

Update from Mid and East Devon forums

Following a meeting with the Mid Devon and East Devon Domestic Violence Forums, it was agreed that the two will merge in the near future.

Planning is already taking place for this year's Domestic Violence Awareness Raising Week in November, which will build on the success of recent years.

It is planned that this year's launch in East Devon will be at Axminster. This will more than likely take the form of a noisy march through the town followed by an official launch at the Young People's Centre in the town. No date has yet been set.

REPAIR 'event' held on 19 March 2009

Over forty five people gathered for a three hour 'event' in Exeter to hear about the success of the REPAIR programme in Devon (voluntary community perpetrator programme supporting the family).

A key aim of the event was to influence agency Chief Executive and senior manager staff to sign up to future sustainable funding of REPAIR's family intervention work.

Momentously the event was attended by men, women and a child who volunteered to tell everyone about their experiences: their lives of violence and suffering prior to the programme; the benefits of the programme and most significantly how radically their lives have improved as a direct result of being supported. One couple spoke of the agony of their twenty years of pain, psychotherapy, medication and electric shock treatment – none of which helped. REPAIR did. A teenager's emotions overcame her

seeing the powerful healing of other couples and wishing the same were true for her own parents. The 'audience' was touched, and adva will follow up discussions with Devon's Primary Care and Partnership Trusts, amongst other agencies, to see how further provision can be secured.

Government Office South West, the Home Office, a European Commissioned fund, Daphne II and adva have variously funded this important work over the last five years, and adva has committed to continue REPAIR in Exeter and North Devon areas (covering five districts) until end March 2010, with the hope that this event will have helped engage other funders to sustainably fund the work thereafter. In the South of Devon adva is exploring further options for family intervention and until July 2009 REPAIR will continue to operate.

The Executive Summary and Full Report of the three year Government funded work (Invest to Save) has just been published. Hard copies are available, on request, from dvinfos@devon.gov.uk or electronic versions from the adva website www.adva.org.uk

Home Office: Together we can end violence against women and girls – Consultation

This consultation sets out the action that the Government has taken to tackle all forms of violence against women and girls and looks at what else can be done to help them feel safer.

The proposals build on a programme of action to tackle sexual violence and transform the way the criminal justice system deals with domestic and sexual violence.

It includes a review into police powers for dealing with serial perpetrators of domestic violence and a review of the sexualisation of teenage girls.

The consultation will include public and stakeholder events in 40 towns and cities across England over the next nine weeks. The Home Secretary outlined plans to consult the public and key stakeholders on a wide range of issues including:

- tackling persistent perpetrators, including a review into what additional powers police and courts may need to control violent perpetrators- particularly serial offenders who move between relationships – led by Chief Constable Brian Moore, Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) lead on domestic violence.
- helping women feel safer when they travel, including a new website, enabling the public to report where they feel safe or unsafe and why; and the expansion of the Park Mark safer car parks scheme.
- A fact-finding review into the increasing sexualisation of teenage girls.
- establishing a new advisory group with a specific focus on how schools can prevent violence against women.

Deadline date: 29 May 2009.

For full consultation details and the various ways you can input, click [here](#).

Respect will be responding to this consultation. If Respect members would like to feed into our response please email your views to us as soon as possible, info@respect.uk.net

Respect Email Update, 19 March 2009

Research into the impact of domestically violent fathers on their children

Bristol University PHD student, Rebecca Barnes is conducting research approved by the Bristol University Ethics Committee.

The main aim of the research is to look at how children perceive their domestically violent father and whether this relates to their adjustment. The research will involve interviewing children and one or more of their carers about the fathers' parenting behaviour and the child's adjustment. Fathers will only be asked to participate when it is safe to do so.

Practitioners are needed to identify potential participants and disseminate information. This research may provide evidence to develop more services. For information email Rebecca.Barns@bristol.ac.uk

adva in the headlines

It really has been the case of “hold the front page” this year. Since we’ve been working with KOR Communications to raise our profile we’ve had a great deal of media attention from the local newspapers, television and radio stations.

The Employers launch in September 2008 was a great success with more than 60 representatives from Devon’s major public and private sectors attending. KOR Communications helped us set up the event, designed posters and leaflets and wrote a press release ensuring we got maximum press coverage. **BBC Spotlight** did a live piece on their lunchtime show as well as in the evening. **ITV Westcountry** did an item and there was an article in the **Express and Echo** and coverage on **Gemini FM, Exeter FM** and **Radio Devon**.

At the Employers launch a film we commissioned from KOR Communications called ‘Home is where the hurt is’ was shown. This film was produced to give an overview of how domestic violence and abuse affects a whole family. Some of the film was shown on **ITV Westcountry** prior to the launch itself.

The annual Domestic Violence Awareness Week in November 2008 attracted a lot of media interest. **BBC Spotlight** filmed the march in Exeter and Plymouth. The **Express and Echo** had articles about the march in Honiton and Exeter and the **North Devon Journal** covered the events in Barnstaple and Ilfracombe. **Gemini FM** also came along and interviewed Rachel Martin, a survivor and the Lord Mayor. KOR Communications wrote the press release, hired a marquee and organized a Christmas table to create maximum impact on Exeter’s busy high street. Lots of passers by stopped and were given leaflets and balloons all helping to raise the profile of adva and what we do.

Secret Rooms, a book of poems, was launched at the Phoenix Centre in Exeter in March 2009. Following up the press release that KOR Communications issued **Gemini FM** requested an interview with one of the poets, Dana Bagnall-Smith and Andy Stapley the day before the event. **Exeter FM** came along on the day and interviewed Tess Biddington, a poet and adva trainer, as well as Councillor Jill Owen. The **Express and Echo** ran a photo feature. Many poetry books were sold on the day with proceeds going towards Women’s Aid in Devon.



Perpetrators of domestic violence and abuse as well as survivors attended a ground breaking event in Exeter in March 2009 to highlight **REPAIR’S work in the county**. Invited guests from statutory agencies including the courts system, police and health service were invited. KOR Communications advised on media coverage and wrote the press release. They also helped set up a **Gemini FM** interview with one of the perpetrators and an **Exeter FM** interview with one of the REPAIR workers.

Finally, adva was featured in a special report on **BBC Spotlight** in March 2009 about the credit crunch and domestic violence. KOR Communications account manager Clare Gilbert worked closely with the BBC reporter and set up the filming with a perpetrator and survivor with help from REPAIR and Women’s Aid workers. The feature helped raise the profile of adva, REPAIR and how domestic violence and abuse affects the whole family.

Working with KOR Communications has certainly helped us raise our profile and inform people of what we do and the support that’s available in Devon. We are all looking forward to making even more headlines over the coming year.

LINX Project

adva is pleased to confirm that a new project that will work with young people living with dva is coming to the county soon. The project is the result of initial pilot work by the Hampton Trust, a voluntary sector dva provider in Hampshire, who adva worked with as part of our two year European Union Daphne project.

As a result of this collaboration we have been asked to work as part of a new four way partnership with Gloucester, Isle of Wight, and Hampshire in a three year Big Lottery funded expansion of the initial LINX programme.

The basis of the project is the provision of a 12 week group work programme for young people who are exhibiting or have been convicted of committing a violent offence and that they have experience of dva in their family. The name of the programme comes from its focus on helping young people make links between their family experiences and their current violent behaviour. It will be open to both males and females probably in the 12-15 year old age bracket. The programme has been developed with the help of young people so that it is interactive and responds to what fits and makes sense to young people. It will continue to evolve in its content and is flexible enough to accommodate varying skills, knowledge and attitudes.

The project has been run for over two years now in Hampshire working with 234 young people having been referred to it. Evaluation shows that it has been successful in helping young people understand the impact dva has had on them and how they can manage the consequences to restrain their own emerging violent behaviour. It was based on research in the UK and USA that shows 80-90% of young people who exhibit violent behaviour come from backgrounds where is present.

So this will provide another additional element to the overall work on dva in Devon. The project will be a joint venture locally between adva and the Youth Offending Service (YOS) who will host the county coordinator who will lead the project. Recruitment for that post will be starting soon with interviews and appointment by early Summer. It is hoped that by September the project will be up and running and more awareness and potential referral routes will be clarified. So watch this space for further news on the development of LINX.

adva budget

YET MORE GOOD NEWS. After many months of agony and much advocating by the adva team, the budget for 2009/10 has finally reached a successful conclusion.

Thanks in no small measure to Devon County Council who have increased their contribution to £890,000 the adva pooled budget for next year now stands at £1.24m. That means all the core services that are in the adva strategy will remain in place for the next two years. (For full details of the budget and what it will provide see the newly published "adva vision and strategy 2009-11").

Our warmest thanks go to the County Council for their continued and enhanced commitment to providing services to tackle dva.

But we cannot afford to rest on our laurels for too long as the longer-term sustainability of our core services is not yet there. Whilst the Police and PCT have also increased their support for next year the core budget remains some £300,000 short of what is needed to secure services beyond 2009/10.

So for now we can breath a sigh of relief and then re-build our strengths for the next push to obtain security of the minimum £1.3m annual budget adva needs to secure all our essential specialist dva services.

Men-Safe: Domestic Violence and Abuse service for men

In recent years it has become more and more apparent that there is a gap in domestic violence and abuse services for men.

Therefore Exeter, North Devon and South Devon Women's Aid are now in the process of developing a service for men who experience domestic abuse and violence. This service is called Men-Safe and is funded by adva. Three IDVAs for men across Devon will offer support, advice and advocacy to men, including risk assessment and safety planning. Men-Safe supports all men irrespective of ethnicity, culture, race, disability, and sexual orientation. Referrals will initially be taken from the MARAC. This process will be reviewed periodically and the service might in the future open up to direct referrals from agencies and to self referrals. The IDVAs will start taking referrals from 1st April. Men-Safe also offer advice and information to outside agencies that deal with men who experience domestic violence and abuse. For more information please contact Christine Fritsch (Exeter, East and Mid Devon, North Devon and Torridge) on 07966 967526, email: midva@exeterwomensaid.org.uk and Jade Freeman (South and West Devon) on 07917 106884, email: jade@sdwa.org.uk

MADA 2009

MADA is proud to announce that The Wedding Present will be headlining our 5th annual event on Sunday, 21st June 2009 at Exeter Phoenix. Support will be provided by Terry de Castro, bass player with The Wedding Present, and local 'battle of the bands' winners the Sonix.

Buy tickets online at: exeterboxoffice.com

Buy tickets online at: seetickets.com

Buy tickets online at: wegottickets.com

The Wedding Present are widely known as having been John Peel's favourite band and had the honour of playing at his 50th Birthday Party. In addition they have had a string of top 40 hits and notably, in 1992, equalled Elvis Presley's 35 year old record for most hits in one year by releasing a single every month. The bands first album, George Best, has been hailed by critics as one of the finest debut albums of all time.

Support on the night will be provided by the bands own bass player Terry de Castro and local North Devon based outfit – The Sonix, who supported Domestic Violence awareness week last year.

It should be a fantastic evening and we look forward to your support. Full details can be found on www.ma-da.co.uk



"We were thrilled to be asked to play MADA 2009. Domestic Violence & Abuse affects a complete cross section of society causing misery and suffering to thousands of victims across the UK. Music provides an excellent arena for raising awareness of issues that all too often remain hidden."

David Gedge (The Wedding Present)

SEEDS

SEEDS Devon is a group of female survivors of domestic abuse. We have been funded to be the voice of survivors across Devon and to work with agencies to improve service provision by giving insight into service users experiences. We are a small group at present but have recently recruited new members. It will take time for the new members to receive training and to be able to fully participate in our work with agencies.

During the past year we have made presentations to a variety of audiences including adva's Partnership meetings and the Children's Trust. We have started to regularly attend the Exeter and East Devon Domestic Violence forums, the BME Domestic Violence forum and the training and awareness group and have attended the police two day MACIE. Alongside this we have recently been requested to produce and work on a survey for CAF/CASS regarding their service for victims of domestic abuse across the South West region. We have assisted two more SEEDS groups in setting up, one in Plymouth and the other in Cornwall and have participated in press events. We have also been speakers at several conferences outside of Devon, including the Plymouth Domestic Violence conference, the

Women's Aid regional conference and on for Equality South West.

It has been a hectic year for us in some ways. We have had to hold our own funding and have more formal organisation with the need for a co-ordinator, secretary and treasurer to be appointed from amongst our membership. However, we have managed to deal with this and find ourselves work across not only Devon, but also regionally and remember all this work is done voluntarily, not as employment.

During the next year we have several pieces of work planned. These include the CAF/CASS survey, speaking to volunteers who work with the Sexual Abuse Line and Victim support Devon, work with the CPS and importantly we are also involved with consolidating the SEEDS name as groups are being set up and planned across the region. We want to ensure that all groups using the SEEDS name are working to the same principles wherever they might be.

Finally, it has been mentioned that it is always the same few SEEDS members seen at presentations/conferences. This is due to us being a small group and the amount of training it takes to be able to do such work. We have been recruiting members but it is not easy to find women who are willing to speak about their personal abuse in public and have the time to spare to work with us. I am sure you can appreciate how difficult this can be. But it is important to remember that members of SEEDS are the voice of survivors across the county and the experiences we use are not always our own but also those of others who are unable to stand up and tell their stories.

NSPCC conference

Domestic violence: children's perspectives and professional responses. Building bridges to safeguard children.
12 May 2009, London.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

Ann Keen MP
(Parliamentary Under Secretary for Health Services)

Dr Lorraine Radford
(head of research, NSPCC)

Professor Marianne Hester
(NSPCC professor of child sexual exploitation, University of Bristol)

Maddie Bell
(domestic violence consultant, Barnardo's)

Gwynne Rayns
(children's services manager, NSPCC)

Fiona Dwyer
(children and young people's officer, Women's Aid)

For programme and details of how to book click [here](#)

ASK Project

Unfortunately the ASK Project had to come to an end due to the lack of funding at the end of February.

The final figures show that across the three participating surgeries a total of 1923 patients have been asked the domestic abuse question (routine enquiry). 168 (9%) patients disclosed experiencing domestic abuse. 54 patients (32%), 3 of which were male, took up the offer of support from the Health IDVA. 16 clients of ASK have been risk assessed as 'very high' and been referred to MARAC. One of these 'very high risk' clients was male.

It wasn't possible for the Health IDVA to re-risk assess all of the 'very high risk' clients, mainly because of a lack of engagement. Out of the 16 clients the risk of 4 clients went from 'very high' to 'high'. 2 clients remained 'very high risk' and are still engaging with other agencies, which can monitor the situation. Of the remaining 10 clients 5 are engaging with their local Women's Aid. None of the 16 'very high risk' clients have so far been back to MARAC. This indicates that the risk for all of these clients would have decreased. The Health IDVA spent 180 client hours in total supporting the 16 'very high risk' clients.

With the ending of ASK two of the three surgeries (Leatside and Mount Pleasant Medical Centre) have regrettably lost a very valuable domestic abuse service and will return to their previous practice of handing out helpline numbers. Holsworthy Medical Centre has still got a Women's Aid Outreach worker on site for one day of the week.

A big disappointment was felt across everyone involved that ASK has become another casualty of insufficient funding. Nonetheless ASK proved the impact and efficiency of domestic abuse routine enquiry, and hope remains that ASK can be revived in the future.

A full evaluation report is in the process of being written and will hopefully soon be available on the adva website.

ASK and the Health IDVA would like to thank everyone who has contributed to make it such a big success! Without the input of the adva trainers and the commitment of all health professionals ASK would not have achieved such brilliant outcomes!

IPV victims can have distinct injuries

News from the Family Violence Prevention Fund. A new study finds that women who are victims of intimate partner violence tend to have different facial injuries than women who suffer trauma to their faces from other causes. Domestic violence victims were most likely to suffer from complicated breaks in the cheekbones, cracks or breaks in bones around the eye, and intracranial (brain) injuries. Victims assaulted by unknown or unidentified assailants were more likely to have jaw fractures.

Respect Email Update, 19 March 2009

EPAC VAW: a new tool on violence against women in Europe

The European Policy Action Centre on Violence against Women (EPAC VAW) has launched its new website, presenting the European Observatory of experts on violence against women, data and reports on the situation in thirty countries from the European Union and neighbouring countries, current news, as well as a wealth of resources on different forms of violence against women.

Respect Email Update, 19 March 2009

The Lankellychase Foundation has issued new guidelines

to cover the next five years 2009–14

The Foundation will continue to support work within the UK, concentrating on social justice, highlighting unpopular causes and working on topics that do not normally attract charitable funds.

The Foundation will continue to concentrate upon smaller charities, many of which will have only a local or regional remit. Under the **'Breaking Cycles of Abuse' programme**, the Foundation are particularly interested in supporting the following: Domestic Abuse, Rape and Sexual Violence, Rape Crisis and Survivors of Sexual Abuse, Sexual Exploitation, Women in Prostitution, Young People, Child Protection. Grants will be available for 1-3 years and are generally up to a maximum of £45,000 in total, although a limited number of larger grants may be considered. Capital items will only be considered if they are necessary for the work being funded but not for building costs or for disabled access.

Respect Email Update, 19 March 2009

The National Centre of Domestic Violence (NCDV)

is a provider of legal services for survivors of domestic abuse. To date they have obtained over 23,000 injunctions. They are looking at ways to improve both their service, legislation and judicial procedure. **Since the introduction of the DVCVA 2004, they, and many other agencies have experienced some difficulties with the enforcement (or lack of) of a breach of a non-molestation order.** NCDV have established an enforcement steering group together with CPS Surrey. They are convinced that they have a system which could be implemented very quickly and have a massive impact of the enforcement procedure. If the pilot scheme is successful, they will be publishing the results and working with CPS to roll it out nationwide. The first meeting is on 30th March. Hosted by NCDV at CPS Surrey, there will hopefully be representatives from all relevant agencies. For the meeting to work as effective as possible, they are asking for some feedback from agencies and police officers who have, to date, experienced problems with enforcement of breaches (regardless where the problem arose - i.e. Police, CPS, Court Service etc.) At this stage, anecdotal evidence will suffice, however more detailed evidence would be as equally welcomed. If you have any feedback, comments or criticisms email steve.connor@ncdv.org.uk as soon as possible.

Respect Email Update, 19 March 2009

Keira Knightley stars in domestic violence campaign for Women's Aid

Women's Aid has teamed up with Grey London to launch a national domestic violence awareness campaign, which centres on a hard-hitting short film directed by BAFTA-winning director, Joe Wright and starring critically acclaimed multi-award winning actress Keira Knightley.

The film can be viewed online, and will also be shown in cinemas and on TV across the UK. The two minute film, 'CUT', sees Keira arrive home after a day's filming to be confronted by her abusive partner.

The scenes that follow are disturbing but all too common and the film ends with the statement, "Isn't it time someone called cut?"

The film is supported by print advertising and can be seen online.

adva's multi-agency Domestic Violence and Abuse awareness raising training breaks yet another record!

We are delighted to announce that a record breaking number of delegates have been through adva's training room doors again this year.

From 1st April 2008 – 31st March 2009 over 2,000 delegates attended a total of 153 adva training courses across Devon – a fantastic achievement!

A big thank you goes to adva's dedicated team of excellent trainers (Dinah, Jo, Jodie, Michael and Tess) and to adva's Project Support team (Janice, Claire and Marta) who manage all the systems behind the scenes to make these courses happen.

A summary of adva training activity during 2008/09

Level 1 – Foundation: 'Tackling Domestic Violence and Abuse' remains the most popular training course with a staggering 65 courses running across Devon for 935 delegates. Completing this course is an essential entry requirement into a number of the other courses offered in the adva training suite.

Level 2 – Accredited Programme: 'Domestic Violence & Abuse – The Impact on Children' is a 2 day accredited training course nationally recognised to Level 3 through OCN - the Open College Network and adva ran a total of 14 courses for 169 delegates throughout the year.

'Preventing Murder and Serious Harm in Domestic Violence & Abuse' (formally known as 'Tackling Risk Assessment in DVA') links in with the MARAC (multi-agency risk assessment conference) process and adva ran a total of 13 courses for 155 delegates.

'Tacking Perpetrators of Domestic Violence & Abuse'

helps to identify the themes of perpetrator behaviour and adva ran a total of 11 courses for 135 delegates.

'Managers Tacking Domestic Violence & Abuse – The Links to Duty of Care' adva's newest course, was a major part of the successful launch and implementation of Devon County Council's Employer Policy for Domestic Violence & Abuse last year. Adva ran a total of 12 courses for 197 delegates. (For more information about Employer Policies for Domestic Violence & Abuse please visit adva's website: www.devon.gov.uk/index/childrenfamilies/families/domestic_violence/employers-information.htm

Adva also ran a selection of training courses for specific audiences during the year, such as Elected Members, Schools, GPs, Foster Carers and Local Authority Housing staff, as well as delivering an additional 9 'Tackling DVA' courses, 3 'Preventing Murder and Serious Harm in DVA' courses and 3 'Tackling Perpetrators of DVA' courses for Torbay.

What a year!

A quick reminder about the suite of adva training courses...

Level 1 – Foundation

Tackling Domestic Violence & Abuse

WHO'S IT FOR? All agencies from the private, statutory and voluntary sectors

DURATION: 1 day (9.15am - 4.30pm)

ENTRY REQUIREMENT: None

ACCREDITATION: None

This one day course will examine the nature, scale and consequences of domestic violence and abuse and how to take appropriate action where possible. The workshop provides an excellent foundation from which to access all other 'adva' training. The programme is designed to enable participants to explore this complex issue in an empowering and supportive environment.

Level 2 – Accredited Programme

Domestic Violence & Abuse – The Impact on Children

WHO'S IT FOR? Multi-agency practitioners who work with families, children and young people

DURATION: 2 days (9.15am - 4.30pm), plus 15 hours over 4 weeks to complete a workbook

ENTRY REQUIREMENT: Must have completed adva Level 1 – Foundation, Tackling Domestic Violence & Abuse course

ACCREDITATION: Nationally recognised qualification to Level 3 through the Open College Network (www.ocnswr.org.uk)

This is a multi-agency accredited course for delegates who have attended the Level 1 – Foundation course.

Preventing Murder and Serious Harm in Domestic Violence & Abuse – your responsibility for victim focus safety

WHO'S IT FOR? All agencies from the private, statutory and voluntary sectors

DURATION: 1 day (9.15am - 4.30pm)

ENTRY REQUIREMENT: Must have completed adva Level 1 – Foundation, Tackling Domestic Violence & Abuse course

ACCREDITATION: None

A practical guide to improving victim safety in a multi-agency context including how to risk assess for dva and the MARAC process. Participants will experience an enjoyable and productive workshop involving group discussion and participative exercises.

Tackling Perpetrators of Domestic Violence & Abuse

WHO'S IT FOR? All agencies from the private, statutory and voluntary sectors working with families

DURATION: 1 day (9.15am - 4.30pm)

Entry requirement: Must have completed adva Level 1 – Foundation, Tackling Domestic Violence & Abuse course

ACCREDITATION: None

This course explores the patterns of behaviour and belief systems of those who perpetrate domestic violence and abuse, the effects of these behaviours both on partners and on the helping agencies, and offers strategies to participants to enable them to challenge perpetrators more effectively.

Managers Tackling Domestic Violence & Abuse – The Links to Duty of Care

WHO'S IT FOR? All those with responsibility for staff

DURATION: 1 day

ENTRY REQUIREMENT: None

The programme will examine the nature, scale and consequences of domestic violence and abuse and how to take appropriate action within the workplace. This course is practical and user-friendly. Participants will experience an enjoyable and productive workshop involving group discussion and participative exercises.

and finally, especially for Schools:

Domestic Violence & Abuse – Awareness Raising for Schools in Devon

WHO'S IT FOR? All staff working in, and associated with, schools

DURATION: 2 hours

('twilight' session in your own school)

ENTRY REQUIREMENT: None

ACCREDITATION: None

Overview of Session: What is domestic violence and abuse? The effects of domestic violence and abuse on education. Strategies and preventions for schools.

For further details about all adva's multi-agency training courses, please visit the adva website: www.devon.gov.uk/index/childrenfamilies/families/domestic-abuse-violence/dv_courses.htm

Up and coming...

Family Intervention Day
27 April 2009

adva Partnership Meeting
16 June 2009

SEEDS new members meeting
16 September 2009

Violence Against Women and Girls consultation deadline
29 May 2009

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

adva

against domestic violence and abuse
in Devon

www.adva.org.uk

