

More good news for Devon:

## **Two new Specialist Domestic Violence Courts agreed by Home Office**

Devon can now boast 3 specialist domestic violence courts thanks to the recent partnership efforts of adva, HM Courts Service, Crown Prosecution Service, Police, Magistrates, Probation, Social Services (CYPS), Torbay Community Safety, Victim Support and Women's Aid.

Two SDVC Operational Groups submitted applications and were interviewed by Home Office and national SDVC leads before being formally accredited as SDVCs in North Devon (Barnstaple Magistrates Court) and South Devon/Torbay (Torbay Magistrates Court). This success means better integrated working between agencies to speed up the prosecution process; better support to the victims of domestic abuse going through the criminal justice system leading to increased safety and a reduction in withdrawals from the system; and more successful prosecution verdicts.

Each court will hold special domestic abuse sessions at which independent domestic violence advisors (idvas) will attend, supporting the victim, to provide their expertise and knowledge relating to their client's case. Successful accreditation means that these specialist idvas, employed by Women's Aid, will continue to receive Home Office funding, matched by adva, for three years.

This is great news and builds on the existing success of Exeter SDVC which has been in operation since 2006 and which is seen as one of the leading pilot SDVCs nationally. For more information about the courts: [www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/dv/dv018.htm](http://www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/dv/dv018.htm)

## **Home is where the hurt is**



Does this 'image' work for you? We'd like to hear your comments on this artwork and will be asking for your views in

forthcoming editions on proposed enhancements to the 'marketing' of the issue of domestic abuse within Devon.

KOR communications are working with adva to devise a marketing campaign in 2008-9. The purpose of this campaign is to reach the public in Devon who do not know about the support services that exist and to increase the public's knowledge of and engagement in tackling domestic abuse. Give us your views? What would you like to see adva do in 2008-9? [info@devon.gov.uk](mailto:info@devon.gov.uk)



## Daphne II

European Commission project

Adva has just completed its two year involvement in a European project which part-funded Devon's Community Perpetrator Programme 'REPAIR' in North Devon (resolved to end power and abuse in relationships).

Devon joined forces with colleagues in Sweden (Karlstad's public health authority), Austria (Gratz's men's project working with perpetrators of domestic abuse) and Hampshire (Hampton Trust's work with children and young people).

What are the benefits of being part of a European project? These are manifest and varied. Not only have we learned that our northern European colleagues have vastly superior laws protecting victims (e.g. Austria's 'Stay Away' order which mandates perpetrators are removed from their home for a minimum of 9 days whilst the support services to victims and children move in) but that domestic abuse is seen more as a health issue rather than a

crime reduction matter. Sweden's legal framework respecting the rights of children and 'no smacking' laws also lend weight to a public that is intolerant of violence and abuse. Austria's government support Men's Centres where the issue of men's health and violence are brought together and detailed psychological assessments undertaken to inform appropriate health and wellbeing interventions. Sweden's town of Karlstad boasts a central and well publicised Safety Centre into which the public 'drop in' with their crime issues – including domestic abuse... 700 domestic abuse drop ins during one year. The atmosphere is relaxed and supportive, co-run by statutory and voluntary agencies.

So whilst funding isn't the primary motive for engagement with our wider Europe although it helps, of greater significance are the contacts we make with colleagues working in the same field from whom there is much to learn.

Roll on Daphne III! To see the adva team in action in Sweden view:

[www.preventabuse.eu/](http://www.preventabuse.eu/)

## SEEDS Devon:

# Report on Police Training

I am sitting in my car, Rose my colleague, is having a last puff of her cigarette. I think we are both feeling a little nervous, but also very confident.

Coming towards us, are two Police officers. Rose jumps into the car and we wait. What are we doing? Well, we are going to talk at a Police Community Training Session.

We were made very welcome by the Police Officers. We told them that we were members of SEEDS, and what SEEDS stood for. As SEEDS members, it is a great opportunity to talk about how we feel the Police can help us and how we can help them. We told them a bit about our very different stories, they listened to us. Then they asked lots of questions afterwards, and showed a lot of interest.

One of the issues raised was, that when the Police attend a DV incident, they are sometimes called away quickly to another incident. Having experienced DV in the past, on the last occasion, the women Police Officer stayed behind for ten minutes, on her own. She was straight speaking and asked me why I was letting this man do this to me? Did I think so little of myself? Why? When she went, I think for the first time, I started thinking that maybe it was not a good way to live, especially as I had two children at home. I would like to say, I chucked him right out there and then. It took a little longer, but we did separate soon after, which I partially put down to that Police woman and some direct speaking.

*Local Swedish pupils' drama production, in English, portraying the 'masks' people hide behind, as perpetrators, victims and children, living with domestic abuse*



cont. over...

So one of the outcomes was that the Police said they would try to spend more time with victims and provide more information about support and options available.

The number of officers attending was seventeen. **Some feedback from the Police:** All 17 said that SEEDS involvement helpful and interesting. 15 said they would look at their work, or tackle something different as a result of working with SEEDS. 11 said they would try to spend more time with victim, provide more information about support and options available to them.

I said if double-crewed with a female officer would try to engage with the victim. I mentioned the issue of uniforms being intimidating to some people and was going to be aware of this issue. I did mention wanting input about male victims.

**Quotes from Police:** "appreciated insight from real survivors; first hand experiences invaluable; finding out what had / had not helped dealing with Police; open and honest discussions; provide more time on non-crime domestic attendance; look out for the signs; this would be useful for service officers as well as student officers; any education from firsthand experience is useful – particularly the psychology of the survivor."

Kathy

## Local area agreement and adva budget

The Local Area Agreement (LAA) may seem a distant and unnecessary aspect of work on domestic abuse, but its importance to how local government and its partners work should not be under-estimated.

In case you don't know anything about it here in a nutshell are the core aspects of LAAs: ● It is part of the new working arrangements between Government and local partners; ● Long-term LAAs will be key way in which local area targets and performance are agreed and monitored by Government; ● Each county or unitary authority will have to agree the contents of their LAA by June 2008 for a three year period up till 2011; ● The LAA has to include up to 35 areas for performance improvement with targets.

The critical importance of LAAs can be seen from this in identifying

the major aspects of local partnership work that will drive core work. Domestic abuse work has been included within our LAA with the target being to focus on the work of MARACs. In identifying the 35 targets we have to draw from what are known as National Performance Indicators (NIs). Like some other areas we have used the NI 32 "Reducing repeat victimisation for those DV cases being managed by a MARAC".

This indicator is of particular importance as it focuses on the most at risk DV cases where it is essential all partners work together to safeguard victims and their children. With the establishment of the four area based MARACs in Devon we now have full geographic coverage. The challenge for the LAA and associated practice is that our preliminary monitoring of performance against the NI shows quite wide variations in the levels of repeats. We need to work with Police and all partners to iron out these discrepancies and then establish a regular performance monitoring process to ensure consistency and that we achieve our targets. We will be doing this over the next few months and hope that by end June the baseline and target improvements will be agreed with Government and that MARAC practices are set on a more

consistent level.

Allied to performance is the issue of adva budget. Final decisions on partner contributions to this budget have not yet been finalised. Indications are that there will be a significant reduction in allocation from the LAA funding but that other partner contributions will be agreed soon. This is significant as the key service that SDP funding supports is the IDVA service to MARACs. Given our soon to be concluded LAA it is vital that we retain and seek to expand the IDVA service to MARACs as their success is completely dependent on this. Clearly any reduction in IDVA service would have a major impact on MARACs and would undermine the LAA.

Aside from this delay the overall adva budget for 2008/9 has been significantly bolstered by an additional revenue allocation of £281,000 from Devon County Council. This marks a significant and welcomed recognition of adva work from DCC and has given us a secure budget for provision of the core service adva has been putting in place over the last few years. If we could secure a similar commitment from the other statutory partners within adva then all the current core service – including IDVAs – would be on a sound footing.

# ASK – Domestic Violence Health Project in Devon

Three surgeries in Devon (Mount Pleasant Medical Centre in Exeter, Holsworthy Medical Centre and Leatside Surgery in Totnes) are participating in a one year pilot project, funded by adva.

The project is to raise awareness, within GP Practices, of the scale (and thus cost) of domestic abuse and to provide on-site support for victims/survivors.

All three practices have received full training on DV awareness and routine enquiry and by the end of January 2008 went 'live' with practice nurses and nurse practitioners asking their patients routinely if they are experiencing domestic abuse. The nurses at Mount Pleasant Medical Centre have agreed to ask male patients as well as female patients.

The project is already proving to be a success: In total 372 patients were asked, 34 patients have disclosed domestic abuse and 19 patients have taken up the offer of being referred to the Health IDVA. Out of the 19 referrals 7 cases were risk assessed as very high risk and referred to MARAC (figures are from 18th March 2008). Mount Pleasant Medical Centre shows to have the lowest disclosure rate, which could be related to a proportion of the patients being asked the DV questions being male.

It's no small challenge for the Health IDVA to be situated at each surgery one day each week but this allows survivors of domestic abuse to access support in a safe way. It also acts as a reminder for the nurses to keep up the routine enquiry.

Fantastic news is some patients who were referred to the Health IDVA had previously not wanted to engage with support services and now felt enabled to do so. It could be suggested that having been asked and referred by a health practitioner might take away the stigma of being a victim of domestic abuse.

The next step in driving this project forward and making it even more successful will be to get GPs on board and encourage all GPs at the three surgeries to ask their patients about domestic abuse.

## News updates:

### Home Affairs Committee

...is calling for more programmes to help men before they commit domestic violence. Respect is delighted that the Home Affairs Committee have listened to the evidence that Respect has given to them. The Home Affairs Committee Chair Keith Vaz has now called for more domestic violence perpetrator programmes. Channel 4 ran a special feature on this issue.

To view this report:

[www.channel4.com/news/articles/society/antidomestic+violence+drive/1861047](http://www.channel4.com/news/articles/society/antidomestic+violence+drive/1861047)

### Making the Grade 2007 published

The third annual independent analysis of UK Government initiatives on violence against women has just been published. The Government's overall score this year is a very disappointing 2 out of 10, the same as last year. The report welcomes initiatives such as Specialist Domestic Violence Courts and Sexual Assault Referral Centres but shows that the overall approach is patchy and mostly focused on the criminal justice system.

To read the report in full go to:

[www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk/documents/EVAW%20MTG%20UK.pdf](http://www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk/documents/EVAW%20MTG%20UK.pdf)

## ...News cont.

### GLDVP's new toolkit

#### **Domestic Violence and Faith: A Toolkit for Faith Leaders, Faith Organisations and Members of Faith Communities.**

The toolkit aims to provide the tools to:

- effectively and appropriately support those affected by domestic violence, and/or
- try to respond effectively to perpetrators, and/or
- address social tolerance of domestic violence.

This toolkit is available to purchase in hard copy (reduced rate for voluntary sector and faith organisations) and will soon be available to download from GLDVP's website.

For details:  
[www.gldvp.org.uk/C2B/document\\_tree/ViewACategory.asp?CategoryID=70](http://www.gldvp.org.uk/C2B/document_tree/ViewACategory.asp?CategoryID=70)

### New commitments to challenge sexual & domestic violence

#### **Home Office announcement of almost £1m new funding.**

The new funding to tackle domestic and sexual violence announced by the Home Secretary includes:

- £50,000 for Relate to equip 300 counsellors to respond effectively when victims of domestic violence come forward;
- £760,000 to continue funding the 38 Independent Sexual Violence Advisers being piloted across the country;
- £75,000 for Rape Crisis England and Wales; and
- £75,000 for The Survivors' Trust. 20 existing Sexual Assault Referral Centres have also been invited to bid for funding of £15,000 each. For more information [www.gnn.gov.uk/content/detail.asp?ReleaseID=358858&NewsAreaID=2&](http://www.gnn.gov.uk/content/detail.asp?ReleaseID=358858&NewsAreaID=2&)

### Substance misuse – Stella Project toolkit

#### **The Stella Project has launched the second edition of their popular toolkit.**

The new edition features further guidance for domestic violence and substance misuse practitioners on how to work with both survivors and perpetrators with problematic substance use.

For more detail and how to order click [www.gldvp.org.uk/C2B/document\\_tree/ViewACategory.asp?CategoryID=154](http://www.gldvp.org.uk/C2B/document_tree/ViewACategory.asp?CategoryID=154)

### Child Protection, Domestic Violence and Parental Substance Misuse:

#### **Family Experiences and Effective Practice.**

This book draws on a range of evidence to explore the relationship between substance misuse and domestic violence and their effect on children. Authors: Hedy Cleaver, Don Nicholson, Sukey Tarr, Deborah Cleaver.

Publisher: Jessica Kingsley, London, 2007, ISBN 9781 84310 582 4.

For further detail click [www.communitycare.co.uk/Articles/2008/03/12/107566/wider-effects-of-violence-and-substance-misuse-in-the-family.html](http://www.communitycare.co.uk/Articles/2008/03/12/107566/wider-effects-of-violence-and-substance-misuse-in-the-family.html)

### Physical abuse during adolescence:

#### **Gender differences in the adolescents' perceptions of family functioning and parenting.**

Presents findings from research into the relationship between physical abuse of adolescents and parenting by mothers and fathers and whether the association differs by gender. Publication Details: Child Abuse and Neglect Volume 32 Issue 1, 2008 pp 5-18. Authors: Sunday, Suzanne, and Labruna, Victor, et. al. For further details click [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/18082259?dopt=Abstract](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/18082259?dopt=Abstract)

# Events

## Day of Action on No Recourse to Public Funds

**23 April 2008**

Women who - due to their immigration status, or because they have been trafficked - have 'no recourse to public funds' find it increasingly difficult to escape abusive relationships and seek help. The Last Resort fund, which provided short-term funding to enable women with no recourse to access refuge services, is no longer available; and other potential sources of funding (e.g. through local authorities) is extremely difficult to access. The No Recourse Day of Action is confirmed as April 23rd 2008. For details on how to show your support click: <http://womensphere.wordpress.com/2008/02/23/abolish-no-recourse-to-public-funds-end-violence-against-women/>

## Standing Together introduces Co-ordinating the future:

A national conference for those delivering the co-ordinated community response to domestic violence.

**23 April 2008  
Imperial College,  
London**

The conference is a forum for shared learning; it is about like-minded people giving an insight into their experiences so that others can fit this knowledge into their own context.

To book email: [conference@standingtogether.org.uk](mailto:conference@standingtogether.org.uk) or tel 020 8748 5717.

## Do the Right Thing presents domestic violence and the arts

**April - June 2008  
London / Derby / Leeds**

An innovative series of touring national seminars and best practice workshops on domestic violence: • domestic violence and children • domestic violence and disabled people, mental health and addictions • domestic violence and black and minority ethnic communities • domestic violence and men: best practice workshop and a unique major national conference in Derby.

To book email: [right.thing@virgin.net](mailto:right.thing@virgin.net) or call 01332 780 096 or check their website nearer the event: [www.rightthing.co.uk/](http://www.rightthing.co.uk/)

## Fixing the roof conference

**21st May 2008  
9.30am - 3.30pm  
The Haven,  
London Road,  
Hemel Hempstead**

A free conference about perpetrators for professionals who want to find out what's being done and what should be done. Confirmed speakers are John Dunworth (Home Office), Neil Blacklock (Respect), Mark Coulter speaking about The Men's Coalition, Dawn Brooks (Herts Probation Service) and Amanda Copstick (perpetrator course trainer). Event will be chaired by Val Corbett, Dacorum Women's Aid.

For more details and a booking form email: [ddvline@hotmail.com](mailto:ddvline@hotmail.com) or [decorum.womensaid@virgin.net](mailto:decorum.womensaid@virgin.net)

## Violence Against Women Histories, Methodologies, Activism & Research

**30 May 2008  
10.30am - 6.15pm  
University of York**

A 1 day conference in honour of Jalna Hanmer. This event is part of the Centre for Women's Studies inauguration of a new MA in Women, Violence and Conflict, starting in October 2008. Confirmed speakers include: Prof. Liz Kelly, Prof. Jeff Hearn, Prof. Marianne Hester, Prof. Catherine Donovan, Prof. Jill Radford, Julie Bindel (journalist and activist) amongst others. Topics to be addressed include dv, rape in war, war crimes; men and violence, violence and representation.

Cost: £23.50. For details and to register click: [www.york.ac.uk/inst/cws/gsp/violenceconf.htm](http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/cws/gsp/violenceconf.htm)

## ...Events cont.

Next adva  
Partnership Meeting

**15th May**  
**9.00 am – 1.00 pm**  
**Ockment Centre,**  
**Okehampton**

If you would like to  
attend please contact:  
[janice.healey@devon.gov.uk](mailto:janice.healey@devon.gov.uk)  
or ring 01392 382233.

*Adva Partnership takes  
the issue of Domestic  
Violence and Abuse  
to Dartington,  
November 2007.  
A conference attended  
by nearly 200 people  
from all agencies  
in Devon'*



## Your Contribution...

If you'd like to contribute articles or news  
to this bulletin, please don't hesitate to get in  
contact. Your contributions are more than  
welcome! [info@devon.gov.uk](mailto:info@devon.gov.uk)

[www.adva.org.uk](http://www.adva.org.uk)

**adva**  
against domestic violence and abuse  
in Devon