



Reducing the Risk

Issue 17 : March 2011

This is issue 17 of the Reducing the Risk e-bulletin. Apologies for it being circulated a little late, due to illness! 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](#)

If you would like to unsubscribe from this e-bulletin please [click here](#).

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. The Sojourner Project - No Recourse to Public Funds – Update

You should be aware of the Sojourner Project which was set up a while ago to help DA clients with no recourse to public funds. Please see the latest update below, along with an article about some publications from the organisation Rights of Women [CLICK HERE](#) for article

The Sojourner Project – Funding to Continue

The Home Office is currently identifying a permanent solution to the issues facing people on spouse visas fleeing domestic violence on account of having NRPF. It is expected that an announcement will be made soon regarding these developments. Funding for the Sojourner Project however will continue beyond March 2011 and until such a permanent solution is reached.

The Sojourner Project is funded by the Home Office to coordinate the provision of accommodation and financial support to people (and their children) who have been granted leave to remain in the UK as spouses, civil partners or unmarried partners and have become victims of domestic violence within the visa's two year probationary period. Those eligible to apply for indefinite leave to remain under the Domestic Violence Rule (DVR) can receive accommodation and subsistence for up to 20 working days whilst the application is being prepared and up to a further 20 working days whilst a decision on the application is being made by the UKBA.

To make a referral to the Sojourner Project, call 0207 840 7147.

If a decision on a DVR application has not been made within the 40 days, and a client (and their children) lose their accommodation and become destitute because The Sojourner Project funding has come to an end, the local authority where the client is ordinarily resident will be expected to consider their duties under social services legislation. Single adults and families will be ordinarily resident where they are physically present, except when they are being financially supported by another local authority. Local authorities cannot reclaim the costs of providing support where there is a statutory duty to do so. If this situation arises, please inform the NRPF Network in order to facilitate future work with the Home Office around minimising this shortfall in expenditure.

Sojourner Project Statistics

Since the beginning of the pilot there have been 1025 referrals (1023 women, 2 men). 685 women were accepted onto the scheme, six referrals were accepted onto the scheme but found ineligible by the UKBA and 149 referrals were accepted on the scheme but later opted to decline the service. Therefore 530 referrals were accommodated and received the full service. Referrals have come from all over the UK including Northern Ireland. Sojourner has 107 signed Service Level Agreements with refuge services providing support to women through the pilot.

The referrals that were not accepted did not meet the criteria for the following reasons:

- Had already submitted an application for Indefinite Leave to Remain.

- Did not enter the UK on a Spouse Visa but on Visitor or Student Visa or are EEA Nationals or married to EEA Nationals. These referrals received advice of other possible sources of funding.
 - Already had Exceptional Leave to Remain but with no recourse to public funds. These referrals received advice of other possible sources of funding.
- 179 women have been granted Indefinite Leave to Remain.

Since March 2010 Eaves Housing, in conjunction with Southall Black Sisters have delivered training sessions on No Recourse to Public Funds and The Sojourner Project in London, Bradford, Nottingham, Chelmsford, Ipswich, Wrexham and Basingstoke. It is planned to run further training sessions in London before the end of March and on the 16th February a Sojourner awareness raising workshop was held for the UKBA caseworkers in Liverpool who handle the Sojourner cases.

For more information on The Sojourner Project, contact Jo Clarke:
jo.clarke@eaveshousing.co.uk

To access the NRPF Network's practice guidance on assessing and supporting victims of domestic violence with NRPF, please see: <http://tinyurl.com/33nh9kl>

Rights of Women Updated Domestic Violence and NRPF Guidance

Rights of Women have published an extended and updated guidance paper "*Seeking refuge? Domestic violence, Immigration Law and No Recourse to Public Funds*" [CLICK HERE](#)

This legal guide explains the immigration laws and policies relevant to women from abroad who are experiencing domestic violence. It also explains some of the financial and other support options that may be available. Additionally, RoW have produced new guidance on the immigration and criminal laws relevant to women who have been trafficked into the UK "*Seeking refuge? Trafficking, Sexual Exploitation and the Law.*"

To access the Guidance papers, please use the following link:
<http://www.rightsofwomen.org.uk/legal.php>

2. Voices from the Dark : Mill Theatre, Banbury, Wednesday 13th July

Stories, songs and facts all help to shine a light on to the Voices from the Dark.

This is a poignant selection of stories told by 21st Century women, of overcoming mental, physical and emotional illness from The Eve Project

[CLICK HERE](#) for further details/poster.

3. Support the 112 – 2011 : Sponsored Bike Ride

On the 7th May Standing Together will host the 3rd annual 112, a sponsored bike ride covering 112 kilometres in one day – that's **one kilometre for every woman who, on average, dies each year as a result of domestic violence**. This was a great success in 2009 and 2010, and we hope to make it bigger and better in 2011. The aim of the event is to:

- Highlight the issue of domestic violence
- Ensure people understand the damage caused by domestic violence
- Raise funds to combat domestic violence through a coordinated response to this crime

To make this possible we need fundraisers to sign up to take part! There are 2 options: for those looking for a real challenge you could cycle the full 112km - starting at Windsor Great Park and cycling through Buckinghamshire and Berkshire finishing back at the park; or for the less experienced / confident rider there is a shorter 11.2 mile route, along the roads around Windsor Great Park.

Registration costs £10 and we ask for a minimum pledge of £112 sponsorship; we will provide refreshments and make sure you have a great day out!!

To sign up, or for more information, contact Shasca or Laura on 0208 748 5717 or admin@standingtogether.org.uk or join us on [Facebook](#)

If you would like to support this event but are unable to take part on the day then you can make a donation at www.justgiving.com/StandingtogetherThe112; there are also a number of volunteer positions to be filled – please email admin@standingtogether.org.uk if you could spare a morning or afternoon to help make the day a great success!!

[CLICK HERE](#) for Booking Form

[CLICK HERE](#) for Roundabout Route

[CLICK HERE](#) for Map

Laura Burtenshaw | Operations Coordinator | **Standing Together** t: 020 8748 5717 | f: 020 8748 5921 | w: www.standingtogether.org.uk Room 44D, The Polish Centre, 238 - 246 King Street, London W6 0RF.

4. Campaigning Success!



Thanks to your campaigning efforts, we've had some great news. In response to our *Cut them free* campaign, the Government have announced that they will make Children's Minister Tim Loughton responsible for protecting children from sexual exploitation.

Thank you for emailing the Government and securing this hugely important change.

In a letter acknowledging the importance of Barnardo's campaigners in persuading the Government to take action, Mr Loughton wrote:

"My department has received a large number of emails in support of your campaign... The coalition Government welcomes the action taken by Barnardo's to highlight this extremely important issue." **[Read Tim Loughton's letter to Barnardo's in full](#)**

Of course, despite this early success of Cut them free, we still need to keep the pressure on to make sure that the Government follows up this very welcome announcement with real action to tackle sexual exploitation – and we'll be continuing to campaign to make sure this happens.

Best wishes,

Oliver Chantler,

Policy & Public Affairs Officer, Barnardo's

5. International Women's Day : Raffle for Charity

Men and women of Oxford, come...

March 8th, @ 12:00pm to the Bridge of Sighs and support women of war-torn nations.

take a break for lunch and enjoy music, testimonies, fun and...

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Raffle for charity: win iPads and more!

tickets £3 each or two for £5

Contact: taylor.brown@wolfson.ox.ac.uk

[CLICK HERE](#) for further details/poster

6. Interested in becoming an OSARCC volunteer?



Oxford Sexual Abuse and Rape Crisis Centre are currently looking for new volunteers to staff their telephone helpline and offer email support. Full training will be provided but they are looking for women who are empathetic to our

principles and who are team players. Volunteers are required to have a good level of English and they must be able to be involved for a minimum of 18 months.

Training will commence on 7th May and will run over 11 weekends and evenings.

For more information about volunteering for OSARCC please download our [Volunteer Leaflet](#).

Please email **recruitment @ osarcc.org.uk** or phone Lisa on 01865 725311 or further information and an application form.

7. KIM - new young people and domestic violence resource

KIM is part of a nation-wide campaign to educate and inform young people about the impact of domestic violence on children and families. The movie was developed in partnership with and performed and produced by 45 young people from across South London, many of whom have direct experience of the issues explored.

KIM The Movie has now been further developed, with a new toolkit to accompany the movie, and training sessions for practitioners and young people. Download more information [here](#).

8. New Government strategy for engaging and listening to women

Following the closure of the Women's National Commission, the Government Equalities Office is developing a new approach to enable women and women's organisations to interact with Government. GEO will be sending regular updates to its women partner organisations and publishing a dedicated web page as part of its engagement activity. To find out more, please contact Sarah Morgan, Deputy Head of Gender Equality and Policy at sarah.morgan@geo.gsi.gov.uk.

9. Free Posters to download



[CLICK HERE](#)

A4 poster

THEME: HIDEOUT WEBSITE, CHILDREN - [FREE TO DOWNLOAD](#)

Text: Ever feel scared of going home?

Worried about yourself or one of your parents?

For help and information about domestic abuse go to www.thehideout.org.uk



[CLICK HERE](#)

A4 poster

THEME: HIDEOUT WEBSITE, YOUNG PEOPLE - [FREE TO DOWNLOAD](#)

Text: Frightened by someone you are dating?

Worried about violence at home?

For help and information on domestic abuse go to www.thehideout.org.uk10. [Children in danger from violent fathers 'due to social services failures'](#)

Almost 90% of men guilty of domestic violence remain in close contact with their children without supervision, report finds

Working With Risky Fathers is first report into involvement of children's services with domestically abusive fathers. Photograph: Dani Rodriguez / Alamy/Alamy

Children are being exposed to extreme danger because social services are failing to prevent or monitor contact with their violent and abusive fathers. [CLICK HERE](#) for article.

11. Broken Rainbow UK and White Ribbon UK launch the first National Rainbow Ribbon Campaign

“LGBT people experience domestic violence too....”

That’s the message going out to the whole of the UK during February’s LGBT History month as Broken Rainbow UK launch their National Rainbow Ribbon Campaign in partnership with White Ribbon UK.

Broken Rainbow UK runs the only National lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) Domestic Violence Helpline and offers support to LGBT communities, their friends, family, perpetrators and agencies working in the domestic violence sector.

The White Ribbon Campaign is the UK branch of the international campaign working to reduce violence against women.

This exciting partnership with Broken Rainbow UK builds on their work, and includes raising awareness of domestic violence in same sex relationships as well; an area so often ignored, and misunderstood.

We have made progress toward greater equality for LGBT people with civil partnership and provisions in the Equality Act 2010 but sadly, domestic violence in LGBT communities

remains invisible and people continue to associate it with something that only happens to women by their male partners.

“Given that 1 in 4 LGBT people also experience domestic violence we need to work together to raise awareness of this devastating crime. The Rainbow Ribbon is about awareness; its message is about respecting human rights, and about saving lives. The lives of LGBT people devastated, or lost, due to violence from ex/partners, and family members.”

Rita Hirani CEO for Broken Rainbow UK

And the White Ribbon Campaign's Director Chris Smith is in agreement.

“We see this partnership work with Broken Rainbow UK as a huge opportunity to raise awareness around all inter-personal violence.

Every act of violence is wrong and everyone has the right to live a life free from abuse.

We hope this partnership will serve to increase awareness and get the message across that same sex domestic violence is just as unacceptable as gender-based violence.”

February is LGBT History Month. The Rainbow Ribbon campaign is set to coincide with February each year to get LGBT Domestic Violence out of the closet. We are counting on the support of all agencies to support this campaign hereon.

Broken Rainbow UK is encouraging individuals, agencies and organisations across the country to support the Rainbow Ribbon campaign to get the message ‘LGBT people experience domestic violence too...’ out there. You can help in a number of ways:

- Purchase Rainbow Ribbons from Broken Rainbow UK via www.broken-rainbow.org.uk/rainbowribboncampaign.html and then promote them at your events, workplace or society groups
- Post a Virtual Rainbow Ribbon on your organisation websites, you can also add a link to our website, or add the National Broken Rainbow LGBT DV Helpline number
- Promote it via social networking sites and get people talking about the Rainbow Ribbon

Simply wearing the Rainbow Ribbon, or displaying it, shows you are helping to make a difference to the lives of LGBT people affected by domestic violence.

If you would like support, then call us on:

The National Broken Rainbow LGBT DV Helpline – 0300 999 5428,
Open Monday and Thursday 2pm-8pm and Wednesday 10am-5pm.
Or visit www.broken-rainbow.org.uk

Broken Rainbow UK Office on 08452 60 55 60 or email mail@broken-rainbow.org.uk

The White Ribbon Campaign information is on www.whiteribboncampaign.co.uk or Email info@whiteribboncampaign.co.uk

12. The welfare reform bill will trap abused women in their violent hell

Through this legislation, the coalition will force mothers in abusive relationships to choose between poverty and violence

This week, women's refuge chief Denise Marshall returned the OBE she earned for her work with women who need to escape abusive relationships, saying government cuts undermined her ability to support them. It is not just the closure of domestic violence charities (some areas are facing a 100% loss of services) which will make working in this field impossible. This week the welfare reform bill formed the heart of a raft of coalition policies which ensure that, for many mothers with young children, leaving a relationship – even a violent one – will no longer be an option.

[CLICK HERE](#) for full article from The Guardian – 18th February 2011

13. My family wants to kill me

Nilima, her husband and little girl live in hiding under police protection – in fear of an 'honour' killing by her family.....

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

14. New Support Group still has spaces



More information can be gained by contacting the Facilitator either via email on groups@osarcc.org.uk or by phone/text on 07506 412422. All queries will be treated in confidence by our Facilitator and your details will not be shared with any other organisation.

The group is underpinned by OSARCC's core principles of being non-directive, non-judgmental, empowering, confidential, willing to challenge discrimination and free of charge. Meeting weekly on Tuesdays (18:30 to 20:00) at a confidential location in Oxford

City, the group will be lead by an experienced facilitator with a background in supporting survivors. It will be open to twelve participants for 3 months with each participant being asked to attend all the sessions held.

There are no criteria for joining this group other than being a woman over the age of eighteen years old who is a survivor of sexual abuse and/or rape, whether in the past or recently, as a child or as an adult.

15. More separating couples to be spared court battles

23 February 2011



Anyone setting out to contest the terms of their separation in court will first be required to consider mediation, under a new protocol agreed with the Judiciary.

From April separating couples must assess whether mediation would be a better way of resolving their disputes than battling over them in court, Justice Minister Jonathan Djanogly announced today. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

16. Thames Valley Partnership : An exciting new development for Family Matters!

The Partnership is pleased to announce a successful bid to the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation for a three year programme of work building on our successful Family Matters initiative. The new programme will be called a ***Family Approach to Criminal Justice Services in the Thames Valley*** and will develop some significant and exciting new areas of work:

- *A new volunteer staffed service for families in some courts*
- *Recruitment and training of volunteers through New Leaf (volunteer providers)*
- *More training and provision of resources for practitioners*
- *Awareness raising for sentencers and court staff*
- *Improved referral pathways into children and family support services*

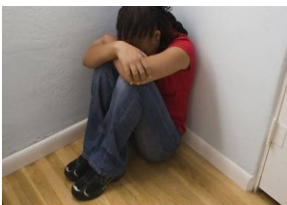
We look forward to working with the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, with New Leaf and with our Local Authority and Criminal Justice colleagues across the Thames Valley to continue to improve support services and outcomes for the families of prisoners and offenders.

We also thank our current funders the Henry Smith Charity for continuing to support the programme.

Thames Valley Probation is generously supporting the development of the volunteer service in year 1.

For more details contact Project Coordinator Saj Khan
Sajida.khan@thamesvalleypartnership.org.uk

17. Thames Valley Partnership : April – Free ‘Parents Protect’ Training



Across the Thames Valley the Partnership champions the work of **Stop It Now!** a national campaign working to prevent child sexual abuse. Thames Valley Partnership are coordinating several sessions of their **Parents Protect** training which will be offered **free** to children’s centre and school welfare leads on the following days:

Oxfordshire (venues in Banbury and Blackbird Leys)) – 5th April

Berkshire (venues in Bracknell Forest and Reading) – 6th April

Bucks (venues in Aylesbury and High Wycombe) – 7th April

Milton Keynes – venue tbc – 8th April

If you work with children’s centres or schools, or support parents and children in a similar capacity this would be of interest to you. Further details and booking forms available from bron@thamesvalleypartnership.org.uk

18. Training : New AVA OCN-accredited training course :

Working with children and young people exposed to domestic violence and related violence against women and girls.

AVA is an OCN accredited centre that has developed an accredited training course for practitioners working with children and young people exposed to domestic violence and related violence against women and girls. The course is aimed at professionals wishing to

deepen and consolidate their understanding of the issues with which they work and gain a formal qualification equivalent to A-level standard.

This 5 day course is delivered from 10am-4.30pm, one day a week over five weeks.

The course will take place in London on **Wednesday 4th, Wednesday 11th, Thursday 19th, Tuesday 24th and Tuesday 31st May 2011.**

For further information or to book your place, [click here](#).

Sophie Taylor AVA (Against Violence and Abuse) formerly the *GLDVP*
4th floor, Development House, 56-64 Leonard Street, London EC2A 4LT tel: 020 75490
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19. Training : Using the Arts with Young People at Risk

When: 24th March 2011, 9.45 am- 4 pm,

Where: Nuffield Theatre, Southampton

This course gives an overview of the benefits of using the arts with young people at risk and covers essential areas when doing so. Participants are given an understanding of youth arts and youth culture and the skill set needed to successfully design, fund, manage and market an appropriate arts project. Current CRB child protection legislation will be considered, ensuring your youth arts project complies with the recommended guidelines.

Rachel Hall, Artsplan Development Manager, comments:

“This course is suitable for anyone currently using or looking to use the arts with vulnerable and disadvantaged young people, including youth workers, artists, arts venues, councils and other similar roles”.

All participants will receive a certificate of attendance upon successful completion of the course, and a wealth of practical resources, including a copy of the Artsplan published guidelines ‘Using the Arts with Young People at Risk’ (RRP £7.50). Prices for the course, which include lunch and refreshments, range from £110 to £150, with limited bursaries also available. Please also remember that ENYAN members can receive a 5% discount on all Artsplan publications and training!

For more information on how to make a booking, or to order the ‘Using the Arts with Young People at Risk’ guidelines separately, please contact the Artsplan Team via: artsplan@artsworld.org.uk or call 02380 682535.

20. CAADA Leading Lights accreditation

What is the CAADA Leading Lights programme?

Leading Lights is an accreditation programme which recognises and rewards good and safe practice in IDVA services across the UK. The programme offers IDVA services, partner agencies and commissioners a set of standards for supporting high risk victims, and is designed to ensure that survivors of domestic abuse receive the same level of service, regardless of where they are in the country.

Leading Lights supports IDVA services to reach accreditation through a series of tailored support visits and training days. The programme covers the core aspects of running an IDVA service – from case management to strategy and governance – offering complete guidance to the entire IDVA service team. At the end of the accreditation process, IDVA services are evaluated by an external accreditation panel of domestic abuse sector and quality assurance professionals.

Currently six IDVA services are accredited; Worth (2008) Berkshire East Women's Aid, Let Go (2009), Advance, Blackpool Advocacy and WRASAC (2010), with 32 more currently engaged in the programme. [Read about the experiences of CAADA's Leading Lights services](#) and find out how it feels to be recognized for good and safe practice.

Further information

Is your service ready to become a Leading Light in the domestic abuse sector? CAADA is now registering interest for the **Spring 2011** intake of its Leading Lights accreditation programme. If you'd like to find out more, why not [find out how the programme works](#) or email [Karen Clark](#) for further details or to register interest.

21. When your teenager is being violent to you....



It's easy for parents to feel guilty and ashamed when teenagers are abusive and violent and people are quick to point the finger, especially at mums. However research shows that it's incredibly common – about 20% of teenagers are violent to their parents (mostly to mothers) and about 10% seriously so. Please be reassured that mostly the young people using violence have 'good enough' parents and that there is no 'perfect parent' in the world. Sometimes peer groups, wider society and media or a violent or absent parent will have been much more influential than you. So rather than beat yourself up over worrying how you are part of the problem, it's much more fruitful to think about how you could become part of the solution....

[CLICK HERE](#) for further details

I hope you find the above interesting and informative.

Julia

Julia McCormack
Administrator & Project Support Officer
Safer Communities Unit
Graham Hill House
Electric Avenue
Ferry Hinksey Road
OXFORD OX2 0BY

Telephone: 01865 815397
Mobile: 07990 782329

Julia.McCormack@oxfordshire.gov.uk

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