



# Violence against women and girls (VAWG) newsletter

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## Foreword

I am really pleased to welcome you to the Summer edition of the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) newsletter.

A lot has happened since our last newsletter in March and we have made progress in several areas on the VAWG Action Plan, which would not have been possible without constructive engagement from the voluntary sector. Key recent activity includes:

- Setting up a national Group to Tackle Sexual Violence against Children and Vulnerable People in March this year. The Government is continuing work to co-ordinate and implement learning across Government from the recent inquiries into historic child abuse and current sexual violence prevention issues.
- Holding a VAWG Inter-Ministerial Group in June looking at the threat of online technology, with presentations from the Prime Minister's Advisor on sexualisation, Claire Perry MP, and Professor Sonia Livingstone of the EU Kids Online project.
- Following on from this meeting, the Prime Minister has announced proposals to require search engines to block terms related to child abuse and child pornography, together with a proposed measure to protect children from accessing pornography by requiring Internet Service Providers to demand an "opt-out" from filtering by consumers.

- Progressing criminalisation of Forced Marriage – the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Bill 2013-14 which contains this measure has now cleared the Commons Committee stage. The Commons Report stage will follow once Parliament reconvenes in October.
- Completing the Domestic Violence Prevention Order pilot in June 2012. The evaluation is currently underway and following the evaluation report, Ministers will decide on whether to roll out this scheme nationally later this year.
- Undertaking a targeted distribution drive of the 'Statement Opposing FGM Leaflets' before the summer holiday period. We have now sent out over 10,000 leaflets to date.

If you have any questions relating to violence against women and girls, please email us at:

**[VAWGenquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:VAWGenquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk)**

**Mark Cooper**

Head of Violent Crime Unit, Home Office



# Crown Prosecution Service reports improved convictions across Violence Against Women and Girls

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In the second year of record convictions rates for rape and domestic violence for the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), analysis indicates that convictions have also improved in every other area of recorded Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) prosecutions. Overall, three out of four VAWG cases resulted in convictions with increases in conviction rates for domestic violence, rape and other sexual offences, forced marriage, honour-based violence, child abuse and human trafficking. The CPS has also achieved its highest ever rape and domestic violence conviction rates, with 63.2% of rape prosecutions and 74.3% of domestic violence prosecutions resulting in successful outcomes in 2012-13. These improvements mark a decade of change where a fundamental shift in the CPS’s approach and efforts to take proactive action are having a significant impact.

Director of Public Prosecutions, Keir Starmer QC said: “The evidence is clear that ten years of progress is paying off and not only are the conviction rates steadily increasing, but our service to victims is also improving. These results send a powerful message to perpetrators that they are more likely than ever to be convicted for their crimes. Our focus over the last few years has been honed to understand the vulnerability and intimidation of victims, and the fact that we continue to see fewer cases fail because victims no longer support the prosecution indicates they have growing confidence in what we do. Similarly, the considerable rise in the proportion of rape cases that we charge indicates that we are building stronger cases which lead to more guilty pleas – which

not only saves the court time and resources, but more importantly, spares the victim the need to relive their experience in court.”

Further information is available in the CPS VAWG Annual Report published on 11 July 2013 and available for download at the CPS website: [www.cps.gov.uk](http://www.cps.gov.uk)

## Child sexual exploitation (CSE)

A Local Government Association (LGA) initiative to help raise awareness of CSE was launched at the LGA Conference in the first week of July. The introduction to the resources highlights that the protection of children is one of the most important things councils do, and that raising awareness of this type of abuse is essential to preventing and stopping it early when it does happen. The website information and materials bring together, in one place, resources to help councils raise awareness of this issue within their own organisation, with their local partners and their communities. Please click on the link available **here** to access the resources and further details of the initiative.

## Stop and Search Consultation

The Home Secretary announced the launch of a public consultation on the use of Stop and Search, on 2 July. The government wishes to seek views from the public, the police and interested parties and has published a consultation document and online survey to enable people and organisations to contribute. We are particularly keen that you and your organisation has the opportunity to take part.



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The six week consultation focuses on:

- The effectiveness of Stop & Search
- How fairly it is used
- Balancing public protection with the preservation of individual freedoms
- Bureaucracy in policing

Further information about the consultation and access to the online consultation can be found on [GOV.UK](http://GOV.UK)

## National Group to Tackle Sexual Violence Against Children and Vulnerable People

In March 2013, the Government set up a National Group to Tackle Sexual Violence against Children and Vulnerable People. The National Group is a panel of experts brought together by the Home Office to co-ordinate and implement the learning from recent inquiries into historic sexual abuse and current sexual violence prevention issues.

The Department of Health is leading the work stream on institutions and will be holding workshops and discussions with key stakeholders to see what more can be done to safeguard people in all health and care institutions from the risk of sexual assault or abuse. We held a Risk workshop on 9 July to assess the current risks in the range of care settings in which children and vulnerable adults receive health and social services, focusing on why institutional sexual abuse happens and what needs to be done to close any gaps in existing frameworks and systems. The workshop brought together experts and practitioners from health and adult social care, voluntary organisations, the police, including CEOP, some of the Royal Colleges and other Government Departments.

The workshop was well attended and findings from the day will form the basis of our interim report to the National Group on Sexual Violence Against Children and Vulnerable People. The findings from the workshop will be tested with stakeholders before a final report in the autumn. The methodology developed in the workshop will be recommended to other Government Departments who wish to undertake a gap analysis of areas of vulnerability to improve services in their policy areas (since this work stream is intended to cover all state institutions).

## Centre for Social Action Rehabilitation Social Action Fund

The Cabinet Office Centre for Social Action launched the Rehabilitation Social Action Fund for applications on 12 July. This fund has been developed in partnership with the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) and the National Offender Management Service (NOMS), drawing on consultation with 37 organisations throughout May 2013.

The Rehabilitation Social Action Fund will be run through the Cabinet Office’s Centre for Social Action which aims to tackle social issues by making the most of individuals and communities resources, for example by promoting volunteering, mentoring or peer-to-peer support. The Centre will promote social action by supporting innovation, scaling up social action models, developing infrastructure to facilitate social action, and building an evidence base.

The Rehabilitation Social Action Fund will give organisations the resource to explore approaches to deliver social action programmes at a greater scale, whether that is through partnership working, expansion of an existing service, or replication of a model in a new location. The Cabinet Office will be looking for applications from organisations with a strong business



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case for scaling up a well tested social action programme. It will also give grant recipients the opportunity to invest in demonstrating the impact of social action as an effective tool to reduce reoffending, drawing in expertise from research specialists where needed.

Up to £3.5 million will be available and programmes can apply for grants of between £50,000 and £250,000. Charities or social enterprises using social action to reduce reoffending in England can apply. Applicants will need to have well tested models of social action supporting adult offenders with at least 2 years delivery experience and existing offender referral pathways. Organisations will be supported to develop scale over the 18 month grant period (from October 2013 to end March 2015), appropriate to their size and expertise, in order to achieve sustainability. We will strongly welcome organisations with match funding and a strong case for how they plan to fund their activities beyond this fund. More info can be found at <http://www.gov.uk/centre-for-social-action>.

## The CEDAW Committee’s Observations and Recommendations have now been published.

The Home Office, along with other UK Government Departments and the Devolved Administrations, took part in the UK’s examination on the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) on 17 July 2013 in Geneva. The CEDAW Committee focused on the UK’s progress in implementing the Convention and the recommendations that were made by the Committee in 2008.

The Committee’s report following the examination can be found [here](#)

## Securing Excellence in commissioning sexual assault services for people who experience sexual violence

NHS England published Securing Excellence in commissioning sexual assault services for people who experience sexual violence on 13 June 2013. This publication aims to support commissioners in delivering a consistent, high quality approach to the delivery of services that secure the best outcomes for victims of sexual assault and rape. For more information please visit <http://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/130613-sec-exc-cvsa.pdf>

## Launch of new National Stalking Advocacy Service, Paladin

The new National Stalking Advocacy Service, Paladin, launched officially at the House of Lords on Thursday 11 July 2013. Founded by Co-Directors Laura Richards and Harry Fletcher, Paladin was established in the spring of 2013 following the highly successful campaign in Stalking Law reform Inquiry in Parliament.

Laura Richards, Director at Paladin and a criminal behavioural analyst and adviser said ‘Stalkers steal lives and also take lives, if their behaviour remains unchecked and they are allowed to escalate. In many cases this has resulted in serious violence, rape and in some cases murder. This is about homicide prevention and this unique



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stalking advocacy service will not only save lives, it will also save money by ensuring a coordinated response and the appropriate support of victims’.

The Paladin team, which includes Independent Stalking Advocacy Caseworkers (ISACs), will provide support to victims of a crime that affects up to 4% of women and 3% of men.

This is the first service of its kind for stalking and Paladin’s ultimate aim is to save lives. Paladin aims to ensure high risk victims of stalking are supported and that a co-ordinated community response is developed locally to keep victims and their children safer by:

- Giving a voice to victims
  - support/advice and signposting of vulnerable high risk victims through the criminal justice and family court system and ensuring a co-ordinated community response to safeguard victims
  - expertise on risk identification,
  - assessment, management safety and security advice for victims and families
- Establishing a network of victims who have endured stalking, providing mutual support and empowerment
- Providing test case advocacy aimed at changing law and practice through the courts
- Campaigning based on extrapolating from case work experiences
- Publishing research briefings for the public, parliament and media
- Providing post-legislative scrutiny
- Provide training for criminal justice professionals
- For more information on Paladin please e-mail [info@paladinservice.co.uk](mailto:info@paladinservice.co.uk) or visit [www.paladinservice.co.uk](http://www.paladinservice.co.uk)

## Responsibility Deal Domestic Violence pledge launched

A new Responsibility Deal pledge appropriate for all organisations wanting to help and support staff facing domestic violence, was launched on 25 June 2013 at the Department of Health by Baroness Scotland and Dame Carol Black.

With 1 in 4 women and 1 in 6 men affected by domestic violence during their adult lives, every workplace up and down the country is touched by this issue. Several organisations, including British Airways, the Charity for Civil Servants, Cornwall Council, Co-ordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse (CAADA), Corporate Alliance Against Domestic Violence (CAADV), the Department of Health, Eliminate Domestic Violence Global Foundation, HMRC, Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals NHS Trust, Sodexo and Women’s Aid are the first to sign up to the pledge.

The Department of Health, working closely with CAADA, has developed two leaflets: one for **employees** ensuring they understand their rights and responsibilities within the organisation; and a separate leaflet for **employers**, giving guidance on how to support those who are in immediate need of help.

Health Minister, Earl Howe said: “Domestic violence can have a devastating and long term effect on a survivor’s mental health. It is probably the most prevalent cause of stress and depression in women. And children who live with domestic violence are at increased risk of behavioural problems, emotional trauma and mental health difficulties in adult life.



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“The workplace can play a key role in helping to support those who are facing such problems. That is why we have launched this important new pledge, as part of the Responsibility Deal, to encourage employers to recognise the issue and put in place measures that will help alleviate the long term suffering that many people are living with.”

Diana Barran, Chief Executive of the national charity Co-ordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse (CAADA) said: “Domestic abuse is prevalent in society, but at the same time, often very hidden. That’s why we’re delighted to work in partnership with the Department of Health and other charities to produce practical guidance for employers and employees. We’re confident that the pledge and guidance will encourage more victims to come forward and seek support.”

For more information on this pledge, contact the **health at work team** at [responsibilitydealhealthatwork@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:responsibilitydealhealthatwork@dh.gsi.gov.uk).

## National model outcomes framework for survivors of violence against women and girls

The Aya Project, an innovative partnership between Women’s Aid and Imkaan, is developing a national model outcomes framework for survivors of violence against women and girls (VAWG).

The framework will sit within Women’s Aid and Imkaan national service standards’ and forthcoming accreditation process; together they provide a consistent and adaptive monitoring and evaluation system to help ensure the provision of quality services across the VAWG sector.

The outcomes framework will map and measure a survivor’s journey to safety and recovery, map the support provided and evidence the impact of support services.

The data reported should inform local authorities’ and other funders’ commissioning processes: commissioners will have access to consistent information collected against unified survivor-identified outcomes that will enable benchmarking and evaluation of service quality and outcomes.

At national level, the framework will collate data to build an accurate picture of the nature and extent of VAWG, and map the gaps of prevention and support services. It will be piloted in October 2013 and roll out early 2014.

Women’s Aid has launched its National Register of Practitioners. Anyone holding the Domestic Abuse Prevention Advocate (DAPA) title can join the Register. The DAPA title is awarded to people completing the Women’s Aid Certificate in Tackling and Preventing Domestic Violence/Abuse – see [www.nationaltrainingcentre.org.uk](http://www.nationaltrainingcentre.org.uk).

The Certificate is one of many training and awareness raising courses run by the Women’s Aid National Training Centre. All courses respond to individual training requirements and bespoke courses can be designed on request. Training is available to any professionals who may come into contact with survivors.

Women’s Aid also runs the UK Gold Book Online which provides up to date information for professionals on services for survivors of domestic violence in addition to a comprehensive range of information and support services available at [www.womensaid.org.uk](http://www.womensaid.org.uk), including a forum for survivors.



## Improved rape support funding for England and Wales

As part of the Government’s wider strategy for tackling sexual violence, the Ministry of Justice is improving funding for rape support provision across England and Wales. By way of background, Rape Support Centres provide crucial crisis and long-term specialised support, counselling and independent advocacy for people who have experienced any form of sexual violence at any time in their lives; whether recently and/or in the past. Many of these centres are affiliated to a national umbrella organisation such as Rape Crisis England and Wales, or The Survivors Trust. All Rape Support Centres are autonomous organisations, independent from the police, criminal justice system, health or any other statutory agencies.

The Ministry of Justice Rape Support Fund has provided annual Grant funding of over £4 million a year to 78 rape support centres around the country since 2011; 13 of these rape support centres have been newly commissioned by the Department.

The current funding arrangements for the majority of the rape support centres come to an end in March 2014. To ensure that there is no hiatus in support provision, the commissioning programme for the new rape support funding will follow an accelerated timetable in order to transition smoothly into a new funding cycle from April 2014. We will publish a commissioning package to front line rape support providers in the autumn. Rape support will remain nationally commissioned on a match funding basis as is currently in place.

## International Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative

Since the Foreign Secretary launched the Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative (PSVI) in May 2012 there has been significant progress in raising awareness of the issues surrounding sexual violence in conflict and on tackling the political barriers which contribute to a culture of impunity for these crimes.

In April G8 Foreign Ministers adopted a **historic declaration**, which alongside a number of commitments, declared that rape and serious sexual violence are breaches of the Geneva Conventions. This means G8 governments are under an obligation to search for and prosecute (or hand over for trial) any individual alleged to have committed or ordered a grave breach regardless of nationality. There should be no safe haven for perpetrators of sexual violence in armed conflict. Work has also begun on developing a new International Protocol on documenting rape and sexual violence in conflict.

The FCO, working closely with Stabilisation Unit has set up a new UK Team of Experts and they have already deployed to Bosnia, Mali, Libya and the Syrian Borders. The FCO is also engaging with the UN and other partners on a number of other countries in order to support local capacity to respond to sexual violence in conflict and provide long-term, consistent support for survivors.

Building on this momentum the **Foreign Secretary chaired** a debate at the UN Security Council on 24 June. The first resolution on sexual violence in three years, **Resolution 2106**, was adopted, with 45 States co-sponsoring. Briefings from the Secretary General, the Secretary General’s Special Representative on Sexual

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Violence in Conflict, the UNHCR Special Envoy and the NGO Women’s Initiatives for Gender Justice, sent powerful messages about the need to take action.

You can follow the work of PSVI on Twitter [@fcohumanrights](#) and [@WilliamJHague](#). Or find more information on the Initiative at [www.gov.uk/government/policies/preventing-conflict-in-fragile-states--2/supporting-pages/preventing-sexual-violence-initiative](http://www.gov.uk/government/policies/preventing-conflict-in-fragile-states--2/supporting-pages/preventing-sexual-violence-initiative)

## Launch of new FGM helpline

On 24 June, the NSPCC launched a helpline to help protect UK children from female genital mutilation (FGM) after finding that over 1,700 victims were referred to specialist clinics in the last two years.\*

The free 24-hour helpline, 0800 028 3550, is for anyone concerned that a child’s welfare is at risk because of FGM and are seeking advice, information or support. Though callers’ details can remain anonymous, any information that could protect a child from abuse will be passed to the police or social services.

People can also email the NSPCC at [fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:fgmhelp@nspcc.org.uk). The government hopes that information gathered from calls to the helpline will provide partners with the intelligence required to take action against those who facilitate FGM.

## The Statement Opposing FGM

We have been undertaking a targeted distribution drive of the ‘Statement Opposing FGM Leaflets’ before the summer holiday period and have sent out over 10,000 leaflets to date.

Partners and community organisations working with young girls who may be at risk of FGM can order copies of the statement by emailing [Alison.Humphreys3@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Alison.Humphreys3@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk) or by calling her on 020 7035 5365. The statement outlines:

- What FGM is;
- The legislation and penalties involved;
- The help and support available.

It is available in English, French, Arabic, Somali, Swahili, Amharic, Tigrinya, Urdu, Farsi/Afghan, Turkish and Welsh.

\*Six clinics in England, which specialise in helping victims of FGM, provided the NSPCC with patient data from the last two years.

## Publication of Domestic Violence Research Report

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) commissioned a small scale research project to understand how the Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) Domestic Violence (DV) Easement and the Destitute Domestic Violence (DDV) Concession are operating. **Domestic Violence: Implementation of JSA DV Easement and DDV Concession – Small Scale Qualitative Report** was published on 20 June 2013.

From 1 April 2012, DWP have been working with officials in the Home Office and UK Border Agency to ensure migrant spouse victims of domestic violence who have been granted leave to remain outside the immigration rules under the ‘destitute domestic violence concession’ are able to access eligible income-related benefits.





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From 23 April 2012, DWP introduced a specific easement from jobseeking conditions for Jobseeker’s Allowance claimants who are victims of actual or threatened domestic violence. This means an exemption from job-seeking conditions and requirements to be actively looking for employment for an initial 4 week period providing certain conditions are met, which can extend to a total of 13 weeks where relevant evidence is provided.

The research explored the level of awareness and implementation of both policies amongst Jobcentre Plus staff and stakeholders, and the additional services provided by Jobcentre Plus offices to help victims of domestic violence engage with the labour market.

The research featured case study visits to five Jobcentre Plus offices, and interviews with 35 local office and District representatives including managers and front-line staff. The study also featured consultations with domestic violence policy stakeholders, with fieldwork taking place between mid-February and early March 2013. DWP has used this research to begin to:

- improve understanding of both the JSA DV Easement and DDV Concession policies;
- consider how management information could be distributed to district/sub-district level;
- work with partnership managers to promote the benefits of maintaining a good dialogue with local DV stakeholders;
- maintain strong relationships with DV Stakeholders at a national level to deal with issues, identify and share best practice

## End Violence Against Women Coalition activity

The Home Secretary’s ambition of ‘nothing less than ending violence against women and girls’ sends a clear message about the priority she gives this issue and EVAW experts recently published an assessment of this pledge, ‘Deeds or Words?’ ([http://www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk/data/files/resources/57/Deeds-or-Words\\_Report.pdf](http://www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk/data/files/resources/57/Deeds-or-Words_Report.pdf)). Experts urged the Coalition Government to be aspirational in its goals for a safer and more equal society for women and girls, and found that we have the building blocks in place to be a global leader on women’s safety but that more needs to be done to ensure all parts of government pull together.

To assess how schools are tackling VAWG in their policies and procedures, EVAW is carrying out research in several local areas where there is already a VAWG strategy and commitment to prevention. The findings from two local areas, Bristol (<http://www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk/data/files/resources/50/Bristol-report-Schools-Safe-4-Girlsx.pdf>) and Thurrock (<http://www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk/data/files/resources/58/Thurrock-report-Schools-Safe-4-Girls-FINALx.pdf>), show that whilst there is a commitment to work in schools to prevent VAWG, policies and practices are often patchy and under-resourced.

EVAW has also co-hosted a roundtable on the issue of Social Media and VAWG with the Guardian and will be publishing a report of the event.

The Home Office and EVAW also co-hosted a roundtable event on the subject of Behaviour Change and VAWG which prompted new ideas for work across government and the voluntary sector to prevent VAWG.



## New CAADA research into hospital based IDVA services

Hospital-based IDVA services appear to be assisting a higher proportion of vulnerable and hard-to-reach groups than non-hospital services, early research from CAADA shows. Victims presenting to hospital-based IDVAs were shown to be significantly more likely to be experiencing mental health issues, suicide attempts/threats and self-harm, while a larger proportion of victims aged under 20 were also identified. Nearly eight times as many hospital IDVA clients are pregnant compared to those accessing help from non-hospital based services.

The research has been published in the first in a series of **research briefings** generated by CAADA's **Themis** research programme. Launched in November 2012, Themis evaluates the benefits of co-locating IDVA services in hospitals. The data was collected over a period of 12 months from four participating hospital-based IDVA services. In addition to the research briefing, **a practice briefing for health based domestic abuse services** is also available.

### Shared Insights, Shared Outcomes: subsidised outcomes measurement for domestic abuse services

A new national programme is offering heavily subsidised outcomes measurement to 65 voluntary domestic abuse services across the UK. Run by CAADA, the **Shared Insights, Shared Outcomes** programme aims to develop a shared understanding of good service outcomes and put data gathered directly from victims at the heart of decision-making by funders and commissioners.

The programme supports local services to use Insights data to evidence the difference they make for victims and to engage local commissioners to demonstrate the value and impact of good services. The programme also engages commissioners/strategic leads from the outset both to support the use of local data gathered through Insights in decision-making, and to involve them in the future development of shared outcomes measurement across the sector.

If you are an interested service and you require further information, please contact the Insights team via **[insights@caada.org.uk](mailto:insights@caada.org.uk)** or on 0117 317 8750.

If you are an interested commissioner/strategic lead and you require further information, please contact CAADA's Partnership Development Manager, Julia Carver, on **[julia.carver@caada.org.uk](mailto:julia.carver@caada.org.uk)** / 07880 387036.

### The National Young People's Violence Advocacy Programme

CAADA, **Barnardo's**, **Leap Confronting Conflict**, the **Iranian and Kurdish Women's Rights Organisation** (IKWRO) and **the Marie Collins Foundation** recently announced a new partnership programme in England. The **National Young People's Violence Advocacy** programme supports local areas to develop a consistent local response to young people 13 years and older, who are experiencing a range of intimate partner abuse, including domestic abuse, sexual exploitation, gangs / young people who harm others, 'Honour'-based Violence, forced marriage and online/cyber stalking and abuse.

The programme addresses the recent change to the definition of domestic abuse to include 16-17 year olds,

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through the development of local care pathways which integrate appropriate elements from existing safeguarding and domestic abuse responses, including MARACs, where relevant. The two year programme launched in May 2013 and is funded by the **Department for Education**.

For more information, visit the **CAADA website** or contact the CAADA helpdesk via **queries@caada.org.uk**.

## Surrey County Council wins awards for domestic abuse libraries project

The Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP) have awarded the CILIP Libraries Change Lives Award to Surrey County Council for their innovative project ‘Domestic abuse -how Surrey libraries can help’

Surrey County Council Libraries offers support and guidance to those experiencing domestic abuse and to survivors of domestic abuse, providing vital information and resources in a safe environment. They help those who have experienced sexual, emotional, physical, financial and violent abuse, forced marriage and genital mutilation. They also work with frontline domestic abuse professionals to support their work and jointly develop services to increase awareness throughout the Surrey population of the scale of domestic abuse in the county.

### Highlights of Surrey County Council Libraries work includes:

- Information through specialised book stock, covering all aspects of domestic abuse, dispersed across the county for discretion as well as ease of reservation, and dedicated web pages and signposting to other local

and national services.

- Events for residents experiencing domestic abuse, including self-esteem workshops, poetry sessions run with a local survivors support group, and a poetry and art session run with the local youth support group service.
- A domestic abuse survivors reading group.
- e-book readers and e-book downloading training for refuge residents.
- Awareness of the services offered to those experiencing or who have experienced domestic abuse and the professionals working with them, forging links between the library service with the police, borough and district councils, Crimestoppers and the Surrey and Sussex Probation Service.
- Increasing awareness of domestic abuse amongst County Council staff.

Further information is available at: **<http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/people-and-community/libraries/your-health-and-well-being-how-libraries-can-help/domestic-abuse-how-libraries-can-help>**