

Manchester Domestic Abuse Strategy Newsletter

Issue 9
March 2010

Welcome to the ninth issue of the Manchester Domestic Abuse Strategy newsletter, providing regular updates and information on the work being done across the city to end domestic abuse.

Tackling teenage domestic abuse – the Home Office campaign



The Home Office have released a campaign to tackle teenage attitudes towards abuse within relationships. The adverts are welcomed in light of the recent NSPCC study suggesting that a quarter of girls aged 13-17 had experienced physical violence from a boyfriend and a third had been pressured into sexual acts they did not want. There is also research reflecting that teenagers are more likely to view abuse as acceptable which is challenged by emphasising 'This is abuse' within this campaign. To view the adverts go to <http://thisisabuse.direct.gov.uk/?gclid=CN6Yqsz5xKACFQRslAodMzQXZw>

Report now available from the Taskforce on the health aspects of violence against women and children

You can view the whole document or click on the link to see the report from the domestic violence subgroup 'Responding to violence against women and children-the role of the NHS'. The domestic violence report includes many examples of national good practice, quotations from survivors and pages 43-45 details their high priority recommendations.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publichealth/Healthimprovement/ViolenceagainstWomenandChildren/DH_113753



The Manchester Candlelit Vigil

Manchester's Domestic Abuse Management Group sends a big thank you to

everyone who attended the December 09 candlelit vigil and especially to the young people from the YCSF project who made the lanterns. Cllr Sue Murphy is pictured in this photograph and led the group in 2 minutes silence

in respect of the 2 women who are killed every week in the UK and the many women who commit suicide as a result of domestic abuse.



Manchester runs domestic abuse campaign on Key 103 radio.

This campaign was organised by multi agency representatives of the Domestic Abuse Management Group who are continuing to work together to produce a Greater Manchester wide publicity campaign focusing upon the World Cup this summer. Research during the last world cup showed a spike of domestic abuse incidents after football matches particularly when England were playing and this is also related to increased alcohol consumption by fans during this time.

If you would like to work on this publicity campaign and have resource that you can commit then please contact SamPriestley@independentchoices.org.uk

Need publicity materials?

Manchester's Domestic Abuse Management Group provides free publicity materials for practitioners promoting the main helpline numbers in English and other community languages. Materials include posters and leaflets for men and women, victims and perpetrators. We have a limited supply of lip balms and a larger supply of barcode stickers. These last two items have the national domestic abuse helpline written next to the barcode. This is a subtle way of giving a survivor the helpline number without the risk of the perpetrator finding a domestic abuse card in her hand bag. Bar code stickers can be stuck on any inconspicuous item such as a diary, book, table lamp, mug etc.



If you would like to order supplies for your agency/team then please contact
angela.masterson@manchester.gov.

In Brief

Care? or Control?

Using personal experiences provided by AA group member Grace, Sarah Galvani asks how helpful AA/NA meetings are for women whose experiences of abuse have already left them feeling powerless, controlled and unworthy. This is a really interesting article – go to:

<http://view.vcab.com/?vcabid=eehSrarpSghrpi>

Police and Children's services responses to domestic abuse

NSPCC and the University of Central Lancaster have looked into 251 incidents of domestic abuse responded to by Police and Children's social services in two sites, one in the north and one in the south of England. Their report looks into the types of incidents reported, responses by statutory services and recommendations for improved practice. For more information go to

http://www.nspcc.org.uk/Inform/research/Findings/children_experiencing_domestic_violence_wda68549.html

A Domestic abuse resource for Trans people

The LGBT Domestic Abuse Forum, Greater London Domestic Violence Project and Barking and Dagenham PCT have produced a resource to assist Trans people experiencing domestic abuse:

http://www.gldvp.org.uk/module_images/DV%20Trans%20guide_FI



The PATHWAY project. Positive Action Through Health

In 2009 The Manchester IDVA service was commissioned by the Primary Care Trust to deliver the PATHway project which is a 2 year pilot at St Mary's Hospital. The service is provided by an Independent Domestic Violence Advisor based in the hospital setting and the project aims to improve the physical and mental health outcomes for women who are affected by domestic abuse and attending maternity and gynaecological services at St Mary's. The IDVA provides advice, advocacy and information on options to improve safety.

It's objectives are:

- To increase the numbers of women presenting at maternity and gynaecological services at St Mary's who are referred for domestic abuse advocacy services
- To improve the data monitoring of the prevalence of domestic abuse and of the service response at St Mary's
- To improve the safety of women and their children who have been referred to the service
- To enhance the competence of front line NHS staff in recognising and responding to domestic abuse
- To evaluate the impact of the service

PATHway learning in the first 8 months

- The service is highly regarded by women who suffer abuse and by the NHS staff who refer
- The majority of women suffering abuse feel safer
- Large number of cases – 88 engaged with the IDVA service in just 8 months generating 180 meetings and 429 phone calls to clients. 1 in 6 are under 20 years of age.

A Student midwife commented: *"Women are more likely to disclose information to a professional who is independent from social services. They need a lot of support. Also midwives and student midwives need support and advice when they are dealing with issues around domestic violence, and this (IDVA) provided..... It would be good to have a second IDVA at St. Mary's".*

Important info regarding your personal medical history

The Department of Health is currently sending mail shots to people living in some areas, informing them of 'changes to your health records'. These changes have implications for protecting confidentiality for victims of domestic abuse. Practitioners may wish to inform clients that If they want their medical records to stay confidential to their current GP practice, they can opt out by asking their GP to put a 'stop order' on their record using the opt out letter produced by <http://www.TheBigOptOut.org/optoutletter>.

Safety4sisters North West

Safety4sisters North West was set up in November 2008 following the Women's Domestic Abuse Helpline's 30 year anniversary celebration, when a group was formed to identify and start work on the problems that women in Greater Manchester were facing in accessing basic human rights to safety, and support if they were in or leaving abusive relationships but had immigration issues.

The group identified 5 main groups of women as being vulnerable to being left with the "choice" of staying in the violent relationship or facing deportation, destitution and street homelessness. These women who cannot access housing benefit, or are "no recourse" are;

- women on visas,
- failed asylum seekers who have been made destitute,
- women who have been trafficked,
- women not able to access housing benefits due to habitual residence rule (European women)
- women with no immigration status.

Safety4sisters believe that these women are not always getting services to secure their safety that are available to British women; they are often disappearing after being sent from one service to another; are often being given the wrong advice; and as the most vulnerable women are being left to find their own way out and left with stark choices of; violence /destitution or detention/ deportation.

Safety4sisters aims to raise awareness of the problem and be a forum for workers in related fields to discuss problems on the ground around supporting these women, sharing information on service provision that is available and being developed, and legal updates etc. Safety4sisters also is set up to campaign for more resources and a for the human rights of these women to equal safety and to support services. Safety4sisters is also trying to evidence the problem and is currently running a questionnaire for voluntary and statutory services to see if the women are being identified or recorded at all and if they are what level of advice or service they are receiving. It is vital that these questionnaires are filled help in identifying the problem and to campaign for more resources for women and for training and support for workers .

The next meeting of S4S NW is **Monday 26th April- 10am, at room 9030, level 9, town hall, extension, St Peter's Square.** If you would like a copy of the questionnaire or the leaflet or would like to come to the next meeting please email: **safety4sisters@googlemail.com**

Manchester Practitioner's Forums



Manchester holds free biannual forums inviting all front line practitioners who work to support women who experience domestic abuse to network, be refreshed and updated. Evaluations from the last practitioner's forum held in February 2010

were overwhelmingly positive. The day looked at what services and legal options exist for women experiencing domestic abuse who have no recourse to public funds or state benefits.

Women Asylum seekers together (WAST) raised £94.57 from the raffle and £20 in book sales and send a big thank you to all who contributed. WAST can provide further training if agencies would like this and can be contacted on: wastmanchester@yahoo.co.uk

A practitioner's guide to assisting women with no recourse to public funds was produced by WAST and the PDF version is on the www.endthefear.co.uk website for you to download.

We will be holding another two practitioner's forums later this year hopefully in a bigger venue as we do not want to have to turn down applications again. The themes and dates have yet to be arranged but we will notify you as soon as they are confirmed. Forums are generally held in September and February.

Looking for training resources?



Check out the 'Leaving' DVD available on www.socialfilmdrama.com

or if you would like training materials on mental health and domestic abuse there are excellent materials on anxiety, post traumatic stress disorder, self esteem and others by Dr Roxane Agnew-Davies c.psychol AFBPsS on www.dvtltd.com



Who steers the work on domestic abuse at a strategic level in Manchester?

Manchester has a Domestic Abuse Management Group (DAMG) chaired by the Head of Crime and Disorder- Maureen Noble. On this group senior representatives from 21 agencies sit to discuss the strategic plan and services across the city. Not every agency in Manchester has their own representative but some members for example from the voluntary sector work to represent their sector as a whole. The work is brought together by the Domestic Abuse Coordinator for Manchester, Sarah Khalil. Sarah also organises the practitioner's forums and liaises with key individuals to ensure that your voice and survivor's voices are heard and fed through to DAMG. To answer the headline question – in Manchester we work together to steer the work on domestic abuse.

What has DAMG achieved over the last financial year?

DAMG has made numerous achievements as a collection of organisations over the last year. These include:

- Supporting the Women's Aid and DAWES (domestic abuse women's employment support) conferences
- Providing Sanctuary Scheme free of charge to give survivors a choice of how to stay safe
- Refurbishment of Manchester Women's Aid accommodation
- Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) PATHway project
- The specialist domestic violence court (SDVC) now runs trials as well as first appearances and guilty pleas.
- IDVA have increased support to the SDVC and MARAC
- MARAC has split into 3 divisions and referrals have increased from an average of 30 to 75 per month over the last 6 months

- Part funding of the Women's Domestic Abuse helpline
- The production of a multi agency e learning package on domestic abuse
- Domestic Violence Enforcement Campaigns by GMP have led to extra arrests and specialist follow up for victims.
- We provide free publicity materials
- Saheli has run a support group for women with no recourse to public funds called Parosan
- We provide Manchester's endthefear.co.uk website.
- IDVA PATHway and Forced marriage work.

What are DAMG's priorities for 2010/2011?

Our final delivery plan is near completion and includes:

- The Greater Manchester wide publicity campaign
- Refreshing Manchester's Domestic Abuse Strategy
- Developing a Children's strategy

integrating both preventative and supportive work within a Think Family format

- Developing data recording and a set of service standards
- Developing training standards
- Looking at the quality and accessibility of services for survivors of domestic abuse

who are at greater risk of being subjected to domestic abuse or at increased risk of serious injury and mortality

- Developing shared risk assessments and referral processes with a central referral point
- Monitoring and Improving the effectiveness of the

criminal justice response

- Quality assuring Manchester's MARAC
- Exploring the options for funding a voluntary perpetrator programme for Manchester.

For further information contact sarah.khalil@manchester.gov.uk

Are you referring domestic abuse perpetrators to anger management? Then stop!

In Manchester we do not currently have a voluntary perpetrator programme which often poses a problem for front line practitioners working with families. This is one of the Domestic Abuse Management Group's priorities to look into this year. Voluntary perpetrator programmes are not available in every area of the country but perpetrators can ring the Respect phone line on 0845 122 8609 to find out where their nearest programme is and to talk to a trained advisor. Respect have produced a series of accreditation standards and our recommendation would be to only refer a perpetrator to a Respect accredited service. This ensures that perpetrators attend programmes supported by a women's safety service, that have safeguarding policies in place and are a minimum of 60 hours contact with the perpetrator amongst other important standards.

Anger management is not recommended for perpetrators of domestic abuse as it can make them more controlling of their victim and does not challenge their behaviour.

Whilst counselling services including alcohol and drug support agencies can assist in part they are not likely to change a perpetrators violent and controlling behaviour in full.

For more information visit www.respect.uk.net



Aretta for women



Aretta is a peer support and campaigning organisation for female survivors of sexual violence based in Greater Manchester and is currently in its formative stages.

We Believe:

- That giving women who have experienced sexual violence the chance to campaign against the injustice they have suffered aids their recovery by giving them a constructive way to use their anger about their experiences and helping them to find the answers they need.
- That women benefit from peer support

from women who have experienced sexual violence themselves.

- That survivors are empowered when they find they are in a position to support other women who are dealing with the traumas of rape and sexual assault.

- That, having experienced sexual violence and having had their autonomy stripped of them, survivors should be empowered by Aretta and always have their thoughts and ideas about the service and campaigns heard and appreciated.

Get Involved!

We are looking for inspirational women with ideas, motivation, experience and a desire for change.

We are recruiting management committee members, campaigners, befrienders and general support.

If you are able to commit to volunteering any of your time or if you work for an organisation which would benefit from working with us, we want to hear from you!

Rose Hastings and Louise Bond

Email:

arettaforwomen@live.co.uk

Tel: 07540541046

Manchester Drug and Alcohol Strategy Team Publications and Training

The Manchester Drug and alcohol strategy team provide free colour publications which detail drug and alcohol services. In partnership with the Life line project they also provide basic drugs and alcohol training. Contact p.james7@manchester.gov.uk for a booking form and for a list of training charges.

TRAINING

Greater London Domestic Violence Project

training includes specialist domestic abuse training in the following themes:

- Drugs and alcohol
- Children and young people and
- mental health.

For further information visit:

MSCB training

Manchester Safeguarding Children's Board run free training covering many safeguarding topics including domestic abuse.

For more information log on to the MSCB website
<http://www.manchesterscb.org.uk/prof-training.asp>

PUBLIC POLICY EXCHANGE

Title: Working in Partnership to Safeguard Young People: Preventing Forced Marriage

Date: Tuesday 25th May 2010

Time: 10.15am – 4.30pm

Venue: One Whitehall Place, Westminster, London

For more information visit:
<http://publicpolicyexchange.co.uk/events/AE25-PPE.php>

The Write Way 4

Day-to-day recording, court reporting, plain English, serious case reviews, assessments, care plans, person-centred recording, hearing the voice of children, families and service users – we have them covered. Again we have booked all the top expert authors and trainers in effective recording and writing – just waiting to share their knowledge, thoughts and tips with you.

Writing and recording has always been central to social care. Training in the areas of writing and recording is often not seen as a priority because we can all write can't we? But time and time again inquiries into social care point to either a lack of communication or poor quality communication at the heart of the problem. Make no mistake, writing is a skill. And like any skill – the more you practice and the more you learn the better you can get. Our nationally acclaimed experts, including authors and trainers, will show you how to write and record effectively.

To book: <http://www.rightthing.co.uk/booking.html>
(and scroll down the event menu)

Our dates for 2010 are:

Derby: **Wednesday 2 June**

London: **Thursday 23 September**

Opening the can of worms – safely

Embrace is the Alcohol Concern children, families and domestic abuse project. They are running a series of workshops throughout the UK. The Manchester workshop is fully booked however for more information or to receive their excellent newsletter please contact embrace@alcoholconcern.org.uk

Housing quality network (HQN) run over 50 training courses and 70 events each year. Topics include management skills, presentation and communication skills, anti social behaviour, housing law, benefits and can be accessed from <http://www.hqnetwork.co.uk/training>



**Sherwood
Associates**

Women's Housing Action Group

Empowerment through support

5th May 2010

**Kershaw Centre,
Deal Street, Bury
Bury, BL9 7BZ**

**Places: £90 per person
including lunch**

**To book, email:
wendy.stringer@whag.info**

Breaking the cycle: using civil and criminal remedies to protect women from violence

1 Day Training delivered by Rights of Women.

No Recourse? EEA national? Overcoming the barriers"

Rights of Women will be delivering a 1 day course, in Manchester on 12th May

For more information on costs etc:
Email training@row.org.uk website
details are: www.rightsofwomen.org.uk

Domestic Violence - Risk Identification, Assessment & Management This two day course builds on background theory to provide a practical skill building approach to work around risk. It combines factual content with interactive learning. This course will be appropriate for frontline practitioners working with domestic violence from both the statutory and voluntary sectors and is especially suitable for workers from the Police, Probation, Health and Children's Services. **25 and 26 May 2010** Sovereign South and West, Woodlands, 90 Bartholomew Street, Newbury, RG14 5EE Cost £195 or £175 (voluntary sector)

Breaking Free and Sherwood Associates are running a 1 day training course on 'Sexualisation in Our Society - What it Really Means for Young People Today'. This course is particularly relevant for workers in light of the recent publication of the Sexualisation of Young People report. The course will be held on the **5 May 2010** at the School of African and Oriental Studies in London. (Please see attached flier) There are still places available. The cost is £130 or £105 (voluntary sector) but there is a reduction available if more than 1 person books from an agency.

Breaking Free and Sherwood Associates are running a 2 day training course on **Sexual Violence** on the **27 and 28 April 2010** at the School of African and Oriental Studies in London. (Please see attached flier) There are still places available. The cost is £225 or £195 (voluntary sector) but there is a reduction available if more than 1 person books from an agency.

Contact: pat.wallace@breakingfree.org.uk or call 07709 982755 for more information.

'Child and Family Training'

is a non-profit organisation working to promote evidence-based assessments and interventions with children and families. Arnon, Liza, Professor Tony Cox, Stephen Walker and others, were funded by the Department of Health to develop a range of evidence-based assessment tools with associated training programmes to assist practitioners and clinicians using the Assessment Framework. These assessment tools are recommended in a range of Department for Children, Schools and Families guidance and procedures relating to children and families.

For information on training subjects, dates and costs go to:

<http://www.childandfamilytraining.org.uk/>

VACANCIES

manchester
women's aid

Manchester Women's Aid provides refuge accommodation to women and children and outreach services in the community to those experiencing domestic abuse. We have the following posts available and invite you to apply to become part of our organisation.

Outreach Service Manager

To ensure MWA achieves excellent standards in community based support for those affected by domestic violence through the effective leadership

and strategic management of the service
Salary NJC Scale PO 33 – 37 per annum
(35 hours per week)

(Available until March 2012 pending further funding)

Community Language Outreach Worker

To provide advice, support and information to those affected by domestic violence in the community.

(Urdu, Punjabi and Hindi languages desirable)
Salary NJC Scale 25 (£21,519) per annum

This is a 12 month contract covering Maternity Leave

Refuge Worker (North)

To provide high quality housing support to women & children seeking refuge protection from domestic abuse. Salary NJC Scale 25 (£21,519) per annum

This is a 6 month contract covering Maternity Leave.

City Wide Domestic Violence Pool Workers

To provide relief cover for frontline staff in their absence, on an ad-hoc basis as & when required, to assist project managers to provide support using key work system. Please send a CV & cover letter.

Wage: £8.00 per hour

Work will be offered to you on an "ad hoc" basis as and when there is work to be done. You are free to accept or decline such offers of work and should you be successful in being considered for this position then for the avoidance of doubt you should be aware it does not constitute a Contract of Employment

Call **0161 660 7999 ex 207**

or email info@manchesterwomensaid.org for an application form, job description & person specification

Closing Date **4pm on 6th April 2010**

Interviews week beginning 19th April

The above posts are open to women only and are exempt under the SDA Act 1975, section 7, (2) exemption.

Funded by Supporting People Manchester and Big Lottery

If you or someone you know needs help, contact:

- Manchester Women's Domestic Violence Helpline 0161 636 7525
- National 24 hour Helpline 0808 2000 247.
- Help for Male Victims 0808 801 0327.
- Advice for perpetrators can be found from Respect 0845 122 8609.
- In an emergency call 999.