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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)

## Somerset Integrated Domestic Abuse Service (SIDAS) Update

**New Way of Working Being Piloted** Over the past few months a member of the SIDAS team has been based at Bridgwater Police Station. This has been to develop closer working with not only the police, but also Children Social Care and improve the MARAC process. Recently SIDAS have been part of the new "domestic abuse triage" that's been implemented, to help more quickly identify families who may need support following police attendance. The volume of high risk cases being identified remains high, so developing inter-agency working is vital to help ensure specialist support is offered quickly.

## Re-commissioning of Somerset's Domestic Abuse Service

### New Provider

Following the recent procurement, the new contract to start 1.4.2020 has been awarded to The You Trust. They're a charity who've supported vulnerable people across the south of England for over 30 years. More information on the new service will be provided in due course.

## New Avon and Somerset Young Victims Service

### How Children and Young People Can Receive Specialist Support

YVS (Young Victim's Service) takes referrals for young people who have been affected by crime, anti-social behaviour or domestic abuse.

We offer support and interventions on a voluntary basis, aiming to rebuild confidence and increase feelings of safety.

We can help with most incidents including, threats and anti-social behaviour, criminal damage, hate crime, cyber bullying, sexting, or domestic abuse (either within a young person's family or in their own relationship).

We work across Avon & Somerset with children and young people aged 5-18 (up to 25 if there are additional needs)

**Get More Information at**  
[www.youngvictims.org.uk](http://www.youngvictims.org.uk)

**or Tel: 01275 88 44 88**

*Submitted by Kay Burton, Senior Practitioner, Young Victims Service*

## Your Reminder About The Early Help Assessment

### The EHA Has Been Updated!

The Early Help Assessment (EHA) documentation has been shortened to six pages following significant consultation with practitioners from all relevant agencies.

The EHA is a shared tool for all practitioners working with children, young people and families in Somerset who are delivering early help and SEND support in a co-ordinated way, so that they understand and respond to the needs of families.

A recent audit found that there's been confusion about the EHA just being for referring into getset services. This is **not** the case. It's a multi-agency assessment tool that you can use to facilitate inter-agency working.

**Get More Information at**

<http://professionalchoices.org.uk/>



## National Domestic Abuse Helplines

### What Helplines Can People Call Regarding Domestic Abuse?

As part of its commitment to tackling domestic abuse, the UK Government has recently confirmed funding for several helplines until 2022. These include:

**National Domestic Violence Helpline**, run by Refuge a free 24 hour service which provides confidential information and expert support to people affected by domestic abuse— 0808 2000 247.

**The National Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans (LGBT) Domestic Violence Helpline**, run by Galop – 0800 999 5428

**The National Stalking Helpline**, run by The Suzy Lamplugh Trust – 0808 802 0300

**The Men's Advice Line**, run by Respect – 0808 801 0327

**Respect Phonenumber for perpetrators of Domestic Abuse**, run by Respect – 0808 802 4040

**Honour Based Abuse Helpline**, run by Karma Nirvana – 0800 5999 247

**The Revenge Porn Helpline**, run by South West Grid for Learning Trust – 0845 6000 459

There are of course several other confidential helplines people can call for advice and support, including our local **Somerset Domestic Abuse Helpline** 0800 69 49 999 (funded by Somerset County Council) or **Mankind's male victims helpline** 01823 334244 (funded by charitable donations).

## New Programme for Those Who Cause Harm & Job Opportunities!

**Reprovide** is a group work approach to work with perpetrators of Domestic Abuse to help them address and change their behaviour. The programme is being run in Somerset from early 2020 as part of research trial led by Bristol University to assess the effectiveness of group work approaches with perpetrators of Domestic Abuse. Somerset will be one of 4 sites piloting this programme. More information on how you can promote or refer to this programme, will be available shortly.

### Job Opportunities!

The Somerset Reprovide pilot will be delivered by Barnardo's and they are recruiting now! If you're interested in an exciting career opportunity, please visit their website using the links below now:

**Groupwork Facilitator** <https://jobs.barnardos.org.uk/jobs/vacancy/groupwork-facilitator---reprovide-perpetrator-programme-5403/6394/description/>

**Women's Support Officer** <https://jobs.barnardos.org.uk/jobs/vacancy/womens-support-officer-5401/6392/description/>

## Domestic Homicide Review Local Learning

### Are You Confident in Risk Assessing and Sharing Information?

A recent domestic homicide review (DHR) into the murder of a female in Somerset, identified learning around professionals being more confident in assessing risk of domestic abuse cases. And also how and when to share information with partner agencies.

### What Can You Do?

If you've attended specific domestic abuse training more than 2 years ago, then did you know you can attend a 1/2 day refresher course? These are organised by Somerset County Council Public Health Team, and help update your knowledge.

If you've never attended specific training on domestic abuse then you are encouraged to attend a one-day "Recognising The Signs and How To Respond" course.

Find 2020 training dates on page 7 of this newsletter.

### Do You Know About The Changes to MARAC in Somerset?

Please take a look at the MARAC Operating Protocol. Essential reading for anyone who does or may work with anyone at a high risk of domestic abuse. Find this [online here](#)

This particular DHR will be published soon. In the meantime you can find previous DHR's online at <http://www.somersetsurvivors.org.uk/domestic-homicide-reviews/>

## Local Partnership Updates



Did you know the Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board also produces a newsletter? If you've not seen their latest edition, please go online to the [SSAB website here](#).

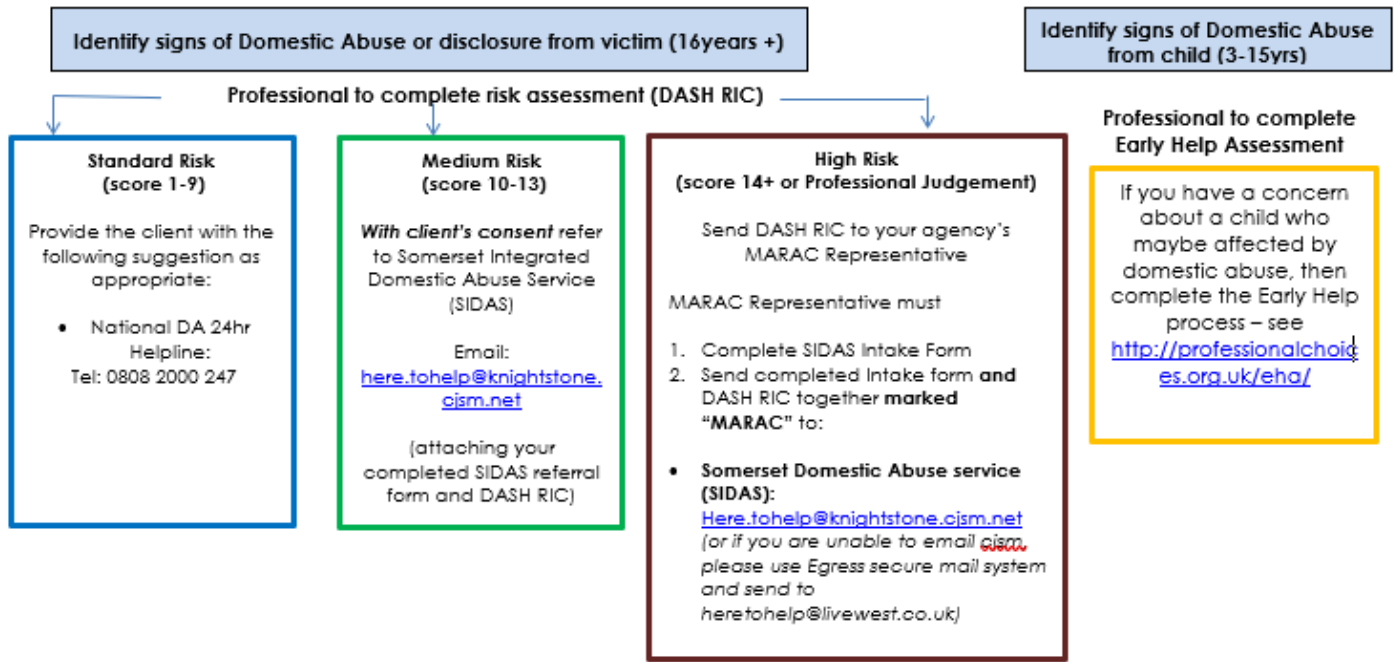
The partnership responsible for safeguarding children in Somerset has been redesigned as of 29 September 2019, as part of new arrangements introduced nationally. The statutory changes mean that Somerset County Council is no longer the single lead for coordinating safeguarding arrangements for children, and there is a tripartite responsibility for safeguarding children in the local area.



Three organisations – the Somerset County Council, Avon and Somerset Constabulary and Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group – now have joint and equal responsibility to safeguard children and young people, under the name of the Somerset Safeguarding Children Partnership. Get more information at their [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

## Why The Details Are Important In Your Referral

Recent local domestic homicide reviews have shown that there can be a variance in the detail provided in both risk assessments and referrals. This can lead to crucial information not being immediately known.

### What Can You Do?

Always ask every question on the ACPO DASH. **Be curious.** Write any specific relevant information onto the DASH, rather than just only ticking the boxes. **Be sensitive.** Take a trauma informed approach, Adapt your style or approach to encourage safe disclosure and engagement. Also to find out what the survivor/victim wants.

If you're referring to SIDAS, complete the form in full, as far as you can. It will help the right services to be delivered. Making effective multi-agency working more achievable too.

**Be consistent.** For example, if you note there are children on either the DASH or referral form, please ensure they're featured on both, with all relevant details.



## Every Mind Matters

every mind  
matters

### Public Health England recently launched a major new campaign “Every Mind Matters”

Everyday wellbeing is about how we think, feel and behave. Looking after our state of mind is just as important as taking care of our body, yet most of us manage our physical health far better than our mental health.

Every Mind Matters is a new practical resource to help you discover simple steps to look after your mental health.

Find more information online at Healthy Somerset <https://www.healthysomerset.co.uk/every-mind-matters/>.

## New Safe Lives Report Into Psychological Abuse

### Psychological Violence



Key points from this report include:

- Psychological abuse is commonplace and can occur in the absence of physical abuse
- Psychological abuse follows a pattern of abuse and manipulation, often involving a phase of ‘grooming’
- Children are hidden victims of psychological abuse, with contact often used as a means to continue control
- There are no ‘typical’ victims or perpetrators of psychological abuse

Read more online at the [Safe Lives website here](#)



## 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

January 15th (Taunton)

February 12th (Yeovil)

#### 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)

#### 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**

## Domestic Abuse Training For Children's Workforce by Barnardos's

Barnardo's Children's Services in Somerset offer a range of free training opportunities for professionals working in the county of Somerset area. This includes a chance for you to learn more about domestic abuse and sexual abuse affecting children.

Find all the Barnardo's training / booking information at this webpage: [www.bookwhen.com/barnardos-somerset](http://www.bookwhen.com/barnardos-somerset).





As reported in the previous newsletter.

Somerset is a pilot site for the Pathfinder project. Which aims to improve the response to domestic abuse in health settings. The pilot ends in March 2020, but the local steering group is already planning on how to continue to progress developments in all areas of health locally. This is being overseen by the Somerset Domestic Abuse Board (subgroup of the Community Safety Partnership).

Achievements to date, include the delivery of several training sessions, specifically for those working in acute health and mental health settings. A strategy for health to respond to domestic abuse in Somerset is also being developed. Nationally, the Pathfinder Consortium have started to publish several helpful resources. These can be found online at <http://www.safelives.org.uk/health-pathfinder>

## Are You Working With Someone Who Has Experienced Rape or Sexual Abuse?



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

Did you know you can visit The Survivor Pathway website for advice on the specialist sexual violence support services in the south-west?

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

## Independent Sexual Violence Advisor Service—Safe Link

Safe Link offers a range of support to victims/survivors of sexual violence.

To find out more you can visit their website at <https://safelinksupport.co.uk/services/independent-sexual-violence-advisors/>



**SAFELINK.**  
transforming victims' lives

More information will also be provided in a future newsletter.





## National Modern Slavery Update

### New Quick Guide to Modern Slavery / Human Trafficking

This has been produced by Merton CCG, and gives you a useful overview of how modern slavery can affect people. Importantly, it also provides simple advice on what you can do.

Find this [guide online here](#).



### Have You Seen The South West Anti-Slavery Partnership website?

Find this online at <https://www.aspartnership.org.uk/>

### Reforms to National Referral Mechanism

A new system to simplify and speed up referrals of potential victims of modern slavery for government support has been rolled out by the Home Office.

The fully digitised system simplifies the process that first responders – including police officers, social workers or immigration officials – follow when referring victims of modern slavery to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM).

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

The logo for the Modern Slavery Helpline, featuring a stylized flame icon and the text "modern slavery helpline".

## Awareness Raising Materials and Publications

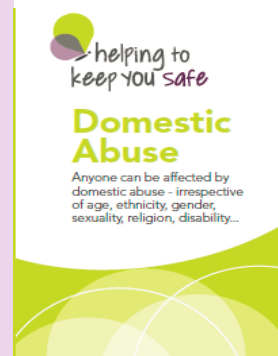
### Have You Got Somerset Domestic Abuse Publications In Your Workplace?

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

Some can be ordered 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)



Produced by Somerset County Council Public Health

On behalf of the Safer Somerset Partnership

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