



# Somerset Domestic Abuse Newsletter

Edition 17

February 2020



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Welcome to this latest edition of the Somerset Domestic Abuse Newsletter, which contains updates on local and national domestic abuse related matters.

Please share with colleagues and your teams!

**Like more information on domestic abuse services in Somerset, and other helpful information?**

Please go to the Somerset Domestic Abuse Website at [www.somersetsurvivors.org.uk](http://www.somersetsurvivors.org.uk)

## Change of Provider for Somerset's Domestic Abuse Service

### Thankyou to Live west and Barnardo's

Live West Housing (formerly Knightstone Housing) in conjunction with Barnardo's has delivered the SIDAS contract for Somerset County Council since January 2015. The contract has delivered services to thousands of victims in Somerset over this time, to help keep them safe. A significant number of children and perpetrators have also received their specialist support. This contract will end on 31st March 2020, and so as advised in previous newsletters, a new provider of SIDAS will be in place from then.

Somerset County Council and its partner agencies would like to thank Live West and Barnardo's for all their work working in partnership to deliver SIDAS over the previous 5 years.

### Welcome to The You Trust

From 1st April 2020, You First will be Somerset's partner delivering the Somerset Integrated Domestic Abuse Service. You First is part of a family, creatively empowering people to thrive in their communities. We have been working with vulnerable people since 1985, enabling them to pursue the life they want by identifying what matters to them and working together innovatively to find ways in which that can be achieved.

You First's dedicated specialist domestic abuse team is nationally-recognised for its innovative work, with some of its projects being held up as examples of national best practice and securing repeat funding from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

Our successful You First team currently deliver across: the commissioned domestic abuse service for Dorset; the domestic abuse and sexual crime service for the Isle of Wight; hospital-based domestic abuse specialist support in Bournemouth, Christchurch, and Poole; the CONNECT pilot project led by Safe Lives in West Sussex; and community-based support across Hampshire.

You First's Dragonfly Project trains champions in the community to help connect those affected by domestic abuse with the support they need, and this work was featured in a 2019 piece on BBC Countryfile looking at the issue of domestic abuse in rural areas.

We are looking forward to bringing to Somerset decades of knowledge, expertise, and – most importantly – our passionate commitment to working together with communities to bring about positive change and a safer world, empowering individuals to make choices for change.

We will be working in partnership with other agencies and organisations in a developmental model that will flex and adapt to meet local needs whilst helping to build on the strengths of existing work and up-skilling the frontline workforce across the county to embed the principle that we all have a role to play in ending domestic violence.

*Submitted by You Trust*

### How To Contact SIDAS After 1st April 2020?

The telephone number (0800 69 49 999) will remain the same. But the email address WILL change. Confirmation of the address will be published nearer the time.

The Somerset Survivors website will also provide any updates.



## Barnardo's REPROVIDE Service

### Domestic Violence Intervention Programme (DVPI) in Somerset—Great new opportunity for men in Somerset

From March 2020, Barnardo's will be running 2 groups per week for men who live in Somerset or North Somerset who are concerned about their abusive behaviour towards women. Men attending the groups run by our experienced facilitators will be offered 23 weeks of free support.

The groups will be running on: Wednesday 18:30—20:30 in Taunton and Thursday 18:30—20:30 in Shepton Mallet

This service will build upon Barnardo's recent work in Somerset to provide groupwork behaviour change models to perpetrators of domestic abuse as part of SIDAS (Somerset Integrated Domestic Abuse Service).

Due to the high quality of our work RESPECT (<http://respect.uk.net>) recommended and linked us with the Reprovide research team at the University of Bristol who are currently running a national trial into the effectiveness of group work approaches in supporting behaviour change for perpetrators of domestic abuse. Barnardo's in Somerset will be one of 4 trial sites in England and Wales.

We will require support from a range of our key partners in Somerset and North Somerset to help identify possible participants for this programme; there is a target of 92 men to join the research trial in Somerset.

#### What is REPROVIDE? - Reaching Everyone Programme of Research On Violence In diverse Domestic Environments

We know that often men worried about the impact of their abusive behaviour on their female partner or ex-partners, but that it can be difficult to get help to stop behaving this way.

The University of Bristol want to test this programme, so that they can see if it really does help men and improve safety for their partners, ex-partners and for children.

#### Who is eligible to take part in the study?

We want to recruit men who are: Aged 21 years or over; Who are worried that their own behaviour in relationships with women might be violent or abusive; Who can understand English well enough to take part in a group programme.

If men don't meet these criteria, but would like us to help us in this study, we still would like to take to them about how best to support men in stopping abusive behaviour.

*Continued on next page...*

**It is not OK to hurt your partner**  
**It is OK to ask for help**

Call us to join a research study to explore ways of supporting men to change their behaviour. Men aged 21+

Contact:  
University of Bristol  
Tel: 01275 225462  
Email: [reprovide-men@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:reprovide-men@bristol.ac.uk)  
<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/group-intervention-for-men>

RESPECT  
reprovide  
SPLITZ  
Support Services

## REPROVIDE (continued from p.3)

### Who is organising and funding the study?

The Department of Health and Social Care is funding this study through the National Institute for Health Research. The research is being carried out by a team of researchers who are based at the University of Bristol.

### Is this study well-designed and ethical?

An independent group, a Research Ethics Committee which included healthcare professionals and members of the public, assessed whether the study sufficiently protects participants' safety, rights, wellbeing and dignity. This study has been approved by Oxford B Research Ethics Committee. The programme has also been approved locally by the Barnardo's Research and Ethics Committee.

### What does the study involve?

As this is a test for whether domestic violence prevention programmes work, men joining the study will be randomly allocated to two groups. Two thirds will join a programme run by Barnardo's who are a leading provider of domestic abuse support services. This will involve attending weekly group sessions for approximately 6 months.

The remaining men will not be offered additional support from Barnardo's (however, they may continue to seek support from other providers), but will still be asked to complete questionnaires.

The groups will be decided randomly. Both groups will be equally valuable in helping the University to assess whether domestic violence prevention programmes help men and improve safety for their partners, ex-partners, and for their children.

### For more information or to make a referral/self-refer please:

**Email:** reprovide-men@bristol.ac.uk

**or Telephone** The Reprovide University Research Team 078703 76548

**or** The Barnardo's Somerset Reprovide Team on 01823 270938

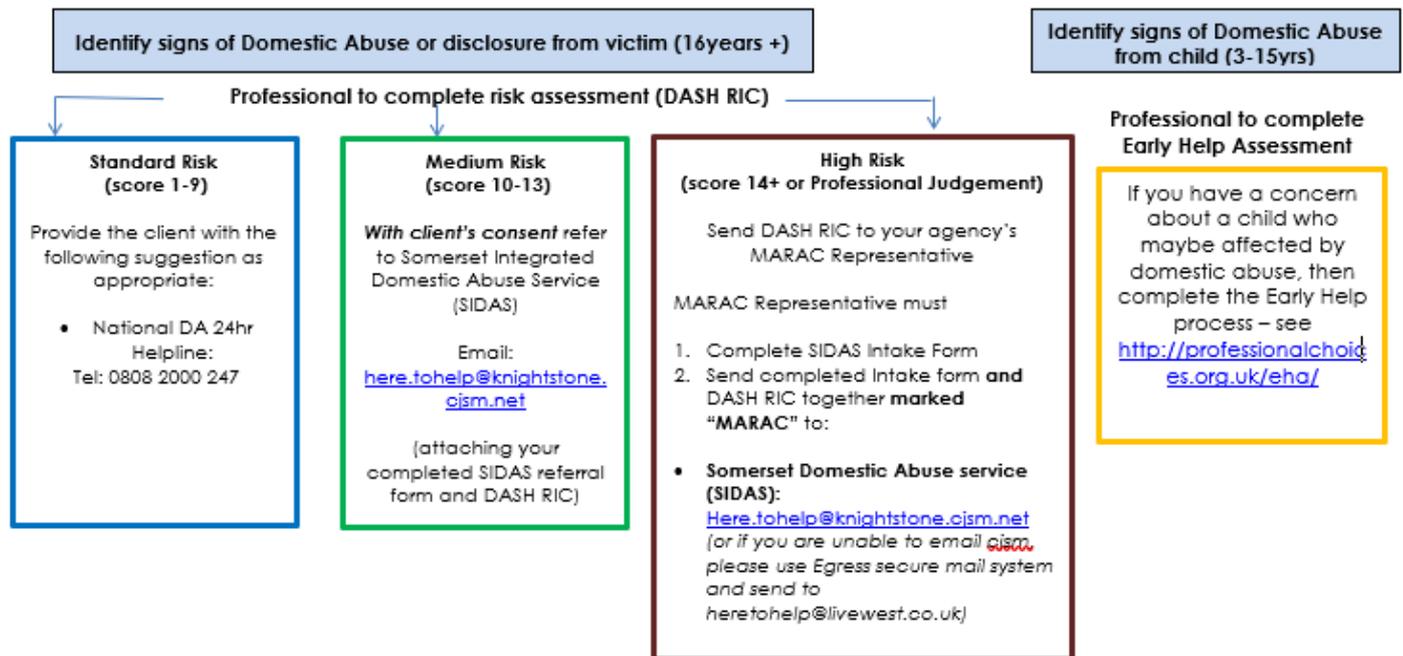
**or email:** reprovide@barnardos.org.uk

## Have You Read The Latest SSAB Newsletter?



If you're not already seen the latest Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board newsletter, please go online to the [SSAB website here](#).

## How to Make a Referral to the Somerset Integrated Domestic Abuse Service



### Remember

If you have **immediate** concerns about the client's safety, please call the Police on 999. If immediate risk to children or vulnerable adult, initiate your agency child protection or safeguarding adult procedures.

**Be timely** - You should complete all risk assessments, referral forms and send to the appropriate agency within 2 working days of identifying the risk

For more information about Somerset's domestic abuse services please visit [www.somersetsurvivors.org.uk](http://www.somersetsurvivors.org.uk) or call 0800 69 49 999

**\*The referral email address for SIDAS will change on 1st April 2020.**

**Look out for the new contact details at [www.somersetsurvivors.org.uk](http://www.somersetsurvivors.org.uk)**

### Tips For A Good Referral

1. Use the ACPO DASH. (This is what we now use in Somerset)
2. Don't just tick boxes (on the DASH or referral form). Be curious. Write any specific relevant information onto the DASH or referral.
3. Be sensitive. Take a trauma informed approach. Encourage safe disclosure and engagement. Also to find out what the survivor/victim wants (it may not be what you think it is).
4. Include all relevant information. Including any equality and diversity details. Does the victim face any particular barriers seeking help?
5. Be aware of particular risk factors, e.g. separation, pregnancy, escalation of abuse. Use your professional judgement, if the 'number of ticks' seems too low to reflect what you're hearing/seeing. But explain on your referral form/DASH your justification.



## New Live Chat at Women's Aid

### Women's Aid Launches A New Live Chat Service For Survivors of Domestic Abuse

Women's Aid have launched a new live chat service to support female survivors of domestic abuse. The new service lets women chat directly with a Women's Aid support worker, giving them the space to explore their situation with a trained professional. The service provides women experiencing abuse with the information they need to help them make safe decisions in the small windows of opportunity that they have to contact services or take action.

The new service will initially be open between 10am and 12pm, Monday to Friday at <https://chat.womensaid.org.uk>

## New Research By The Disabilities Trust

**BRIEFING**

The Disabilities Trust  
www.thedgroup.org

**THE IMPACT OF BRAIN INJURY AND DOMESTIC ABUSE: A FURTHER ANALYSIS**

Women offenders overwhelmingly face domestic abuse<sup>1</sup>, traumatic experiences<sup>2</sup>, brain injury<sup>3</sup> and mental health difficulties<sup>1</sup>. The impact of which can have a devastating effect on their health and wellbeing and increase their vulnerability<sup>1</sup>.

The Disabilities Trust has launched its new brief *The Impact of Brain Injury and Domestic Abuse: A Future Analysis*, having re-explored the data collected during its Brain Injury Linkworker Service at HMP Drake Hall, which revealed that 64% of women at the prison had experienced a brain injury.

The leading cause of Traumatic Brain Injury, as reported, was domestic abuse (62%).

Read more online at The Disabilities Trust [here](#)



As reported in previous newsletters. Somerset has been a pilot site for the Pathfinder project. Which aims to improve the response to domestic abuse in health settings. Although this pilot ends in March 2020, a local steering group as subgroup of the Somerset Domestic Abuse Board will continue to meet to embed the policy developments and training for health staff.

If you work in health settings, you may find the Pathfinder information at Safe Lives useful. Go online at <http://www.safelives.org.uk/health-pathfinder> for details.



## Training and Resources for Professionals

Somerset County Council Public Health organize a range of domestic abuse awareness courses throughout the year. Details of upcoming courses and dates are listed below.

**For more dates, availability and to book please email [PublicHealthTraining@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:PublicHealthTraining@somerset.gov.uk)**

### Recognising the Signs of Domestic Abuse and How to Respond (level 1) - 1 day

June 11th (Glastonbury)

October 13th (Bridgwater)

#### Who Is This For?

For anyone who delivers any kind of service to the public.

### Refresher Training (Level 2) - 1/2 day

May 21st (Bridgwater)

September 17th (Yeovil)

#### Who Is This For?

If you've attended a level 1 course a year or more ago, or you have lots of experience working with domestic abuse victims and want to review and refine your knowledge.

### Understanding and Identifying Domestic Abuse in Teenage Relationships

June 16th (Taunton)

#### Who Is This For?

For anyone who delivers any kind of support, care or education to teenagers

### Do You Work For Somerset County Council?

There are several Domestic Abuse/ Community Safety E-Learnings You Can Complete. Including:

- Domestic Abuse (introduction)
- Honour Based Violence and Forced Marriage
- Community Safety Awareness
- Prevent
- Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking

**Find at The Learning Centre**

### **\*\*NEW\*\* How to Work With Perpetrators—Training Course by Barnardo's**

The Barnardo's Somerset Reprovide (DVIP) Team alongside the University of Bristol Reprovide research team are offering a free half day training to professionals. The training will bring together and highlight current research on work with perpetrators of domestic abuse and violence, outline best practice and signpost to appropriate local provision. To book a place and for further information, please go to:

[www.bookwhen.com/barnardos-somerset](http://www.bookwhen.com/barnardos-somerset) .



## Chilling Silence



**Sexual violence is devastating at any age**

Rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment or unwanted touching are all forms of sexual violence.

**You deserve support.**

**We're here for you**

0808 801 0456  
support@sarsas.org.uk  
www.sarsas.org.uk

Somerset & Avon  
rape & sexual abuse support

Four rape and sexual abuse charities, the South West Rape Crisis Centre Partnership, have identified a chilling silence and invisibility around sexual violence against older women in the South West of England.

Part of a project funded by Comic Relief, SARSAS will now be able to deliver some specific counselling and support to those who've experienced rape or sexual abuse at anytime in their lives, and are aged over 55 years.

If you're on social media, look out for these hashtags #chillingsilence #nevertoolate #seriousenough #olderwomen and retweet if you can!

Get more information online at [SARSAS here](http://www.sarsas.org.uk).

## Your Local Rape or Sexual Abuse Services Online



Graphic courtesy of [www.survivorpathway.org.uk](http://www.survivorpathway.org.uk)

Visit The Survivor Pathway website for advice on the specialist sexual violence support services in the south-west.

Get information on the Sexual Assault Referral Centres, counselling, helplines and much more. The site is designed to be accessible to professionals, survivors or their supporters. Please go online at <http://www.survivorpathway.org.uk/>



## New Domestic Abuse Campaign No Closed Doors 2020



Local domestic homicide review findings have recommended that more awareness needs to be done to help not only domestic abuse victims seek support.

But that also their friends and family need to know how to access help for their friend or relative.

As a result of this the Somerset Violence Reduction Unit have funded a new local domestic abuse campaign—#NoClosedDoors2020.

Look out for the social media posts online and please share!

There will also be posters and other awareness raising materials placed in community locations across the county.



## Modern Slavery Update

### South-west Anti-Slavery Partnership 2020 Conference

Due to the Exeter March 2020 event selling-out, another conference date is being scheduled by the south-west anti-slavery partnership for Bristol. To ensure you don't miss out on a place at this event, follow the link for the Annual Conference at <https://www.aspartnership.org.uk/>.



IF YOU THINK SOMEONE MAY BE A VICTIM OF MODERN SLAVERY  
CALL THE 24/7 MODERN SLAVERY HELPLINE ON

**08000 121 700**

WORKING TOWARDS  
A WORLD WITHOUT SLAVERY



## Awareness Raising Materials and Publications

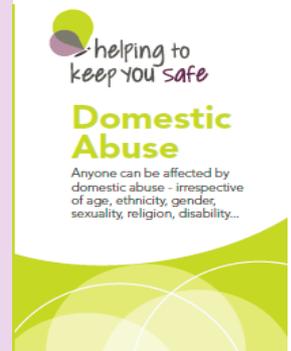
### Have You Got Somerset Domestic Abuse Publications In Your Workplace?

#### Where Can You Get Awareness Raising Materials/Publications?

Order online at <https://www.healthysomerset.co.uk/resources/product-category/domestic-abuse/>

Download publications at <http://www.somersetsurvivors.org.uk/materials-to-download/>

**Any Questions?** Email [communitysafetyteam@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:communitysafetyteam@somerset.gov.uk)



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On behalf of the Safer Somerset Partnership

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