

# Domestic Abuse Newsletter

## Bracknell Forest and RBWM



December 2025

### LOCAL NEWS

**6 November**

[Thames Valley Police Enhances Domestic Abuse Response with New Risk Assessment Tool](#)

**25 November**

[Sycamore Gap tree sapling finds new home near Reading](#)

**25 November**

We are proud of our RBWM Domestic Abuse Forum for organising a meaningful event in Windsor to mark both the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls, and White Ribbon Day. Over 40 professionals and victim-survivors came together for networking, learning and a reflective walk along The Long Walk, strengthening our shared commitment to ending violence and supporting survivors.



**28 November**

[White Ribbon Day: Bracknell lantern parade to take place](#)



Credit: Asun Olivan  
Photography

<https://asunolivanphotography.pixieset.com/whiteribbon>



Windsor Forest Colleges Group (Berkshire College of Agriculture, Slough & Langley College, Stroud's College, Windsor College) arranged a display with useful information, leaflets, posters, advice, and white ribbons. Details, along with signposting contact details were sent to all staff along with information for students being added to the college app and website for students and staff to access.

**22 December**

[Domestic abuse support available 24/7 over holidays](#)

### Foundations – Update on REACH plan and pilot evaluations

Foundations have shared an [update on their five-year REACH Plan](#), which aims to close the evidence gap on effective approaches to support babies, children, and young people affected by domestic abuse. This includes findings from two pilot evaluations, one of which is the [Bounce Back 4 Kids \(BB4K\)](#), run by PACT in Reading, West Berkshire and Wokingham. The next stage for BB4K is likely to be launched in April 2026 (with mobilisation from January 2026) resulting in the service being expanded across Oxfordshire. This work, delivered over 3 years, will result in c500 families being supported through the programme.

### New SAFE! Website Launch – Supporting Young People and Families

We are excited to announce the launch of the new SAFE! website: [www.safesupport.org.uk](http://www.safesupport.org.uk)

The new website has been designed to be simple, accessible and supportive, whether you're a young person, parent/carer, or professional. Please take a look and share the website across your networks to help us reach those who need support.

### Updates from our commissioned domestic abuse services

#### BWA

#### Survey to review the views on our name and branding

BWA are seeking views of survivors, staff, stakeholders, partner organisations and the public on their name and branding. Please complete the [survey](#) with your feedback.



Congratulations to BWA (Berkshire Women's Aid) IDVA, Outreach and refuges services who have successfully achieved **SafeLives Leading Lights accreditation**. This is a

great achievement which demonstrates their dedication to providing essential support for those impacted by domestic abuse.

**BWA have hit their £50k target on JustGiving.** This achievement marks 50 years of impact and has helped ensure BWA can continue to support all survivors of domestic abuse. Thank you so much to everyone who has contributed to this campaign whether it be via fundraising, donating or spreading the word. BWA could not do what they do without the incredible support of the community.



### The Dash Charity

- **The Freedom Programme** will run again in 2026:
  - Mondays: face to face
  - Tuesday and Thursdays: virtually
 To make a referral, please email: [referrals@thedashcharity.org.uk](mailto:referrals@thedashcharity.org.uk)
- **"Voices" group:** the next group will be held virtually in January 2026. For more information or to attend as a victim-survivor, please email [info@thedashcharity.org.uk](mailto:info@thedashcharity.org.uk)
- **Healthy relationship workshops (HRW):** schools wishing to book these sessions, can email: [info@thedashcharity.org.uk](mailto:info@thedashcharity.org.uk)

## 22 December

[Royal Borough to extend contract with DASH Charity](#)

## 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 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

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](mailto: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)

[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

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.

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## NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### 24 September

[Accountability after domestic abuse-related suicides and unexplained deaths](#)

### 25 September

[Lack of government momentum to tackle domestic abuse is failing child victims, warns government Tsar](#)

### 3 October

[Call for new law to punish domestic abusers who drive their victims to suicide](#)

**13 October**

['My partner stole my benefits and cancelled my hospital appointments – it took me years to finally escape'](#)

**15 October**

[Man who murdered girlfriend in hot tub is jailed for life](#)

**21 October**

[Family law shift hailed as victory for children facing domestic abuse](#)

**21 October**

[More domestic abuse victims die by suicide than homicide - but families met with 'apathy'](#)

**3 November**

[Pornography depicting strangulation to become criminal offence in the UK](#)

**5 November**

[Airbnb to accommodate domestic abuse survivors](#)

**7 November**

[Karma Nirvana Responds to the Home Office's 2025 Honour-Based Abuse Statistics](#)

**27 October**

[Better protection for victims at risk of violence as fee scrapped](#)

**29 October**

[Former hockey star guilty of murdering wife](#)

**11 November**

[Domestic abuse victims forced to wait in same rooms as alleged perpetrators at courts, barrister warns](#)

**11 November**

[Arsonist jailed for 30 years for attempted murder in Worsley](#)

**11 November**

[Domestic violence victims at risk under bill aimed at easing prison overcrowding, watchdog warns](#)

**13 November**

[Murdered Sara Sharif 'failed by authorities' who left her living with abusive dad](#)

**19 November 2025**

[Crown Prosecution Service public statement on male victims of domestic abuse, rape, sexual offences, stalking, forced marriage, honour-based abuse, child abuse, prostitution, pornography, obscenity and human trafficking with a focus on sexual exploitation](#)

**24 November**

[Police misconduct inquiry in Harshita Brela case](#)

**25 November**

[CPS to train staff to spot 'hidden crimes' when investigating domestic abuse](#)

**25 November**

['Bully left partner paralysed after eight years' horrific abuse'](#)

**25 November**

[Victims protected through game changing domestic abuse orders](#)

**25 November**

[Refuge reveals rise in tech abuse including spycam surveillance ahead of UN's 16 Days of Activism](#)

**26 November**

[3.8 million people subject to domestic abuse in the last year](#)

**2 December**

[Lainie Williams, 17, from Blackwood, died from stab wounds - inquest](#)

**3 December**

['Holly died three years ago, nothing has changed'](#)

**4 December**

[Domestic abuse victim 'had to stay' for her dog](#)

**5 December**

[Dame Nicole Jacobs reappointed as Domestic Abuse Commissioner](#)

**9 December**

[Domestic abuser jailed for attacks on ex-partner](#)

**9 December**

[Man convicted of murder – Milton Keynes](#)

**11 December**

[Child bride spared execution in Iran after blood money is paid](#)

**12 December**

[Man guilty of wife's murder after child reveals plot](#)

**12 December**

[Boys to be target of UK's violence against women strategy](#)

**13 December**

[Violence against women and girls is a national emergency, says Shabana Mahmood](#)

**14 December**

[Government pledges extra £19m for safe housing for domestic abuse survivors](#)

**18 December**

[Freedom from violence and abuse: a cross-government strategy](#)

**18 December**

[Domestic Abuse Commissioner responds to government VAWG Strategy](#)



**20 December**

[Charity says bereaved children and carers forgotten in new strategy to tackle violence against women](#)

**27 December**

[Mum of British boy, 13, stabbed by her ex in Portugal says 'heart is broken, shattered'](#)

**31 December**

[Queen praises Hunt family for their bravery after triple murders](#)

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## **NEW USEFUL PUBLICATIONS, RESEARCH & RESOURCES**

### **[Violence against women and girls research reports published](#) College of Policing**

Evaluation of three police interventions for tackle violence against women and girls including forensic marking kits, video first response and prevention in schools.

### **'WE ARE OK' app launched to support male victims/survivors**

A new app to support male victim/survivors has been launched in partnership with [We Are Survivors](#), the UK's leading national male survivors' charity. To download the WE ARE OK app for Android click [here](#), to download for Apple, click [here](#).



### **[Statistics on so called 'honour-based' abuse offences, England and Wales, year ending March 2025](#) Home Office**

This release contains statistics about so called 'honour-based' abuse (HBA) related offences and incidents recorded by the police in England and Wales

### **[Professionals' views on MARAC research report](#) SafeLives**

This report explores frontline professionals' perspectives on Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) across England and Wales.

### **[Domestic abuse in England and Wales overview: November 2025](#) Office for National Statistics**

Figures on domestic abuse from the Crime Survey for England and Wales, police recorded crime and other organisations.

### **[Routes to Safety](#) SafeLives**

New research from SafeLives that looks at how identity affects a survivor's journey to safety.

### **[A Safer Life Online for Women and Girls](#) Ofcom**

Guidance which sets out nine areas for technology firms to improve women and girls' online safety by taking responsibility, designing their services to prevent harm and supporting their users. Their [press release](#) offers a helpful summary.

### **[Intimate partner abuse among 16-25 year olds. A resource for youth workers](#) National Youth Agency**

The guidance, aimed at practitioners working with 16 to 25 year olds, addresses a growing concern that abuse in young people's relationships is often overlooked or misunderstood. It seeks to challenge misconceptions, amplify the voices of survivors, and provide practical tools for early intervention. The resource aligns with the National Youth Work Curriculum and the Code of Ethics, placing safety, equity and young people's voices at the heart of professional practice. More information can be found [here](#).

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## **PUBLISHED DOMESTIC ABUSE RELATED DEATH REVIEWS (DARDRs)**

National Domestic Homicide Review [library](#).

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## **TO WATCH...**

**This Morning** – ['My Ex-Husband Killed Our Two Sons – Now I'm Fighting for Change'](#)

**Netflix** – [Responsible Child](#)

**Loose Women** – [Emmerdale's Jaye Griffiths Opens Up About Domestic Abuse](#)

**Channel 4** – [Controlled: Can I Trust My Partners? UNTOLD](#)

**BBC** – [Christmas 'makes everything worse' for domestic abuse victims](#)

**Coronation Street** - [Coronation Street story 'shines a light on LGBT+ domestic abuse'](#)

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## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**



### **Bracknell Forest Domestic Abuse Forum**

4 March 2026, 10am-12pm  
3 June 2026, 10am-12pm  
9 September 2026, 10am-12pm  
2 December 2026, 10am-12pm

*All via MS Teams*

For more information, contact Joyce Barnett  
[joyce.barnett@bracknell-forest.gov.uk](mailto:joyce.barnett@bracknell-forest.gov.uk)

### **RBWM Domestic Abuse Forum**

10 March 2026, 10am-12pm  
10 June 2026, 1pm-3pm  
15 September 2026, 10am-12pm  
15 December 2026, 10am-12pm

*All via MS Teams*



For more information, contact Sophie Wing-King  
[Sophie.wing-king@bracknell-forest.gov.uk](mailto: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](mailto:Sophie.wing-king@bracknell-forest.gov.uk)  
with 'Remove' in the title box