We are unable to specifically recommend or guarantee the quality of any of the courses, services or interventions listed in this newsletter as we neither have control of, nor accept any liability for other organisations. If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, email “unsubscribe” to da.change@norfolk.gov.uk.

DA CHAMPION TRAINING COURSES:

Education Staff only
24th Jan & 7th Feb 2018 Magdalene Gates Primary School
7th Feb & 19th March 2018 Breckland District Council
16th & 23rd March 2018 Cromer District Council

Healthcare staff only
23rd & 30th January 2018 Breydon Clinic, Great Yarmouth
29th Jan & 6th Feb 2018 Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Kings Lynn
15th & 21st Feb 2018 Norfolk & Norwich Hospital, Norwich
9th-10th July 2018 Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Kings Lynn

Contact da.change@norfolk.gov.uk for further details and to book a place.

Reminder for all Champions:
We just wanted to remind you all that we are available for consultations on domestic abuse cases. A few champions at the conference told us they were unaware that we offer this service. Although we do not do direct work with families, we are always willing to discuss cases that you might be stuck on. Please contact us either by phone (numbers to the right) or our email addresses. It is best to direct queries to the Domestic Abuse Change Co-coordinators who cover your locality, as we have a better understanding of local services available within our designated localities:

Christen Williams – North, East and Broadland
Zoe Harding – West and Breckland
Paula DeVaux – City
Tabatha Breame – South Norfolk

Be aware that we are often out delivering training, but we will endeavor to reply to consultations asap. If it is an emergency, follow your usual safeguarding procedures.

Also:
We are available to deliver awareness sessions, if you think your organisation or team require this, please get in touch. We can do 30mins, to 3 hours, and will adapt sessions to meet the needs of the group.

Local News

Christmas Food Norwich.
There are a range of organisations providing free and reduced meals over the Christmas period in Norwich. To obtain a full list of organisations and what days/times they are open, please email The Feed on info@thefeed.org.uk

CONTACT US
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Christen Williams
07818 077275

Paula DeVaux
07342 084432

Tabatha Breame
Awaiting Number

#IWalkedaway

Website here: I Walked Away
Downham Market Children’s Centre is running a Freedom Programme for women who have experienced domestic abuse, starting 18th January 10am-12pm 12 weeks with breaks for school holidays. Please contact Sinead Murray for more information and to access the referral form. Sineadelizabeth.murray@actionforchildren.org.uk 01760 721101/07872503371

South Norfolk residents are being reminded of the Community Connector service – which can provide support for domestic abuse, loneliness and debt. South Norfolk Councilor Yvonne Bendle, cabinet member for Wellbeing and Early Intervention said; “Early help means providing support as soon as a difficulty or problem emerges – stopping it from getting worse and becoming a crisis”. Read more here.

Victoria Atkins, the domestic violence minister, is planning on coming to Norwich to meet with Chloe Smith (City MP). Atkins is preparing a new Domestic Violence and Abuse Bill that will strengthen tools to fight domestic abuse. Chloe Smith will be supporting the new Bill in Parliament. Atkins will be meeting with Smith to discuss the case of Kerri McAuley who was murdered at the hands of her partner Joe Storey last January. Read more here.

At James Paget Hospital more than £600 has been raised after several brave men put themselves in women’s shoes to help raise money for three domestic abuse charities. Ahead of White Ribbon day on Saturday 25 November, four members of staff agreed to have their legs waxed to raise funds for Leeway, Lighthouse and Waveney Domestic Violence and Abuse Forum, who work to support both men and women who are in, or have been in, abusive relationships.

The Pandora Project, a domestic abuse advice service for those in West Norfolk and Swaffham, was awarded £179,285 in grant funding from Norfolk’s PCC. And the charity’s founder has described the funding as “vital” in allowing the service to continue their work making a difference to people in crisis. The funding enables the charity to provide advocacy, advice and support for victims, and to work with children and young people. Read more here.

Former Met Police Commander Lord Blair has criticised Norfolk Constabulary’s proposal to axe 150 PCSO’s, talking about the importance of community policing in tackling threats from extremists. Chief Constable Simon Bailey has defended the decision, despite saying it was “one of the toughest days in his career”. Bailey has stated the need for police officers with powers of arrest and specific training and equipment to work with increasing cases of sexual crimes, adult and child abuses cases. Read more here.

National News

Women’s Aid have published the latest Femicide Census report in December 2017. It looks at the period between 1st January 2016 and 31st December 2016. Within this period 113 women were killed by men in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Nine in ten women killed that year were killed by someone they knew, 78 women were killed by their current or former intimate partner and 65 of those were killed in their own home or the home they shared with the perpetrator. Access and read the full report here. If the hyperlink is not working you can google Women’s Aid Femicide Report, and it is the first link that comes up.

SafeLives have released Spotlight #4 which looks at Honour Based Abuse and Forced Marriage. Their website has a range of resources to access, from blogs, webinars, podcasts and Q&A’s. They have also released a policy report called ‘Your Choice’, all accessible on their website here. The report details a few shocking statistics around victims of HBA; on average they experience abuse for two years longer than DA victims, nearly 25% were not eligible for benefits, and they are 7 times more likely to experience abuse from multiple perpetrators.
Six north-eastern police forces have won Home Office Funding to tackle domestic abuse, known as the ‘Whole System Approach’. The innovative project which was piloted in Northumbria by PCC Vera Baird has now received an additional £7M funding to tackle DA. The three central strands of the ‘Whole System Approach’ are; boosting police training around coercion and control, to improve information sharing and to multi-agency victim support and perpetrator management. Read more about the initiative here.

The Office for National Statistics have also released a report looking at UK statistics around DA up until March 2017. Some of the main points are; 1.9 million adults aged 16 to 59 years experienced domestic abuse in the last year. A total of 83,136 high-risk cases were discussed at multi-agency risk assessment conferences in the year ending March 2017, equating to 36 cases per 10,000 adult females. The majority of victims of domestic homicides recorded between April 2013 and March 2016 were females (70%), nearly 50% of homicides happen within a month of the victim separating from the perpetrator. Read the report here.

The Ministry of Justice has scrapped legal aid restrictions for victims of domestic violence. From January, time limits that prevent victims of DA obtaining legal aid for court hearings will be stopped. The restrictions currently mean many victims of abuse are confronting abusive partners in court without any legal representation. The five year time frame was imposed in 2012 by the Legal Aid Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act, and since this time the amount of legal aid granted has dropped by 80%. Read more here.

Scotland Police Force highlighted a 25% rise in domestic abuse reports over the festive period last year. On average they received 199 reports per day compared to the usual 158. This year they have created the #every9minutes campaign to highlight the problem of physical and emotional abuse. The campaign will run in cinemas, on the radio and online and will encourage people to report abuse, and direct them towards relevant agencies. Read more here.

Warning: This article contains details that some people will find very distressing. The Cost of Domestic Abuse – The BBC looks at the devastating impact of domestic abuse, interviewing Claire Thorossell, whose two children were murdered by their father in 2014. The report looks at what provisions need to be put in place to better protect children in DA households, and praises Operation Encompass which has been rolled out across much of the UK. Read more here.

Aisha Sharif who is the development manager at Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance dispels a few misconceptions that housing professionals have about domestic abuse. If you are supporting a victim of abuse with housing, and they hear these statements from housing, please challenge them. “We need a police report before we can help”, “We’re just the landlord; domestic abuse is not our issue”, “Drugs and alcohol cause domestic abuse”. To find out what DAHA state about these misconceptions, read the full article here.

The Bureau of Investigative Journalism has released an article “Delays, Cuts, Benefit Changes: Domestic Violence Refuges in Crisis”. The findings come from a Freedom of Information responses send to the BoIJ last month. It looks at the cuts that DA services are facing, and the impact of these cuts, particularly on refuge provision. Read more here.
Ellie Hutchingson, Director of the Empower Project has recently published an article about the challenges of accessing funds for domestic abuse charities. In 2015, George Osborne announced that money saved through tampon tax would be raised and donated to charities that support women and girls. However, Hutchingson who has attempted to apply for this fund found she was not eligible as her charity did not have a turnover of £2million per year. Hutchingson exclaims that most charities working within this sector do not turn over £2million per year, with increasing refuge closures and staff redundancies. Read more here.

Essex Police has apologised for suggesting some domestic violence victims can find "happiness" by staying with their partners. The force said it had used "clumsy language" in a Facebook post promoting the 55+ Safety Net campaign, which aims to help older victims of domestic abuse. Critics have branded the initiative "irresponsible" and said it promotes a "dangerous message" because it suggests some victims can stay with their partners if given support. Read more here.

RESOURCES

The campaign that Essex Police were promoting (above) was 55+ Safety Net. The website has a number of case studies of victims 55+ (both male and female), which can be used within training sessions or to support victims of abuse. On the website they also have a section for safety planning and safety advice. Access these resources here.

Let’s talk FGM is an app resource to support discussions on female genital mutilation and is now available as a web app. This means that it can be accessed from any browser on a smart phone, tablet or PC. The project was created and coordinated by Joanne McEwan, Oxford Against Cutting's Chairperson and Oxford Health Visitor Lead on FGM. The new version is even more informative, accessible and user friendly than the original and includes improvements based on feedback from communities affected by FGM. The app is an incredibly helpful resource to support sensitive conversations on FGM and is being used by School Health Nurses across the county. It is also supporting community work abroad, for example in Somaliland. To access the app follow this link.

Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) will become compulsory in schools from September 2019. Brook, a healthy relationship service for young people have supported young people to write a manifesto of “what we need from RSE”. The young people have highlighted 12 suggestions throughout their manifesto such as “taught by qualified teachers”, “promotes LGBT equality” and “includes our families”. Brook are encouraging all young people to sign this manifesto and present it to their teachers. Read more and download the manifesto here.

As we discuss on our training, 30% of domestic abuse will start or escalate during pregnancy, and many victims will turn to drugs or alcohol as a coping mechanism. Therefore, if abuse is escalating in pregnancy, there is potential that alcohol intake will as well. Tri.x have recently developed a document which outlines the 5 different conditions of Foetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder, and the difficulties that children with FASD will have in adulthood. They also look at different care and support available to adults with FASD. Access the resource here.

Please send any news about domestic abuse from your organisation for inclusion in next month’s newsletter to da.change@norfolk.gov.uk. If you would like to be added to the distribution list for this newsletter, please email da.change@norfolk.gov.uk with “Newsletter” in the title bar.

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