

# Surrey Domestic Abuse Newsletter

Issue 6 February 2012



Surrey Multi Agency  
Partnership

Against Domestic Abuse



Welcome to the first Surrey Domestic Abuse Newsletter for 2012. Hopefully the break over the festive season gave you time to recharge your batteries enabling you to start the working year with positive energy again.

We have another full newsletter again. Please keep articles, news items and ideas flowing in and let us know what you think of it, so we can continually improve each edition. It is your regular space so please help us make best use of it. Also let us know of additional contacts who would like to receive a copy to widen readership and cascade it within your own networks.

## Review of Domestic Abuse Services:

After considerable work, the multi agency DA partnership is finalising arrangements to continue provision of domestic abuse outreach services across Surrey with the four current providers. This means all services will remain as they are, with the same contact numbers etc. In constrained times, there have been cuts to funding but we hope the impact on service users will be minimal. Thanks to all who have worked so hard on this. Please develop close links with your local services so that you are well placed to signpost potential users or discuss professional concerns you have about domestic abuse in your work

## Wider Review of multi-agency Domestic Abuse pathways:

During the review of local outreach services and following the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment on domestic abuse, it became clear that there needed to be a significant review of wider partnership engagement with domestic abuse. There has been an acknowledgement that domestic abuse, together with mental health and substance misuse are the basis of considerable service pressures and contribute to significant difficulties within families.

The new Community and Public Safety Board has therefore agreed to establish a project team to lead a comprehensive project over the coming year exploring the issues and considering improved ways of working. Watch this newsletter for regular updates.

**Barbara French, Domestic Abuse Strategy Manager**

## Surrey Libraries and Surrey Community Safety working together to help those experiencing Domestic Abuse

If you, or someone you know, are experiencing domestic abuse, finding help and information can be very difficult. Using a library computer is a safe way to find out what your options are and where help is available. Every library in Surrey can offer you free use of a computer and from our Surrey Libraries' web pages you can find details and links to a whole range of organisations which will offer you information, advice and help whatever your situation.

Our web pages also offer you a list of books with topics ranging from violent relationships to forced marriage. The list includes self-help books with practical information as well as memoirs of survivors.

Visits: [www.surreycc.gov.uk/libraries/domesticabusehelp](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/libraries/domesticabusehelp)



**Help and advice  
is free and safe  
with Surrey  
Libraries**

## VOLUNTEERS



I joined your Sanctuary in January 2012 in the role of Volunteer Recruitment and Development Officer. What has become very quickly apparent is how valued volunteers are and the amazing contribution they make to the important work carried out here. My plans include building on the excellent work done to date, ensuring that we continue to respond promptly to volunteer enquiries and using a creative approach to finding roles which make use of their existing experience whilst helping them to develop new skills.

I want to encourage us as an organisation to be flexible in terms of how and when volunteers are used so that there are plenty of opportunities, no matter how much time and commitment an individual can give.

Finally, I am looking forward to developing strong relationships with the various Volunteer Bureaux and other organisations that are instrumental in helping use sources volunteers.

**Karen Goddard, Operations Manager**

[www.yoursanctuary.org.uk/](http://www.yoursanctuary.org.uk/)



**National Stalking Awareness Day** focuses on 'Taking Stalking Seriously' and will be on Wednesday **April 18th 2012**.

#### What can you do?

National Stalking Helpline want everyone to get involved and spread the word that stalking should be taken seriously. To help with this they will provide information on their website for you to read and share with others. They have also written a template letter for you to personalise and send to your MP requesting they look in to what is being done for stalking victims in your constituency.

[www.stalkinghelpline.org](http://www.stalkinghelpline.org)

#### Domestic Abuse Outreach Services in Surrey

- East Surrey Domestic Abuse Service  
Tel: 01737 771350  
(Reigate & Banstead, Mole Valley and Tandridge)
- Your Sanctuary  
Tel: 01483 776822  
(Woking, Runnymede and Surrey Heath)
- North Surrey Domestic Abuse Outreach Service  
Tel: 01932 260690  
(Epsom and Ewell, Elmbridge, and Spelthorne)
- South West Surrey Domestic Abuse Outreach Service  
Tel: 01483 577392  
(Guildford and Waverley)

**RASASC, Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre** is happy to report that it is enjoying its new home in the centre of Guildford. After a huge upheaval and a period of instability and no office space, everything is now settled. The location is more discrete and has a safe and easy entrance, plus it is within 5 minutes walk of Guildford main rail and bus stations. Feedback from clients, volunteers and staff is that it is a lovely space, very friendly, warm and welcoming. The only drawback is that it is 2nd floor, with no lift, but we do have ground floor counselling accommodation at another location in Guildford if required.



Anyone, male or female needing counselling for rape or sexual abuse is encouraged to make an appointment with Felicity Williams, Counselling Manager on 07757 009840 or if they prefer to use the helpline phone 01483 546400 7.30pm-9.30pm. Office staff will be happy to advise on general enquiries or presentations contact the RASASC office. Tel: 01483 452900 Email: [admin@rasasc-guildford.org](mailto:admin@rasasc-guildford.org) Website: [www.rasasc-guildford.org](http://www.rasasc-guildford.org)



#### Surrey Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC)

The Solace Centre, Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) for Surrey is based at Cobham Community Hospital and has been operational since 28<sup>th</sup> February 2011.

The SARC is a one-stop location which provides a range of services to both Adults and Children in Surrey who have been raped or sexually assaulted. The centre provides not only high quality care for victims but improved forensic evidence which has the potential to bring more offenders to justice and increased reporting because of the high level of support offered to clients and access to intelligence from self referrals.

Last year 136 clients were referred to the SARC for forensic medical examinations; of these 15 referrals were domestic violence related where the alleged perpetrator was recorded as current partner, ex-partner or family member.

Open mornings are held on the first Wednesday of each month. If you would like to book a space please contact the SARC office on Tel: 0844 519 6168 Monday to Friday 08.00-18.00. Alternatively please contact the SARC manager Natalie Faint on Tel: 07740 940837.



Following the restructure of Surrey Safeguarding Children's Board, four Area Safeguarding Groups were set up in the four quadrants of Surrey.

The objectives of these local groups include the promotion of inter-agency working and learning, learning from serious case reviews and identifying area objectives. In all of the areas, domestic abuse has been identified as an area of focus.

In the South East, the group is tasked with raising awareness of domestic abuse and the impact on children and young people in the local community. A number of activities are taking place to address this issue, including work with local GP practices, schools, local businesses and other partner agencies. A programme of work has been carried forward by a smaller working group led by East Surrey Domestic Abuse Service and Children's Services.

**Ian Vinal, Surrey County Council  
Area Head of Children's Service (SE)**

#### Surrey Community Safety Unit

**Tel:** 020 8541 7337

**Email:** [surreycommunitysafetyunit@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:surreycommunitysafetyunit@surreycc.gov.uk)

**Website:** [www.surreycc.gov.uk/communitysafety](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/communitysafety)

## North Surrey Domestic Abuse Outreach

We have just completed our third Freedom Programme for 2011-12. These have been delivered in partnership with Surestart Children Centres and have been very successful, particularly as crèche facilities were available for mums with small children. Feedback has been extremely positive with comments such as: "it's changed my life!", "a fantastic support network, I don't feel alone anymore" and "I now understand the beliefs and subsequent actions of a dominator".



The majority also reported an increase in confidence; being better able to protect themselves and their children and being able to identify warning signs of abusive behaviours in the future.

A fourth programme is now running in Epsom and we shall be starting a new Programme at SunAsh Children's Centre, Spelthorne in March.

A huge thank you to Ashford, Grovelands, Stanwell, Riverview and SunAsh Children's Centres.

Following the success of the Programme, we are now running self support groups in Spelthorne (Stanwell Children's Centre) and Elmbridge (Walton Community Centre) and hope to be able to start one in Epsom later this year. Volunteers and service users are facilitating these groups.

If you would like to know more about our self-support sessions and/or refer someone for our new Freedom Programme in March, please contact our Domestic Abuse Team on Tel: 01932 260690 (you can leave a message) or Email: [nsdvoutreach@waltoncab@cabnet.org.uk](mailto:nsdvoutreach@waltoncab@cabnet.org.uk)

**Jane Bourgeois, Bureau Manager, Walton, Weybridge & Hersham CAB**

## The Pressure of Debt

More people are finding themselves struggling with debt. This podcast addresses some of the issues surrounding debt and what help is available. <http://www.964eagle.co.uk/podcastdirectory/nhs-mental-health.php>



**Protection for All, Now.** The National Centre for Domestic Violence (NCDV) is a community interest company, with a mission to help any individual suffering in an abusive relationship. Since its inauguration in 2002, NCDV has been helping victims obtain emergency injunctions regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation or financial situation. Our aim is to provide instant and effective protection against domestic violence and give advice to anyone who seeks it.

Victims of domestic abuse can be overwhelmed by the thought of ending an abusive relationship and the legal processes needed to obtain protection. NCDV acts as a one-stop shop in which concerns can be addressed and advice can be given, in the victim's language and on their terms. The majority of cases referred result in speedy action through the civil courts, providing instant legal protection, but we also aim to provide advice on additional services such as refuges, harassment hotlines, alternative accommodation or legal protection for children who find themselves in an abusive family relationship. The referral network at NCDV is forever growing, allowing us to advise everyone who contacts the Centre in search of help.

With a 24-hour manned office, survivors will usually be protected by an injunction within 24 hours of first contact. The Centre specialise in the creation of Non-Molestation, Occupation and Residence Orders, Emergency Child Contact Orders and Prohibitive Steps Orders. With over 10 years of experience in domestic violence and an in-house process serving and tracking team, emergency orders are obtained quickly and with minimum confrontation for the survivors. NCDV also benefits from direct links with local councils, housing authorities, health centres, refuges and Women's Aid centres.

Further to the free legal help provided, the Centre also conducts training for police, judges, domestic violence agencies, legal professionals and students in order to extend the knowledge held on domestic violence. NCDV has now trained over 8000 police officers, 5000 students and is fully operational in 29 counties. With the vast volunteer database, NCDV can also offer free legal support for anyone who does not qualify for legal aid, providing McKenzie Friends who can draft all paperwork and accompany victims to court as a great means of legal and emotional support at no cost to that victim.

NCDV offers no compromise in our key aim – to be the vehicle through which violence and abuse are banished from the lives of those who need it, and a companion for them on their journey to recovery and assurance.

[www.ncdv.org.uk](http://www.ncdv.org.uk)