

Domestic Abuse Newsletter

Bracknell Forest and RBWM



September 2026

"Welcome to the September 2026 Domestic Abuse Newsletter for Bracknell Forest and RBWM. This edition marks the final newsletter produced jointly across the two areas before we move to separate local updates. Over the years, the newsletter has provided a platform for sharing local and national news, learning, resources to support practice, partnership developments and training opportunities for professionals working across Bracknell Forest and RBWM. As we move to separate local updates, we continue to welcome submissions from partners. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to and supported the newsletter over the years."

LOCAL NEWS

8 July

Thames Valley Police welcome latest HMICFRS PEEL Inspection Report

The report includes findings relating to safeguarding children and adults at risk of harm and can be downloaded from the [HMICFRS website](#).

20 July

Murder accused in court after woman's death

19 August

Thames Valley Police launches Empower support group for victims and survivors of domestic abuse

21 August

New women and girls safety charter launched



The Bracknell Forest [Women and Girls Safety Charter](#) was officially launched on Wednesday 19 August.

The charter recognises a simple but powerful message: everyone has the right to feel safe.

Breaking the Fear: Family Court Survivor Programme

FLAG DV is offering *Break the Fear*, a free, confidential, trauma-informed, online programme for survivors of domestic abuse who are navigating Family Court proceedings.

Delivered over four weeks in small, supportive online groups, the programme aims to:

- Reduce fear and uncertainty around Family Court
- Increase understanding of court processes and terminology
- Build confidence and practical preparation skills
- Provide emotional grounding and support
- Help survivors feel safer and more informed

The programme is designed for survivors attending Family Court for personal reasons and provides practical information, peer support and guidance to help participants navigate the process with greater confidence.

Please note: This programme is for survivors attending Family Court themselves and is not designed for professionals supporting others.

Survivors can register their interest using the online [form](#).

BREAKING THE FEAR

Family Court Survivor Programme for survivors of domestic abuse

Free 4-session online programme to help you understand and prepare for Family Court.

Facing Family Court after domestic abuse can feel overwhelming and difficult to navigate. This programme helps you understand the process, your rights, and what to expect, so you can feel more prepared and in control.

Topics Covered:

- What happens in Family Court
- Who is involved and their roles
- Key terms explained
- How to prepare for your hearing
- Managing anxiety in court
- Your rights and special measures

Who Should Attend?
Survivors of domestic abuse preparing for Family Court

- Currently in Family Court proceedings
- Preparing for Family Court
- Looking to feel more informed and prepared

Scan to register your interest





Serving Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire & Hampshire

www.flagdv.org.uk

Registered Charity 1154070

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 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

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)
[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

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

29 June

[Murderers who kill partners at home face extra 10 years in prison](#)

2 July

[Woman dies after suspected assault as man's body found at reservoir](#)

3 July

[Wirral woman jailed after pleading guilty to domestic assault](#)

3 July

[Woman who murdered husband with a vegetable knife is jailed for life](#)

6 July

[Frenchman convicted of 2020 murder of wife confesses from jail](#)

7 July

[Murder victim suffered neck fractures, jury told](#)

8 July

[Man accused of faking partner's suicide as Kingsbridge murder trial begins](#)

10 July

[Campaigners call for 'Kiena's Law' to improve recognition of domestic abuse-related suicide](#)

14 July

[Man who staged wife's suicide jailed for murder](#)

18 July

[Domestic abuse: The harrowing dark side of England's World Cup exit](#)

3 August

[Newcastle domestic abuser 'devastated' woman's mental health](#)

4 August

[Domestic abuser jailed for controlling the life of her partner](#)

7 August

[Domestic abuser who murdered partner with hammer is jailed](#)

11 August

[Domestic abuser kicked and stamped on woman's head](#)

16 August

[Emergency alert put domestic abuse victims at risk, campaigners say](#)

19 August

[Domestic abuse perpetrators 'don't fear the system', says Commissioner](#)

20 August

[Jury discharged in Rowan Sutton murder trial](#)

21 August

[Victims and survivors of rape and sexual abuse to be supported](#)

26 August

[We saw signs of domestic abuse, but we didn't know how to protect Stacy](#)

27 August

[Adults contacting our Helpline about children experiencing domestic abuse reaches record levels](#)

30 August

[Domestic Abuse Commissioner responds to early release scheme exemptions](#)

1 September

[Man who stabbed wife 77 times jailed for 20 years](#)

8 September

[Man accused of triple murder admits gun charges](#)

14 September

[Speedboat killer jailed for attack on girlfriend](#)

14 September

[Darryl's story: When the support system isn't built for someone like me](#)

15 September

[Domestic abuse: learning from tragedy and preventing future deaths. Publication of new statutory guidance on domestic abuse related death reviews](#)

20 September

[About 20,000 women a year tell midwives they are domestic violence victims](#)

22 September

[Hope for UK mothers accused of child abduction after fleeing domestic violence](#)

24 September

[City banker told murder suspect girlfriend 'kill yourself already' court hears](#)

NEW USEFUL PUBLICATIONS, RESEARCH & RESOURCES

['Building Bridges': Principles for work with men and boys to end violence against women and girls](#) - End Violence Against Women Coalition (EVAW) and Beyond Equality

Men and women's organisations launch principles for work with men and boys to end VAWG.

[Strategic Plan 2026-29](#) - Domestic Abuse

Commissioner

The Domestic Abuse Commissioner's strategy for 2026-29 sets out a three-year plan to improve outcomes for people who have experienced domestic abuse across England and Wales. Shaped by lived experience and frontline evidence, it focuses on addressing gaps in support, improving accountability and securing sustainable funding for services.

[FRAME: Framework for Recognising the Abuse of Men and its Effects](#) – Martin training and consultancy

FRAME, the Framework for Recognising Abuse of Men and its Effects, is a gender-informed practice tool designed to help professionals recognise and respond to domestic abuse experienced by men.

[Guidelines for clinical management of paediatric \(under 16\) non-fatal strangulation](#) – Institute For Addressing Strangulation

IFAS has collaborated with major Royal Colleges and associated professional groups to develop a comprehensive set of guidelines for the clinical management of paediatric non-fatal strangulation, aiming to provide victims with optimal care promptly and mitigate potential harm.

[Recognising signs of domestic abuse in primary care settings](#) – The Pharmacist / SafeLives

For many people experiencing domestic abuse, primary care presents one of the few opportunities for contact with a professional outside of the home - making community and practice staff often the first, and sometimes only, people in a position to recognise what's happening and offer help.

Tracey Bleakley, interim chief executive officer at [SafeLives](#), outlines how to recognise the signs and start the conversation safely.

[Summer Holidays and Domestic Abuse: An Employer's Guide](#) – Domestic Abuse Education

The summer holidays do not cause domestic abuse, but the extended break creates circumstances that increase risk and isolation. Perpetrators frequently use increased time at home, financial pressure, and child contact arrangements to escalate coercive control. Employers play a critical role in safeguarding employees by maintaining visible domestic abuse support at work.

[Domestic abuse sanctuary schemes: process evaluation findings](#) - MHCLG

Research on Sanctuary Schemes, examining how Sanctuary Schemes are delivered across England and the role they can play in helping victim-survivors remain safely in their homes where this is their preferred option.

[Domestic abuse safe accommodation: victim-survivor outcomes](#) - MHCLG

Research on a Shared Outcomes Framework, exploring how outcomes for victim-survivors accessing domestic abuse safe accommodation and housing support services can be measured and understood more consistently.

Cast Out: Trans+ Survivors' Experiences of Domestic Abuse – Loving Me

Presenting a comprehensive evaluation and one of the largest specialist datasets currently available in examining trans+ experiences of domestic abuse in England.

Guidance: Domestic abuse booklets for survivors in Wales – Welsh Women's Aid

Soroptimists have co-developed domestic abuse booklets that are now available in Wales, providing information and support for survivors. There are plans to adapt them for use in England.

Domestic abuse, sexual assault, and child abuse - Institute of Alcohol Studies

Data Dashboard – SafeLives

A new open-access data dashboard, bringing together data from MARAC, Insights and Local Surveys in one place, making it easier to explore trends, compare areas and demographics, and access downloadable information.

Watch the introductory [video](#) or access the [dashboard](#).

Evaluating local responses to children and young people: Insights, gaps, and opportunities – SafeLives

This report explores the voices of victim-survivors and professionals from across the domestic abuse sector and beyond in England and Wales. It outlines the strengths and challenges in the response to children and young people experiencing domestic abuse and using harmful behaviours.

PUBLISHED DOMESTIC ABUSE RELATED DEATH REVIEWS (DARDRs) AND RESOURCES

National Domestic Homicide Review [library](#).

Domestic abuse: learning from tragedy and preventing future deaths – Home Office

Publication of new statutory guidance on domestic abuse related death reviews

DARDR Statutory Guidance 2026 - Notable changes from 2016 – Advocacy After Fatal Domestic Abuse (AAFDA)

Analysis of the main differences between the 2026 DARDR Statutory Guidance and the 2016 DHR Statutory Guidance.

TO WATCH/LISTEN...

BBC1 – [Murder 24/7. Series 2: 5. Killing in the Close](#)

Netflix - [Death of a pastor's wife](#)

Neighbourhood Watch Network - [Episode 3: Coercive control with Ruth Dodsworth](#)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Bracknell Forest Domestic Abuse Forum

1 December 2026, 10am-12pm (face to face)



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

RBWM Domestic Abuse Forum

15 December 2026, 10am-12pm

All via MS Teams

For more information, contact Chris Caughey

Christopher.caughey@achievingforchildren.org.uk



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