

# SAFER SOMERSET PARTNERSHIP & DOMESTIC ABUSE NEWSLETTER

Winter edition



## UPDATES

### SAFER STREETS VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS (VAWG) CAMPAIGN



North Somerset and Somerset County Council are working towards an awareness raising campaign to tackle sexual harassment and violence against women. The campaign is aimed at changing perpetrator behaviour and start a conversation in society that challenges misogynistic attitudes and discourages inappropriate behaviour towards women and girls. There will be a dedicated campaign website, a video and several marketing activities to promote the campaign on announcement of its launch sometime during the end of January.

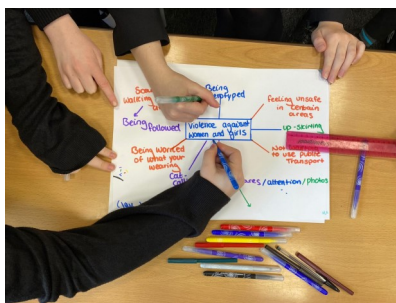
The neighbourhood councils have also been awarded funding to deliver a program of work across the areas to help respond and prevent violence against women and girls (VAWG crimes) in public spaces. As part of this work between now and March the University West of England have been commissioned to carry out research to understand what the experiences and impact of sexual assaults and harassment in public spaces are for women across North Somerset and Somerset and hearing their voice on prevention and change. The research items will focus on the root causes of fear of VAWG crimes and will include evidence that can help build a picture of experience, perception and approaches for change.

### AVON AND SOMERSET WEEK OF ACTION



During a week of action based around knife crime, Op Sceptre, the Somerset Violence Reduction Unit and local policing teams worked with the Banner van to deliver messages to the community around safety and how to get help for people they are concerned about. The banner van could be seen around the county in places such as Taunton, Yeovil, Bridgwater, Street and Frome amongst others. The engagement day was a great success with numerous pieces of engagement taking place and advice being given to lots within the community.

## SCHOOL INCLUSION ACTIVITIES



High schools across Somerset have been taking part in a series of free, interactive, creative media workshops as part of the latest public health approach to violence reduction from Safer Somerset Partnership.

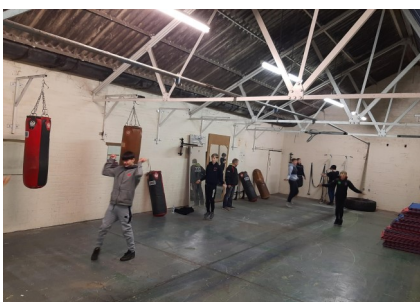
Students are being asked to make a short podcast or video that will help spread the word to their peers about one of Somerset's priority violence reduction themes.



The half-day workshops, delivered by educational media company Collaborate Digital, cover the most relevant and up-to-date facts, highlighting local case studies and the consequences for young people, their friends and family.

Suzanne Lawrence, deputy safeguarding lead at The King Alfred School Academy in Highbridge said "It was so interesting, it's a fantastic workshop, really brilliantly facilitated and we would welcome them back any time", while Jason Short, assistant principal at Preston School in Yeovil said, "I would like this to be across the whole year group to be honest!"

## ACTIVITIES LED BY SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNITY OFFICERS



A boxing club was set up in Yeovil as a way of diverting young people out of anti-social behaviour and crime. It made them feel they belong to a group, learn a new skill, help them meet new people and thereby help with their behaviour. It also gave these young people an opportunity to open up to the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) School Engagement and Community Officer and see them as a friendly individual and not just a uniformed officer.



One of the VRU School Engagement and Community Officer Claire Maidment did some engagement work with a young person whose mum provided some very positive feedback. The young person's

mother said that her son had turned his life around from being an angry, defiant child to now being positive and not getting into any trouble, she thanked Claire for all the help and support and said that it was so good that she had a direct contact in the police she could talk to and that the young people could approach and speak to if required

# DOMESTIC ABUSE NEWSLETTER

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## OLDER PEOPLE DOMESTIC ABUSE CAMPAIGN



Older people who are experiencing fear and harm from their partners, ex-partners, or family members were encouraged to seek help and support in a new Safer Somerset Partnership campaign launched this quarter.. The campaign is currently still going on with several TV adverts on Sky, social media and print adverts. If you want to know more about the campaign or about older people and domestic abuse, visit: [Older people and domestic abuse](#)

## MANKIND INITIATIVE—PATTERN CHANGING PROGRAMME FOR MALE SURVIVORS



01823 334244 - Helping men escape domestic abuse

ManKind Initiative are delivering a 9 week online Pattern Changing course via zoom for male survivors of domestic abuse funded by the Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner which will run until March 2022. For further

details [click here](#) or email [training@mankind.org.uk](mailto:training@mankind.org.uk)

## MARAC—CHANGES IN SOMERSET

The use of professional choices for MARAC in Somerset is ending soon. A new system known as "Manta" is being implemented instead.

This is a specially designed system for MARAC (created by a company called Footworks) and has been used in Cornwall for their MARACs for some time, which has led to significant improvements to the process. It's intended that it will bring similar improvements to our procedures. These should over time mean that as MARAC agencies you're able to contribute to the process more effectively, and reduce your own time spent. Ultimately bringing improvements for victims who are at high risk of harm.

If you are a representative you should have received information regarding training on the new system already, but if you've not, please email [communitysafetyteam@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:communitysafetyteam@somerset.gov.uk).

Read this interesting blog by Sharon Baker, Chief Inspector – Professional Standards Department & Domestic Abuse lead, Avon and Somerset Police on her experience of domestic abuse as a police officer and how she finally broke away. This hard hitting and inspiring piece of blog is a must read. [Click here](#) to read the blog.

## MARAC—SAFE LIVES PROJECT

Safe Lives are continuing with this project. A workshop was held 25.11.2021 for MARAC representatives and Domestic Abuse Board reps. A series of interviews have been completed with stakeholders, with more to follow.

As part of this they are keen to get the views of both victims/survivors of domestic abuse and also people who cause harm.

There is an anonymous online survey for completion by each of these groups:

[Victim/survivor survey](#)

[Those who harm survey](#)

## DOMESTIC HOMICIDE REVIEWS

In December 2021 a DHR was published relating to a victim known as "William". This was a joint review completed with the Dorset Community Safety Partnership. William was a 73 year old man who was murdered by his adult son.

Several recommendations were made as a result of this review and three key themes included:

Awareness of Familial Abuse —Increase public awareness of domestic abuse between relatives (and how doesn't just affect intimate partners.).

Sharing Information Across Geographical Boundaries — Agencies to be aware of necessity to share relevant information when they are aware of a perpetrator or victim moving.

Inclusion of GP's in MARAC —GP's to be enabled to be part of the MARAC process.

The report can be found online (case 026) at [Domestic Homicide Reviews \(somersetsurvivors.org.uk\)](#)

## ONLINE MODULES FOR DOMESTIC ABUSE AND MODERN SLAVERY



New free online resources are available for both professionals and the public to help spot the signs and reduce the risk of becoming a victim of domestic abuse and modern slavery.

This new range of online learning modules will give professionals further confidence on next steps and the help and support they can provide to victims. The public have free access to a set of modules providing guidance on recognising the signs of domestic abuse and modern slavery and what they can do to help.

To access the professional suite of modules, visit: <https://practitioners.somersetsurvivors.co.uk/> To access the learning

modules for public, visit: <https://training.somersetsurvivors.co.uk/>