

Interview with adva's chair, Jill Owen



The adva partnership recognises the work of so many motivated individuals

from all agencies, all of whom have helped to support the high quality service provision

for families suffering from domestic violence in Devon. One person in particular to thank for their five years of committed support is the partnership's Chair, Councillor Jill Owen, whose political and personal leadership has both inspired the work and brought the issue to the notice of key, senior decision-makers across statutory agencies. Influential on the Police Authority too Jill has provided constancy in her determination to see improvements for those who experience domestic abuse and has worked tirelessly to remind all agencies of their responsibilities to join together to tackle such an invidious crime.

1. You have been an inspiring support for domestic violence work in Devon and brought survivor's issues to the notice of key agency representatives. Why is domestic violence an issue that you wanted to get involved in politically?

Rather than choosing to be involved in this work, I was asked by the then chief constable and chief executive of Devon County Council to chair what was one of 6 working groups set up by Devon Strategic Partnership. This particular group went from strength to strength and became adva. I'm not sure what happened to the other 5! I don't know why they picked on me, but I was happy to say yes because such issues have always interested me. I get very upset at any kind of cruelty or exploitation.

2. In your role as Chair of the adva Partnership you have been instrumental in bringing about important changes that had a direct impact on the lives of survivors. What do you consider the biggest success since you got involved?

There are many successes arising from adva's work so it's difficult to isolate just one; I think the very existence of such a partnership is the major issue because of what it has done to raise awareness of domestic abuse and to send a strong message to victims that they don't have to put up with the abuse.

3. There are a lot of achievements to be celebrated in the past 5 years, but we all know that there is also still a lot to be fought for. What do you see as the most pressing issues for Devon in the coming 2 years?

Sadly the answer is funding. There has been a huge injection of money to support adva's work, mainly from the government, and some of this is now under threat. I would like to see even better services in this area than we have now, but the future is very uncertain. I do not want to be looking at having to withdraw any of the services currently provided.

4. Domestic Violence is a political issue. If you could change one thing politically what would it be?

Not sure what is meant by political here. Certainly governments and councils have the power to tackle domestic abuse, and we have been very lucky that Harriet Harman in particular has pushed on this issue. The result is targets for local services (e.g. the police) and funding. However, I do not want to get too party political and would say that members of the county council of all parties have supported this work. I have certainly seen a huge change in attitudes from the police especially over recent years.

Awareness Raising Week

In November all districts in Devon join forces once more to raise awareness against domestic violence.

The date of this year's **Domestic Violence Awareness Week** is from **26th November – 1st December** with North Devon holding their events one week earlier from 19th – 25th.

District Domestic Violence Forums have planned a rich panoply of activities and we hope to see you at one of the following events:

NORTH DEVON AND TORRIDGE FORUM

- North Devon will open awareness week on 19th November with a Petal Launch at 1pm at the Museum Riverfront. The launch will be followed by a 'Noisy March' from the Museum Riverfront to Victoria House, where refreshments will be served.
- In the evening of 19th November a pub quiz will be held at the 'Cork and Bottle' in Barnstaple, beginning at 7pm.
- On 20th November the Forum organised a Football match between the Police versus Barnstaple Football Club. Details from Alison Allen: alisonallen@nhs.net
- The Forum will be at Zenas, 20th November during the day, where special cakes are being sold and at the Atlantic Village Bideford at various times during the week.
- A Bingo night will take place on 22nd November at 7.30 pm, British Legion, St Georges Road, Barnstaple.
- There are lottery tickets on sale from 12.10.07. The draw will take place on 23rd November, 12.30 at the Cedars, Barnstaple. Takings will be donated to Devon refuges.
- Another event taking place on 23rd November is a Charity Golf match at the Torrington Golf club. For more details please contact Alison Allen: alisonallen@nhs.net

- Leaflets and information material will be distributed during the week from information stands at St Peter's Church in Barnstaple (20th November), Sainsburys Barnstaple (21st November), Sommerfield, South Molton (22nd November), Torrington Pannier Market (22nd November) and at the Libraries at Barnstaple and Bideford (all week).

SOUTH DEVON, WEST DEVON AND TEIGNBRIDGE FORUM

- The Forum have organised a Silent March on Monday 26th November in Okehampton. The March departs from the Okehampton Police Station at 12.30. During the week there will be display stands to be placed in South Hams, Teignbridge and West Devon Council Reception areas and the Forum launch Pilot the J9 campaign in Totnes – stickers and information material will be placed in hairdressers and chemists promoting South Devon Women's Aid details.

For more information, please contact: peter.dale@southhams.gov.uk

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EAST DEVON FORUM

- Official launch of awareness raising week in Exmouth at 2:30 pm on Monday 26th November at the Open Door Centre which is adjacent to the main shopping area, the Magnolia Centre. It is hoped to get a prominent local councillor to open the event and there will be speeches and poems from survivors. Local press and Express and Echo have been invited. There will be no flower petals this year.
- Widespread distribution of posters, leaflets etc, including leaflets on elder abuse. This will incorporate displays and sale of white ribbons for Safe House collection.
- Focus on young people through schools, youth clubs. Lisa Rutter from Devon Youth Service has offered support with access to youth clubs. We will hopefully be targeting Rolle College and Bicton College re older teenagers and outreach workers will hold awareness raising sessions.
- Linking in with Health re DV issues and the Public Health nurses will arrange various displays. It is also intended to have displays at GP practices and hospitals.
- Beer mats with the 24 hour local helpline number will be distributed around pubs and clubs via the Licensees Associations.
- Home is where the Hurt is posters to be displayed in EDDC poster holders in public toilets across the district. This is about 250 posters in both male and female toilets.
- An article about DV will be sent to all editors of parish magazines etc, asking for inclusion.

- Re Men against DV Exmouth Rugby Club will allow us the opportunity of a press photo and will line up at their training evening on the Thursday, wearing white ribbons and holding the blue banner.
- A local pub, the Park Hotel, in Exeter Road, Exmouth, will allow us to link in with their weekly pub quiz on the Tuesday and will donate most of the takings towards the Safe House collection. We hope to have some teams from the Forum attend but apparently the premises are packed on quiz night which affords us the opportunity to raise awareness.
- Outreach are liaising with the Royal Marines at Lympstone re displaying some Outreach banners on the road bridge outside the camp.

For more information please contact Gerry Moore: gmoore@eastdevon.gov.uk

MID DEVON FORUM

- Mid Devon will have displays around the District to include Council Offices, Tiverton Library, Connexions Tiverton, CHAT offices and others to be advised. Crediton & Cullompton Community Centres will organise local awareness raising events and widely distribute leaflets and information material.

For more information, please contact Julia Ryder: jryder@middevon.gov.uk

EXETER FORUM

The Exeter Forum has organised a silent march on Monday 26th November. The starting point for the march is outside the old Debenhams building at 11.45 and the group will walk down to Bedford Square.

For more information please contact Michael Miller: michael.miller@exeter.gov.uk

Media during Awareness Week:

BBC Radio Devon will cover a number of stories as a launch of awareness week on Monday 26 November. The issues covered are:

- **Adva's GP Pilot** on routine enquiry and Health Idiva. This is a live interview on Monday morning, for their Breakfast programme.
- **REPAIR** – Jo Bishop is speaking directly with Pete Rosser to do follow up story with the two perpetrators they featured last year.
- **Housing** – a feature on what housing services do to support victims of dv/people at risk of it.
- **IDVAs** – covering the aspects of their work
- **International DV** – Adva has international partners in the DAPHNE programme, and the feature will give information on DV services in other European countries.

Gemini/Lantern and South Hams Radio will have 6-8 adverts a day during awareness week.

Music Against Domestic Violence Presents:

SKAVILLE UK with RHODA DAKAR

Music Against Domestic Abuse
Monday 26th November 8pm
£10 (£8)

After the huge sell-out success of the *Music Against Domestic Violence* (MADA) event last year, MADA is back by popular demand. This time the event will be held at the Exeter Phoenix.

Skaville UK are real veterans of Ska. Nick Welsh (bass/vocals) played and produced with Bad Manners, The Selecter and Prince Buster; Louis Alphonso (vocals/guitar) was the original guitarist with Bad Manners; Martin Stewart played keyboards with Bad Manners and Al Fletcher (drums) has worked with Lee Scratch Perry. Guest singer is Rhoda Dakar, formerly singer with two original ska bands - The Bodysnatchers and The Special AKA.

How to book tickets

Online tickets are sold at: www.exeterboxoffice.com
Or phone: Phoenix box office on (01392) 263518

Domestic Violence & Abuse Awareness Raising for Schools in Devon

Adva offers free domestic violence awareness raising sessions for schools within Devon. DV Forums are currently helping to nominate 5 schools per district for this free training.

Who's it for? All staff working in, and associated with schools

Duration: 2 hours Cost: FREE (within Devon), but school is asked to provide the venue

Entry requirement: None

Overview of Session: What is domestic violence and abuse? The effects of domestic violence and abuse on education. Strategies and preventions for schools. (This is an ideal taster session to influence and encourage attendance on the adva Level 1 – Foundation, Tackling domestic violence and abuse course.)

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.

There will be a FREE copy of the training resource 'Home Ground' for every school that takes up this school awareness raising training.

How To book a place:

Places will be allocated on a first come first serve basis. For more information or bookings, please contact Susannah Hunter (Adva Co-ordinator):

susannah.hunter@devon.gov.uk

News

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans (LGBT) Domestic Abuse Forum

holds its next meeting in London on 12th December 2007 and anyone with an interest in LGBT domestic abuse is welcome to attend.

More details about the Forum (including minutes, an updated information sheet on LGBT domestic abuse, a resource list and membership details) will be available shortly on the GLDVP website: www.gldvp.org.uk

The 'Intercom Trust' is the local LGBT specialist support organisation in Devon and Intercom is available to provide support locally. You can contact them on: **01392 201015**
Website: www.intercomtrust.org.uk

Home Office

An effective practice toolkit has been produced to assist local Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships and Community Safety Partnerships in developing the strategic assessments that will drive forward the 2008 partnership plans.

It is aimed at the people responsible for overseeing or preparing the partnerships' strategic assessments and can be downloaded from: www.info4local.gov.uk

16 Days Take Action Kit

The '16 Days Take Action Kit' has been developed by the Center for Women's Global Leadership

and can be downloaded from www.info4local.gov.uk

The 16 Days Campaign has been used as an organizing strategy by individuals and groups around the world to call for the elimination of all forms of violence against women. Over 2,000 organisations in approximately 154 countries have participated in the Campaign since 1991!

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! steffi.bednarek@devon.gov.uk

adva
against domestic violence and abuse
in Devon