

The logo features the word "insider" in a lowercase, sans-serif font, with a green leaf-like graphic behind the letter 'i'. To the right of "insider" is the word "Briefing" in a larger, bold, uppercase, sans-serif font. The entire logo is set against a light green rectangular background.

## insider Briefing

**Insider 296**

**29 January 2010**

### **News from adva**

When you open your payslip this month, look out for a special message concerning the issue of domestic violence and abuse. A least one in ten County Council staff will have had experience of domestic violence or abuse – and it's hoped that our payslips could provide a lifeline.

Devon's domestic violence and abuse partnership – **adv**a - has included a message in this month's payslips, encouraging people experiencing abuse to seek help.

Rachel Martin from **adv**a said: "January is always the peak time for people reporting cases of domestic violence and abuse. We don't yet have figures for this year from the Police but I believe it has been extremely busy. In Devon each January over 200 women seek support from our voluntary sector specialist support services. This year the annual pressures of Christmas are likely to be exacerbated by the added problems of the recession.

"Given this issue, payslips would seem to be an ideal way to reach people. Devon County Council was very receptive to this new idea, and has always proactively supported **adv**a's work and encouraged staff to report abuse."

East Devon District Council and South Hams District Council have recently joined Devon County Council in adopting new employer domestic violence policies and the DVAC Scheme - Domestic Violence and Abuse Contacts – where trained staff can provide information and advice in confidence.

The payslip message will encourage staff to visit **adv**a's new website at [www.adv.org.uk](http://www.adv.org.uk) or to telephone the national 24 hour helpline on 0808 2000 247. Further information can also be obtained from [www.devon.gov.uk/dva-workplace](http://www.devon.gov.uk/dva-workplace) or by speaking to DCC's trained DVACs in confidence by calling 01392 382828.

**Source: Kor Communications**

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