comes to domestic violence, as Jon Robins has pointed out before. On the one hand, the home secretary, Theresa May, and the director of public prosecutions stress how serious this violence is and how determined they are to end it. On the other, the government is nibbling away determinedly at those services that are needed to fight violence, such as legal aid and protection for female asylum seekers who suffered domestic violence in their home country. And now it is reluctant to sign a groundbreaking new treaty that will truly make a difference throughout the European region.

[Click Here](#) for full article

14. Staying Safe – Oxfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board

THE OXFORDSHIRE SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD'S
QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

[Click Here](#) to view the Newsletter

15. Changes to DASH Course Booking System

There are changes to the way DASH course are booked: Domestic Abuse Stalking Harassment and Honour Based Violence (DASH) Risk Assessment training

*DASH Risk Assessment training is now available to all professionals. This is a half day training event. To book onto one of these courses please go to:
<http://learning.myoxfordshire.gov.uk>,*

Not sure how to log into the online booking system?

Oxfordshire County Council employees need to use their Intranet log-in details, otherwise please register using the link on the right hand side under the heading 'Everyone else'. Once logged in, the easiest way to find and book onto the courses is by typing 'dash' into the Keyword Function, then book the course.

16. Force of Habit

Adult Substance Misuse and its effect on children



Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board

Annual Conference
14th July 2011
Unipart House,
Cowley, Oxford
9.30am until 4.30pm

This conference is **FREE** to attend.

Delegates must apply through the OSCB online booking system to gain a confirmed place. Please go to www.oscb.org.uk or [Click Here](#)

17. Sexualisation in Our Society –

What it Really Means for Young People Today



Breaking Free

Sherwood Associates

When: 11th July 2011

Venue: Birkbeck College, Malet St, London

A one day training opportunity that will be suitable for frontline practitioners currently or newly tasked with working with young people.

The day will focus on the Process of Sexualisation but will also include the following topics:

- What does sexualisation mean?
- What influences this process
- Developmental stages and sexual behaviours
- Media messages
- Impact of technology and instant communication
- Impact of pornography
- The influence of peers on the sexualisation process
- Sexually coercive behaviours

[Click Here](#) for further information

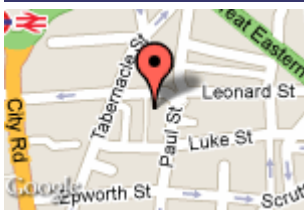
18. Working with fathers who present a risk to their children **FATHERS MATTER 3**

Family Rights Group training

One day training programme on 14th July 2011

For more information and to book please [Click Here](#)

19. The Links between Mental Health and Domestic Violence, 12 September, London



Dates 12 September 2011

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

Price £90 vol / £130 stat

This course will run from 10am-4.30pm.

Delegates attending this course will receive a copy of the Sane Responses toolkit.

[Click Here](#) for full information

20. Sexual Violence Conference

Date: Thursday 8 September, 9am to 6:30pm

Venue: Middlesex University, [Hendon Campus](#)

Forensic Psychological Services at Middlesex University is holding an inaugural one day conference on sexual violence. The conference is designed to bring together key practitioners, leading strategists, policy makers and academics working in this field. The overarching aim of this event is to develop fruitful working relationships that will lead to exchanges of cutting edge knowledge and innovations in practice and applied research.

There will also be a half-day master class with Professor Moira Carmody on Friday 9 September about the Sex and Ethics Violence Prevention Program (Carmody 2009 a,b).

To book a place please contact:

Victor Galea-Borg

Tel: 020 8411 4760

The closing date for receipt for booking forms is 1 September and the closing date for the early bird rate is 1 July.

There is a limited number of reduced rate places available for members of NGOs, voluntary and third sector organisations and students. If you would like to request a reduced rate booking fee, please contact the conference organisers: Jackie Gray, Susan Hansen, Miranda Horvath.

A provisional programme of the conference is now available. Click Here for more information

21. Say it loud, say it proud

Fri, 10th Jun 2011, 13.30 - 17.30

The seminar aims to...

- Increase the voice of victim/survivors in the LGBT community and in your service
- Look at best practice. What works and what doesn't
- Examine the hurdles that LGBT survivors face to be able to participate in domestic abuse services
- Identify safety issues when involving LGBT victim/survivors
- Enable you to create a 10 step guide to LGB and T service user participation, specific to your service. Please go to www.lgbtdaf.org

Hosted by: LGBT domestic abuse forum

Venue: London

Contact: Maria 07407731561

22. FREE seminar and debate on current proposals for the reform of the family justice system

Tue, 14th Jun 2011, 14.30 - 16.45

On 31 March, 1 March 2011 the Family Justice Review launched its interim report setting out proposals to tackle problems faced by the family justice system and inviting responses to its proposals for reform. We are concerned that the proposals at present miss the

opportunity to reform the family justice system in a way that offers better protection and ensures equal access to justice for women who have experienced domestic violence. This seminar and debate will equip you with an understanding of the main proposals and enable you to respond to the consultation to ensure that the needs of the women that you work with are reflected in the reform of the family justice system. It will also offer the opportunity to discuss the implications of recent proposals on civil legal aid on the family justice system. Prior to the seminar, Rights of Women will circulate a paper outlining our key concerns that we encourage you to use to respond to the consultation.

Hosted by: Rights of Women

Venue: National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO), Regent's Wharf,

Contact: [Katherine Perks](mailto:Katherine.Perks@ncvo.org.uk) 0207 251 6575

I hope you find the above interesting and informative.

Julia

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