



Home Office

## Violence Against Women and Girls Newsletter Spring Edition 2013

### Introduction



I am pleased to introduce the spring edition of the Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) Newsletter, which marks International Women's Day.

As Minister for Crime Prevention, I am committed to ending domestic and sexual violence and enabling women and girls to live their lives safely and freely. Today we have reaffirmed our commitment by publishing our *Call to End Violence against Women and Girls: Action Plan 2013*. The updated action plan not only summarises what we have achieved with your help over the last 12 months, but also sets-out where we can direct national activity over the next year to have the most impact. So more focus on: tackling the underlying attitudes that foster gender-based violence; innovating to address old problems in a new way; supporting an end-to-end approach to tackling sexual violence; and providing greater support for under-represented groups like gang-associated girls and those at risk of forced marriage and female genital mutilation.

Violence against women and girls cannot be solved by Government alone. Indeed, the progress that we have made so far would not have been possible without the tireless passion and commitment of frontline professionals, campaigners and charities throughout England and Wales.

This year we will continue to help bring together frontline professionals and those who commission services at a local level.

By working together, we can end violence against women and girls.

Thank you

## **Violence against Women and Girls Action Plan**

To mark International Women's day the Government has today published *A Called to End Violence Against Women and Girls: Action Plan 2013*. Over 40 of the previous actions have been closed and there are now 110 actions to deliver.

Cross-Government activity continues to focus on the guiding principles of prevention, provision of services, partnership working as well as to improve justice outcomes and reducing risk to victims. We have also increased activity on new and emerging issues and those areas best supported by national activity: integrating violence against women and girls into wider Government reforms; providing more support for under-represented women and girls; ensuring an end-to-end approach to sexual violence and sexual exploitation; continued focus on prevention and early intervention; and increased efforts to develop the evidence base on violence against women and girls and to better measure outcomes.

This plan was developed through engagement across Government and with the voluntary and community sector; we are grateful for the efforts of all of those who contributed.

The plan is available here: [www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/crime/call-end-violence-women-girls/vawg-action-plan-2013](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/crime/call-end-violence-women-girls/vawg-action-plan-2013)

No 10 has also produced a map of government activity to mark International Women's Day <http://engage.number10.gov.uk/international-womens-day-2013>

## **Forced Marriage Events**

On 8 June 2012 the Government announced that it will make forcing someone to marry a criminal offence. As part of the package which supported this announcement we are rolling out a regional community engagement programme focused on prevention and education. This will be delivered through a series of regional road shows and debates with members of the community. The first event took place in Birmingham on 4<sup>th</sup> March. Dates for future events are listed below.

### **14 March - Liverpool**

Time: 10-1:00pm

Location: Holiday Inn City Centre, Lime Street, Liverpool, L1 1NQ

### **15 March – Manchester**

Time: 10-1:00pm

Location: Macdonald Manchester Hotel & Spa, London Road, Manchester, M1 2PG

### **18 March – Cardiff**

Time: 10-1:00pm

Location: Castle Street, Cardiff South, Glamorgan, CF10 1SZ

### **25 March – London**

Time: 10-1:00pm

Location: 9-23 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 3DW

### **27 March – Sheffield**

Time: 10:30–1:30pm

Location: Sheffield Hallam University, City Campus, Howard Street, Sheffield S1 1WB

### **28 March - Middlesbrough**

Time: 10-1:00pm

Location: Acklam Green Centre, Stainsby Road, Middlesbrough, TS5 4JS

For further information please contact: [fm@fco.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:fm@fco.gsi.gov.uk)

## **Home Office Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) Training**

The Home Office is currently delivering training for those who wish to learn more about the process of conducting and chairing Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs). The training consists of a one day introductory seminar for all those who may be involved in the Review or want to find out more. There is also separate two-day classroom based training for those who wish to train as chairpersons. People interested in the training should apply to do either the seminar, or the chairperson's training **but not both**.

The training is aimed at developing additional skills within the statutory and voluntary sectors to enable areas to take forward Domestic Homicide Reviews. We offer this training free to those in the statutory or voluntary sectors, however the training is not open to private consultants. These events are taking place in nine different regions across the country, and four regions have already held events.

To apply for either the Seminar or Chairperson's training in any of the five remaining regions, please see the advert, application form and information on the DHR training which can be found at: [www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/crime/domestic-homicide-training](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/crime/domestic-homicide-training)

Please return your application form to: [DHREnquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:DHREnquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk)

Although, these events are free of charge to attend unfortunately, we will not be able to cover any associated travel or accommodation costs.

## **Domestic Homicide Reports Writers Guide**

We have recently issued a guide for those who are tasked with writing a final Overview report for a Domestic Homicide Review. *The Guide to Overview Report Writing* can be found at: [www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime/violence-against-women-girls/domestic-violence/domestic-homicide-reviews/](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime/violence-against-women-girls/domestic-violence/domestic-homicide-reviews/)

## **Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) Fund**

On 26 November, the Home Office announced a fund of up to £150,000 for this financial year (2012-13) to support Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) in their duty to hold Domestic Homicide Reviews. **Please note that the closing date for receipt of applications is the 8 March.**

For more information and to find out how to apply visit: [www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime/violence-against-women-girls/domestic-violence/domestic-homicide-reviews/app-funding-domestic-violence/](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime/violence-against-women-girls/domestic-violence/domestic-homicide-reviews/app-funding-domestic-violence/)

## **Change in definition of domestic violence**

On 19 September 2012, following a public consultation, the Deputy Prime Minister announced that the Government would be extending the definition of domestic violence so that young people aged 16 and 17 would be included. The change is being introduced to increase awareness that young people from this age group do experience domestic violence and abuse. We also announced that wording to capture coercive control would be introduced.

**The new definition will be implemented from 31 March 2013**

Whilst this is not a legislative change, the definition will send a clear message to victims about what does constitute domestic violence and abuse.

We would encourage you to review your guidance and policies on domestic violence to ensure they reflect the change in definition.

### New Definition

*Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. This can encompass but is not limited to the following types of abuse:*

- *psychological*
- *physical*
- *sexual*
- *financial*
- *emotional*

*Controlling behaviour is: a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour.*

*Coercive behaviour is: an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim.”\**

*\*This definition includes so called 'honour' based violence, female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage, and is clear that victims are not confined to one gender or ethnic group.*

An information document for local areas will be available on the website next week.

### Teenage Relationship Abuse Campaign

The Teenage Relationship Abuse campaign was re-launched on 14 February 2013 and advertising will run through to April 2013. The campaign is targeted at 13-18 year old boys and girls and aims to prevent teenagers from becoming victims and perpetrators of abusive relationships. It encourages teenagers to re-think their views of violence, abuse or controlling behaviour in relationships and directs them to the [campaign website \(this is abuse\)](#) for help and advice.

Advertising is being run on TV and Video on Demand, specifically targeted at teen channels and also on the radio. A Campaign Brief with background information and details on how partners can order support materials is available. Please email the [VAWG Campaigns team](#) to request a copy of the Campaign Brief.

### Strategic Priorities for Female Offenders

The Ministry of Justice plan to publish, by the end of March, a document on the Justice website setting out our strategic priorities for female offenders. This publication follows a commitment by Lord McNally to publish strategic priorities for female offenders during Parliamentary debates last year.

### Female Genital Mutilation Fund

This week the Department for International Development (DFID) launched a new [programme worth up to £35m to help end Female Genital Mutilation](#) (FGM) in Africa and beyond. The programme aims to reduce FGM by 30% in at least ten priority countries in the next five years and to help end FGM within a generation.

## **Safeguarding Child Performance**

On 26 February 2013, the Government [published a report of the consultation](#) on proposed changes to child performance legislation. The key purpose of the measures proposed in the consultation was to increase the opportunities for children to benefit from taking part in performances, and to ensure that children in different areas can access them on an equal basis. Please refer to the [Department for Education's website](#) for more information.

## **Department of Health**

To mark International Women's Day, the Department of Health will be hosting a staff event to highlight to colleagues what they are doing to support employees in the workplace affected by domestic violence.

### **Activities on the day include:**

- IWD ribbons for staff to wear to show their support (available at reception and in the restaurants)
- An article will appear on there internal intranet site outlining the importance and some of the associated facts for IWD
- Provide Fact sheets on Domestic Violence for staff to take away
- Holding a Roundtable discussion to promote how the Department is supporting IWD

Attending the roundtable event will be key senior officials in the Department supported by their Domestic Violence Champion, Dr Felicity Harvey CBE, who is Director General of Public Health in the Department. Also attending the event is Melissa Morbeck, Chief Executive of the Corporate Alliance Against Domestic Violence and Kevin Fenton, Head of Health and WellBeing at Public Health England. The Public Health Minister, Anna Soubry, has been invited to attend along with a number of internal women's network groups, which should make for a lively discussion.

## **Sexual Assault Services**

The Department of Health (DH) signed a mutual Agreement with the NHS Commissioning Board (NHSCB), for the Board to directly commission health services for victims of sexual assault in 2013-14. The Agreement formally delegates thirty public health responsibilities held by the Secretary of State for Health, including sexual assault services. It specifies the services to be commissioned by the NHSCB, the outcomes and results the services should achieve. These "key deliverables" are matched as closely as possible to the Public Health Outcomes Framework.

Ultimately, the Secretary of State for Health remains accountable for these public health functions, and the Agreement includes mechanisms for the DH to support and challenge the NHSCB. The arrangements will include an 'oversight group' with Public Health England, which is jointly led by the Director General of Public Health in DH and the Chief Operating Officer in the NHSCB. The NHSCB will give an annual report to the Secretary of State on its performance in delivering the key outcomes set out in the Agreement.

The Agreement itself, with its overarching governance arrangements and a copy of the specification to commission sexual assault services is available at:

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/11/sector-7a/>

There is £1,843m for the Section 7A Agreement, plus another £360m from the public health budget for services provided through primary care. This represents a total of £2.2bn for 2013-14 and the NHSCB will ensure that the ring-fenced sum goes towards fulfilling the Agreement and

it will report on use of this money, including an annual report. The NHSCB's funding from the public health budget will be ring-fenced within the overall resource limit stated in the Mandate to the NHS, which was also published in November 2011.

The NHSCB has developed commissioning models for the delegated public health services and its Area Teams will administer them. Directors of Public Health in local authorities will challenge and advise the NHSCB on its performance. The NHSCB intends to publish its specific arrangements for commissioning sexual assault services in its series on *Securing Excellence in Commissioning*. Ten of its 29 Area Teams for offender health will be responsible for commissioning sexual assault services to national and local specifications and quality. The NHSCB is expected to collaborate with local police forces, police and crime commissioners and local authorities in its area on commissioning sexual assault services. Public Health England will support the NHSCB with expert advice. The Agreement will be reviewed and revised for 2014.

### **New qualifications for the domestic violence sector**

Learners can acquire an Award, Certificate and/or Diploma in Tackling and Preventing Domestic and Sexual Violence/ Abuse at the Women's Aid National Learning & Development Centre. All have been mapped to the National Occupational Standards for Tackling and Preventing Domestic and Sexual Violence/ Abuse. The qualifications are appropriate for all roles supporting victims of domestic and sexual violence - e.g. Refuge Support Worker, Outreach worker, Volunteers, IDVA, Children's worker, Service managers.

More information about the qualifications can be found on the Women's Aid website [www.womensaid.org.uk/training](http://www.womensaid.org.uk/training)

To speak to someone about the qualifications or to receive a booking form please contact Jodie Phillips 01179 447190 or [j.phillips@womensaid.org.uk](mailto:j.phillips@womensaid.org.uk)

### **Traffic Light Tool**

An evidence-based resource and training programme which uses a 'traffic light' tool to help professionals to assess and respond to the sexual behaviours of young people. This will:

- Help to assess and respond appropriately to sexual behaviour
- Improve understanding of healthy sexual development
- Improve consistency and quality of decision making
- Increase confidence in decision making
- Provide better support for young people

More information about the traffic light tool can be found on the Women's Aid website: [www.brook.org.uk/traffic-lights](http://www.brook.org.uk/traffic-lights)

### **Give 'n' Get Project**

The Give 'n' Get Project, a research team from the Child and Woman Abuse Studies Unit at London Metropolitan University, has been funded by the Office of the Children's Commissioner to find out what young people understand about consent.

Short films have been produced about situations where young people have had sex. The films form part of an online survey where questions are asked about what happened in them. The final report will include analysis of the survey responses alongside findings from focus groups and individual interviews conducted across England.

The Give 'n' Get Project need your help in getting the survey out to people aged 13 – 18 years.

If you could kindly publicise through your networks or use directly with young people you work with. [www.givenget.info/](http://www.givenget.info/)

### **Coordinated Community Response Model Online Toolkit**

The Coordinated Community Response to domestic violence (CCRM) was designed by AVA and funded by the Home Office as a blueprint against which local services could map their provision for domestic violence services in order to assess their current response and identify any gaps. Designed for strategic planners, this toolkit will provide you with guidance, research and examples of projects and initiatives to assist in creating a more comprehensive and stronger interagency response. While each of the sections have been designed to focus on a specific area, there may be a number of sections that will be of use and you will be encouraged to cross reference where appropriate. The toolkit is work in progress designed to be continually monitored and updated, so if you notice any gaps or would like any of your research, evaluations or publications featured please bring it to our attention by using the following link to e-mail your suggestions to AVA at: [ccrm@avaproject.org.uk](mailto:ccrm@avaproject.org.uk).

To access the toolkit go to: [www.ccrm.org.uk/](http://www.ccrm.org.uk/)