MAY 2017

CHAMPION TRAINING EVENTS:

27th June & 3rd July | South Norfolk Council, Long Stratton
28th June & 5th July | Broadland District Council
4th July & 13th July | Breckland Council, Dereham

Contact da.change@norfolk.gov.uk for further details.

CHAMPIONS CONFERENCE!

We are still considering arranging a conference later this year to celebrate a further years funding. For those who haven’t already, please can you complete our online survey, to have an input into what you may want from the conference. Click here to access the survey or copy and paste this address http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/DAchampions/ into your web browser. We need your feedback as soon as possible.

Sadly our Domestic Abuse Change Co-ordinator Rhiannon Mullen’s secondment has come to an end. Rhiannon has been covering Broadland, North and East Norfolk for the past three months, and has managed to deliver 6 whole courses through that period, and held our first Network Event in the North. Rhiannon’s support has been invaluable and we wish her all the best returning to Broadland District Council.

LOCAL NEWS

Working Together to Support Teenage Mothers and Young Fathers
12th June 9:30-12:30pm at the Green Britain Centre, Swaffham, PE37 7HT

This workshop is open to any staff working with teenage mothers and fathers. Participants will have the opportunity to hear about the new local ‘pathway’ for Teenage Mothers and Young Fathers and to contribute their views and ideas on how we could all work together to make this project a success. For further information or to book a place please email Alison Bishop a.bishop3@nhs.net by 5th June 2017.

Exciting news from Pandora Project!

Pandora now have a Facebook page in Russian. They have a support worker speaking Russian, Lithuanian, Latvian offering 1-1 support in West Norfolk. Details here: https://www.facebook.com/pandoraprojectruskij/

KLARS have changed their name to ACCESS – supporting migrants in East Anglia

ACCESS offer to support migrants from Eastern Europe and elsewhere, in Kings Lynn, Wisbech and the surrounding area. Their new website address (currently under development) is http://www.accessmigrantsupport.org.uk/
Leeway National Domestic Abuse Conference - Friday 14th July 9am-4pm - Norwich City Football Club.
The focus of the conference will be on the impact of domestic abuse on children and young people. Guest speakers include:

- Amna Abdullatif from Women’s Aid
- Childhood domestic abuse survivor Min Grob
- Local barrister Katharine Bundell
- Aneeta Prem, President of the Freedom Charity
- David Ashcroft, Independent Chair of the Norfolk Safeguarding Board
- Peter Hornby and Alix Wright, Norfolk Police/Operation Encompass
- Special performance of the drama ‘Lady in Red’ by Certain Curtain Theatre

To book your place at this year’s Leeway National Domestic Abuse Conference, email admin@leewaynwa.org.uk. Tickets cost £70 per person and £63 for voluntary organisations.

A new Domestic Abuse Choir in Breckland!

DASH is a collaboration of Daisy Programme and My Confidence, who work together to support survivors of Domestic Abuse across the rural area of Breckland in Norfolk. In setting up the DASH Choir, they hope to continue to provide support to their clients once they have completed their courses and where they can continue to rebuild their lives in a safe and positive environment. In starting the Choir it will bring the survivors together to sing, which helps to support their wellbeing, self-confidence and self-esteem, which has been badly eroded. They will use mindfulness techniques to bring them into the present moment when they start and set small challenges in singing small solos to bring on their confidence and self-esteem. The larger goal will be for them to perform a small concert of the repertoire they learn. Learn more about Daisy and My Confidence here.

NATIONAL NEWS

Her Majesty’s Inspectorate Challenges the Police Response to Domestic Abuse

There has been much coverage in the press lately regarding victims of domestic abuse withdrawing their statements and how this negatively impacts upon criminal cases. Experts highlight that victims are not getting enough support and are too often blamed for the case not proceeding. Zoe Billingham, who leads on domestic violence for Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) believes that the police forces are placing too much responsibility on victims and need to take more action in ensuring cases are proceeded with. She believes that Officers need to “get on with their jobs” and track down evidence so they can pursue cases against offenders without relying on vulnerable victims to provide testimony. Read more here.

‘Define the Line study’ by Avon gives insight into controlling and coercive behaviour in young people’s relationships. The study shows that almost two fifths (39%) of 16-21 year-old girls think coercive and controlling behaviours in relationships have become normalised because of the amount of abuse they see in society and media, and alarmingly 8% said they haven’t had any exposure to healthy relationships based on equality and respect. The Avon-funded research also found:

- Half (50%) of 16-21 year olds say it is hard to spot the signs of controlling behaviours in others
- 84% of girls said they think people experiencing this behaviour feel it is their fault, compared to 65% of boys
- 2 in 5 (39%) of young people think that coercive and controlling behaviours are not talked about
- Over a third (37%) would not know where or who to turn to for support if they were experiencing the issue.

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.
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Read more of the study results [here](#).

**Hollie Gazzard’s father speaks to Sky News about the dangers of stalking.**

When Hollie Gazzard was horrifically murdered in February 2014, her family wanted something positive to come out of their tragic loss. Hollie’s passion for hairdressing led her parents, Nick and Mandy, alongside her sister, Chloe, to form the Trust in order to give opportunities to others that she had been fortunate to have. The Suzy Lamplugh report analysed the murders of 358 women over two years and found stalking was prevalent in **94 per cent** of the cases. Surveillant activity, including watching, was present 63 per cent of the time. Nick Gazzard told Sky News stalking is ‘very dangerous’. ‘We have to raise the professional people’s knowledge of stalking and abuse,’ he said. Watch the interview [here](#).

**Domestic Abuse Can Deny an individual their Right to Vote**

When people learn that domestic abuse can deny survivors their right to vote, they can hardly believe it. But it’s true: the provisions for anonymous registration on the electoral roll exclude many domestic abuse survivors. With support, however, it is possible for some to exercise their democratic right, and Women’s Aid is urging domestic abuse services to support survivors to register wherever possible, before the **deadline of 31 May** (later than the general **deadline of 22 May**). To help, they have produce guidance with the Electoral Commission which can be accessed [here](#).

**A young Man writes an Open Letter to his younger brother following the murder of his mother and sister.**

Luke Hart speaks for first time about father’s domestic abuse that led to Spalding murders and pays tribute to ‘hero’ brother. By sharing their story, Luke said, he hoped others would be empowered to open up about domestic abuse. “I hope that our story can encourage others to stand up to and speak out about the many forms of domestic abuse. I hope it empowers those who are suffering its consequences to take action.” You can read his heartfelt letter [here](#).

**Transnational Marriage Abandonment:** There is little information within the media regarding Transnational Marriage Abandonment, a problem involving the abandonment of foreign national wives in their country of origin by their husbands who are nationals or residents of another country, often leaving them with no means or rights to access their children. SafeLives placed the spotlight on this type of abuse in an interview with Dr. Sundari Anitha, Senior Lecturer at the University of Lincoln. Listen to the interview [here](#) and access the research study [here](#). You can also read ‘M’s’ personal experience of this [here](#).

**A ‘very dangerous’ woman has been jailed for 11 years for almost killing her fiancé during a campaign of domestic violence.** Speaking out about the violence, victim Martyn Brown said he hoped men suffering domestic abuse manage to ‘get out’ after his ordeal at the hands of Harriet Sharp. ‘If someone in my situation is reading this I hope they get out, because it will get worse.’ Read more: [here](#).

**In our last four Network Events,** we have had Sam Allen discuss the findings of the most recent Domestic Homicide Reviews in Norfolk. For those of you have attended these, you will be aware that the two cases that Sam looks at are suicide cases. An inquest has just been completed for a similar case in Leicester, where 25 year old Meera Dalal took her life after recently ending an abusive relationship. Like the cases we discussed though the DHR, Meera had informed her GP of the abuse she was suffering, yet had limited awareness of other support services available to her. Read more about her case [here](#).
In New South Wales in Australia, GP’s are now able to refer Domestic Abuse Victims for support without their consent. This has been introduced as part of their Safer Pathways Programme, as it has previously been recognised that many victims of domestic abuse homicide in Australia have reported the abuse to their GP prior to their murder. Read more here.

Whilst women are twice as likely to be victims of domestic abuse as men, LGBT charity Stonewall state that gay men are more vulnerable still. Gay men are also statistically less likely to seek support when in abusive relationships. Andy Meekings, area manager for a domestic abuse charity Hestia believes that the frequency of mental health issues within the LGBT community directly contributes to high levels of abuse between gay men. Read more here.

**RESOURCES**

**inter-AKT:** A new online service for young LGBT people

*inter-AKT* is a safe and non-judgemental space that connects young LGBT people with Digital Mentors and other digital resources to explore a wide range of issues, whether it’s through chat, messaging, video calls or audio; and can be accessed on most devices, including smart phones, tablets and laptops.

*inter-AKT* enables AKT to support young LGBT people experiencing homelessness, and also provides AKT the opportunity to prevent homelessness, supporting young people address challenges early, before they find themselves in situations of crisis. Access this new resource here.

If you are raising awareness about sexual abuse, or working with somebody who does not recognise sexually abusive behaviour – you can use these Myth Busters as a focus point. These have been created by Refuge, and challenge myths such as “sometimes a man just gets carried away and can’t stop” and “men cannot be victims of rape”. These myths can also be used with older children in schools to generate a discussion point. Access them here.

We have had a few requests for information about working with teenagers in abusive relationships. Refuge have an informative section on their website that enables practitioners to ask the right questions. Examples of these include: * Is your boyfriend/girlfriend very jealous and possessive of you? * Does s/he get angry when you want to spend time with your friends or demand that you spend all your time with him? * Does s/he check your phone, email, Facebook and twitter accounts? * Does s/he try and get you to defriend people on Facebook, take down your photos, or stop you messaging your friends? They also have a list of national support services available. For more information click 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.*