Safer Somerset Partnership

Feel Safe, Be Safe

Somerset Domestic Abuse Newsletter

edition 9

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04 theBridge
here, no matter what

DOMESTIC ABUSE 05
It can happen to anyone

Knightstone
Somerset Integrated Domestic Abuse Service
REFERRAL FORM
Please return this form with your completed SAFELIVES DASH RIC to:
here.tohelp@knightstone.cjsm.net
07
you do not have access to secure email please contact us prior to submitting your re

REFERRING AGENCY INFORMATION	
Name of Referrer:	Date of Referral:
Agency Name:	Contact Details:
Self-Referral - Yes/No Taken by:	Other:
Service element referring to:	District:
☐ IDVA/High risk support	☐ Mendip
☐ DAC/ Medium risk support	☐ Sedgemoor
☐ Refuge/Safehouse	☐ South Somerset
☐ Family Intervention Worker	☐ Taunton Deane
☐ YPVA	☐ West Somerset

Produced by Somerset County Council
on behalf of the Safer Somerset Partnership

B3, County Hall, Taunton, TA1 4DY

www.somersetsurvivors.org.uk
www.somerset.gov.uk

helping to keep you safe

Children Affected by Domestic Abuse

Between July 2015 and June 2016, there were a total of 809 children linked to high risk survivors of domestic abuse discussed at Somerset's Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences.

This is an increase on the previous year of almost 10% (740 children were known to MARAC in the period July 2014 to June 2015).

This of course is only the children of high risk domestic abuse survivors that we know about. We know from other data and needs assessments, that there are hundreds more children living in households where domestic abuse is occurring.

So it remains important for any professional working with families to consider domestic abuse, it can happen to anyone, in any part of the county.

If you haven't accessed training recently on how to recognise the signs and how to respond, then there are regular courses organised by Somerset County Council, upcoming dates can be found later on in this newsletter.

In the Somerset Integrated Domestic Abuse Service's Family Intervention Team, a new leaflet "Information for Parents and Professionals" has been developed. This provides you or your colleagues with a summary of how domestic abuse affects children, what the Family Intervention Team can provide, and how to access it.

For a copy of this and the accompanying leaflet for parents, then please visit Somerset Survivors or email communitysafetyteam@somerset.gov.uk

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GP Champions in Somerset

Did you know that there is an ever-developing network of GP surgeries across the county who have champions to help raise awareness of domestic abuse?

The GP champions project was developed here in Somerset, in order to help raise the profile of domestic abuse as a health issue, help GP's understand the systems for referral and services available to support patients.

Somerset Integrated Domestic Abuse Service's Natalie Giles is their "GP Champion Co-Ordinator" and has visited over 31 surgeries across Somerset in the first 18 months of the GP Champions project, with many of them now having a champion in post.

The purpose of the Champion includes them sharing their knowledge with other practice staff to raise awareness around domestic abuse and its health impact on victims and their families, helping to facilitate disclosure and being a point of within the practice and oversee all MARAC referrals.

Why champions?

Many Community Safety Partnerships across the UK have developed networks of "domestic abuse champions" in different settings, and if developed and co-ordinated effectively, they help improve the co-ordinated community response to domestic abuse.

If you work in a GP surgery and you don't yet have a champion, please email communitysafetyteam@somerset.gov.uk to find out how you can get involved.

International Men's Day Conference

Following on from the huge success of last year's Tackling Sexual Violence conference, this year the Safer Poole Partnership will mark International Men's Day with a conference on the theme of breaking down gender stereotypes and raising awareness of male victims.

The conference will take place on the morning of Monday 14th November 2016, 9am – 1.45pm in Poole, Dorset.

This is a ticketed event, but tickets are FREE.

For more information or to book your ticket, please visit http://poole-imd.eventbrite.co.uk

The deadline for booking tickets is Monday 31st October 2016.

Older Victim/Survivors

Women's Aid have now released a short film to raise awareness that domestic abuse happens to people of all ages. You can watch this powerful video at: (TRIGGER WARNING: You may find the content and language in this film upsetting) https://www.womensaid.org.uk/do-you-see-her/

Don't forget if you identify that someone over the age of 60 is a victim or perpetrator of domestic abuse, then the Somerset Integrated Domestic Abuse Service maybe able to help! So assess the risk and if the client meets the criteria, make a referral!

Female Genital Mutilation

The House of Commons Home Affairs Committee has produced a report looking at FGM, (click here to read).

This notes that Bristol has one of the highest incidences in the country.

FGM is an issue that also does affect women and girls in Somerset, so it's important that awareness of the signs and how to respond are known – particularly for health, social care and education professionals.

You can access free training via e-learning at https://www.fgmelearning.co.uk/.

CPS Prosecutions /Convictions Are Increasing!

The latest figures show that rape, domestic abuse and sexual offences now acount for 18.6% of the CPS's total caseload and the figure is increasing year on year. The CPS's annual Violence against Women and Girls report shows that rape, domestic abuse and sexual offences now account for 18.6 per cent of the CPS's total caseload and this figure has been increasing year-on-year. In 2015/16, the CPS prosecuted 117,568 defendants for all crimes grouped together as Violence against Women and Girls (VaWG).

More information can be found at: http://bit.ly/2cxRYy4

The Bridge Sexual Assault Referral Centre – Conference

16 November 2016

“Meeting the medical, psychological and social impact of rape and sexual assault: a biopsychosocial framework to promote long-term wellbeing"

Sexual violence is a systemic problem. Its causes and consequences challenge us to think about bodies and psychology at the individual and social levels. Professionals working in health, social care, education and other diverse settings are receiving increasing numbers of disclosures – and frequently feel ill-equipped to offer an adequate response.

This one day conference will explore how a biopsychosocial framework can help professionals and agencies to offer a joined up response that attends to the medical, psychological and social impact of rape and sexual assault.

This approach can ensure that we, individually, as agencies and as a society make it possible for people to speak when they have been abused and then offer a response that meets individual needs and promotes long-term wellbeing.

Who should attend:

Professionals working in health, social care, education or any other context where they might receive a disclosure of sexual violence.

Community and voluntary sector agencies delivering services to clients who may have experienced sexual violence.

Commissioners and policy makers.

Anyone interested in improving multi-agency pathways that better meet the needs of people who have been raped or sexually assaulted.

Time/Location: 9am registration for 9.30 start. 4.30pm finish in Bristol City Centre.

For More Information or To book: http://www.thebridgecanhelp.org.uk/professionals/

Domestic Homicide Reviews – Somerset Update

There are currently 4 published domestic homicide reviews online at www.somersetsurvivors.org.uk and there are a further 3 reviews pending approval by the Home Office DHR Quality Assurance Panel.

If you would like to know more about domestic homicide reviews and how they are being used to improve responses to domestic abuse in Somerset, then please email communitysafetyteam@somerset.gov.uk

New Somerset Domestic Abuse Publications!

Over recent months we've expanded our range of materials to raise awareness of domestic abuse and local support services. New materials include:

Staying Safe in Your Home
Polish translation of leaflet and poster
Lithuanian translation of leaflet and poster
Domestic Violence Protection Order leaflet

Other materials for you to use to raise awareness in your agency or to give to victims include: "business cards", discreet items for victims, pens, wristbands, leaflets and posters in English.

For more information and to order copies (where available), please email:
communitysafetyteam@somerset.gov.uk
or to download posters or leaflets, visit the Somerset Survivors website

We're excited to announce that the Somerset Survivors website is currently being revised and will soon contain lots more information that's easily accessible! .

New Drop-in for Male Victims of Domestic Abuse

Taunton-based charity, The ManKind Initiative, has launched a Monday drop-in service for male victims of domestic abuse in the county. The service, gives male victims the chance to talk about the domestic abuse they are suffering from and find out how they can safely leave their relationship.

Time: Every Monday (excluding bank holidays) 11am to 2pm (no appointment necessary)

Venue: The ManKind Initiative, Flook House, Belvedere Road, Taunton, TA1 1BT

New LGBT and Domestic Abuse Training Course

Following on from last year's Avon and Somerset wide research into improving access to domestic abuse services in the region for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans (LGBT+) communities.

A **new LGBT and DA course** has now been added to the regular county domestic abuse training plan, and the first training date is to be **Thursday 26th January 2017 at Long Sutton Golf Club.**

The course will be delivered by specialist trainers from The Diversity Trust, and places will cost just £50 per person.

Please note that in order to attend you must either have completed a Level 1 Domestic Abuse training course OR demonstrate substantial experience in working with domestic abuse victims.

To book, please complete the booking form available here or email: ASCLearningandDevelopment@somerset.gov.uk.

Upcoming Somerset Specialist Domestic Abuse Training Dates

1 day "Domestic Abuse: Identifying the signs and how to respond" (Level One)

19 January '17 (Yeovil)
8 February '17 (Taunton)

½ day Refresher - Domestic Abuse: Identifying the signs and how to respond (Level Two)

8 December '16 (Bridgwater)

Understanding and identifying Domestic Abuse in Teenage Relationships

9 November '16 (Bridgwater)
7 March '17 (Taunton)

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

How to Make a Referral to the Somerset Integrated Domestic Abuse Service

Complete Safe Lives DASH Risk Indicator Checklist (RIC)

If unsure how, attend Somerset Domestic Abuse Training Course
For details, see previous page of this newsletter

or email: communitysafetyteam@somerset.gov.uk

Medium Risk

(10-13 ticks 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

High Risk
(14+ or professional judgement)

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:
(1) SouthernMARAC@avonandsomerset.pnn.police.uk
and
(2) 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 more 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)