



Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Update

London Borough of Croydon

Issue 2

April 2016

Introduction

This is the second issue of Croydon's Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence newsletter.

This bi-monthly newsletter is primarily for agencies and practitioners who work directly with Croydon residents especially those who could be affected by

domestic abuse and/or sexual violence.

Contributions are welcome; if you have any news, ideas, suggestions, to share email

fjc@croydon.gov.uk to get your item in to the next edition.

Domestic abuse and sexual violence is everybody's business



Ending Violence against Women and Girls

The Government's 2016 - 2020 VAWG strategy, launched in March 2016, is aimed at ensuring that women get the support they need to achieve long-term changes to their lives and the lives of their children. It is based on four themes as outlined below:

- ◆ **Preventing violence and abuse** from happening in the first place.
- ◆ **Provision of services** that ensure that victims get the help they need when they need it.

- ◆ **Partnership working** - strong partnership arrangements across national, regional and local boundaries to help victims and provide an effective first response to violence and abuse.
- ◆ **Pursuing perpetrators** - an effective criminal justice response to tackling VAWG.

The strategy can be read in full [here](#)

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NICE Quality Standard – Domestic violence and abuse

Have you referred to the quality standard when planning and delivering domestic abuse support within your service?

An up to date version, published in February 2016 can be downloaded [here](#).

This quality standard is expected to contribute to improvements in the following outcomes:

- ◆ Harm from domestic violence and abuse
- ◆ Mortality from domestic violence and abuse
- ◆ Emergency attendances for domestic violence and abuse
- ◆ Quality of life

- ◆ Personal safety
- ◆ Duration of domestic violence and abuse
- ◆ Re-occurrence of domestic violence and abuse.

QUALITY STATEMENTS:

1. People presenting to front line staff with indicators of possible domestic violence or abuse are asked about their experience in a private discussion
2. People experiencing domestic violence and abuse receive a response from level 1 or 2 trained staff
3. People experiencing domestic violence or abuse are offered referral to specialist support services
4. People who disclose that they are perpetrating domestic violence or abuse are offered referral to specialist services

The Community fund

Croydon’s Voluntary and Community Sector can now apply for funding for projects that ensure Domestic abuse and sexual violence is prevented where possible, victims are supported, and perpetrators are held to account.

Applications for the fund open on 22 March 2016 and the deadline for receipt of completed applications is Tuesday 24th May 2016 at 12.00pm.

In order to access the Community Fund opportunity via the London Tenders Portal, all organisations are required to email commissioning@croydon.gov.uk and express their interest so as to receive an invitation to apply via the London Tenders Portal.

Full information on the community fund can be accessed on the council [webpages](#).

A training workshop to support organisations will be held on Friday 22nd April at 09.15 – 12.00.

The workshop will address issues such as:

- ◆ How to log on to the portal
- ◆ How to write your application
- ◆ Q&A about the application documents
- ◆ Getting commissioning ready
- ◆ Any other matters particular to domestic abuse and sexual violence service provision.

Email commissioning@croydon.gov.uk to book a place. Places will be offered on a first come first served basis.





Spires Streetlink

Spires Streetlink supports women involved in street based sex work. A [video](#) launched in March 2016 highlights their work as they partner with Rape Crisis South London's specialist sexual violence outreach worker to offer confidential support to women and girls aged 13+ who have experienced any form of sexual violence at any time in their lives and have also experienced societal marginalisation. This can include, yet is not limited to their involvement with the sex industry, homelessness, and the prison system.

Preparing men for change

The government's Ending Violence against Women and Girls Strategy 2016 – 2020 highlights the needs for effective interventions to prevent violence and abuse from escalating to a crisis point, with a reduction in high-rates of re-victimisation.

The responsibility to prevent further abuse is often placed on the victim. To equip practitioners with tools to better engage abusive fathers, preparing men for change training is available in Croydon.

After attending Risk Indicator Checklist training, at this two day training, practitioners cover:

- risk factors in domestic abuse cases
- problems faced when working with fathers
- techniques for engaging fathers in the process of change
- co-production of risk assessments
- strategies for reducing risk and changing behaviour.

RASASC

Rape Crisis South London (Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre), based in Croydon, is an independent organisation providing specialist and confidential sexual violence services for women and girls aged 13 and over, who live or work in south London and have experienced sexual violence at any point in life including child sexual abuse and sexual exploitation. For full information about the organisation visit www.rasasc.org.uk or call 02086833311.

For any professionals, teachers and youth workers who are keen to work with young people on topics such as gender/ sexual bullying, impacts of pornography, image based sexual abuse, consent and respectful relationships, information on specialist sexual violence training and access to a free resource providing guidance on teaching consent to young people is available from training.coordinator@rasasc.org.uk

Any practitioner working with families can book on to this training by emailing Safeguardingchildretraining@croydon.gov.uk

- ◆ 7th – 8th June 2016
- ◆ 22nd – 23rd June 2016
- ◆ 6th – 7th July 2016
- ◆ 14th – 15th September 2016





Useful Resources

Family Justice Centre—a centrally located service for victims of Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence.

Opening times:

Monday, Tuesday, Friday; 9a.m. until 5p.m.
Wednesday ; 8a.m. until 5p.m.

Call or email for an appointment:

Phone: 020 8688 0100

E-mail: fjc@croydon.gov.uk

Would you like to contribute to this newsletter?

email fjc@croydon.gov.uk

Disrespect Nobody

The Home Office and Government Equalities Office resource for young people aged 12 to 18 years old, aimed at preventing abuse from being perpetrated in the first place. It encourages young people to re-think their views of violence, abuse, controlling behaviour and what consent means within their relationships.

www.disrespectnobody.co.uk

The Hideout

Women’s Aid web resource to help children and young people understand domestic abuse and how to take positive action if they are affected. www.thehideout.org.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

FREE training — various dates

Domestic Abuse and Sexual Harm Risk Indicator Checklist (DASH RIC)

One day training to give a consistent and practical tool to help them identify those who are at high risk of harm and whose cases should be referred to a Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) in order to manage the risk.

Preparing men for change

Two day training outlining basic principles and tools useful for initial engagement of fathers.

email Safeguardingchildrentraining@croydon.gov.uk to book a place

Schools Domestic Abuse training

covering the key part domestic abuse leads in schools can play in dealing with Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence.

9th June at 09.30—11.30

Email fjc@croydon.gov.uk to book a place

Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence partnership forum

Aimed at the community and voluntary sector and other key partners to discuss key issues and receive updates. The next one will focus on Sexual Violence and Child Sexual Exploitation and will be led by RASASC.

6th July at 2p.m.
