

Domestic Abuse Newsletter

Bracknell Forest and RBWM

January 2017

LOCAL NEWS

The Dash Charity Awarded Charity of the Year at The Royal Borough Voluntary Sector Awards 2016

On 14 September 2016, The Dash Charity was awarded Charity of the Year by the Mayor of the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, Councillor Mrs Sayonara Luxton at The Voluntary Sector Awards in Maidenhead.

Speaking at the ceremony, Andrew Green, Community Partnerships Co-Ordinator at the RBWM, said "The motivating factor for each and every member of staff at The Dash Charity is to know that their intervention, innovation or fundraising is making a difference to the lives of families in crisis. Their staff have an in-depth insight into the experiences and challenges faced by victims of domestic abuse within the Windsor and Maidenhead communities".

The Dash Charity works with women, men and children across Windsor, Maidenhead and Slough that have experienced or witnessed domestic abuse. The charity's services are holistic, providing support to all victims of abuse, and do not discriminate against age, gender, ethnicity or religious beliefs.

Over the past 12 months The Dash Charity have supported over 700 victims of domestic abuse via an Advocacy and Outreach Team, over 3,000 children and young people through programmes of one to one support and healthy relationships workshops, over 2,000 people through community awareness talks and over 400 local professionals who have been trained on domestic abuse.

Contact Info For further information please contact The Dash Charity on 01753 549865.

John Latham Award

In November 2016, Justin Whitlock, winner of the John Latham Award, was honoured at the Thames Valley Police's Chief Constable's Awards Ceremony.

This award is given annually by the Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police and is named after the late John Latham, a solicitor who worked tirelessly in the field of domestic abuse.

The award is made, following nominations, to someone who has made a significant contribution to the safety of domestic abuse victims. Justin won the award for his work on Plain Talking in Bracknell, a one-to-one support service for men and women who recognise that their behaviour in a relationship is becoming, or has become, problematic and that they need support to make positive, healthy and long-term change. Justin and his team have helped numerous individuals, supporting perpetrators to change their behaviour, empowering victims, and protect children. Plain Talking is one element of Bracknell Forest's Domestic Abuse Strategy.



L-R: Chief Constable Francis Habgood, Justin Whitlock, Sara Wilson

White Ribbon Day

White Ribbon Day, also known as the UN International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, is an international campaign focusing on abuse towards women.

In November, all Forum members were asked to sell white ribbons amongst their own colleagues and white ribbons were also available to members of the public. I am pleased to announce that £92.02 was raised in Bracknell for Berkshire Women's Aid and £166.17 was raised in the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead for The Dash Charity. Thank you to everyone who supported this campaign.



L-R: Cllr David Coppinger, lead member for adult services and health and customer service advisor Marilyn Wignall

Use of the DASH Risk Identification Checklist

In a recent audit of the Bracknell MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference), it was found that some practitioners did not feel competent in completing DASH Risk Identification Checklists with victims of domestic abuse and were simply referring to local domestic abuse support services.

One of the main findings from a recent Home Office analysis into Domestic Homicide Reviews found risk assessment was an issue in 82% of the DHRs sampled. The most common issues related to risk assessments were: not being completed when it should have been; being of poor quality such as generally lacking detail or failing to fully interrogate circumstances; giving an incorrect rating; individual agencies assessing incidents in isolation and agencies assessing risk in isolation from each other.

It is important that to best support victims of domestic abuse, there is a consistent approach to risk identification, assessment and management for all professionals. The DASH Risk Identification Checklist provides a common tool for agencies across the UK that are part of the MARAC process and provide a shared understanding of risk in relation to domestic abuse, stalking, harassment and honour based violence.

Please note that there is MARAC and DASH Risk Identification Checklist training available across Bracknell and the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead. All practitioners who may come into contact with victims of domestic abuse are encouraged to attend (see dates under the Training section of this newsletter).

Bounce Back 4 Kids group in Bracknell – Easter 2017

PACT (Parents and Children Together) have secured some funding to run a one off Bounce Back 4 Kids (BB4K) group in Bracknell after Easter 2017. This is as an alternative to PICADA (Bracknell) which is not currently running.

If you have a child you would like to refer, it is important that they meet the following criteria:

- Children have witnessed **or** been victims of domestic abuse and are displaying challenging / withdrawn behaviour
- Children must be aged 8-10 years old
- Children must be able to acknowledge the hurting that has happened in their family and be able to talk about it
- Children must want to attend a BB4K programme, they cannot be forced to attend
- Parents/carers must be willing to support the child throughout the BB4K programme
- The perpetrator must have left the family home and be out of the relationship

For more information on the group and to download a referral form please click [here](#) (please look at the different subheadings on the left hand side of the webpage). **Deadline for referrals is 01/02/2017.**

Please also note, that the SAFE! Project are operating across the Thames Valley and can offer 1:1 work with victims of crime age 8-25 years old, including those who have witnessed domestic abuse. For more information, or to make a referral, please visit their [website](#).

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL NEWS

31 August

[Police failing to use new law against coercive domestic abuse](#)

3 September

[Social worker cautioned after domestic abuse finding](#)

4 September

[New Jersey toddler 'beaten to death while protecting his mum' from violent boyfriend](#)

8 September

[Not all men commit abuse against women. But all must condemn it](#)

9 September

[Man, 24 is one of the first people jailed for coercive control offences using victimless prosecution](#)

12 September

[The Archers' verdict on Helen Titchener concludes storyline that gripped the UK](#)

12 September

[Shot girl Mary Shipton's safe house revealed by solicitor error](#)

12 October
[Man charged over Jacqueline Pattenden murder in Crowthorne](#)

29 October
[Samia Shahid 'honour killing': Arrest warrants for mother and sister](#)

2 November
['Ask for Angela' campaign gets global attention](#)

7 December
[Why does a woman stay with a violent man? Sometimes, to save her life](#)

7 December
[Nearly 1,000 women in the UK have been killed by domestic abuse in the last 6 years](#)

8 December
[One in 10 crimes recorded by police are domestic abuse cases - ONS](#)

12 December
[Why it's dangerous to claim domestic violence 'spikes' over the holidays](#)

30 December
[Archers domestic abuse plot prompts calls to support line](#)

5 January
[Minister under pressure to stop abusers interviewing victims in court](#)

11 January
['When we get it right, we save a life': domestic abuse teams in hospitals](#)

17 January
[Man accused of murdering Helen Bailey spoke of her in the past tense before correcting himself, court hears](#)

17 January
[University of Sussex 'sorry' for domestic violence failings](#)

NEW USEFUL PUBLICATIONS, RESEARCH & RESOURCES

May 2016
[Children's views on contact with non-residential fathers in the context of domestic abuse](#) (*Centre for Research on Families and Relationships*)

June 2016
[Domestic Homicide Review Case Analysis Report](#) (*Standing Together*)

10 August 2016 / 16 December 2016
[New series of joint inspections to focus on domestic abuse](#) (*Ofsted, Care Quality Commission, HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and HM Inspectorate of Probation*)

25 November 2016
[Violence against women and girls: communications insight pack](#) (*Home Office*)

7 December 2016
[Domestic homicide reviews: statutory guidance](#) (*Home Office*)

[Domestic homicide reviews: key findings from research](#) (*Home Office*)

[Violence against women and girls services: local commissioning](#) (*Home Office*)

[Domestic violence disclosure scheme guidance](#) (*Home Office*)

[Violence against women and girls: national statement of expectations](#) (*Home Office*)

8 December
[Domestic abuse in England and Wales: year ending March 2016](#) (*Office for National Statistics*)

[SafeLives' 2016 survey of Independent Domestic Violence Advisor provision in England & Wales](#) (*SafeLives*)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Meetings

Bracknell Forest

Domestic Abuse Forum

21 March 10am – 12pm

20 June 10am – 12pm

19 September 10am – 12pm

19 December 10am – 12pm

Bracknell Forest Council, Easthampstead House

Contact:

Heidi Coyle – Admin Assistant

Heidi.coyle@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

RBWM

Domestic Abuse Forum

14 March 10am – 12pm

30 June 2.30pm – 4.30pm

29 August 10am – 12pm

5 December 10am – 12pm

M Maidenhead Town Hall

Contact:

Rachel Judd, RBWM Customer / Technical Support Officer]

Rachel.judd@rbwm.gov.uk

JOB SHOP

Berkshire Women's Aid

Title Reading Outreach Administrator

Part- time: 18 hours per week

Salary £16,506 pro rata

Annual Leave equivalent 25 days per annum

Contract Six months fixed term.

BWA is looking to recruit a part-time administrator to work within its Crossing Bridges office. Experience within an administration based role is a must, as are a good knowledge of Microsoft Office and excellent communication skills.

For an application pack for this role, please contact Amy on 0118 950 0182 or email info@bwaid.org.uk No CVs will be accepted and no Agencies.

The vacancy is exempt under the Equality Act 2010 pursuant to Schedule 9, Part 1. The successful applicant will be subject to a DBS check.

BWA is an equal opportunities employer.

Closing Date: 23/1/16

TRAINING

Introduction to domestic abuse, Bracknell

Gives participants an understanding of domestic abuse issues through increasing knowledge and understanding, and how to respond supportively.

Dates: 16 March
13 June
20 September
20 December
6 March 2018

Time: 9.30am – 4.30pm

Venue: Bracknell Forest Homes / Easthampstead House

Charge: Free

Contact: Charmaine Jenking-Rees

charmaine.jenking-rees@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

01344 352911

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

Gives participants increased confidence and skills in relation to responding to victims of domestic abuse. Including an understanding of high risk factors for serious harm and homicide, how to use the DASH risk identification checklist and make appropriate referrals into, and engage effectively with the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC).

BRACKNELL

Dates: 23 February

9 May

16 August

16 November

16 February 2018

Time: 10am – 4.30pm

Venue: Bracknell Forest Homes / Easthampstead House

Charge: Free

Contact: Charmaine Jenking-Rees

charmaine.jenking-rees@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

01344 352911

RBWM

Dates: 7 February

Dates for the remainder of 2017-18 are yet to be set

Time: 10am – 4.30pm

Venue: Maidenhead Town Hall

Charge: Free

Contact: Debbie Brady

Socialcaretraining@rbwm.gov.uk

01628 796901

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