

Domestic Abuse Newsletter

Bracknell Forest and RBWM



May 2024

LOCAL NEWS

20 March

[The Drive Project officially launches across the Thames Valley](#)

Updates from the Dash Charity

Making a Dash for the Future: The Dash Charity Strategic Plan 2024-2026

The Dash Charity have launched their [two-year strategy](#) which sets out their priorities for ending domestic abuse and providing support to individuals and families. This includes refuges, outreach programmes and healthy relationship training. As the contracted provider of domestic abuse services for RBWM, the Dash Charity aim to provide experienced, timely and responsive services wherever they are needed. The strategy includes awareness raising throughout the local communities to ensure victims and survivors know they are there. New services will be developed and delivered including peer mentoring for young adults; strengthen demand led children's services and extend health relationship programmes.

Freedom programmes that are currently running will finish in July and restart in the autumn.

The Dash Charity are currently recruiting for a **Fundraising Officer**. Further details can be found on the [Dash Charity website](#).

FLAG DV Family Court support



Do you currently have clients who could benefit from Family Court support? FLAG DV has initiated a new support project dedicated to assisting Domestic Abuse survivors navigating family court, initially focusing on clients in Berkshire.

Many services are stretched beyond capacity, making it challenging to provide personalised 1-2-1 support throughout the lengthy family court

process, which can span years. This challenge is particularly acute for clients no longer considered Higher risk.

This new service welcomes anyone who has experienced domestic abuse and is either currently dealing with or preparing for Family Court proceedings. For enquiries

Please note only professional referrals are currently being accepted. Referrals can be made via the [website](#).

Tickets on sale for Kaleidoscopic UK conference – 10 October 2024

Limited Tickets Available

Domestic Abuse Prevention Convention

Thursday October 10th 2024
9.15AM - 4.15PM
FBC Centre, Wokingham, RG40 4ES

SPEAKER
David Challen
Survivor & Campaigner

SPEAKER
Nina Aouilk
Survivor & Campaigner
London Life Coach

SPEAKER
Michelle John
Founder & CEO
PEGS

SPEAKER
Aoife Delaney
The Traveller Movement

SPEAKER
Dr James Rowland
Lecturer in Criminology

And: BOB YANG, ARUNA BANSAL, JENNIFER GILMOUR
DOMESTIC ABUSE COMMISSIONERS OFFICE



KALEIDOSCOPIK UK
TURNING THE LENS ON DOMESTIC ABUSE



Register now at :

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/domestic-abuse-prevention-convention-tickets-909729865517?aff=oddtcreator>

We are delighted to announce the [ticket release](#) for our popular and usually sold out conference to mark Domestic Violence awareness month, on 10 October 2024 at the FBC Centre, Wokingham, RG40 4ES.

TRAINING

Introduction to domestic abuse

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

RBWM (click on the relevant date to book – account required)

[Tuesday 11 June 2024](#), 09:30 – 13:00 (virtual)

[Wednesday 11 September 2024](#), 10:00 – 16:30 (face-to-face)

[Monday 9 December 2024](#), 09:30 – 13:00 (virtual)

[Thursday 13 March 2025](#), 10:00 – 16:30 (face-to-face)

Virtual sessions via MS Teams

Face-to-face sessions to be held at Windsor Family Hub, 65 Alma Rd, Windsor, SL4 3HD

Bracknell Forest

Monday 12 August 2024, 09:30-13:00 (virtual)

Tuesday 26 November 2024, 10:00-16:30 (face-to-face)

Thursday 6 February 2025, 09:30-13:00 (virtual)

Virtual sessions via MS Teams.

Face-to-face sessions to be held at The Willows Family Hub (Children's Centre), Priestwood Youth Centre, Priestwood Court Road, Bracknell, Berkshire RG42 1TU.

BFC employees apply via iWorks, external staff please email organisational.development@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

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).

RBWM (click on the relevant date to book – account required)

[Wednesday 17 July 2024](#), 09:30 – 13:00 (virtual)

[Thursday 17 October 2024](#), 10:00 – 16:30 (face-to-face)

[Monday 13 January 2025](#), 09:30 – 13:00 (virtual)

Virtual sessions via MS Teams.

Face-to-face sessions to be held at Windsor Family Hub, 65 Alma Rd, Windsor, SL4 3HD.

Bracknell Forest

Tuesday 18 June 2024, 09:30-13:00 (virtual)

Monday 23 September 2024, 10:00-16:30 (face-to-face)

Thursday 12 December 2024, 09:30-13:00 (virtual)

Tuesday 25 March 2025, 10:00-16:30 (face-to-face)

Virtual sessions via MS Teams.

Face-to-face sessions to be held at The Willows Family Hub (Children's Centre), Priestwood Youth Centre, Priestwood Court Road, Bracknell, Berkshire RG42 1TU.

BFC employees apply via iWorks, external staff please email organisational.development@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL NEWS

March 2024

[Evidence captured on Hollie Guard used for a conviction.](#)

4 March

[Four jailed for paying £3,000 to have man murdered in West Chiltoningon](#)

5 March

[Chloe Othen: Model's 'bites from ex-partner turned septic'](#)

11 March

[Jilted mother, 31, smeared teacher ex-boyfriend as a 'wife beater' in front of his karate class in bid to ruin him after they broke up](#)

13 March

[Spice Girl Mel B on writing about her experience of domestic abuse](#)

13 March

[Rising number of domestic abuse victims taking their own lives, figures suggest](#)

20 March

[New Essex refuge for male domestic abuse survivors named Alex House](#)

22 March

[Christine Rawle jailed for murder of husband she accused of abuse](#)

8 April

[Hackney: Man charged with murder of woman found dead in car](#)

8 April

[Holly Bramley murder: 'Evil monster' who dismembered wife's body jailed](#)

11 April

[Statement from Minister Hollinrake: review of domestic abuse statutory leave provision for employees](#)

18 April

[Jonathan Nunn: Conservative council leader resigns over abuse claims](#)

22 April

[Stronger protections for stalking and harassment victims](#)

25 April

[Nearly Eighteen Thousand Domestic Abuse Crimes Missing from Statistics](#)

26 April

[Teacher Fiona Beal admits murdering and burying partner in Northampton](#)

27 April

[Fiona Beal conviction: I had no idea my son's body was buried in the garden, says mum](#)

1 May

Open consultation - [Updating the domestic homicide review statutory guidance](#)

2 May

[Man, 87, bailed after murder arrest](#)

3 May

[Bethany Vincent and Darren Henson murders: 'Missed opportunities' to stop violent killer](#)

7 May

[Domestic abuse: 'I was quite controlling, things needed to change'](#)

7 May

[Sector Partners Agree and Push for Statutory Definition \(#Push4Change\)](#)

9 May

[Newmarket man Olubunmi Abodunde jailed for life for beating wife to death with skateboard](#)

9 May

[Diane Douglas: Agencies 'lacked curiosity' in domestic abuse case](#)

9 May

[Council 'at fault' for domestic abuse case handling](#)

10 May

[Tony Browne murder: Woman admits murder of 'gentle and kind soul'](#)

12 May

[Mother whose abusive ex-partner broke her hand leads campaign to change law over access to children](#)

13 May

[Calls for over-60s to speak out on domestic abuse](#)

13 May

[Husband began keeping wife in 'controlling and coercive relationship'](#)

14 May

['Fantastic turnout' for domestic abuse awareness walk](#)

14 May

[Mosque fights domestic and sexual abuse stigma](#)

15 May

[Calls for Joey Barton domestic abuse trial to resume](#)

16 May

[Kendal charity introduces first male domestic abuse shelter](#)

16 May

[Marc Masterson jailed for second offence of coercive control](#)

17 May

[Coercive control: Abuse was 'my normal', says survivor](#)

21 May

[Sinister stalker who fitted a tracking device to his estranged wife's car to find out where she lived after falsely accusing her of cheating on him with her own son is spared jail](#)

22 May

[The harrowing video of Diddy abusing Cassie shows us the lengths women have to go to to be believed](#)

24 May

[Jade's Law passed to limit rights of killer parents](#)

25 May

[Saltanat Nukenova: The politician, the astrologer and a murder that could change Kazakhstan](#)

28 May

[Victims and Prisoners Bill becomes law](#)

29 May

[Fiona Beal: Murder victim wrote of his love for killer teacher](#)

31 May

[Zverev's domestic abuse appeal hearing begins](#)

31 May

['I was forced to eat toothpaste': Man who was abused and controlled details nine months of torment](#)

NEW USEFUL PUBLICATIONS, RESEARCH & RESOURCES

December 2023

Influencers and Attitudes – How will the next generation understand domestic abuse?

The purpose of this [research](#) was to ensure an evidence base for the design of education about relationships for children and young people (CYP), highlighting the positive influence that well-structured Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) programmes can have and to ultimately investigate 'what works well'.

8 February

Rights of Women Event Recording – Transnational Marriage Abandonment, Domestic Abuse and Migrant Women

This co-produced [event](#) goes into the background phenomenon of transnational marriage abandonment, the issues facing abandoned women and the rights they are denied because of this form of abuse.

March 2024

Honour-based abuse in the courts: shaping strategy for key issues

A major new [report](#) into legal and judicial responses to forced marriage and so-called 'honour-based' abuse. The recommendations in the report will help to establish strategies and better recognition of honour-based abuse in the courts and in law.

March 2024

New domestic abuse support service for South Asian men

The Men Together Male Domestic Abuse Service has launched which specialises in supporting male victims of domestic abuse who are from a South Asian background.

Men Together provides the following services:

- Crisis Helpline
- One-to-One Assistance
- Group Mentoring Support

For further information about the service please visit their [website](#) or contact shazunaali.isse@gmail.com

March 2024

Migrants affected by domestic abuse

A key [guide](#) to explain routes to immigration status and support if you have experienced domestic abuse in the UK.

March 2024

Domestic Homicides and Suspected Victim Suicides 2022-2023 report

This is the third annual [report](#) from the national Domestic Homicide Project which works across England and Wales. The report examines all deaths identified by police as domestic abuse related to improve understanding of risk indicators, victim and perpetrator demographics.

March 2024

VOICES survivor platform

Launched by the Domestic Abuse Commissioner for England and Wales, more information on the VOICES survivor platform can be found [online](#). The virtual platform is for victims and survivors of domestic abuse to stay connected to relevant policy, research and practice development.

There is an embedded link to sign up, a FAQ page, and information focussing on [why lived experience matters](#).

March 2024

An autistic guide to healthy relationships

A new [resource](#), developed by and for autistic people, has been created to support conversations and awareness around healthy and abusive relationships.

8 March

Traveller Movement launches relationships toolkit

The Traveller Movement has created a Healthy Relationships [Toolkit](#) to help young people spot the warning signs of abuse and know their rights in a relationship.

April 2024

Kaleidoscopic UK Sexual Violence Awareness

Released to acknowledge Sexual Assault Awareness Month (#SAAM), Kaleidoscopic UK released their new Sexual Violence awareness [video](#).

April 2024

The Survivorship Experiences of Men and Boys of Crimes Categorised as Crimes of Violence Against Women and Girls

A landmark [report](#) into the impact on male survivors of being categorised in this manner. The research was conducted in partnership with a range of survivor organisations including the ManKind Initiative.

The report found that 86% of male survivors said being included in a Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy did not make them feel protected.

2 April

Young people's experiences of working with professionals in a CAPVA context

A new [resource](#), focusing on young people's experiences of working with professionals: both positive and negative.

16 April

Child victims' access to advocacy

A [report](#) from the Children's Commissioner for England which with new figures that show that the vast majority (92%) of cases involving child victims of sexual violence or domestic abuse are receiving no direct advocacy support.

May 2024

Learning Legacies: An Analysis of Domestic Homicide Reviews in Cases of Domestic Abuse Suicide (AAFDA)

A series of practical [resources](#) to help professionals understand the link between domestic abuse and suicide and to improve the response to suicide after domestic abuse.

May 2024

Working with suicidality in domestic abuse – Tools and Resources

There is a growing awareness of the link between suicide and domestic abuse. In response to this the Cheshire East Domestic and Sexual Abuse Partnership, alongside expert colleagues, have created a [toolkit](#) to support practitioners in effective intervention and providing crucial support.

4 May

Researchers explore effectiveness of Domestic Violence Disclosure Schemes

This new [study](#) explores whether survivors find Domestic Violence Disclosures empowering.

15 May

Employers' Initiative on Domestic Abuse (EIDA) Handbook: Workplace Domestic Abuse Response

The Employers' Initiative on Domestic Abuse (EIDA) has published a new [handbook](#) for employers, produced in collaboration with survivors, employers and domestic abuse

experts. The handbook is a free to access, easy to follow and fully inclusive guide for employers.

22 May

Domestic Homicide Reviews: The role of family, friends and community – ‘A hierarchy of testimony’?

Findaway, a project led by *Wearside Women in Need*, has collaborated with *AAFDA* to launch a [report](#) exploring the role of families, friends and communities in Domestic Homicide Reviews.

PUBLISHED DOMESTIC ABUSE RELATED DEATH REVIEWS / SAFEGUARDING ADULT REVIEWS

Lincolnshire - Joint Child Safeguarding Practice Review and Domestic Homicide Review

DHR Bethany and Darren [executive summary](#), [overview report](#) and [learning brief](#)

Norfolk Community Safety Partnership

[Helen](#) – published May 2024
[Lynne](#) – published May 2024

Bracknell Forest Safeguarding Board

[Adult Q](#) and [Learning Brief](#)

Following the recent completion of the above Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) for Adult Q, three (repeated) online learning events have now been scheduled. These short events will help practitioners and managers consider how the learning provides opportunities to strengthen practice, local systems and will highlight examples of good practice.

The learning events planned are designed to help attendees reflect on their own practice, local systems and to help support their professional development. The events will highlight the key issues identified by the review and will help those involved familiarise themselves with the Learning Brief. These learning briefs are designed to help attendees cascade this learning within their teams / departments.

Tuesday 2 July (2.00 – 4.00pm)
Monday 8 July (2.30 – 4.30pm)
Tuesday 1 Sept (1.30 – 3.30 pm)

To book a place on one of the sessions, please email bf.sb@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

TO WATCH...

YouTube, The Mankind Initiative – [One in Three](#) (award-winning short film)

Channel 5 – [My wife, the abuser: The Secret Footage](#)

Channel 5 – [Mummy's Little Killer – The Killing of Emily Longley](#)

Channel 5 – [A Killer Makes a Call \(Episode 1\)](#)

BBC One – [Disclosure – Surviving Domestic Abuse](#)

TO LISTEN TO...

Spotify - [Nick Gazzard – The Hollie Guard Trust – Keeping Property Managers Safe](#)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Bracknell Forest Domestic Abuse Forum

13 June 2024, 10am-12pm
11 September 2024, 10am-12pm
4 December 2024, 10am-12pm
All via MS Teams

For more information, contact Joyce Barnett
joyce.barnett@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

RBWM Domestic Abuse Forum

4 June 2024, 2pm – 4pm
12 September 2024, 1pm – 3pm
(*Windsor Family Hub*)
3 December 2024, 10am – 12pm
All via MS Teams



For more information, contact Sophie Wing-King
Sophie.wing-king@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

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