

Manchester Domestic Abuse Strategy Newsletter

Issue 1
October 2007

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

Get active to stop violence against women

The White Ribbon Campaign (WRC) is positive action organised by men working to end men's violence against women. Wearing a white ribbon is a personal pledge to oppose violence against women.

Ribbons are worn for two weeks by both men and women, from November 25th, the International Day Against Violence Against Women to December 10th – International Human Rights Day.

During this period activities are organised to publicise these '16 days of activism'.

The WRC is already active in

Manchester. A benefit student night was held at K2 organised by MMU Students on Sept 30th.

Last year's supporters of the campaign included the managers of Liverpool and Manchester City Football Clubs.

For more details visit www.whiteribboncampaign.co.uk/.

Activities planned for Manchester's '16 days of Activism' in addition to the white ribbon campaign include the Saheli Women's Aid launch of their research - 'Forgotten Women'. This looks at work with survivors with no recourse to public funds. Cllr Sue Murphy

and Caroline Marsh, Chair of the Domestic Abuse Management Group will be key note speakers.

The DAMG is also hoping to have a till receipt publicity campaign in two stores during the 16 days of activism to promote services available for survivors.

"Violence against women persists in every country in the world as a pervasive violation of human rights and a major impediment to achieving gender equality."

-In-Depth Study on All Forms of Violence against Women: Report of the Secretary-General, 2006

More than a place to sleep

Women experiencing domestic abuse need more support than just a safe place to spend the night. In this regular article we will tell you about the City's domestic abuse support services.

Central Manchester Women's Aid has been in existence since 1974 providing safe, temporary accommodation and support to women and children experiencing domestic abuse.

There are four projects currently operating – Resettlement, Outreach, Children & Families and the core project of the Refuge.

The refuge is an attractive, purpose built house developed in 1988. It is a spacious building with pleasantly decorated and furnished rooms, including two fully fitted kitchens. There is also a

communal laundry, lounge, bathrooms and showers and well equipped indoor and outdoor play areas.

The Resettlement project has played a particularly important role the past three years in helping women and children to recognise that they are allowed to develop their own interests.

Some of the activities taking place this year have included forming a walking and swimming club, growing herbs and vegetables, African drumming, international cook and taste days, massage and reflexology and drama workshops. Also, the Children & Families project provides a weekly crèche, out of school clubs, holiday play schemes and a family drop-in service.

The Manchester Crime and Disorder Partnership defines domestic abuse as any incident of threatening behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional) between people who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender. This includes forced marriage where one or both parties do not give consent to a marriage.

IN BRIEF**New DVD for survivors**

A new DVD has been produced by the Home Office for survivors of domestic violence. The 15 minute DVD shows the experiences of six survivors of domestic violence and how some of them used the civil law to get protection. It shows how the family court process works, leading to the granting of a non-molestation or occupation order. You can order your own copy by calling 0870 241 4680 or by emailing homeoffice@prolog.uk.com quoting ref DVL-DVD. accompanying leaflets is available in several languages.

Extra protection

Extra protection for victims of domestic violence came into effect on 1st June allowing them to vote whilst keeping their details anonymous on the electoral register. <http://www.dca.gov.uk/legist/electadmin.htm>.

New guidelines

The Government launched new guidelines for health care professionals when dealing with cases of forced marriage. For further information visit <http://www.wired.gov.net/wg/wg-news-1.nsf/lfi/147712>

Diary date

The Domestic Abuse Practitioner's Forum will be held on Wednesday 5th December 2007 from 10am-4pm. Further information will be emailed out in the next few weeks.

Manchester Women's Domestic Violence Helpline needs your help

The Manchester Women's Domestic Violence Helpline was founded in 1978 as an organisation run by women, for women who are experiencing or have experienced domestic abuse or whose children are being abused.

The service offers advice, information telephone counselling and support. They are able to act as a referral point for refuges, safe houses and other agencies that assist women.

The Helpline can access refuge provision for women across the North West. Opening Hours are Monday - Friday 10am - 4 pm excluding bank holidays and there is a Community Helpline Language

Service for Urdu and Punjabi speakers Monday & Tuesday 10am - 1pm & Wednesday 1pm - 4pm.

The helpline number is **0161 636 7525** and they can be emailed on wvdh.info@virgin.net.

The Women's Domestic Violence Helpline is a small not-for-profit organisation and needs financial donations to run the service.

All enquiries regarding volunteering or donations should come through the Helpline telephone number or via email. Cheques can be sent to their registered office: PO Box 390, Greater Manchester.

Dedicated courts increase guilty pleas and reduce stress for victims

In January 2007 Manchester Magistrates Court began domestic violence sessions three mornings a week.

Specially trained magistrates hear the cases in the courts, with experienced prosecutors presenting the cases along with domestic violence officers available to provide police evidence.

The aim is to increase the number of prosecutions as well as reduce the stress on victims by enabling cases to

be fast tracked through the system.

The increase in guilty pleas and the reduction in discontinued cases prove the benefits of the new court.

Everything goes

The Irish Association Social Club in Chorlton will be hosting a fundraising event with live entertainment on Saturday October 13th, 730pm. Proceeds to Central Manchester Women's Aid Refuge.

Management group implements domestic abuse strategy

The Domestic Abuse Management Group (DAMG), chaired by Caroline Marsh, Director of Adult Services, meets bimonthly to oversee the implementation of the Domestic Abuse Strategy across the City.

The multi-agency group consists of chairs of the five subgroups - together with officers from Government Office North West, the Community Safety Network, the PCT, housing and Cllr Sue Murphy.

Manchester's Domestic Abuse Strategy was launched in February 2007 and its key objectives are to support and protect adult survivors of domestic abuse, to deal with perpetrators, to support and

protect children and young people affected by domestic abuse and to prevent future domestic abuse.

Each subgroup has priorities of action set for the year which they report on to DAMG.

Civil and Criminal Justice Subgroup priorities include evaluating the work of the Integrated Domestic Abuse Programme (IDAP), considering the feasibility of setting up a Voluntary perpetrator programme, increasing reports of domestic abuse, reducing the number of repeat victims, evaluating the work of the multi-agency risk assessment conference, supporting the dedicated domestic violence court and planning domestic violence enforce-

ment campaigns. The group is chaired by Superintendent Catherine McKay of Greater Manchester Police.

The recently formed **Communications Subgroup** is jointly chaired by Juliet Appleby and Dave Toomer from Manchester City Council's (MCC) Press Office. Their remit includes publicising new events, publishing this newsletter, working on the redevelopment of the End the Fear website and ensuring that survivors, children and perpetrators are aware of services available for them.

The **Training subgroup**, chaired by Sally Hunter (MCC) organises the Practitioner's forum (one is being planned for December 5th 07), have set quality guidelines for the commissioning and delivery of domestic abuse training, are looking the possibility of e learning programmes and aim to get domestic abuse training provided across all the sectors.

Jane Johnstone (MCC) chairs the **Accommodation and Support Subgroup**. Their work plan includes the establishment of an Independent Domestic Violence Advisory service (IDVA) for Manchester, looking at refuge service and provision, Sanctuary Schemes and Routine Enquiry.

The **Children and Young People's subgroup** is chaired by Nicola Avery (MCC). Their priorities for 07/08 include examining the findings of Serious Case Reviews, launching an education pack for Manchester's Secondary Schools. Recently the Children and Young People's Multi Agency Domestic Abuse Protocol was signed off by Manchester's Safeguarding Children Board. The subgroup is now working on the dissemination of this protocol

Sanctuary scheme provides security

In Manchester, the Sanctuary Scheme is run by Manchester City Council in collaboration with the Safe Partnership, who install the security measures.

Manchester has higher than average rates of homelessness due to domestic abuse - nearly 29% compared with the national rate

of 13%.

This project is an effective method of allowing survivors and children to stay in their own homes if they wish and if it is safe to do so.

To make a referral contact 0161 234 5328.



MARACs make an impact

Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences aimed at reducing future harm to very high-risk victims and their children are having a real impact since they were introduced more than 12 months ago

The monthly meetings have helped reduce repeat victimisation.

MARAC members include domestic violence advisers, representatives from homeless families, children's social services, mid-

wifery, probation, drug and alcohol services, education, police, and health.

The meeting is jointly chaired by police and probation and sees 15-20 new cases and discusses over 30 current cases a month. Any agency can refer high risk cases into MARAC - you can contact the Domestic Violence Team in the Public Protection and Investigation Unit to discuss your referral or to get a referral form on 0161 856 3541.

TRAINING

Manchester Safeguarding Children's Board

Training available in:

Safeguarding Children: an Introduction to Child Protection

Case Planning

Introduction to Case Conferences and Core Groups

Child Sexual Exploitation

Neglect

Substance Misuse and Parenting

Working with Resistant Families

Learning from Serious Case Reviews

Safeguarding Disabled Children

Email sue.shorrock@manchester.gov.uk for more details and an application form.

Forced Marriage Training
Wednesday October 17
9.15am - 4.30pm
at Victoria Mill, Manchester
contact
victoria.willshaw@manchester.gov.uk (0161 2033200)

Training swap shop

Are you a domestic abuse trainer? Please could you email your details to s.khalil@manchester.gov.uk so we can keep you in the loop. The Training Subgroup will be organising a Training Swap Shop looking at the materials and visual aids available to trainers which you may never have seen before...You will be invited to come along and bring the materials, visual aids or activities you use and see what else is available for you. Date to be confirmed.

Conferences

Repeat Victimisation Conference

Wed 17th October 10am - 330pm at West Yorkshire Police Training School, Wakefield. The conference will provide a platform for the latest developments in RV research and show how the methodology can be put into practice. For booking/information call 07764 196 576. £150.

5th Annual Domestic Violence Conference

Preventing Domestic Violence: Challenging Public Attitudes and Changing Behaviour
 In association with Refuge
 Thursday 29th November 2007.
 Cavendish Conference Centre, London. For more information go to <http://www.neilstewartassociates.com/li262/>

Over the last three years, **Talk..Don't Walk** has reduced the number of runaways in Warrington from 1235 in 2003 to 297 in 2006, an overall reduction of 76%.

The relationships centre are hosting two FREE briefing sessions on working with runaways including lunch on:
 Tuesday 9th October 2007 - 11 till 2
 Thursday 25th October 2007 - 11 till 2
 to be held at The Gateway, Sankey Street, Warrington
 PLACES ARE LIMITED SO BOOK TODAY BY CALLING 01925 246910.

This is your newsletter and we welcome your feedback and contributions. Let us know what you think and what you would like included in the next issue. The deadline for articles for the next issue is 30/11/07. Email d.toomer@manchester.gov.uk or j.appleby@manchester.gov.uk.

Corporate Alliance

Is your business a member of the Corporate Alliance Against Domestic Violence?

The Corporate Alliance Against Domestic Violence is a group of businesses working together to address the impact of domestic violence in the workplace.

Domestic Violence currently costs UK business over £2.7 billion a year and affects many of your employees and colleagues.

Their mission statement is to: "Raise awareness and reduce the human and economic impact of domestic violence through taking action in the workplace."

Draft employee policies are available on the website.

More details can be found at <http://www.corporateallianceuk.com/home.asp>.

Membership of the alliance requires a donation to a Domestic Violence Helpline.

The Domestic Abuse Management Group requests that donations are made specifically to the Manchester Helpline detailed above.

If you or someone you know needs help, contact: Women's Domestic Violence Helpline 0161 636 7525 10am- 4pm (Urdu and Punjabi spoken Mon&Tues 10am-1pm and Wed 1pm -4pm. 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.