

SAFER SOMERSET PARTNERSHIP & DOMESTIC ABUSE NEWSLETTER

Autumn edition



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SOMERSET VIOLENCE REDUCTION UNIT

In September 2019 Somerset County Council was allocated £362,000 by the Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner to set up a violence reduction unit. Somerset's VRU is the coming together of professionals from agencies such as police and the local authority to reduce the risk of harm from violence and exploitation in the community. It does this by considering the evidence base, working in partnership with a range of agencies across Somerset and assisting existing processes designed to safeguard individuals and families.

The Safer Somerset Partnership acts as a core group overseeing all the violence reduction work for Somerset. The team is made up of a combination of dedicated staff, and time from existing teams/functions. They include a public health specialist, police Sergeant and 4 Schools and Community Officers (located in each District Council area in Somerset), a unit manager, an analytical function and a communications officer.

Further funding was allocated in April 2020 for Somerset VRU to deliver the priorities set out in the Somerset Violence Reduction Strategy 2020-21. For a copy of the strategy and more information about the Somerset VRU please visit www.somerset.gov.uk/vru.

UPDATES

COUNTY LINES CAMPAIGN



Safer Somerset Partnership launched a county wide County Lines campaign on 1st

September with a bid to set out what County Lines are, the signs to look out for and how to contact Crimestoppers if you see something suspicious. The campaign aims to raise awareness about County Lines among frontline staff, like teachers and health workers, and those working in transport like Taxi

and Bus & Coach company staff who are most likely to encounter vulnerable young individuals who are at maximum risk of exploitation.

Marketing initiatives to raise awareness involved a press release dissemination, radio interview on BBC Radio Somerset with Chair of the Safer Somerset Partnership, Avon & Somerset Constabulary Superintendent Mike Prior, regular social media posts and geo-targeted digital and mobile ad campaigns to target specific areas where drug related anti-social behaviour is prolific.

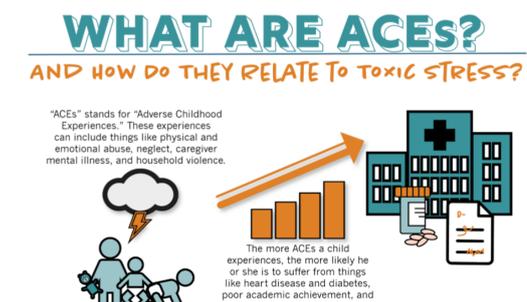
PROJECT ADMIT

The Somerset Violence Reduction Needs Assessment highlighted that alcohol use is a risk factor for involvement in youth violence. Somerset has a higher rate (than national) of admissions for alcohol specific conditions in those under 18 years and substance misuse in 15 to 24-year olds. In response, Somerset VRU have funded Turning Point Services (part of Somerset Drug and Alcohol Services) to pilot a new

project from Musgrove Park Hospital. Staff who are experienced at working with young people with substance misuse are available at A&E during peak times to offer support and access treatment. The project aims to reduce the risk of harm posed to young people through substance misuse, injury and violence and reduce repeat attendance at A&E.

ACE AWARENESS

The VRU and the Public Health team are working on an approach to generate awareness on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) and its impact on the quality of life on individuals. ACE describes the intense sources of stress that children can suffer while growing up being exposed to domestic violence, being maltreated, or coping with parental substance abuse.



ACTIVITIES LED BY SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNITY OFFICERS

HOMELESS OUTREACH IN YEOVIL

A homeless outreach was conducted by a VRU School Engagement and Community Officer to identify homeless people in the locality, offer them support and signpost them to other agencies and gain their details for records. Claire Maidment, - VRU School Engagement and Community Officer said

that this outreach provided her a way to chat with them. Food and accommodation was also provided during the COVID pandemic.



BOXING CLUB. A boxing club was set up as a way of diverting young people out of anti-social behaviour and crime. It made them feel they belong to a group, help them meet new people and thereby help with

their behaviour. The impact this had on one individual was that it got him more confident and focused. It also gave these young people an opportunity to open up to the VRU School Engagement and Community Officer and see them as a friendly individual and not just a uniformed officer.

In recognition of the Public Health England's publication COVID 19 mental health and wellbeing report that states there have been growing indicative evidence that coronavirus and associated interventions have had an adverse effect on the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people (CYP), the Public Health team are currently offering the following training. Please see below the link to the training menu page: <https://www.cypsomersethealth.org/news&id=367>

POSITIVE SUMMER ACTIVITIES



Avon and Somerset Constabulary, VRU, Young Somerset, SSE Education and SCC are working together to put together a collaborative piece of work with the sole intention to identify children and young people at risk of criminality and/or exploitation from across Somerset. The main objective is to work together to engage them in positive and diversionary activities throughout the duration of the summer months. There will be a full report highlighting the success of the process and important lessons learnt during this unique piece of multi agency work.

KNIFE CRIME AWARENESS CAMPAIGN—AVON & SOMERSET POLICE

Over the past year, Avon and Somerset police have been working with young people from four schools across the Avon and Somerset area, in order to better understand why they might carry knives, what support they want from the police, schools and other agencies, and the issues they face in their daily lives which can lead to them becoming involved in knife crime and violence. The young people have then worked with student animators from UWE to turn those



ideas into short, animated films.

The films form part of a wider campaign in Weston-super-Mare, Taunton, east and south Bristol, which sees the students' work reflected on buses, billboards and bus shelters, as well as the key messages from each film discussed on local radio and in the local media.

* To see the campaign films, advice, support and competition terms and conditions visit

www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/knifecrime

MODERN SLAVERY

Modern Slavery Act Statutory Guidance has recently been updated, and all should be aware of this important legislation: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/modern-slavery-how-to-identify-and-support-victims>.

SCC employees can continue to access Modern Slavery e-learning at [The Learning Centre](#) which has also been recently updated

OPEN MENTAL HEALTH

Our team is here to support you

24 hour Supportline 01823 276892
support@openmentalhealth.org.uk

Open Mental Health is a Somerset alliance of local voluntary organisations and the NHS working in partnership to ensure that adults in Somerset living with mental health problems get the support they need when they need it.

Transfers can be made using these details, according to location.

Taunton & West Somerset
somccg.westsomerset@nhs.net
Sedgemoor
somccg.bridgewater@nhs.net
South Somerset
somccg.mhssomerset@nhs.net
Mendip
somcch.mhmendip@nhs.net



Adults can self-refer to the service

24 hour Supportline
01823 276892
support@openmentalhealth.org.uk

Open Mental Health

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Giving patients the support they need when they need it

DOMESTIC ABUSE

ManKind Initiative, based in Somerset are now hosting a second online Pattern Changing course for male survivors of Domestic Abuse. This course will be delivered by their qualified Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs) and is funded by the Avon & Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner from the MOJ fund. Therefore, it is free for delegates to attend. The course starts on Wednesday 4th November at 6.30pm and will be delivered via Zoom. It is nine sessions long, in addition to a pre-course assessment and a 1:1 debrief four weeks after the course has ended.

If you have male survivors in your service that you would like to refer to the course, please contact us at training@mankind.org.uk or call us on 07493 144169 to discuss the course in more detail.



Support for male survivors of Domestic Abuse in Avon & Somerset

Have you, or someone you know, experienced Domestic Abuse and want to join up with other men with similar experiences, learn new skills and make sense of what happened?

ManKind Initiative are hosting a 9 week online **Pattern Changing** course via Zoom for men funded by the Avon & Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner starting Weds 4th November 2020

For further details call 01823 334229 or email training@mankind.org.uk

Registered Charity 1089547

DOMESTIC ABUSE — COVID CAMPAIGN (ACTIVITY SNAPSHOT)

Somerset Domestic Abuse Covid Campaign Results To Date (September 2020)

Get More Information At - No Closed Doors Media Centre

<https://somersetnewsroom.com/2020/05/29/nocloseddoors2020-media-centre/>

Posters in Supermarkets, Pharmacies and Foodbanks

Somerset Survivors Website
Total unique users during campaign 14,380
(same period last year 3,120)

Facebook (boosted/paid)
431,586 impressions,
1,848 link clicks
Facebook Organic Reach 28,683

Sky Tv (30 second commercial)
56,219 impressions,
25,139 reach

Printed media – Somerset County Gazette, Exmoor News, Somerset Living articles

Newspapers – Press releases and articles

Social Media posts
Shared through 100 Facebook Groups, giving an audience of nearly 400,000

Radio Advertising
5 emotive audios targeting friends and family, women, women and child, elder abuse and male domestic abuse.

Banner Ad Van, touring high traffic areas such as circus, supermarkets, car boot sales and high streets

Internet advertising – Banner adverts on Gazette series of websites, **Admessages** on high profile websites (Mumsnet, The Mail, etc) to target those accessing from Somerset, by end will have had 330,000 impressions click through <1%.

Plus public information broadcasts on local community stations. Sponsorship on Tone FM.



There are two new domestic abuse e-learning courses at The Learning Centre for SCC employees.:

1. Child to parent abuse – learn more about how to identify this, and what you can do to help both child and parent.
2. Teenage Relationship Abuse – learn how you can identify and help teenagers who are in abusive relationships.