

Domestic Abuse Newsletter

Bracknell Forest and RBWM



April 2020

LOCAL NEWS

Message from Berkshire Women's Aid and the Dash Charity

A reminder that both Berkshire Women's Aid and The Dash Charity remain open (although Berkshire Women's Aid remains closed to professional referrals as was in place before) and offering support remotely to victims of domestic abuse. Group work remains suspended at the moment. The Dash Charity continue to offer 1:1 support for children living in RBWM affected by domestic abuse.

- For support in Bracknell Forest, call Berkshire Women's Aid 0118 950 4003 www.berkshireromensaid.org.uk
- For support in RBWM, call the Dash Charity 01753 549865 www.thedashcharity.org.uk

NEW Thames Valley Police posters



Thames Valley Police are continuing to raise awareness of domestic abuse and support available for anyone suffering during the coronavirus pandemic. These posters are now in circulation with signposting to Thames Valley Police (via telephone and online reporting) as well as local and national charities for men and women, and perpetrators of domestic abuse. For more information, visit the Thames Valley Police website [here](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk).

Kaleidoscopic UK

For those of you have attended recent domestic abuse forum meetings, you will have had the pleasure of meeting Vikie Robertson, founder of Kaleidoscopic UK. Kaleidoscopic UK is a charitable organisation of survivors of domestic abuse based in Berkshire. Providing survivor-led support groups 'Sanctuary', 'Liberation from Abuse' and 'Fun with Mum'

(support group for children), as well as online/phone support for victims of domestic abuse, Kaleidoscopic UK work to enhance prevention and recovery for families, children and adults exposed to domestic abuse.

Services are still available during COVID-19 via online portals. To contact Kaleidoscopic UK and to find out more, visit their new website: www.kaleidoscopic.uk

Updates from Victims First

Victims First have recently launched on Twitter and are actively sharing updates, events, meetings, campaigns etc on there. To follow them, their Twitter handle is [@VictimsFirstTV](https://twitter.com/VictimsFirstTV).

The [Victims First Connect](http://www.victimsfirstconnect.org.uk) programme, which is working with local organisations to make their services more accessible to communities, will continue to be implemented once the government restrictions have been lifted. If you would like any more information or are interested in becoming involved in the programme in the future please email victimsfirstcomms@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

From 1 April 2020, the new Thames Valley wide Victims First Specialist Service (VFSS) will replace three former services (Thames Valley Independent Sexual Violence Advisory Service, the PCC's Restorative Justice Services and the Willow Project supporting victims of exploitation and Complex Needs). The contract for the service was awarded by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner to the Thames Valley Partnership as Strategic Partner and lead agency, working closely with two Delivery Partners Oxfordshire Sexual Abuse and Rape Crisis Centre (OSARCC) and Trust House Reading. The service will provide support for people who have specialists and complex needs. Crime types may include Rape and Sexual Assault, Violence and Exploitation. Referrals into the service should be made via the Victims First Hub so a needs assessment can determine if support via the Victims First Hub as per below.

Victims First is committed to supporting victims throughout the Coronavirus pandemic and continue to offer free emotional and practical support to any victim or witness of crime or abuse, regardless of when the crime took place or whether the victim has chosen to report it to the police.

Support is currently being offered via telephone, teleconference and through other means like text messaging, rather than face to face, tailored to meet the needs of each victim and how they would prefer to engage.

At this time, due to limited capacity, Victims First are asking that any referrals are made **using their online referral form on their website www.victims-first.org.uk** and not by using the Freephone number. Victims, or those making a referral on behalf of victims, can complete the form, leaving contact details, and one of the Victims First Officers will contact the victim directly within 5 working days.

Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead's Children's Services rated GOOD by Ofsted

The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead's Children's Services, which are provided by Achieving for Children (AfC), have been rated 'GOOD' following an inspection by Ofsted in January 2020. This is an improvement on a previous inspection in 2015, where Children's Services were rated requires improvement.

Under the new framework, services are assessed against four key areas: AfC was judged good for their overall effectiveness, good for impact of leaders on social work practice with children and families and good for the experiences and progress of children who need help and protection. A requires improvement to be good rating was given for the experiences and progress of children in care and care leavers.

One of the highlights of the Ofsted report, published on 24 February was *'There are strong interventions available where domestic abuse is a concern'*.

A full copy of the Ofsted report can be found here <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/44/80546>.

SafeLives 15th anniversary reception

On 12 February, the Duchess of Cornwall hosted a reception at Clarence House to mark the 15th anniversary of the SaveLives charity. HRH welcomed staff, supporters and people who had been helped by SafeLives, including our RBWM Lead Complex Needs IDVA, Mirka, from the Dash Charity.



Mirka had the opportunity to speak with the Duchess of Cornwall in person to talk to her about the services the Dash Charity offers in RBWM. This was a great networking event which helped to raise awareness of domestic abuse and support services available.

Dash Charity conference – March 2020

"The Dash Charity held our first ever awareness-raising conference on Domestic Abuse in early March. We were so lucky to have a stellar line up of speakers including Nicole Jacobs, the new DA Commissioner, Harriet Wistrich, renowned lawyer and three survivors of domestic abuse who shared their stories so openly and bravely. Two hundred people attended and included representatives of the Police, Probation and Healthcare. Comments received included 'that was eye-opening to me and will have an enormous impact on how I operate' and 'I had no idea of the breadth and specialist nature of the services Dash offer'. Everyone from Team Dash helped out – from hosting tables to clearing tables – and we all went home exhausted but happy! Thank you to everyone who attended.

We launched our new training packages for legal professionals, health, corporates and schools – these are available as online packages now too. Get in touch with us if you are interested" – *Alison Bourne (CEO)* www.thedashcharity.org.uk 01753 549865



New DA webpages – RBWM

The RBWM website now has some new domestic abuse webpages. Information includes help and access to support services for victims and survivors; people who may be abusing or hurting someone; children and young people living with domestic abuse; and professionals seeking advice. To view the webpages, click [here](#).

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL NEWS

31 January

[Birmingham man sentenced over attempted forced marriage](#)

13 February

[Number of female homicide victims reaches highest level since 2006](#)

13 February

[Refuge responds to ONS annual homicide statistics](#)

13 February

[Domestic abuse 'affects everybody', Duchess of Cornwall says](#)

17 February

[Female domestic abuse survivors '44% more likely' to die from any cause](#)

20 February

[Why do men get away with killing women – is there an amnesty on male violence?](#)

20 February

[Hannah Baxter: Australian mother and children 'senselessly murdered'](#)

25 February

[Domestic abuser Joshua Dalgrano jailed after sentence appeal](#)

28 February

[Wife guilty of murdering husband in drunken domestic incident](#)

3 March

[Enhanced Domestic Abuse Bill introduced to Parliament](#)

3 March

[My ex put a GPS tracker in my car to stalk me – tech abuse must be criminalised](#)

3 March

[Domestic abuse: Lie-detector tests planned for offenders](#)

4 March

[New 'rail to refuge' scheme offers free train travel to women fleeing domestic abuse](#)

5 March

[Women 'need better pay and abuse protection'](#)

6 March

[Calls about children witnessing domestic abuse 'rise 25%'](#)

20 March

[For many children, home is far more dangerous than school right now – we must do all we can to protect them](#)

10 March

[MPs oppose 'bedroom tax' being applied to domestic abuse survivors](#)

26 March

[Warning over rise in UK domestic abuse cases linked to coronavirus](#)

29 March

[Coronavirus: Domestic abuse victims 'still allowed to leave home'](#)

29 March

[Man accused of Cwmbran murder after woman, 67, dies](#)

30 March

[Hemel Hempstead fire: Murder probe after three found dead](#)

30 March

[Woodmancote murder probe: Two adults and two children found dead](#)

30 March

[Billy Joe Saunders has boxing license suspended after domestic abuse 'advice' video](#)

31 March

[Barnsley murder charge over Victoria Woodhall stab death](#)

31 March

[Schoolboy walked to local BBC radio station in pyjamas after hearing report on domestic abuse](#)

2 April

[Nurse killed doctor girlfriend 'because he thought she gave him coronavirus'](#)

4 April

[Domestic Abuse victims urged to keep seeking help during Coronavirus outbreak](#)

4 April

[Domestic abuse cases soar as lockdown takes its toll](#)

6 April

[Coronavirus: Domestic abuse calls up by 25% since lockdown, charity says](#)

7 April

[BBC News host writes subtle message to domestic abuse victims on hand](#)

11 April

[Coronavirus: Domestic abuse services to get £2m amid lockdown](#)

12 April

[Government's domestic abuse campaign criticised for not tackling 'heartbreaking' surge of violence amid lockdown](#)

15 April

[Coronavirus: Shop workers should be trained to help abuse victims](#)

15 April

[Domestic abuse killings 'more than double' amid Covid-19 lockdown](#)

17 April

[Emma Hayes: Chelsea Women boss calls for help to tackle domestic abuse](#)

25 April

[Coronavirus: '2m children face heightened lockdown risk'](#)

26 April

[Call for domestic violence 'safe spaces' in supermarkets](#)

27 April

[Domestic abuse surge in coronavirus lockdown could have lasting impact, MPs say](#)

27 April

[UK lockdown: Calls to domestic abuse helpline jump by half](#)

- Standing Together – [COVID-19 Guidance and Procedures](#)
- Surviving Economic Abuse – [Spotting the signs of economic abuse during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#)
- Suzy Lamplugh Trust – [Stalking & the COVID-19 outbreak](#)
- Trades Union Congress – [Domestic abuse and coronavirus](#)
- Victims First – [Domestic abuse Advice/Covid-19](#)
- Women's Aid – [COVID-19: Resource hub. Practical support and advice](#)

USEFUL PUBLICATIONS, RESEARCH & RESOURCES

Home Office

Domestic Abuse Bill 2020: factsheets click [here](#).

COVID-19 and domestic abuse resources

- AVA (Against Violence and Abuse) - [Domestic abuse during COVID-19: Guidance for mental health practitioners](#)
- Doctors of the World – [Coronavirus: Latest NHS Guidelines translated into 46 languages](#)
- Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) – [COVID-19: Advice and resources for housing providers](#)
- Employer's Initiative on Domestic Abuse – [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): help for employees when home is not a safe place](#)
- Home Office – [COVID-19: guidance for domestic abuse safe accommodation provision](#)
- Home Office – [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): guidance for local authorities on children's social care](#)
- Home Office – [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): support for victims of domestic abuse](#)
- Home Office - [#YouAreNotAlone campaign](#) and campaign material can be downloaded [here](#)
- NSPCC – [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) and keeping children safe from abuse](#)
- Refuge – [COVID-19/Coronavirus: Safety tips for survivors](#)
- Respect – [Responding to the challenges of COVID-19](#)
- Royal College of General Practitioners - [COVID-19 and Safeguarding](#)
- Rights of Women – [Coronavirus and child contact arrangements](#)
- SafeLives – [Responding to the challenges of COVID-19: Guidance for multi-agency forums \(including MARACs\)](#)
- SafeLives – [Staying safe during COVID-19 – a guide for victims and survivors of domestic abuse](#)
- SignHealth – [Domestic Abuse Service – Coronavirus contingency plan](#)

Silent Solution

What to do if you need urgent police help through the 999 service, but can't speak – [Silent Solution](#)

Guides to help domestic abuse victims stay safe online and clear their browsing history:

- Safe Lives – [Staying safe online](#)
- Women's Aid – [Cover your tracks online](#) and [Online and digital abuse](#) (various resources)
- Technology Safety – [Technology Safety & Privacy: A Toolkit for Survivors](#) (USA website)
- Chayn - [Online Safety Guide](#) (in 9 languages)

February

Not just Collateral Damage – The hidden impact of domestic abuse on children

Barnardo's has published a report looking at the impact of domestic abuse on children and young people in areas including: mental health; child development; harmful sexual behaviour; future cycles of abuse and youth offending. Click [here](#) to read the full report.

10 February

Children: child arrangements order – safeguards when domestic abuse issues arise (England and Wales)

This House of Commons Library briefing paper considers the safeguards available to courts when issues of domestic abuse arise in connection with family proceedings. Click [here](#) to download the full report.

16 April

Supporting 'off-radar' children and young people who are at risk of violence/abuse in their household: Part 1 (interim report)

Publication from King's College London, click [here](#) to view the publication.

PUBLISHED DOMESTIC HOMICIDE REVIEWS

None identified

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Meetings



Bracknell Forest Domestic Abuse Forum

9 June 2020
15 September 2020
15 December 2020

All meetings take place 9am – 11am at Time Square

RBWM Domestic Abuse Forum



2 June 2020
8 September 2020
8 December 2020

All meetings take place 10am – 12pm at Maidenhead Town Hall

TRAINING

Stalking Awareness Training

A half day session delivered by the Alice Ruggles Trust and Protection Against Stalking (PAS) which will support delegates with: learning from victims' experiences of being stalked; understanding the legislation; recognising the typologies and motivation of a stalker; understanding the difference between Stalking and Harassment; knowledge of the tools available to assess risk in stalking cases

Session date and times: Tuesday 24 November 2020
9am – 12.30pm, click [here](#) to book
1.15pm – 4.45pm, click [here](#) to book

Venue:

Maidenhead Town Hall, St. Ive's Road, Maidenhead

Cost:

No cost to attend however £75 non-attendance/non-cancellation

Any issues with booking, please contact training@achievingforchildren.org.uk

Introduction to domestic abuse

All dates yet to be confirmed

MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference) and DASH (Domestic Abuse, Stalking, Harassment and Honour Based Violence)

All dates yet to be confirmed

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please email Sophie Wing-King (Domestic Abuse Coordinator, RBWM & Bracknell Forest) Sophie.wing-king@bracknell-forest.gov.uk with 'Remove' in the title box