



Domestic and Sexual Abuse Newsletter

March 2024

Hello and welcome to the Doncaster domestic and sexual abuse newsletter.

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

You can also email Sophie if you would like to unsubscribe.

NO MORE Week

The 11th annual NO MORE Week is from 3rd - 9th March, 2024.

Launched in 2013, NO MORE Week is an annual, international opportunity to come together to raise awareness of domestic abuse and sexual violence, inspiring individuals, organisations, and communities to make change.



Ways to get involved:

- Display leaflets and posters about domestic and sexual abuse and the support available
- Put links to useful information on your website
- Run a campaign/awareness session
- Raise funds for your local voluntary domestic abuse service (Phoenix Women's Aid) or sexual abuse service (DRASACS)
- Promote the South Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit 'Every Man Can' campaign
- Complete domestic and sexual abuse training
- Promote or [Sign up for Ask for ANI or the Safe Spaces scheme](#)
- Share this newsletter with colleagues

[Sexual abuse - City of Doncaster Council](#)

[Domestic Abuse - City of Doncaster Council](#)

[Domestic abuse - Information for professionals - City of Doncaster Council](#)

<https://southyorkshireviolencereductionunit.com/every-man-can/>

Reclaim the Night

Reclaim the Night is an event that has been organised to celebrate the achievements of women and empower women to walk through the city centre.

The event will take place between 6pm-7pm on Friday 8th March, meeting at the Mansion House entrance (Mansion House will be lit up in purple). Tealights will be available and there will be walk to Sir Nigel Gresley Square.

There will be inspirational speeches by women.

Reclaim the Night Doncaster

International Women's Day
Friday 8 March 2023

All are welcome for Doncaster's first Reclaim the Night event. Meet at 6pm at the **Mansion House, 45 HIGH ST, DN1 1BN** for Doncaster's first Reclaim the Night walk.



Non-Fatal Strangulation clinical guidelines launched

The Institute for Addressing Strangulation (IFAS) has recently published the first set of UK clinical guidelines for non-fatal strangulation.

Non-fatal strangulation poses significant health risks, including strokes, nerve damage, and psychological harm.

IFAS has collaborated with major royal colleges and associated professional groups to develop comprehensive guidelines for the clinical management of non-fatal

strangulation, aiming to provide victims with optimal care promptly and mitigate potential harm.

[Non fatal strangulation guidelines](#)

Additionally, IFAS have also now published their Domestic Homicide Review Reports Series.

[Strangulation DHR Reports](#)

Register to vote anonymously

If you register to vote your name and address will be on the electoral register. This can pose a significant safety risk for victims of domestic abuse.

If you think your name and address being on the electoral register could affect your safety, or the safety of someone you are supporting, you can register to vote anonymously.

This means you will still be able to vote, but your name and address will not be on the electoral register. Your electoral registration office will not disclose your details to anyone, unless they are legally required to.

Anonymous registration only lasts for one year, so you must reapply each year. Your electoral registration office will contact you when it is time for you to reapply.

[Register to vote anonymously](#)

Rape Review Progress Report

The Rape Review Action Plan commits the Criminal Justice System (CJS) to a conscious reversal in the trends following 2016, more than doubling the number of adult rape cases reaching court by the end of this parliament.

While many actions in the plan have been completed, there is still more to do to ensure that the actions are having the impact they need to. The Government has therefore extended the Action Plan to December 2024.

[Rape Review Progress Report](#)

Sexual assault victim and survivor survey

As part of Operation Soteria Bluestone, victim-survivors of rape and sexual assault are invited to take part in an anonymous national online survey about their experience dealing with the police.

South Yorkshire Police now has the second highest number of responses out of all police forces in the country. There is still time for victim-survivors to take part in the survey, open until July 2024.

The survey is designed to help understand how the police process feels to victims of rape and sexual assault. Findings will be used to help police forces nationally to improve victim support and better understand people's experiences of reporting sexual violence.

It is open to those over the age of 18 who are the victim of rape or sexual assault where the case is being investigated by a police force in the UK. Investigations can be at any stage – following the initial report, ongoing, or finalised.

It aims to give voice to victims with all views and experiences, both positive and negative. It can be completed more than once, either about the same case if experience has changed, or about a different case.

[Operation Soteria Bluestone Survey](#)

Journey through the Children's SARC

The Children's SARC (Sexual Assault Referral Centre) is part of the Safeguarding Support Unit at Sheffield Children's Hospital.

They provide a child and adolescent friendly environment for 0-16 year olds from across South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw who have been victims of sexual assault or rape.

Forensic examination can be carried out by specially trained doctors in our forensic examination suite. They are also able to make recommendations for ongoing services and support as appropriate.

The SARC has produced a really useful short film about the children's SARC to reassure service users, evidencing very clearly a consent driven service which is supportive, empathetic and professional.

Journey through the SARC

New statutory aggravating factor for sexually violent homicides

The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) has announced that a new statutory aggravating factor will be brought in for offenders who cause death through abusive, degrading or dangerous sexual behaviour.

It builds on the prohibition of the “rough-sex” defence through the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

This means that killers are handed down tougher sentences than ever before.

Tougher sentences for sexually violent killers

In the News

[Zero tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation](#)

There are currently 24 FGM protection orders in place in South Yorkshire to safeguard women and girls who are at risk of FGM.

[South Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit launches new campaign to tackle Violence Against Women and Girls](#)

Developed alongside campaign agency Magpie, Every Man Can aims to highlight the role men can play in tackling this issue.

“By promoting positive male role models and behaviours, we hope that this campaign can generate momentum behind this issue, and help to shift the longstanding social attitudes which contribute to Violence Against Women and Girls.”

[Forced marriage cases will stay 'underground' after law change](#)

Survivors of forced marriage fear cases will remain underground, despite a new minimum-age law designed to crack down on children being married.

It comes after the minimum legal marriage age in England and Wales was increased from 16 to 18, in 2023.

[Know your rights as a victim](#)

The Victims' Code explains the rights that everyone can expect to receive as a victim of crime.

Whoever you are and whatever the crime, you have the right to be informed about the criminal justice process and the support available.

Criminal justice agencies are responsible for making sure that victims receive the rights in the Victims' Code. You can expect them to tell you about your rights as you go through the criminal justice process.

[Delivery of support in domestic abuse safe accommodation: annual progress report 2022-23](#)

The Government has produced its second overview of outcomes in relation to the provision of support for victims of domestic abuse and their children in safe accommodation (which are now statutory duties for Local Authorities following the Domestic Act 2021).

In 2022-23, local authorities in England reported that there were 50,670 instances of individuals supported in safe accommodation, of which 21,170 were children. Individuals were supported most often in refuge (44%) and sanctuary schemes (26%). However, the landscape of commissioning is changing, and dispersed accommodation (13%) is now the third highest type of commissioned service.

During this same period, local authorities reported 24,580 instances where a household was referred to a safe accommodation service, but the service did not support the household.

[Fears over 'hidden' domestic abuse](#)

Fears that cases of domestic abuse are being under-reported in an area of Barnsley are set to be tackled thanks to a support service's new charter.

The campaign - spearheaded by Barnsley-based Independent Domestic Abuse Service (IDAS) - was launched after data showed that the charity receives far fewer referrals for support from Penistone residents than other local areas.

[Child maintenance enforcement to be sped up, government says](#)

Parents who refuse to financially support their children face quicker penalties under government plans, it has been announced.

Ministers say enforcement times will be cut from six months to six weeks.

The government confirmed a £20 application fee for parents seeking intervention when maintenance is not paid will end.

[Domestic abuse services 'at risk of disappearing'](#)

Urgent action is needed to protect domestic abuse services as the local authority financial crisis 'spirals out of control', the domestic abuse commissioner has warned.

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

You can also follow us on Twitter: @NoToDomAbuse

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