

Two more Award Winners in Devon!!!

On 15th May Jo Tennant, BCU Commander for Devon, awarded **Anne-Marie Parkin** a Commander's Commendations for her Outstanding Contribution to North Devon Women's Aid.



Over the last 10 years, Anne-Marie has provided devoted service to thousands of survivors of Domestic Violence and shown a passion for her work that is second to none. Through her open, positive and creative approach to leadership, and her commitment to the cause of women experiencing Domestic Violence and Abuse, Anne-Marie has overseen the development of North Devon Women's Aid from a small team to what it is today; an integrated project with refuge and outreach.

Anne-Marie has overseen the introduction and development of Pattern Changing, and of the Devon DVA Partnership (ADVA). While actively working to develop closer partnerships with other Women's Aid projects, Anne-Marie has chaired the North Devon Domestic Violence Forum, and piloted numerous innovations in the work of the sector. Anne-Marie has given many sleepless nights to work in the refuge, supporting survivors of Domestic Violence with commitment, compassion and generosity.

During her years of service, Anne-Marie has been the public face of North Devon Women's Aid. Through her media and community engagement, and her close involvement with local campaigns, Anne-Marie has shown she is a true ambassador not only for North Devon Women's Aid, but also for the cause of Domestic Violence and Abuse survivors across the county.

...award winner number 2!

On 23rd April **Roy Tomlinson** was recognised at the national 'Standing Together' conference for his 'Outstanding work within the field of domestic violence'.



He was one of only 8 winners out of a total of 90 nominations. Dame Helena Kennedy handed him his award along with L'Oreal products to help him ease the strains so visible in this photo! Roy's commitment to tackling the issue of domestic violence and abuse in Devon started over 15 years ago. From his initial establishment of a 'network' of like-minded agencies he has spawned a nationally-

recognised, multi-agency partnership 'Against Domestic Violence and Abuse'; created a substantial pooled funding resource; and established consistent service provision throughout the county. Roy has stayed true to his belief that domestic violence is a social scourge requiring sustained and strategic intervention from all agencies to increase the safety of victims and children. Roy is an outstanding person whose unassuming personality has meant that he has often allowed others to be recognised for achievements that would not have been possible without his steadfast and dogged determination.

Adva Partnership and its services in 2007-8

The pooled budget for the provision of adva services in Devon was £1.1million.

This is the largest amount of money the partnership has had, to date. The majority of the money is spent on front-line services through Devon's 3 Women's Aid organisations. **This includes:**

- Outreach services in every district.
- Specialist independent domestic violence advisors (idvas) to support very high risk clients through the MARAC (multi-agency risk assessment conferences). We have 4 MARACs meeting each month.
- Idvas to support Devon's 3 SDVCs – Specialist Domestic Violence Courts that operate at Barnstaple, Exeter and Torbay.
- Pattern Changing Programmes for survivors – over 200 women receive this each year across Devon, most of whom see it as an invaluable support service, some of whom claim it has 'saved their lives'.
- Women Support Workers who provide specialist support to women whose partners or ex partners are on IDAP (mandated court programme for male perpetrators) or REPAIR (community programme for self-or agency-referred perpetrators).
- 3 specialist children and young people workers, attached to REPAIR.
- Support to children in refuges – approximately 225 children are in our 3 refuges in Devon each year
- SAFE in Exeter (14 - 26 year olds).

In addition the money provides:

- Training programmes (8 different ones) which reached over 1,600 frontline workers and managers.
- SEEDS Devon – our survivor reference group.
- Health idva working in 3 GP practices in Devon (Holsworthy Medical Centre, Mount Pleasant, Exeter and Leatside in Totnes).
- Awareness Raising publicity and activities.
- REPAIR programme (across Devon).
- Sexual Abuse Line support for survivors of domestic abuse who require specialist support for their sexual violence experiences.
- Ethnic minority work with the Primary Care Trust.
- Adva infrastructure costs.

We can't rest on our laurels though... all our services are stretched to capacity. Much of the funding is 'temporary' apart from the significant largesse of Devon County Council which provides an annual sum of £500,000 towards the pooled budget. Just need the PCT and other Health Trusts, and Police to join forces... and we'll have achieved comprehensive, sustainable services... possibly the only county in England to do so!

Where would we be without Women's Aid?!

Women's Aid in Devon support thousands of women each year to rebuild their lives and the lives of their children.

In 2007-8 Women's Aid staff supported over 2,300 and indirectly 1,683 children. Our thanks go to the Boards of Trustees for their voluntary, dedicated support and all the staff for their personal and professional commitment.

Adva Training Courses Report

From 1st April 2007 – 31st March 2008, adva ran a total of 127 training courses, reaching just over 1,640 delegates!

Quite an achievement and the most courses we have run in a year to date! Please see breakdown below:

- Level 1 – Foundation: **Tackling Domestic Violence & Abuse** (1 x day) course saw 652 delegates through the doors over 46 courses
- Level 2 – Accredited Programme: **Domestic Violence & Abuse – The Impact on Children** (2 x day) course - 173 delegates over 15 courses
- **Preventing Murder and Serious Harm within Domestic Violence & Abuse** – Your Responsibility for Victim Focus Safety (1 x day) course – 163 delegates over 14 courses (PLEASE NOTE: This course is the SAME course as **Tackling Risk Assessment in Domestic Violence & Abuse** – just a new title!)
- **Tackling Perpetrators of Domestic Violence & Abuse** (1 x day) course – 98 delegates over 8 courses

- **Managers Tackling Domestic Violence & Abuse** – The Links to Duty of Care (1 day or 1/2 day) course – 163 delegates over 15 courses
- Domestic Violence & Abuse – **Awareness Raising for Schools in Devon** (2 hour 'Twilight' Session or 1 day) course – approximately 128 delegates over 8 sessions / courses
- Domestic Violence & Abuse – **Awareness Raising for GP Practices in Devon** (2 or 3 hour session) – approximately 99 delegates over 9 sessions
- Domestic Violence & Abuse – **Awareness Raising for Housing Organisations in Devon** (1 day or 2 x 1/2 days) course – 41 delegates over 3 courses

Plus, over 125 delegates attended ad hoc, one-off adva courses commissioned by specific agencies in partnership with adva (e.g. Foster Carers, Magistrates, Solicitors, Elected Members and the Vulnerable Adults training team).

If you would like to find out more about adva's 8 current training courses, please log onto our website www.adva.org.uk and browse the training section for course details and up and coming dates and venues etc, or simply download an adva training leaflet from: www.devon.gov.uk/index/cyps/families/domestic_violence/dv_courses.htm

...New on-line course booking system

('all singing, all dancing'
...we hope!)

We are in the process of piloting a brand new on-line course booking and course management system, which we hope will be a fantastic resource for future course delegates and adva training administration alike! From early June, all course bookings for our 'Level 2 - The Impact on Children', 'Tackling Perpetrators of DVA' and 'Managers Tackling DVA' courses, have only been possible via this new on-line course booking system. If you have booked (or tried to book) a course using this new on-line system, please let us know what you think! User feedback is vital for the system's future development. In the meantime, please bear with us while we go through this pilot implementation stage and gradually phase all our course bookings on-line. THANK YOU!

MARAC Update

(Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference)

Each of the 4 x MARACs in Devon meet once a month. The 4 x MARACs are: Exeter MARAC, East & Mid Devon MARAC, North Devon MARAC and South Devon (Rural) MARAC. From January 2007 – December 2007 here are some of the statistics the MARAC Administrators have collected from their MARACs using a CAADA developed national spreadsheet:

No of cases reviewed from 01/07–12/07

Exeter	225
East & Mid Devon	197
North Devon	270
South Devon	145

% MARAC repeats

Exeter	29%
East & Mid Devon	11%
North Devon	25%
South Devon	39%

No of children in the household

Exeter	257
East & Mid Devon	221
North Devon	95
South Devon	119

% Police referrals to MARAC

Exeter	91%
East & Mid Devon	95%
North Devon	72%
South Devon	96%

The aims of the MARAC

(Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference) are:

- To share information to increase the safety, health and well being of victims – adults and their children
- To determine whether the perpetrator poses a significant risk to any particular individual or to the general community
- To construct jointly and implement a risk management plan that provides professional support to all those at risk and that reduces the risk of harm
- To reduce repeat victimisation
- To improve agency accountability
- To improve support for staff involved in high risk domestic violence cases

For further details on domestic abuse risk assessment and MARAC referral processes, please refer to adva's **'Multi-Agency Practitioner Guide to Information Sharing and Referral Procedures for MARAC'** and the Devon and Cornwall DV Information Sharing Protocol: **'Protocol for the sharing of information, on incidents of domestic violence in Devon and Cornwall, between statutory authorities, housing providers, voluntary and charitable agencies.'** These documents are provided at adva's multi-agency training course: **'Preventing Murder and Serious Harm within Domestic Violence and Abuse – Your Responsibility for Victim Focus Safety'** www.adva.org.uk

"I can't tell people what is happening at home"

Domestic abuse within South Asian communities: the specific needs of women, children and young people

By Shayma Izzidien (June 2008)

"I can't tell people what is happening at home" examines the experiences and support needs of South Asian women, children and young people who have experienced domestic abuse, the barriers that deter them from seeking help and the gaps in current service provision.

It draws on the findings from existing literature on the subject as well as interviews with service providers in England and Wales and data from NSPCC helpline services.

The findings of the report point to a need for a more targeted and culturally-appropriate approach to responding to the specific issues and barriers that exist in these communities.

Full report: [I can't tell people what is happening at home - domestic abuse within South Asian communities: the specific needs of women, children and young people](#) (PDF, 672KB)

Executive summary: [I can't tell people what is happening at home \(executive summary\)](#) (PDF, 180KB)

The scale of Domestic Violence and Abuse in Devon

Did you know that the reporting of Domestic Violence incidents to the Police has risen, year on year, for the last 6 years?

In 2007-8 we saw a record number of recorded incidents, 8,925 with an average monthly reporting of 744 incidents – this equates to approximately 24 reports to our Police each day. 165 victims each month are female and 41 victims each month are male. Children are present at 48% of these incidents. There is a peak in reporting in July and again in December/January. The most common offence is 'other wounding', followed by 'common assault'. 21.5% of all violent crimes reported to the police in Devon are domestic violence. On average, there are 12 incidents of domestic violence reported per 1000 population in Devon.

Clustering of adolescent dating violence, peer violence and suicidal behaviour

A study looking at the co-occurrence of multiple types of violence amongst a sample of adolescents from a high-risk school district.

Using a behavioural typology based on self-reports of suicidal behaviours, physical violence, and psychological abuse, the study identifies five clusters of behaviours among the 1,653 students who reported being abusive or violent in the past year. The implications of the results for the need to design and evaluate efforts to prevent multiple types of violence are discussed. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* Volume 23 Issue 6, 2008 pp 815-833. Bossarte, Robert M., and Simon, Thomas R., and Swahn, Monica H.

The Home Affairs select committee...

has published its report on Domestic Violence, Forced Marriage and Honour-Based Violence.

The Home Affairs Committee calls on the Government to implement a national strategy to ensure that there is better education and early intervention to prevent domestic violence – including so called "honour"-based violence and forced marriage. Although the Committee acknowledges that significant steps have been taken to tackle such violence over the last few years, it says the Government's approach to all forms of domestic violence remains disproportionately focused on criminal justice responses at the expense of effective prevention and early intervention. The Committee concluded that there is also a dire shortage of places on Probation Service perpetrator programmes, which has led to some courts being expressly prohibited from using the programmes as a sentencing option, or such great delays in getting onto a programme that perpetrators have not carried out their sentences. The Committee says this is an "unacceptable situation" which leaves victims at greater risk and Government must urgently find the resources to fill the gap. Respect gave evidence to the Committee and there is a specific section within the report on perpetrators which we would like to draw your attention to. To read the report which is in two parts click [here](#) (vol. 1) and [here](#) (vol. 2) (pdf).

MADA 2008

This years Music Against Domestic Abuse event will take place on September 4th at the Exeter Phoenix and promises to be the biggest and best yet.



Two of the country's top singer-songwriters fuse their talent, conviction and friendship to headline this year's event. Steve Knightley from Devon and Martyn Joseph from Wales are both award winning musicians. Steve is best known as one half of the hugely popular Show of Hands.

Also appearing are Daniel Rachel, whose hit single 'Let It Be Mine' reached No.28 in the Official Independent Singles Chart in January 2008, and local talents Jenna Witts and the Joyce Gang.

Tickets are on sale now priced at £14.50 (+ booking fee) and are available from **Solo Records** in Exeter or on line at:

www.exeterboxoffice.com

www.wegotickets.com

Please check out the new website www.ma-da.co.uk where you will find full details of the event. If you are able to help publicise the event or display posters please contact Andy Stapley on **01392 449767** or email andy.stapley@btinternet.com

New fund to help women's sector

Rosa, a new UK-wide fund devoted exclusively to championing and investing in charities working with women and girls, launched on 10 June.

Rosa will begin making grants in 2009 and will be based initially in the Women's Resource Centre's offices in London. For more information on Rosa, visit www.rosauk.org.

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