

Domestic Abuse Newsletter

Bracknell Forest and RBWM



June 2026

Welcome to the June 2026 Domestic Abuse Newsletter for Bracknell Forest and RBWM. This edition highlights recent developments, emerging themes, and key learning opportunities for professionals working to support victims and survivors.

LOCAL NEWS

20 April

[Specialist support for victims of stalking extended](#)

23 April

[Joanna Simpson: Wife killer set for parole hearing](#)

11 May

[BA pilot who bludgeoned wife to death and dumped her body in Windsor park, denied parole](#)

12 May

[Experts explore coercive control, PTSD and safeguarding at DASH summit](#)

14 May



Over 250 people joined the online launch event of the **Berkshire Domestic Abuse and Suicide Risk Support Toolkit**. A vital resource designed to equip frontline professionals with clear guidance, practical tools and increased awareness when supporting individuals affected by domestic abuse, suicidality or suicide risk.

The toolkit can be downloaded from the [RBWM domestic abuse webpages](#) or the [Bracknell Forest Council domestic abuse webpages](#).

21 May

[Domestic abuse victims' rapid police video response](#)

27 May

[PCC uplifts funding for services supporting victims of domestic abuse, sexual violence and stalking](#)

9 June

[Thames Valley Police announces special operation for World Cup](#)

10 June

[Woman killed ex-partner and hid body for 11 months](#)

16 June

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) for Thames Valley has developed a number of resources to promote the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS) also known as Clare's Law.

For physical copies of the leaflet, please contact Daniel Spencer Daniel.spencer@thamesvalley.police.uk

For digital resources (digital leaflet, poster, social media graphic) please contact Sophie Wing-King Sophie.wing-king@bracknell-forest.gov.uk



24 June

[Domestic abuse specialists embedded in 12 more 999 control rooms](#)

24 June

[More domestic abuse help for 999 control rooms](#)

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)

[Wednesday 16 September 2026](#), 09:00-13:00 (virtual)

[Wednesday 9 December 2026](#), 10:00-16:30 (face-to-face)

[Tuesday 23 March 2027](#), 09:00-13:00 (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 Road, Windsor, SL4 3HD.

Bracknell Forest

Monday 17th August 2026, 09:00-13:00 (virtual)

Tuesday 17th November 2026, 10:00-16:30 (face-to-face)

Thursday 11th February 2027, 09:00-13:00 (virtual)

Virtual sessions via MS Teams, face-to-face sessions to be held at The Open Learning Centre, Rectory Road, Bracknell, RG12 7GR

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)

[Tuesday 14 July 2026](#), 09:00-13:00 (virtual)

[Wednesday 23 September 2026](#), 10:00-16:30 (face-to-face)

[Monday 18 January 2027](#), 09:00-13:00 (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 22nd September 2026, 10:00-16:30 (face-to-face)

Wednesday 16th December 2026, 09:00-13:00 (virtual)

Tuesday 16th March 2027, 10:00-16:30 (face-to-face)

Virtual sessions via MS Teams, face-to-face sessions to be held at The Open Learning Centre, Rectory Road, Bracknell, RG12 7GR.

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

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL NEWS

10 April

[Domestic abuser jailed in Scotland for killing wife who took her own life](#)

11 April

['My girlfriend attacked me with scissors and carved her name into my ribs': Young people call for domestic abuse laws to include under-16s](#)

13 April

[Man jailed for domestic abuse spanning eight years](#)

13 April

[Man who threw girlfriend from tower block jailed](#)

16 April

[Corrie cast dons purple for domestic abuse awareness](#)

16 April

[Ex-Virginia deputy governor kills wife and himself, police say](#)

16 April

[Migrants are making false domestic abuse allegations to stay in the UK, BBC investigation finds](#)

22 April

[Husband cleared of manslaughter over wife's suicide](#)

24 April

[Man who poured on wife is jailed for 26 years](#)

26 April

['I'm running for all women killed by men in 2025'](#)

27 April

[Families of domestic abuse victims driven to suicide criticise 'postcode lottery' of coroner's courts](#)

28 April

[Figures show rise in suicides after domestic abuse](#)

28 April

[First teenage suicide linked to domestic abuse recorded in England and Wales](#)

28 April

[Man, 92, charged with murder of wife, 87](#)

29 April

[Family of woman who died 'fleeing ex' get new inquest](#)

2 May

[Only 3% of suicides linked to domestic abuse result in prosecution, data shows](#)

7 May

[Woman sentenced to three years after stabbing her husband](#)

9 May

[More prison time for abuser whose partner took life](#)

13 May

[Husband jailed for 'sadistic' murder of his Miss Switzerland finalist wife](#)

14 May

[Woman guilty of killing ex-husband in acid attack](#)

14 May

[Nationwide launches new banking app feature to hide abusive payment references](#)

19 May

[TV presenter says abusive ex gave her no access to her own money](#)

27 May

[Government rejects proposal to allocate funds for domestic homicide reviews](#)

27 May

[Lack of funding to learn from domestic abuse related deaths "deeply concerning", says Domestic Abuse Commissioner](#)

31 May

['Being 6'3" and gay, I thought no one would believe me': Leeds domestic abuse advocate urges men to seek help](#)

1 June

[Domestic abusers to be evicted under new landmark housing law](#)

1 June

[Mother of woman murdered by husband calls for UK animal abuse register](#)

4 June

[Cohabiting couples and domestic abuse survivors to be given stronger rights under major reforms](#)

9 June

[Push4Change celebration event in the House of Lords](#)

9 June

[Man who murdered partner and blew up home jailed](#)

9 June

['If it could happen to Annabel, it could happen to any of us'](#)

17 June

[Mel B in World Cup domestic abuse awareness push](#)

17 June

[Controlling spending is not abuse say a fifth of young men](#)

22 June

[Driver jailed for crushing girlfriend to death](#)

29 June

[Justice for victims as domestic killers to face longer behind bars](#)

30 June

[Man denies murder of Scottish woman on Greek island in 2009](#)

NEW USEFUL PUBLICATIONS, RESEARCH & RESOURCES

'Out of Sight, Out of Mind' - Imkaan

Imkaan has published a new research report, Out of Sight, Out of Mind, based on Freedom of Information requests submitted to all 42 Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) across England. The report shines a light on how specialist 'by and for' continue to be overlooked within local health systems and are too often not recognised, adequately funded, or meaningfully engaged with by ICBs.

Acquired Brain Injury (ABI): An invisible consequence of domestic abuse for women in the justice system – University of Exeter

Research by the University of Exeter and Brainkind identifies high levels of domestic abuse and associated brain injury among women in the justice system. Ninety per cent of women had experienced domestic abuse in adulthood; 78% reported non-fatal strangulation, and 80% screened positive for brain injury on a brief index, likely linked to abuse. Nearly 29% were care experienced. All care experienced women had attempted suicide and were more likely to have diagnosed brain injury, experience homelessness, and have other neurodevelopmental conditions.

'Keep it Football' campaign - Crimestoppers

To coincide with the 2026 FIFA World Cup, Crimestoppers have launched their 'Keep it Football' campaign across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight to help ensure that everyone can enjoy the tournament safely. If you would like copies of the assets to use, contact Sophie.wing-king@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

Forced Marriage Unit statistics 2025 – GOV.UK

The UK Government has published the latest Forced Marriage Unit statistics for 2025, offering insight into the ongoing work to prevent and respond to forced marriage.

Domestic abuse in pregnancy: expert insight videos - NSPCC

This series of expert insight films helps those working or volunteering with families and expectant parents to understand why the risk of domestic abuse can increase during pregnancy, how to spot the signs and respond effectively.

Domestic Homicide Project – Vulnerability Knowledge & Practice Programme (VKPP)

The fifth annual report from the national Domestic Homicide Project, which works across England and Wales, was published in April 2026. The report examines all deaths identified by police as domestic abuse related to improve understanding of risk indicators, victim and perpetrator demographics. The unique dataset collects detailed information on these deaths not available from any other source to help police and partners improve their response to domestic abuse, domestic homicide and suspected victim suicide following domestic abuse.

“Maintenance is used as a weapon all of the time” – Gingerbread

A joint briefing exploring the experiences of victim-survivors of domestic abuse with the Child Maintenance Service (CMS). Developed in collaboration with Surviving Economic Abuse, Women’s Aid, and victim-survivors, it highlights serious gaps in support and safeguarding.

Children and Young People Bereaved by Parental Domestic Homicide - A focus on the United Kingdom and Ireland – University of Edinburgh

This brief report conveys key findings from the study “Children and young people bereaved by domestic homicide: Understanding home, relationships and identity”, with a focus on the United Kingdom and Ireland. It complements the report focusing on the findings from the Australian phase of the study.

ENOUGH campaign – GOV.UK

The government’s ENOUGH campaign, which aims to raise awareness of violence against women and girls and encourage everyone to recognise and challenge abusive behaviour. The campaign highlights how abuse can often be hidden or misunderstood, helping people better identify when behaviour crosses the line and where to access support.

Nursing and midwifery employees' experiences of domestic abuse – RCN Foundation

RCN Foundation webinar exploring the experiences of domestic abuse among nursing and midwifery professionals. The session shares emerging insights from the NAMED study, helping to shine a light on an often overlooked issue and the support needs of healthcare staff who may be affected.

The Annual Audit 2026 – Women’s Aid

The 2026 edition of Women’s Aid annual publication provides an in-depth picture of the provision, usage and work of domestic abuse services in England during the 2024-25 financial year.

Voice of the infant - NSPCC Learning

NSPCC Learning has published a series of expert insight videos on the voice of the infant. The five videos include insights on: what the voice of the infant is and why it is important; how practitioners can listen to the voice of the child and incorporate it into their work; and overcoming barriers to hearing the infant’s voice.

Talk Relationships – NSPCC Learning

NSPCC Learning has published new Talk Relationships resources to help schools engage parents and carers with the sex and relationships education (SRE) being taught, supporting them to talk to their children about healthy relationships. The resources include: a schools toolkit; an editable presentation; a guide; and five factsheets on specific SRE topics and how parents and carers can address them. NSPCC Learning has also published updated resources for a Whole-School Approach Framework, in line with the new Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) guidance for England.

Rethinking domestic abuse in child protection: Strategic and Frontline Briefings - Research in Practice

Research in Practice has published a suite of resources to support practitioners and leaders to rethink how they respond to domestic abuse and violence (DVA) in child protection. The resources draw on learning from the three year 'Rethinking abuse in child protection' project, and share findings on: how intersecting inequalities shape families’ experiences of social care and how an intersectional understanding of DVA can be incorporated into service design and delivery; how whole person and whole family approaches can improve outcomes for families and children; and how to develop evidence-informed responses to DVA across social care. The resources include briefings for strategic leaders and frontline practitioners, along with case studies showing how local areas have applied learning from the project.

Read the news story: [Rethinking domestic abuse in child protection: how to respond differently](#)

Freedom from violence and abuse volume 2: action plan – GOV.UK

The Government has published its Freedom from Violence and Abuse Action Plan, setting out how it intends to support the wider Violence Against Women and Girls strategy. The plan includes work on prevention and healthy relationships education, harmful behaviour among young people, teenage relationship abuse, child-to-parent abuse, perpetrator interventions, victim support, housing, Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews, NHS safeguarding training, and work within Armed Forces communities.

The Cyber Helpline – Free expert help for victims and cybercrime, digital fraud & online harm.

Children Heard and Seen - a charity dedicated to helping children, young people, and families affected by parental imprisonment.

PUBLISHED DOMESTIC ABUSE RELATED DEATH REVIEWS (DARDRs) AND RESOURCES

National Domestic Homicide Review [library](#).

South Cambs Community Safety Partnership – [Richard, March 2022](#)

Commissioning Pathways for Domestic Homicide / Abuse-Related Death Reviews: Are All Deaths Counted? - Durham University

A research briefing on commissioning of domestic abuse-related death reviews (DARDRs), highlighting gaps in knowledge about referrals, decision-makers, trends, and outcomes across England and Wales.

Government response to the 'learning from loss' report – GOV.UK

TO WATCH...

ITV, Coronation Street - [Special episode to raise awareness of domestic abuse](#)

This Morning - [‘I Took Secret Photos To Help Jail My Abuser’](#)

Channel 5 - [Murder in Shetland: Trial by Jury](#)
The harrowing murder trial of 24 year old Canadian Claire Leveque.

PAPA – People Against Parental Alienation Family Court Voice podcast - [The Psychology of Parental Alienation Explained](#)

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Bracknell Forest Domestic Abuse Forum

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

RBWM Domestic Abuse Forum

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

