

## **"Another successful adva conference..."**

These words of Phil Norrey, Chief Executive of Devon County Council, summed up adva's fourth conference on 29th November **Domestic Violence and Abuse: Whose Business? It's Everyone's.**

The event was very well attended with over 170 people from a wide range of agencies and services: Carers; Daphne (our European partners); Drug and Alcohol Services; Early Intervention; Education, Elected Members; Health; Housing; Joint Agency Team; Police, Relate; REPAIR, SEEDS; Social Care, Solicitors; Women's Aid and Youth Offending Team.

Spell-binding and inspirational are just two of the evocative and positive words used to describe the key note speaker, George Hosking. Please access [www.wavetrust.org](http://www.wavetrust.org) to download his comprehensive research report 'Violence and what to do about it'. Anne Whiteley, Director of Children and Young People's Services, deeply moved by Hosking's words, was galvanised to zealously uphold the Authority's 'zero tolerance to violence' strategy.

Dr Gordon Harold, Cardiff University, spoke illuminatingly on the negative impact of interparental conflict on children's behaviour, his research identifying the need to tackle this conflict as the most effective way to deal with children's ensuing emotional and psychological problems.

Delegate laments include 'there was too much choice and not enough time' in the workshops which covered a range of topics: Hampshire's experience of working with young men; Cheshire's 'Changing Places' programme in working with young offenders; Sutton's use of a Canadian model of intervention with children and young people; Devon's work to meet the 'Every Child Matters' agenda; West Sussex's national good practice with health interventions; Devon's SAFE and REPAIR work (working with young women and perpetrator programmes); and Parenting practice in Devon. Our sincere thanks to the presenters, workshop facilitators and scribes who worked together to make this day such an informative and exciting one!

The question remains... what does each agency take away from a day like this? Having heard and seen excellent practice how can this translate into effective change within Devon ...and within what time scale? These are questions the adva team will be posing each of the delegates in a follow up questionnaire to measure the impact, both immediate and lasting, on Devon's Domestic Violence and Abuse services.

# adva conference – the SEEDS perspective

I was looking forward to this day as it looked a very interesting one.

When I arrived at the conference centre and met the other SEEDS members I felt daunted by the great steep steps which were in front of me, however, someone said that there was a different way in, so we went in through the pub entrance which was on the flat (I am a wheelchair user!). There were many stalls with lots of really interesting things on them. The SEEDS group also had a stall there with lots of information for people to read and look at.

Phil Norrey Chief Executive of Devon County Council welcomed everybody, he talked about Domestic Violence to children and young people. Dr George Hoskins from the WAVE Trust gave the most interesting talk I had listened to in a long time, in fact, I was so taken by what he had said, I went back in the afternoon and listened to him again. He talked about the root causes of violence and that people are not born violent and how social conditioning can help to influence and make people violent. I was also interested on the subject of self harm which was also very enlightening - I feel that I had learnt a lot from this talk.

Without wishing to complain too much about a very eye opening day, I feel that the venue is not all that suitable for wheelchair users.

**Kathy** (SEEDS Member)

# Domestic Violence Awareness Week

The Devon wide Domestic Abuse awareness raising week during November saw a number of activities taking place throughout the County.

The general consensus of opinion is that it was bigger and better than previous years with excellent media coverage. Around 60 people took to the streets of Barnstaple for a noisy march whilst a similar number in Exeter gathered for a silent march. These provided excellent opportunities for photo shoots and received good coverage in the local press. Exmouth Rugby club provided another photo shoot opportunity with the team displaying white ribbons in support of the campaign.

Many other events and activities were organised around the county including pub quizzes, coffee mornings, a bingo evening and the sale of lottery tickets. In addition there were various displays and stands at local supermarkets. The MADA (Music Against Domestic Abuse) campaign continues to gather pace and the third annual event was held at the Exeter

Phoenix.

The measure of the success of awareness week has really been highlighted with the escalation in media coverage. Events, domestic abuse projects and survivors stories have all been highlighted in the local press including the Western Morning News. Radio coverage, both BBC and commercial, was excellent and this year coverage on BBC Spotlight really emphasised how the campaign has grown and is, at last, reaching the profile it deserves.

Of course, the week wouldn't be as successful as it is if it wasn't for the hard work of key individuals within the local forums and a huge thanks to all those involved.

The next awareness week is planned for November 24th – 28th 2008 and anyone wishing to get involved should contact their local forum. Alternatively, if you have any ideas for raising awareness either for Awareness Week 2008 or throughout the year please email [andy.stapley@btinternet.com](mailto:andy.stapley@btinternet.com)

## ...and up North

North Devon and Torridge Domestic Violence and Abuse Forum had an extremely successful **Domestic Violence Awareness Week** featuring lots of exciting and well attended events.

The Domestic Violence week started off with a petal launch by the River Taw in Barnstaple, which was attended by Karen from Lantern Radio, who made an extremely emotive speech. It was then followed by a 'noisy march' through Barnstaple town to Victoria House Children's Centre, who welcomed the marchers with refreshments of delicious home made soups and bread. Lots of people had brought instruments and others were provided by Victoria House. The whole event had a great impact and is something to be built upon next year. That evening a pub quiz was held in Barnstaple and was extremely well attended and again raised lots of awareness for the week.

There were many other events throughout the week, in various shopping venues, outside supermarkets, and one local delicatessen/restaurant

sold small cakes on behalf of the week, which was a good draw for people. Some events were better attended than others, but on the whole they were well received. One event is still to be held. A football match between Barnstaple F.C. and the Police was postponed due to inclement weather.

The next big event was on the Thursday night, when a bingo session was run on the forum's behalf by the British Legion. This raised a huge amount of money. The draw of the forum's lottery was held at the end of the week. The prizes were numerous and local retailers and businesses had been extremely generous, the main prize being a weekend at a Brend hotel in Falmouth.

The media coverage was extremely good this year, there was extensive coverage on Lantern Radio, features on Spotlight South West and there were articles in the Western Morning News and several articles in the North Devon Journal. The whole week of events brought in close to £2000, all of which will go to help children within women's refuges.

The Forum planning group has already met to start planning next year's events and has lots of ideas to work on. A big thank you must go to everyone in the planning group who work so hard every year to ensure the week is such a success.

**Alison Allen**, Chair, N.Devon Forum



## Music Against Domestic Abuse 2007

The third annual event for music fans took place at the Exeter Phoenix on Monday 26th November.

The Phoenix provided a unique and contemporary setting tucked away in the heart of the city. Despite numbers being down on previous years there was no doubting the event has definitely moved up a gear both with the venue and attracting an established band of renowned musicians from the world of Ska.

The evening opened with local Devon 'fiddle punk' band, Eat the Rich delighting the crowd with their own brand of frantic folk rock including some great covers from iconic bands The Clash and the Pogues!

The main event of the evening saw Skaville UK take to the stage playing a great set with songs from their album 1973. Made of members from 80's Ska bands Bad Manners and the Selector and featuring special guest Rhoda Dakar from The Bodysnatchers / Special AKA, they played an energetic and lively set culminating in Rhoda's Ska classic 'Let's do Rocksteady'.

Watch out for next year's MADA event/s. Info from Andy at: [andy.stapley@btinternet.com](mailto:andy.stapley@btinternet.com)

# News

## Home Affairs Select Committee E-consultation into Domestic Violence and forced marriage

This enquiry has been set up to evaluate Government policy on Domestic Violence and will lead to recommendations about future policy, services and legislation. Consultation runs from 21st January to 29th February 2008 and can be found at: [buckland@parliament.uk](mailto:buckland@parliament.uk) or [bates@parliament.uk](mailto:bates@parliament.uk)

Discussion topics will include the prevention and identification of abuse; victims' experience of support services; and experiences of criminal justice system. This is a good opportunity to make your views known so please contact on the e-address.

adva has been successful in attracting new funding for SDVCs in North and South Devon

Two new appointments for SDVC have been made and they will start within the next few months.

## Disabled Women and Domestic Violence

An interim report from Women's Aid's ongoing study on disability and Domestic Violence "Disabled Women and Domestic Violence: Making the Links" is now available from: [www.womensaid.org.uk](http://www.womensaid.org.uk)

## "Kidspeak"

...another new report from Women's Aid from on-line consultation which enabled children and young people who have experienced Domestic Violence to share their views is available on: [www.womensaid.org.uk](http://www.womensaid.org.uk)

## Women's Aid new resources

for children and young people affected by Domestic Violence - free downloadable resources - to view go to: [www.womensaid.org.uk](http://www.womensaid.org.uk)

## Standing Together conference

23rd April London – possible free place available from adva. if you are interested contact: [roy.tomlinson@devon.gov.uk](mailto:roy.tomlinson@devon.gov.uk)

## adva Domestic Violence Awareness Week

**24 - 28th November 2008**

A date for your diary already so plenty of time to get planning all those local events. More information to follow from the awareness raising sub-group.

# Farewell to Steffi

The adva Partnership would like to thank **Steffi Bednarek** for her two years commitment to supporting the Domestic Violence Services in Devon and for setting the high standard of future adva newsletters!

# 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)

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