

Isle of Wight Domestic Abuse Forum

Domestic and Sexual Abuse Newsletter

Summer 2016

Welcome to the Summer edition of the Domestic and Sexual Abuse newsletter. We have now established the 'VAWG (Violence Against Woman and Girls) Strategic Partnership' that will meet every two months and is chaired by Kathy Marriott (Interim Area Director for Childrens Services). The partnership has a much larger remit than the former Domestic Abuse Forum and will look at providing strategic direction and support in matters such as sexual assaults and rape, FGM, Forced Marriage, Honour Based Violence and Domestic Abuse.

The Partnership has now agreed a 2016-2020 VAWG Strategic Plan which will seek to address gaps in current service provision and aim to provide a more holistic and comprehensive range of services in the future. This will include; effective engagement tools to raise awareness of domestic and sexual violence/abuse, increasing confidence of victims to report incidents, continuing refuge and survivor support programmes, effective counselling support services and the provision of a perpetrator prevention programme.

As we know from very recent tragic incidents on the Island, Domestic Abuse can have a catastrophic impact on individuals and families. It is therefore imperative that all agencies with front line public contact remain alert to the signs of domestic abuse. Identifying domestic violence/abuse and any associated safeguarding issues is everyone's business. Developing confidence in our teams to encourage disclosure and signpost effective support is critical to ensuring that we maintain the most robust approach to dealing with this corrosive problem.

New Government VAWG Strategy.

HM Governments 'Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2016-2020' was launched in March 2016. The Home Office is clear on what it aims to achieve by 2020, with a reduction in the prevalence of all forms of violence against woman and girls, matched by an increase in reporting, police referrals, prosecution and convictions for what can still be a hidden crime. It also aims to improve early intervention and prevention, which includes a holistic approach to ensure woman, and their children, are supported with long-term changes to their lives.

The strategy acknowledges that more needs to be done to achieve effective engagement with BME, LGBT, older person and disabled groups, and the impact of childhood sexual abuse.

The Government has pledged to provide a further £80m of dedicated funding over this spending review and would appear committed to the provision of IDVA, ISVA, MARAC and Refuges over the next 4 years. For further information please [click here](#).

Stop Domestic Violence

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How can I get help?

If you don't tell anyone about the abuse it is likely to continue and get worse over time. By telling someone, a friend, family member or one of the organisations listed in this, you will be able to start protecting yourself and your children.

There are many different agencies you can call depending on the help you need. If you are in immediate danger you should always call 999.

Further Support:

Island Women's Refuge and Outreach team: 01983 825981 (24 hour helpline)

Police Public Protection: 01983 538707

National Domestic Abuse Helpline: 07930 932249 (24 hour helpline)

Broken Rainbow (for LGBT victims): 0300 999 5428

Men's Advice Line: 08088010327

Controlling or Coercive Behaviour

The Spring newsletter provided an update to new legislation introduced 29/12/15 under Sections 76 and 77 of the Serious Crime Act 2015.

It is encouraging to see that there have been some successful prosecutions under this legislation which will set a benchmark for the level of evidence required to achieve a successful prosecution outcome.

On the 29th June 2016 at Sheffield Crown Court, Mohammed Anwar was jailed for 28 months that included 12 months for the offence of Controlling/Coercive Behaviour to his girlfriend Gemma Doherty. Anwar had repeatedly assaulted Gemma but also controlled her diet, exercise regime and clothing she was allowed to wear.

In May 2016 at Liverpool Magistrates Court, Adrian Lee was sentenced to 6 months imprisonment for engaging in controlling/coercive behaviour in an intimate/family relationship. Lee controlled every aspect of the victims life by preventing her from seeing friends and questioned where she had been if she came home late. He stopped the victim using her mobile phone and controlled her social media, such as making her delete friends on Facebook.

We know that such types of controlling and coercive behaviour are commonplace in society. Prosecution successes such as these will hopefully encourage victims/survivors to come forward and report. All police officers in the Hampshire Constabulary have received training in relation to this new legislation and should be confident in supporting victims where complaints are received.

DASH/RIC Training

Domestic Abuse Stalking Harrassment/Risk Indicator Checklist is a tool provided by SafeLives to assess the level of risk for survivors disclosing Domestic Abuse.

We are providing a 3 hour training session to develop front line service providers knowledge and confidence to complete the DASH form when a disclosure is made.

The aim and objective of the session is to;

- Develop knowledge and understanding of current Domestic Abuse legislation
- Be able to identify risk
- Be able to confidently complete a DASH risk assessment
- Understand safety planning
- Understand the role and function of the MASH
- Understand legislation re information sharing
- Understand the function of the MARAC

Sessions can be adapted to fit into team meetings where required.

We are currently offering the following dates:

Wednesday 23rd November 2016, County Hall
9:00 – 12:30

To book, please [click here](#).

Wednesday 18th January 2017, County Hall
9:00 – 12:30

To book, please [click here](#).

VAWG Conference

The Isle of Wight's first VAWG Conference will take place on Weds 30th November 2016 which will be held at the Riverside Centre in Newport. The event will coincide with the international 16 days of action to raise awareness of Violence Against Woman and Girls. In tandem with the Conference there will be an art installation at Quay Arts which will be themed on raising awareness to Domestic Homicide.

Key speakers at the conference will include Zoe Lodrick a psychologist who will be speaking about why victims in abusive relationships don't fight or flee and Nick Gazzard who speaks very movingly about the background and circumstances leading to the murder of his Daughter Hollie.

Tickets will be available via Eventbrite from 1/9/16 so please make sure you book early to guarantee a place.

Isle of Wight Festival

This was the first year where the Serious Sexual Offences Group- Safeguarding Team provided support at the Isle of Wight Festival.

Supported by volunteers from Southampton Rape Crisis and St Marys Hospital Sexual Health Team, we were able to engage with festival goers and raise awareness for respectful sexual relationships.

Raising awareness to the risk of rape and serious sexual assault at festival is a delicate matter which most event organisers shy away from. It is a credit to Isle of Wight Festival and Bestival that they acknowledge the potential risk and are happy for us to be present to raise such awareness.

It is known that only a small number of victims (around 15%) will report rape and serious sexual assault to the police. Our volunteers were available to provide counselling support should a disclosure be made with no formal complaint to police.

The national press, BBC Radio 5 Live and National Public Radio America have all taken a great interest in the work conducted with a view to encouraging festivals on the mainland to have a similar approach.

Free Domestic Abuse Training

This training is for all staff, including nursing staff, voluntary sector staff, provider sector, housing, police, and mental health workers.

Thursday 20th October 2016, 9:30 – 16:00,
Westridge Centre, Ryde – to book please [click here](#).

Tuesday 14th February 2017, 9:30 – 16:00, Westridge Centre, Ryde – to book please [click here](#).

This FREE one day course is designed to help define the impact of domestic violence on victims/survivors and understand the difficulties faced by covering the following areas:

- How to practice asking, listening and responding to domestic abuse.
- Identify how to use the DASH risk assessment and apply it to practice.
- Understand the role of the MARAC in high risk cases.
- Recognise the importance of safety planning and apply to practice.

Prerequisites:

Please complete the e-learning course before attendance. This can be accessed by [clicking here](#).

Impact of Sexual Violence and Rape – 2 Day Course

This two day course is presented by CIS'ters, and will be held in early 2017. CIS'ters are a specialist service (run by survivors) providing:

- A confidential service for adult women who were raped and/or sexually abused/exploited (as girls) by a member of their immediate/extended family
- Nationally recognised training events (for workers across sectors) on how to improve response to victims/survivors (all ages/genders) of sexual violence and/or sexual abuse

The aims and objectives of the course are to work on:

- Definition and prevalence of sexual abuse
- Improved response to disclosures and improved response to victims of sexual abuse
- Working with victims of historical child sexual abuse

The intended impact is to improve the response to victims/survivors (all ages/genders) of sexual violence and/or sexual abuse.

Please check our website regularly for updates on dates and booking links: www.iwight.com/domesticabuse

For up-to-date information on the Safeguarding Adults Board, including information for professionals, training and events, please go to our sister site: www.iwight.com/SAB