Local news

MATAC – Multi Agency Tasking And Coordination

From this autumn, both RBWM and Bracknell local policing areas will be running MATAC - a multi-agency tasking group proactively targeting and engaging with serial domestic abuse offenders in order to reduce the risk they pose to others.

Whilst victims and children affected by the abuse are taken into account, the focus of the intervention is on the domestic abuse offender. The MATAC uses the RFG (Recency, Frequency, Gravity) analytical process to highlight those perpetrators causing the most harm. It takes into account the seriousness of their ‘key offence’, how recent the last offence was, and how frequently the subject is offending.

Any partner agency can refer a case to the MATAC. The referral will scrutinised against the RFG and top nominals will be accepted onto the cohort and taken on as part of the scheme. Offenders will be offered help and diversions to prevent offending and reduce the risk they pose, including education, prevention, enforcement and disruption.

The overall outcome of this process is to reduce reoffending of the most harmful domestic abuse perpetrators and safeguard victims and families.

For more information or to discuss a RBWM MATAC referral, please contact: PC Kev Horsley RBWMMATAC@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

For more information or to discuss a Bracknell Forest MATAC referral, please contact: Justin Whitlock Justin.whitlock@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

Welcome to the new CEO’s of Berkshire Women’s Aid and The Dash Charity

Andrea West comes to Berkshire Women’s Aid (BWA) as the new Chief Executive after the retirement at the end of the summer of Liz Terry. BWA provides refuge accommodation, and outreach services to survivors of domestic abuse in Reading, Wokingham, Bracknell and West Berkshire.

Before starting at BWA, Andrea spent almost 10 years leading a number of disability and rare disease charities that provided family support and advocacy both locally and nationally. She also has a background training and career in research and counselling psychology and has worked in palliative care, primary care, and with survivors of domestic abuse. She said:

“BWA has an outstanding staff team and history of delivering critical services to support survivors of domestic abuse across the county enabling them to live a life free from fear. I feel very privileged to be able to build on this strong foundation and ensure the services we deliver meet the needs of those women, men and families living with the devastating impact of abuse.”

You can contact Andrea andrea.west@bwaid.org.uk

Alison Bourne has been a Trustee of the Dash Charity for a number of years, and with CEO Jayne Donnelly heading off on a well-earned sabbatical (working with refugees in Greece), Alison has stepped in as interim CEO. Alison comes from the corporate and consulting world and has worked internationally, primarily in the areas of executive development and diversity and inclusion. She is passionate about women’s and children’s issues and the need to take positive action to keep them safe in today’s society. She has also driven charitable projects in Malawi, India and Thailand.

White Ribbon Campaign

Look out for white ribbons around Bracknell Forest and RBWM...wearing a white ribbon is a personal pledge to never, excuse or remain silent about male violence against women. The campaign starts on 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and runs for ‘16 days of action’.

All Domestic Abuse Forum and Domestic Abuse Executive Group members should be receiving white ribbons to sell amongst team members, and there will be boxes of white ribbons at both Maidenhead and Windsor libraries. Proceeds from the sales of ribbons in Bracknell will be donated to Berkshire Women’s Aid and proceeds from the sales of ribbons in RBWM to the Dash Charity.
National and international news

19 July
Salford man jailed for murdering ex-partner in her home

24 July
Mary Sowerby death: Son jailed for stabbing mum as she watched TV

25 July
Have no girls been born in 132 villages in India?

29 July
‘Callous’ killer who dumped wife’s body in suitcase jailed

7 August
Domestic violence: Child-parent abuse doubles in three years

8 August
Shana Grice: Sussex abuse victims ‘will not face fines’

8 August
Denise Rosser murder: Police acted ‘appropriately’

28 August
Domestic abuse: Killers ‘follow eight-stage pattern’, study says

9 September
Rosie Darbyshire: MP calls for Clare’s Law review after Preston murder

13 September
Domestic violence killings reach five-year high

18 September
UK’s first Domestic Abuse Commissioner announced as government pledges to tackle crime

18 September
Man found to have killed woman in Old Windsor

30 September
Councils first in London to apply new domestic violence strategy

2 October
Sarah Wellgreen: Murder accused ‘dumped missing mum’s body’

2 October
MP Rosie Duffield speaks of her experiences of domestic abuse

2 October
Teresa May says Domestic Abuse Bill ‘once-in-a-generation opportunity’

2 October
Action needed to tackle domestic abuse of over-60s, says Age UK

9 October
Victims’ Commissioner writes to Home Secretary following concerns about the national insurance database being used to trace victims of domestic abuse

11 October
One in four girls born today, on the International Day of the Girl, will grow up to have an abusive partner

13 October
Abusive men using child contact as way to carry on subjecting women to domestic abuse

15 October
Ann Marie Pomphret stables murder: Husband jailed for life

17 October
Multi-million pound award for domestic abuse research

19 October
Mortgage prisoners: domestic abuse survivors on how they got trapped

20 October
Domestic abuse within police force to be investigated

21 October
Local Government Secretary confirms new support for survivors of domestic abuse

21 October
Andrew Griggs murder trial: Second wife describes ‘loving’ husband

New useful publications, research and resources

Respect releases third edition of the toolkit for work with male victims of domestic abuse

Respect have published the third edition of their Toolkit for Work with Male Victims of Domestic Abuse. To view the Toolkit, click here.

Women’s Aid launches website for teenage girls

Women’s Aid have launched a new #LoveRespect website to support teenage girls at risk of relationship abuse and challenge myths surrounding the nature of coercive control. The new website, which features a relationship health check, survivor stories, practical advice and an email support service, is designed to reach teenage girls who may not realise they are experiencing relationship abuse, and are less likely than older women to call a helpline.

To view the full press release, click here. To visit the new website, click here.
New practical advice from the Pathfinder project for health practitioners on how to ask about abuse, respond to disclosures from patients and refer and signpost victims of domestic abuse.

For more information about the pilot project, visit the SafeLives website here.

- To view the General Practitioner (GP) Pathfinder profile, click here.
- To view the Hospital Pathfinder profile, click here.
- To view the Mental health Pathfinder profile, click here.

In addition, one of SafeLives’ Pioneers has written a brave and powerful piece about the mental health impact of experiencing domestic abuse as a child. We must see children as victims in their own right, and provide a specialist response. To view the article, visit the SafeLives website by clicking here.

Published domestic homicide reviews

6 August – Kensington and Chelsea
Overview report into the death of Georgia, click here.

6 August – Kensington and Chelsea
Overview report into the death of Robert and Clare, click here. A related Serious Case Review was commissioned by the Local Safeguarding Children Board into the death of Clare and serious injury to Ann. Click here.

What is Gaslighting?

Published domestic homicide reviews

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Dates for your diary

Meetings

Bracknell Forest Domestic Abuse Forum
12 March 2020
9 June 2020
15 September 2020
15 December 2020

All meetings take place 9am – 11am at Time Square

RBWM Domestic Abuse Forum
2020 dates to be confirmed.

Introducing to domestic abuse

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

BRACKNELL
Tuesday 5 November 2019
Wednesday 26 February 2020
Rowans Children’s Centre - 9.30am – 4.30pm
Funded by the Community Safety Partnership

BF Council staff should book via iWorks
Or email Organisational.Development@Bracknell-Forest.gov.uk

RBWM
Wednesday 13 November 2019 click here to book
Tuesday 4 February 2020, click here to book
Maidenhead Town Hall
9.30am – 4.30pm
Funded by the Community Safety Partnership

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).

**BRACKNELL**

Wednesday 4 December 2019
Tuesday 3 March 2020

Rowans Children’s Centre - 10am – 4.30pm
Funded by the Community Safety Partnership

BF Council staff should book via iWorks
Or email Organisational.Development@Bracknell-Forest.gov.uk

**RBWM**

Tuesday 3 December 2019 click [here](#) to book
Thursday 5 March 2020 click [here](#) to book

Maidenhead Town Hall - 10am – 4.30pm
Funded by the Community Safety Partnership

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please email Sophie Wing-King (Domestic Abuse Coordinator, RBWM & Bracknell Forest) sophie.wingking@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk with ‘Remove’ in the title box.