



# Domestic and Sexual Abuse Newsletter

## December 2023

Hello and welcome to the final edition of the Doncaster domestic and sexual abuse newsletter for 2023.

This newsletter is designed to keep you up to date with local, regional and national information about domestic and sexual abuse.

Please share with colleagues and if this email has been forwarded to you and you want to subscribe please email [Sophie.bishop@doncaster.gov.uk](mailto:Sophie.bishop@doncaster.gov.uk)

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### The end of another busy year!

What have we achieved? Here are just some of the highlights that we have seen throughout this year. 😊

2023 Calendar	JANUARY	SIX new Domestic Abuse Charter Certificates awarded to local organisations	FEBRUARY	Power to Change Course started by the Domestic Abuse Caseworkers at Doncaster Council	MARCH	We reached 1,000 domestic abuse pin badge wearers across a wide range of agencies	APRIL	Doncaster Housing for Young People achieve Charter Status
	MAY	Two new domestic abuse survivor groups started for LGBTQ+ and neurodiverse survivors	JUNE	Launch of the domestic and sexual abuse toolkit for educational establishments	JULY	Domestic abuse protocol refreshed and launched & Safe at Home scheme launched	AUGUST	Survivor Liaison Annual Report published & Sign Health delivered to DA professionals & Changing Lives Netreach project launched
	SEPTEMBER	Multi agency practitioner event held & DRASACS secure funding for sexual abuse victims	OCTOBER	Cranstoun deliver training re: working with perpetrators & Many agencies deliver October DA Awareness month campaigns	NOVEMBER	Domestic abuse survivor survey launched & Agencies deliver White Ribbon and International Day for the Elimination of VAWG events	DECEMBER	Watch this space for the launch of a new Sex Work Film and Domestic Abuse Film

*Thank you to everyone who works so hard to make such a difference to victims and survivors of domestic abuse*

## Super Safeguarding Award Winners!

Caitlyn Porter and Sean Humphrey, the Domestic Abuse Liaison Officers at DBTH, have won a Safeguarding Award at the Doncaster Partnership Safeguarding Awards!

The duo joined the Safeguarding Team in March and April 2023 as part of the

funding supplied by the South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner.

The team won for their efforts in helping those affected by domestic abuse, raising awareness of the issue, and implementing initiatives for the service.

Denise Phillip, Head of Safeguarding, said about their achievement for the above award:

“In this short amount of time, Caitlyn and Sean have made a significant impact on supporting the domestic abuse agenda. They provide support to patients and colleagues and have raised awareness and implemented several initiatives. The time they provide to support patients and colleagues has greatly contributed to keeping patients and colleagues safe, identifying risks, and referring to Domestic Abuse Hub or MARAC (for cases of high-level risk) to support the disruption to the Domestic Abuse cycle and ensure support is coordinated.”

**Well done Sean, Caitlyn and the DBTH Safeguarding Team !!!!!**

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## **New domestic abuse survivor drop in sessions**



domestic abuse service, will be running weekly sessions in Doncaster town centre. This is a service run by survivors of domestic abuse who aim to help people thrive after abuse, feel more confident, feel less isolated and more supported, and maybe make friends along the way.

The sessions are 10am till 12noon every Monday morning, in a safe and friendly environment. Free Refreshments.

Venue: Doncaster town Centre - 3 Prince's Street, Doncaster, (the corner building next to Changing lives).

For more info please email Kirsty, Survivor Liaison Worker at City of Doncaster Council domestic abuse service: [Kirsty.gleadon@doncaster.gov.uk](mailto:Kirsty.gleadon@doncaster.gov.uk) or [survivors@doncaster.gov.uk](mailto:survivors@doncaster.gov.uk)

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## **Domestic Abuse Easy Read Published**

A new Doncaster domestic abuse easy read guide aimed at people with learning disabilities has now been published.

Research tells us that people with learning disabilities are considerably more likely

to experience abuse, yet often our literature is often not suitable to meet their needs. It is hoped that this guide can be used by professionals to help explain what domestic abuse, how to get help and how to keep safe.

The guide has been produced by City of Doncaster Council Learning Disabilities Team, RDaSH and Healthwatch, with extensive consultation with partner agencies who are specialists in working with people with learning disabilities.

In addition, the Doncaster Council Domestic Abuse Team has undertaken learning disabilities training to ensure that they are better prepared to support people with learning disabilities when they are referred into the service.

## **Domestic Abuse Easy Read Guide**

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### **MARAC Representatives and Chair Training**

If you are a MARAC representative or Chair in Doncaster there is now new training to support you in your role. The training gives MARAC representatives information about the process, roles and responsibilities, the MARAC Operating Protocol and changes that are being implemented as a result of a recent independent MARAC review.

The training will take place on 19th February 2024 and 18th March 2024. The training will be held in person at the Civic Office, Waterdale, Doncaster. The training will start at 9.30am and finish at 1pm. Before booking a place please ensure that you have completed your Domestic Abuse Awareness training first (within the past three years): [Domestic Abuse - Training - City of Doncaster Council](#)

To book a place on the MARAC representatives training please contact [Sophie.bishop@doncaster.gov.uk](mailto:Sophie.bishop@doncaster.gov.uk)

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### **Please promote - Survivor Survey**

Survivors of domestic abuse are being asked to share their experiences and insights to help future victims of domestic abuse.

A survey produced by the Council's Domestic Abuse Survivor Liaison Service aims to truly understand the experiences of Doncaster people that have gone through domestic abuse, identify good practice, and listen to people who know better than



anyone else how we can improve. We have already received 70 responses but we want to hear from even more people.

Please share information about the survey far and wide and also facilitate feedback where possible, particularly for people who might need help with the English language, reading, using technology etc.

If you would like printed copies of the survey or translated versions please email: [laura.bunting@doncaster.gov.uk](mailto:laura.bunting@doncaster.gov.uk)

### **Survivor Consultation**

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## **How to Deal With Compassion Fatigue: 3 Mindset Shifts to Help You Feel Better**

Does your work involve caring for or supporting others? If you're exposed to other people's suffering on a regular basis, you're at risk of experiencing compassion fatigue, also known as secondary traumatic stress (STS) and vicarious trauma. Common signs include:

- A sense of hopelessness
- Decreased ability to empathise
- Irritability and impatience
- Decreased productivity and job satisfaction
- A reduced ability to feel pleasure
- Trouble sleeping
- An urge to isolate yourself from others
- Self-doubt and reduced self-esteem
- Signs of anxiety such as breathing difficulties, muscle tension and digestive problems

There is a really useful article from The Wellness Society with a Professional Quality of Life Scale Screening test and three mindset shifts to help you feel better.

### **Wellness Society Compassion Fatigue**

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## **The Big Ambition Survey for Children**

The Children's Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza, has launched The Big Ambition, a national survey of children and young people across England.

The Big Ambition aims to hear from children across England on what they think is important! In the lead up to the next General Election, the Children's Commissioner wants to take children's thoughts, opinions and ideas to decision-makers, to make sure that the Government hears young people's voices on what they think needs to be done to make children's lives better in England.

The Big Ambition survey will be open until Friday 15th December.

### [The Big Ambition](#)

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## **Domestic abuse in England and Wales overview: November 2023**

The latest set of figures on domestic abuse from the Crime Survey for England and Wales, police recorded crime, and other organisations have been published

Main points:

- The Crime Survey for England and Wales estimated that 2.1 million people aged 16 years and over (1.4 million women and 751,000 men) experienced domestic abuse in the year ending March 2023.
- There was no significant change in the prevalence of domestic abuse experienced in the last year compared with the previous year.
- The police recorded 889,918 domestic abuse-related crimes (excluding Devon and Cornwall) in the year ending March 2023, a similar number to the previous year.
- There were 51,288 domestic abuse-related prosecutions in England and Wales for the year ending March 2023, compared with 53,207 in the year ending March 2022.

### [Office of National Statistics DA report](#)

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## **Hear ME Research Report**

The Hear ME research report by AVA (Against Violence and Abuse) aims to raise awareness and provide better understanding of mothers' experiences of adult child to parent abuse (CPA).

The report explores the experiences of abuse, the journey in accessing support and identifies clear recommendations for change to improve responses and outcomes for mothers and families facing this form of abuse.

[Hear ME Report](#)

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## **Domestic abuse hub – Christmas opening times**

The Doncaster domestic abuse hub will be open over Christmas with the exception of the bank holidays.

Closed Monday 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> December.

Open as usual from 9am – 4.30pm on 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> December.

Closed Monday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024

Back to normal on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2024

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## Merry Christmas and a happy new year

Phew! What another busy year.

At the start of this newsletter I highlighted some key events and pieces of work that partner agencies have achieved throughout the year. This is wonderful work and I am eternally grateful to everyone involved in domestic and sexual abuse and safeguarding.

I also want to pay tribute to those of you that work behind the scenes. You might not be the ones in the photo's or receiving an award, but without you the work wouldn't get done. You are an absolutely vital part of the systems that prevent and protect people, and are deserving of recognition.

Every day there are hundreds of professionals that 'just get on with it' and we don't always stop to recognise and celebrate what an achievement it is to just get through the day sometimes when you are dealing with huge demands and trauma, let alone the difference you are making in people's lives.

Please stop for a moment and give yourself permission to praise yourself for what you have achieved. And remember to thank other people too – we all need a little praise in our lives. 😊

Thank you all for everything you do.

*Wishing you all a very merry Christmas  
and a happy New Year.*

Karen Shooter, Domestic and Sexual Abuse Service Manager, City of Doncaster Council

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## In the News

[Jade's Law to be introduced to better protect children](#)

The Victims and Prisoners Bill will be amended so parents who kill a partner or ex-partner with whom they have children will automatically have their parental responsibility suspended upon sentencing.

[One in three women sexually harassed while commuting by train or Tube, survey reveals](#)

Unacceptable behaviour such as leering, catcalling, touching, pressing, upskirting or indecent exposure is being experienced by women more than ever, with 51% of female victims stating that other rail passengers intervened to try to help.

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## For more information about:

- [Sexual abuse - Doncaster Council](#)
- [DRASACS](#)
- [Services for victims and people who are abusive](#)
- [Domestic and sexual abuse training for practitioners](#)
- [The domestic abuse protocol](#)
- [Digital copies of leaflets and posters and how to order hard copies](#)
- [Details of Domestic Homicide Reviews](#)
- [Survivor stories](#)
- [The MARAC](#)
- [The Doncaster Domestic Abuse Strategy](#)

and much more, visit the Doncaster Domestic Abuse website:

[www.doncaster.gov.uk/domesticabuse](http://www.doncaster.gov.uk/domesticabuse)

**You can also follow us on Twitter: @NoToDomAbuse**

**Newsletter produced by Karen Shooter, Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategic Lead, Doncaster Council.**

If you would like to include an article in a future edition please email:

[Karen.shooter@doncaster.gov.uk](mailto:Karen.shooter@doncaster.gov.uk)

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