



WI Research

The Women's Institute (WI) have commissioned some national research to compare and contrast violence against women in rural and urban settings.

The research consisted of four focus groups with WI members in rural and urban areas; an online and paper survey, with 4,080 respondents completing the whole survey; and follow-up telephone interviews with 20 women who disclosed experiences of domestic violence and abuse.

There were some similarities in the views and experiences of both rural and urban women. For instance, almost three-quarters said that violence

against domestic violence & abuse in Devon

adva

against women is not openly discussed within communities and both rural and urban women are equally as likely to experience domestic violence and abuse. The most common type of violence and abuse for all women was emotional abuse, minor physical violence, psychological abuse and controlling behaviour and some interviewees felt that the emotional abuse was worse than the physical violence because it is unseen and not recognised. Women from both settings also felt that there is a lack of services for both victims and perpetrators and they were more likely to disclose to friends and family than statutory or third sector agencies.

Certain issues did arise for rural women. For example, they particularly highlighted the role of health practitioners, specifically GPs, in providing confidential and safe services for women. They were also concerned about the degree of confidentiality of the services they received in their communities. Rural women also had a perception that violence against women happens in more urban areas.

McCarry, M. and Williamson, E. (2009) **Violence Against Women in Rural and Urban Areas**. Bristol: University of Bristol.

Music event raises awareness of dva

The annual Music Against Domestic Abuse (MADA) gig was held at the Exeter Phoenix in June.

It was headlined by 80's indie band The Wedding Present. Andy Stapley from MADA worked with Clare Gilbert from KOR Communications to promote the event. Clare wrote a press release that was issued to the local media and Andy gave out posters and leaflets to music shops. Western Morning News journalist Jackie Butler followed up the story and interviewed David Gedge of The Wedding Present and wrote an article that appeared in the What's on section of the paper. The Express and Echo also ran a feature about the event and Heart FM interviewed Andy about the gig.

Andy Stapley said "It was a great evening. All of the musicians were incredibly supportive of the cause and all that MADA stand for. They had a great rapport with the audience and the energy and melodic lyrics served as a constant reminder of what live music is all about."



Devon's no recourse to public funds emergency fund

The 'no recourse to public funds' rule is a national policy which often prevents victims of domestic violence and abuse from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) backgrounds with insecure immigration status from accessing emergency accommodation and support.

This often affects those who come into the UK legally as wives, students or workers who are not entitled to housing benefit or income support which refugees rely upon to cover the refugees costs. This rule often leaves victims of domestic violence and abuse with the decision of either staying with their abuser or leaving and facing

homelessness and destitution. Women's support organisations sometimes have to choose between turning women away or using their very limited reserve funds to cover the costs.

Devon BME Domestic Violence and Abuse Action Group, a multi-agency group who aim to work together to improve services for victims of domestic violence from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) backgrounds, have recently set up an Emergency Fund to offer some interim support for victims from BME communities. The fund is open to victims of domestic violence and abuse who have no recourse to public funds, limited incomes and where normal channels of support have been exhausted. Small amounts can be claimed to cover costs such as: daily living costs, emergency accommodation and transport costs. This fund is currently held by Exeter Women's Aid and fund's can be released at the discretion of the funds administrators.

For full guidelines and an application form for accessing this fund or if you wish to donate to this fund please contact:

Dave Wright: 07971267502

dave.wright@devon.gov.uk

Maja Lelandais: 07966914718

maja.lelandais@nhs.net

You be the judge

LCJB will be running a Domestic Violence You Be The Judge event in two Magistrates' Bench areas during DV Awareness Week.

So dates for your diary...

Exeter – Monday, 23 November 2009

South Devon – Tuesday, 24 November 2009

LINX

The joint project with Hampshire, Isle of Wight and Gloucester is going ahead with interviews for the Devon co-ordinator on 8th July.

If successful this would mean the project will start to work with young people by Autumn.

adva training for schools

Fantastic Opportunity for all **Schools** in Devon to access a FREE adva 'taster' Domestic Violence & Abuse training session for their staff.

Adva brings the training directly to you at your school – it couldn't be simpler! The 2 hour 'twilight' session is FREE for all schools within Devon (excluding Torbay and Plymouth). The training session will run directly after school (from 4pm – 6pm) and is aimed at all staff working in and associated with schools.

Overview of the Session:

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

The aims of the course are to:

- begin to raise awareness of the issue of domestic violence and abuse amongst education staff
- begin to explore how domestic violence and abuse affects families, children and young people
- begin to consider how schools can respond appropriately

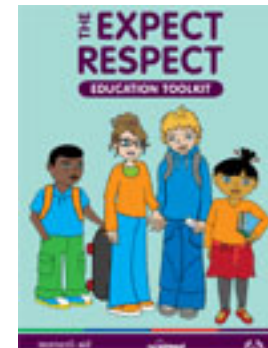
By the end of the session, participants will be able to:

- begin to demonstrate an understanding of the nature, scale and impact of domestic violence and abuse
- begin to appreciate the range of ways that domestic violence and abuse can affect children and young people, including how it may affect their education
- begin to consider techniques for engaging with and assisting children and young people that have experienced domestic violence and abuse
- begin to display an awareness of the need, independently and as a whole school, to respond better to children and young people experiencing domestic violence and abuse and to start to think about how you can implement this within your school

If you would like a book a session for your school, please either email adva at: dvinfo@devon.gov.uk or call **Janice Healey** in the adva office on: **01392 382233**

p.s.

Have you downloaded your free copy of the 'Expect Respect' Educational Toolkit? www.thehideout.org.uk/over10/adults/resources/educationaltoolkit/default.aspx which consists of one easy to use 'Core' lesson for each year group from Reception to Year 13 and is based on themes that have been found to be effective in tackling domestic abuse.



Have you heard about adva's Multi-Agency Domestic Violence and Abuse Training Course for all **Managers** across Devon?

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

Who's it for?

All those with responsibility for staff

Duration:

1 day

Cost:

- £25 for each delegate from most statutory agencies within Devon
- Free to all DCC Managers
- Limited Free spaces per course to most voluntary agencies within Devon
- £200 for each delegate from all agencies outside Devon (including Plymouth and Torbay) and from private sector agencies (within or outside Devon).

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.

The aims of the course are to:

- raise awareness of the impact of domestic violence and abuse upon individuals and the workplace
- appreciate how the impact of domestic violence and abuse may manifest itself in the workplace
- increase understanding of how best to respond to victims and perpetrators
- raise standards of practice both individually and collectively

By the end of the course, participants will be able to:

- demonstrate an understanding of the extent of domestic violence and abuse within our society and workplaces
- demonstrate an understanding of the impact of domestic violence and abuse on employees
- appreciate the responsibilities of managers and able to carry out best practice

Is this course for you?

Do you have management responsibility for staff in your organisation?

- Did you know that domestic violence and abuse affects at least a quarter of your female workforce and possibly a sixth of your male workforce?

- Do you know how to respond if someone in your team is affected by Domestic Violence and Abuse? Do you know what to do if a member of your staff was attacked at work by their partner?
- 56% of abused women are late for work at least 5 times a month; 28% leave early at least 5 days a month and 54% miss at least 3 full days of work a month
- Lost Economic output accounts for £2.7 billion a year in England and Wales. This is the cost of time off work due to injuries. It is estimated that around half of the costs of such sickness absences is borne by the employer and half by the individual in lost wages
- This affects your duty of care as a manager.

Adva recognises the help you might need to:

a) understand the scale and prevalence of domestic violence and abuse; **b)** its impact on the work place, and on you as a manager and **c)** what you can do to support staff and your organisation.

We have developed a one day course for managers with responsibility for staff:

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

Spaces available on the following dates:

22 September 2009 in Barnstaple

30 September 2009 in Exeter

To view all our courses and venues and download a booking form, please visit our website www.adva.org.uk



Men Safe: domestic violence and abuse service for men – update

Men Safe has been accepting referrals from MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference) since 1st April 2009. Men Safe is now also accepting referrals from statutory and voluntary agencies.

In the last few weeks the male victim IDVAs have been busy networking and making agencies aware of the new service. North Devon Women's Aid launches of it's Men Safe service on 15th July

to introduce the service to local agencies. Managers and front line workers from agencies across Devon are also welcome.

As the service is still very new referrals are currently low. Men Safe received a total of 9 referrals up to date across the whole of Devon, all of which came from the Police. Only 4 men engaged in the service. 4 men were risk assessed as 'very high risk' and their safety discussed at MARAC.

For more information on how to make a referral or for advice please contact:

Christine Fritsch (Exeter, East and Mid Devon, North Devon and Torridge)
on **07966 967526**
email: midva@exeterwomensaid.org.uk

Domestic violence and abuse service (South and West Devon): **01364 6643866**
email: admin@sdwa.org.uk

Budget 2009-10

It is good news on budget for this year as DCC increased investment means we have adequate budget to fund all core adva strategy services. The granting of LPSA2 reward funding for the next two years also means we can secure core services to meet the increasing demand on them. We also hope to pilot some work to develop the REPAIR programme into a Family Intervention Programme. Discussion on development ideas for this are taking place with REPAIR and Women's Aid which should start to see adaptation and new elements to REPAIR in the Autumn.

The recent release of Department for children, schools and families draft guidance "Think Family – Improving support to families at risk" is also an important development for this shift in adva work. At a simplistic level the guidance encourages all agencies to approach family work in a unified and holistic way – ie assess need and provide services to deal with all the issues confronting families rather than single agency approaches. The guidance makes frequent reference to dva as a risk factor for families and this is now being picked up within Children and Family Services. Overall these developments provide an exciting opportunity for dva and adva work with families to start to become part of the mainstream of services to families. The Autumn will be an important time for these initiatives. The newsletter will continue to update you on progress.

If you want to look at the Think Family Guidance it is on the DCSF website: www.dcsf.gsi

Supporting survivors of domestic violence:

Domestic violence injunctions and the domestic violence crime and victims act 2004.

Update yourself on recent developments in the law on domestic violence. This course will give you an understanding of domestic violence injunctions, who can apply for them, how to apply and how to enforce them. The course also examines recent changes to the law brought in by the Domestic Violence Crime and Victims Act 2004. In addition to full training notes and materials you will receive a copy of our Domestic Violence DIY Injunction Handbook (2nd edition).

London:

East (Stratford)

Wednesday 21 October 9.30am–1pm

West (Hammersmith)

Wednesday 11 November 9.30am–1pm

For further information contact:

training@row.org.uk

Parliamentary Questions

Dominic Grieve (Beaconsfield, Conservative)

To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Harborough of 6 October 2008, Official Report, columns 172-3W, on domestic violence, what the average period of time before offenders convicted of offences of domestic violence or abuse commenced integrated domestic abuse programmes was in each probation area in England and Wales in 2008-09.

Read the reply here:

www.theyworkforyou.com/wrans/?id=2009-06-18a.279251.h&s=%22domestic+violence%22

Silence only compounds the violence

Victims of domestic abuse don't want to talk about it, the wider world keeps quiet too – and so the violence continues.

Despite government consultations and high-profile failings such as the John Worboys case, violence against women continues to be a hidden issue in many communities, particularly rural ones. New research commissioned by the National Federation of Women's Institutes confirms this low profile, with nearly three in four of women reporting that issues such as rape, domestic violence and sexual harassment are not talked about openly in their local area.

www.guardian.co.uk/society/joepublic/2009/jun/03/domestic-abuse-silence

Domestic abuse and military families

Williamson, E. & Price, N. (2009)

This project arose from concerns raised by practitioners working with service families who noted an impact of active military service on domestic abuse within those families.

This pilot project involved a small survey of military personnel and their partners to establish the most important factors associated with the re-integration of military personnel into family life on returning from active duty.

www.bristol.ac.uk/sps/research/projects/completed/2009/rk7020/

Driven to kill

For 20 years campaigners have argued that women who kill violent partners are treated unfairly in the courts.

As the law looks set to change, Julie Bindel reports here: www.guardian.co.uk/lifeandstyle/2009/jun/26/women-kill-violent-partners-law on the cases of three women who snapped.

Domestic abuse 'link to economy'

Organisations offering support and advice to victims of domestic abuse have reported a rise in cases due to the economic downturn.

More here: news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/kent/8107288.stm

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

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in Devon

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