

Domestic Abuse Newsletter

Bracknell Forest and RBWM



September 2025

LOCAL NEWS

10 June

[Fourteen arrested in domestic abuse operation](#)

17 June

[Christmas Day killer jailed for at least 39 years](#)

29 June

[Court backlog hampering justice, says police chief](#)

7 July

[Force urges domestic violence victims to report abuse](#)

22 July

[11 domestic abuse arrests made following two 'days of action' in Buckinghamshire](#)

21 August

[Police arrest 8 people in domestic abuse 'day of action' in RBWM and Slough](#)

New programme: Escape the Trap – Bracknell

Start date: Thursday 16 October 2025

Time: 15:30-17:30

Duration: 8 weeks (ends 11 December 2025)

Location: Braccan Walk Youth Hub

Facilitators: Emma Gavin, Kirstie Richardson & Oliver Lamping, Bracknell Forest Council

Target Group: Young people aged 12-25

Escape the Trap is a powerful programme designed to support young people in recognising and avoiding unhealthy relationships. It is especially relevant for school, college and university students, as well as younger parents.

Over eight weeks the programme addresses:

- young peoples' expectations of their intimate relationships
- the behaviours and beliefs of those who treat them badly
- identifying the things abusive partners may say and do to them
- the experience of coercive control & bullying
- the switching of tactics
- emotional abuse, sexual coercion and abuse
- how this behaviour impacts the way young people might feel about themselves, their mental health and emotional well-being
- feeling isolated and alone, guilty and to blame for what is happening to them
- how to identify such behaviour early on in a new relationship

More information: <https://escapethetrapped.co.uk>

Contact: emma.gavin@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

Court IDVA service expands across Thames Valley



Reducing the Risk of Domestic Abuse is proud to announce the expansion of our dedicated Court IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Advisor) service – previously operating successfully in Oxford – across the wider Thames Valley region, thanks to additional funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC).

This expansion will focus on High Wycombe Magistrates' Court, Aylesbury Crown Court, and both Magistrates' and Crown Courts in Reading.

Our Oxford-based service has already made a meaningful difference, particularly in supporting victim-survivors when Domestic Violence Protection Notices and Orders (DVPN/Os) are issued. We are now extending this vital support to Reading and High Wycombe Magistrates' Courts, where the majority of DVPOs are processed.

To meet growing demand, we have recently welcomed two new Court IDVAs to our team, with the goal of being fully operational by September.

Beyond DVPO-related support, our expanded service will assist victim-survivors involved in both criminal and civil proceedings.

Referrals can be made directly by individuals or through professionals using our streamlined online referral forms on our [website](#) Reducing the Risk of Domestic Abuse.

Staff update and recruitment from the Dash Charity

Lisa has joined the Dash Charity as the new Hospital IDVA, based in the Emergency Department at Wexham Park Hospital. She can be contacted at info@thedashcharity.org.uk

We are recruiting for 2 Refuge IDVAs. For further information, please contact info@thedashcharity.org.uk

We are also recruiting for a Community Fundraiser. For further information, please contact info@thedashcharity.org.uk

TRAINING

Understanding and Responding to Domestic Abuse / 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)

[Wednesday 10 December 2025](#), 09:30 – 13:00 (virtual)

[Wednesday 11 March 2026](#), 10:00 – 16:30 (face-to-face)

Please note these dates are only for RBWM based practitioners.

Virtual sessions via MS Teams, face-to-face sessions to be held at Windsor Family Hub, 65 Alma Road, Windsor, SL4 3HD.

Bracknell Forest

Wednesday 5 November 2025, 10:00-16:30 (face-to-face)

Monday 9 February 2026, 09:30-13:00 (virtual)

Virtual sessions via MS Teams, face-to-face sessions to be held at The Alders Family Hub, Branksome Hill Road, Sandhurst, Bracknell, GU47 0QE.

BFC employees apply via iWorks, external staff please email learning.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 8 October 2025](#), 10:00 – 16:30 (face-to-face)

[Thursday 15 January 2026](#), 09:30 – 13:00 (virtual)

Please note these dates are only for RBWM based practitioners.

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 9 December 2025, 13:00-16:30 (virtual)

Wednesday 18 March 2026, 10:00-16:30 (face-to-face)

Virtual sessions via MS Teams, face-to-face sessions to be held at The Alders Family Hub, Branksome Hill Road, Sandhurst, Bracknell, GU47 0QE.

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

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL NEWS

13 May

[‘I was drugged and raped by my husband for years’](#)

13 May

[Vital support for victims in £20 million funding boost](#)

3 June

[Actress urges workplaces to support abuse victims](#)

7 June

[Norfolk death prompts review into domestic abuse on men](#)

10 June

[At least 95 women were killed by men known to the police over the course of five years](#)

16 June

[Stuart Hogg: No further review needed of domestic abuse order](#)

22 June

[Domestic abuse is a ‘public health emergency’, experts say after critical NHS report](#)

23 June

[Train police in how pets are used by domestic abusers, says charity](#)

24 June

[NSPCC reveals record level of calls about children at risk of domestic abuse](#)

25 June

[Trial date set for man accused of murdering partner found dead after gas explosion](#)

2 July

[Police officer sentenced for domestic abuse of two women](#)

3 July

[Husband jailed for 17 years for trying to murder wife in bow and arrow and knife attack](#)

4 July

[Council fined for leaving abused man homeless](#)

10 July

[Barrier to social housing no lifted for vulnerable people](#)

10 July

[‘Heinous’ domestic abuser jailed for 16 years](#)

14 July

[Years of abuse left woman ‘looking like a skeleton’](#)

14 July

[Ex-detective died after locking himself in room](#)

14 July

[Ex-Tory MP given community order for harassing ex-wife](#)

14 July

[Man jailed for brutal murder of girlfriend](#)

14 July

[Hollywood exec's son who killed and dismembered his wife and her parents dies in custody, hours before court appearance](#)

16 July

[Landmark package to pursue domestic abuse perpetrators](#)

24 July

[Stalker swerved car into ex after breakup](#)

25 July

[Woman who stabbed ex and left him in coma jailed](#)

29 July

[Woman left husband fearing he would be killed after years of violent abuse](#)

31 July

[Woman jailed for murder](#)

31 July

[Man, guilty of murdering ex-fiancée at luxury hotel](#)

2 August

[‘Shocking’ link between drug use and domestic abuse](#)

13 August

[‘Disturbing’ rise in abusive teen relationships – the warning signs to watch out for](#)

19 August

[Man jailed after vicious attack on girlfriend is captured on doorbell camera](#)

25 August

[Domestic abuse dog foster service sees demand surge](#)

25 August

[‘Abuse by my boyfriend made me feel worthless’](#)

26 August

[‘Honour’-based abuse crackdown in raft of new measures](#)

26 August

[When is the emergency alert test on mobile phones and can you opt out?](#)

26 August

[Domestic abuse screening tool doesn’t work, minister says](#)

29 August

[Police overhaul approach to domestic abuse victims](#)

31 August

[Officers support abuse victims with ‘grab bags’](#)

4 September

[Serial domestic abuser attacked partner while driving car](#)

22 September

[Prosecutors urge strangulation survivors to come forward as charges reach record high](#)

NEW USEFUL PUBLICATIONS, RESEARCH & RESOURCES

[Changing systems, saving lives – Our strategy 2025-2028 - Surviving Economic Abuse](#)

Surviving Economic Abuse’s three year strategy to drive legal and policy reform and systemic change in frontline, financial and public services to support victim-survivors, disrupt abusers, and prevent economic abuse.

[Developing a combined measure of domestic abuse, sexual assault and stalking, England and Wales: July 2025 – Office for National Statistics](#)

The Office for National Statistics has published and refined a new combined prevalence measure for domestic abuse, sexual assault and stalking in England and Wales, designed to give a more accurate, integrated picture of these interconnected harms and to underpin the Government's ambition to halve violence against women and girls within ten years._

[Estimating the costs of Sexual Violence – VISION and the Women’s Budget Group](#)

New calculator tool to estimate the lifetime cost of the burden of sexual violence and abuse in children and adults by national population and local area in England and Wales.

[Domestic abuse in later life: A secondary analysis of the Crime Survey for England and Wales – Prof Hannah Bows](#)

New research on domestic abuse of older people by Professor Hannah Bows from Durham University is the first analysis of data on domestic abuse of adults aged 60-74 years old using the Crime Survey for England and Wales.

[Nineteen More Child Homicides – Women’s Aid](#)

The third report published by Women’s Aid, this report tells the stories of children who have been killed by a parent who is a perpetrator of domestic abuse through child contact (formally or informally arranged).

[Verge of Harming Phase 2 resource: Empowering Engagement – SafeLives](#)

An evidence-based practice resource for professionals, developed from the evidence of the *Verge of Harming Phase 2* research report. The resource is recommended when supporting young people aged 10-25 who are using harmful behaviours in their intimate or family relationships.

Domestic Abuse Duty for Support in Safe

Accommodation: Evaluation – Gov.uk

Findings from a 3-year evaluation of Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 assessing its delivery, impact and value for money.

Counting the Cost: The Scale and Impact of Economic Abuse in the UK – Surviving Economic Abuse

This landmark research reveals that one in seven UK women – equivalent to 4.1 million women – experienced economic abuse from a partner or ex-partner in the past year.

PUBLISHED DOMESTIC ABUSE RELATED DEATH REVIEWS (DARDRs), OTHER SAFEGUARDING REVIEWS AND RESOURCES

National Domestic Homicide Review [library](#).

Norfolk Community Safety Partnership – [A Domestic Homicide Review concerning the death of Val \(pseudonym\), March 2023](#)

Safer Torbay – [Domestic Homicide Review Report. Review into the death of Katie in November 2016](#)

Learning from Loss – Domestic Abuse Commissioner

This report provides a summary of the work carried out by the Commissioner to establish a robust oversight mechanism and an overview of what is required to deliver national roll out.

Never again. Again. A review of health recommendations following a domestic abuse related death – Standing Together

The report, analyses recommendations for health services for every domestic abuse-related death review from 2024. 89% of Domestic Abuse-Related Death Reviews included healthcare recommendations.

New Register of Accredited Domestic Homicide Review / Domestic Abuse Related Death Review Chairs – AAFDA (Advocacy After Fatal Domestic Abuse)

The Register of Accredited Domestic Homicide Review / Domestic Abuse Related Death Review (DHR/DARDR) Chairs is a record of Chairs in England and Wales, who are appropriately qualified and trained to undertake Domestic Homicide Reviews (DRHs) / Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews (DARDRs).

The register has been established by Advocacy After Fatal Domestic Abuse (AAFDA), on behalf of the Home Office. It forms part of the statutory reform of the DHR/DARDR process, which aims to support the completion of reviews to the highest standards and so support real learning and prevention of domestic abuse related deaths in the future.

In the main, the register is for Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) to access information about appropriately trained and qualified DHR/DARDR Chairs and

to identify areas of particular specialism, if required, and for qualified DHR/DARDR Chairs to be able demonstrate their availability for work opportunities and highlight their areas of work.

TO WATCH...

LADbible Stories - [I was forced to drink mouthwash](#)

ITVX - [TikTok: Murder Gone Viral. The Killing of Sania Khan](#)

Channel 4 - [The life and murder of Nicole Brown Simpson](#)

BBC1 – [To Catch a Stalker \(episode 2\)](#)

Inner Eye Productions – [Timekeeper](#)

Home Office - [My Father Murdered My Mother](#)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Bracknell Forest Domestic Abuse Forum

3 December 2025, 10am-12pm

All via MS Teams

For more information, contact Joyce

Barnett joyce.barnett@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

RBWM Domestic Abuse Forum

9 December 2025, 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