



Welcome to the Somerset Domestic Abuse Newsletter – for anyone interested in tackling Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence in Somerset.

Please share this with your colleagues, at your team meetings and with local groups.

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Cyber Stalking and Abuse

Whether it is stalking through social networking, harassment through text messages, or humiliation through the posting of pictures or videos, technology is changing how people can abuse, harass and stalk others at the click of a few buttons.

Someone does not need to be near you to cause fear and harm.

The use of technology to abuse, harass and stalk people is becoming increasingly common. This can include:

- Aggressive and abusive text messages or bombarded with unwanted emails
- Abusive things written online
- Passwords stop working or keep changing
- Fake profiles set up in the victim's name
- Fake emails sent to people
- Items ordered on-line in the victim's name without permission

So what can be done?

The domestic abuse risk assessment encompasses stalking (remember it's called DASH - "domestic abuse, stalking and honour-based violence"!)

If you know someone aged 16 or over who's experiencing stalking then always consider completing a DASH and referring into our local service [SIDAS](#).

Additionally, you can get specialist stalking support and advice at the National Stalking Helpline <http://www.stalkinghelpline.org/>. Or for internet safety for children, visit www.thinkuknow.co.uk/.

Somerset Integrated Domestic Abuse Service

This service has had a busy first year and has worked with over 1,100 men, women and children in Somerset.

Although this is an increase on previous years for the numbers of people accessing support, we unfortunately know, this remains only a small proportion of the total number of people who are experiencing domestic abuse in the county. So it's important for professionals in all agencies to continue to look to spot the signs of abuse, and refer as appropriate to the Somerset Integrated Domestic Abuse Service (SIDAS).

As you may have heard, SIDAS has a "single point of access", so what does this mean?

To access SIDAS you either can telephone or email as follows:

- **Helpline – 0800 69 49 999** – available to all, 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 1pm Saturday and Sunday (These are **new** hours from 1.4.16)
- **Email – general enquiries** for professionals, friends, relatives and victims heretohelp@knightstone.co.uk.
- **Email – secure for referrals** from professionals here.tohelp@knightstone.cjsm.net.

Your call or email will be responded to by the SIDAS hub.

Remember – to send emails securely you must send from a secure email. If you don't have one, please ask your manager for advice or go to your agency MARAC representative who will have a secure email.

As a reminder, SIDAS can offer:

- Support to female **and** male victims of domestic abuse (1-2-1 and groupwork)
- 1-2-1 and groupwork support to children and young people affected by domestic abuse (male **and** female).
- 1-2-1 and groupwork to perpetrators of domestic abuse (male **and** female).

– also see the service access pathway on page 6

Domestic Homicide Reviews – Avon and Somerset wide Review

Somerset agencies have recently been part of an Avon and Somerset wide project to collate learning from the Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) that have been completed across Avon and Somerset in order to improve the safety of individuals affected by domestic abuse.

This found the following 5 main recurring lessons from the DHR's across the Avon and Somerset area:

- (1) **Communication** – ensuring more of the general public including diverse groups and friends, family or neighbours know about domestic abuse and how to access services
- (2) **Domestic Abuse Policies** – Not all agencies have fit-for-purpose policies
- (3) **Training** – Ensuring victims with multiple needs or who are male is included in awareness training
- (4) **Information Sharing** – Not all agencies completing DASH risk assessments, and assessments not always reflecting victims other needs (e.g. mental health, substance misuse, homelessness). Plus lack of knowledge regarding data protection or when information can be shared.
- (5) **Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)** – Inconsistencies in type of

referrals and attendance of agencies, plus action plans not always monitored at subsequent meetings.

A series of recommendations have been produced, and it is intended that a development group consisting of volunteers from across Avon and Somerset is established. If you are interested in seeing the report, or being part of the development group, then please email communitysafetyteam@somerset.gov.uk, we'd be pleased to hear from you!

National Updates

The Government recently published its new strategy to end violence against women 2016-2020. You can find this online at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/strategy-to-end-violence-against-women-and-girls-2016-to-2020>

As part of their strategy the Government announced that in 2017, they will also launch a dedicated Service Transformation Fund, to encourage new approaches, and establish and embed the best ways to help victims, and their families, and prevent perpetrators from re-offending. Details are yet to be published, but you can find this announcement online at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/80-million-to-stop-violence-against-women-and-girls>

Safe Lives also recently published their latest policy report "Getting it right first time".

<http://www.safelives.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources/Getting%20it%20right%20first%20time%20executive%20summary.pdf>

This focuses on the need to create a system to find every family as quickly as possible, and get the response right, first time, for every family.

Safe Lives suggests that all mainstream services must create an environment where any member of the family can tell someone about domestic abuse, and know that it will be acted on. And every professional should make identifying domestic abuse part of what they do, day-to-day – they should ask about domestic violence whenever they are worried about a family

New Government Campaign for Teenagers

The Government have recently launched a new '**Disrespect NoBody**' campaign aimed at 12 to 18 year old boys and girls with the aim of preventing them from becoming perpetrators and victims of abusive relationships by encouraging young people to re-think their views of violence, abuse, controlling behaviour and what consent means within their relationships.

Further information, including resources for professionals can be found at the new website www.disrespectnobody.co.uk

Editors Note: It's encouraging to see from these national policy updates that with both Somerset's interpersonal violence strategy and its integrated model for its domestic abuse service (SIDAS), that we are definitely on the right lines in achieving a modern fit-for-purpose way to support victims and survivors of domestic abuse!

Modern Slavery Latest News

If you know anyone who thinks that they maybe a victim of modern slavery, then the Home Office has produced a **new leaflet** available in several languages, which can be downloaded at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/support-for-victims-of-human-trafficking>.

Bristol charity "Unseen" have been chosen to operate a new UK Modern Slavery Helpline and Resource Centre, this will be operational later in 2016.

For more information Unseen's work please visit their website at <http://www.unseenuk.org/>.

Somerset Interpersonal Violence Strategy

Did you know that Somerset has a strategy covering domestic abuse and sexual violence? This is overseen by the Safer Somerset Partnership – a group of statutory organisations who work in partnership to tackle crime, disorder anti-social behaviour and to reduce re-offending.

This has four key themes:

- 1) Prevention – Training, Awareness and Early Engagement
- 2) Provision – of Quality Services for Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Victims
- 3) Partnership Working
- 4) Risk Reduction and Justice Outcomes

The Somerset Interpersonal Violence Strategy 2014-18 can be found online <http://www.somersetsurvivors.org.uk/information-for-professionals/>.

There are lots of actions that you can get involved with – for example, theme 1 (Prevention) has these aims:

- Aim 1) Organisations (private and public sector, charity and statutory, small and large) understand the impact that domestic abuse has on its workforce.
- Aim 2) Any professionals working with the public is able to identify the signs of domestic abuse and knows how to respond including referring into specialist services as appropriate
- Aim 3) Reduce number of younger people (aged 18 years and under) who think abusive behaviour or any intimate partner abuse is the “norm”, together with an increase in awareness that specialist support services are available
- Aim 4) Somerset communities can challenge myths surrounding domestic abuse, and sexual violence and to challenge perpetrator behaviour

These aims can be supported by all organisations and professionals. For advice on how you can get started in supporting the strategy, please email communitysafetyteam@somerset.gov.uk.

Do You Work With Survivors of Sexual Violence?

SARSAS offer a free, specialist, trauma informed, support service for people (13 years and over) who have experienced rape or any kind of sexual abuse at any time in their lives. Services include:

- Counselling
- One to one tailored specialist support
- Self Help Guides for survivors and the people who care about them
- Referral, advocacy and signposting services.

Web:	Email:	Women & Girls Helpline:	Men & Boys Helpline
www.sarsas.org.uk	support@sarsas.org.uk	0808 801 0456	0808 801 0464

New Report – Improving Access to Domestic Abuse Services Across Avon & Somerset for LGBT victims

In 2014, the Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner issued funding to Safer Bristol, to improve access to domestic abuse services in the region for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans (LGBT+) communities. This project was carried out by Next Link and the Diversity Trust, and included consultation and research with victims, survivors and professionals.

The report has made a number of recommendations, including that professionals in both specialist and generic services receive training to help improve the identification and response to victims of domestic abuse.

A new LGBT and DA course is being added to the regular county domestic abuse training plan, and the date for the first course will be confirmed soon. In the meantime you can find the report online at <http://www.somersetssurvivors.org.uk/information-for-professionals/>.

Upcoming Somerset Specialist Domestic Abuse Training Dates

Training Course	When	Venue
1 day Domestic Abuse: Identifying the signs and how to respond	12 July '16	Taunton

Training Course	When	Venue
½ day Refresher - Domestic Abuse: Identifying the signs and how to respond	16 June '16	Pilton

Training Course	When	Venue
Understanding and identifying Domestic Abuse in Teenage Relationships	15 June '16	Bridgwater

Training Course	When	Venue
Engaging Safely with Perpetrators of Domestic Abuse	7 July '16	Ashcott

For an application form and to book onto any of these courses, please email ASCLearningandDevelopment@somerset.gov.uk or visit www.somersetssurvivors.org.uk



Accessing the Somerset Integrated Domestic Abuse Service

Complete Safe Lives DASH Risk Indicator (RIC) Checklist

If unsure how, attend Somerset Domestic Abuse Training Course

For details, see page 6 of this newsletter

or email: communitysafetyteam@somerset.gov.uk

Medium Risk

(10 - 13 ticks or professional judgement)

High Risk

(14+ or professional judgement)

Refer to Somerset Integrated Domestic Abuse Service

(using referral forms online at www.somersetsurvivors.org.uk)

email:
here.tohelp@knightstone.cjsm.net

Refer to Somerset MARAC Operating Protocol

(Forward referral to your agency's MARAC Designated Officer who will consider for onward referral to MARAC and IDVA service)

email:
SouthernMARAC@avonandsomerset.pnn.police.uk
and
here.tohelp@knightstone.cjsm.net

To access the **Lifeline Programme** – support for people who want to change their abusive behaviour in intimate relationships –

Please use the Lifeline Referral Form that can be found online at www.somersetsurvivors.org.uk or for details, please email heretohelp@knightstone.co.uk

If you're not sure what domestic abuse service to access, please email heretohelp@knightstone.co.uk
(non confidential details only to this address)