

Domestic Abuse Newsletter

Bracknell Forest and RBWM



March 2025

LOCAL NEWS

20 December

[Royal Borough updates plan to prevent domestic abuse and offer support to victims](#)

10 January

[‘He could have killed me and police didn’t care’](#)

25 January

[Force’s work on Claire’s Law ‘unacceptable’ – PCC](#)



Closure of BRAVE (Building Resilience And Valuing Emotions)

“It is with much sadness that we announce the BRAVE service will close at the end of March.

We would like to thank our Commissioners, the OPCC, for 5

years of funding which has enabled us to support hundreds of women and many men through the psychological impact of domestic abuse and relational trauma. Unfortunately, in these difficult economic times, we have not been able to secure enough funding to secure a financially viable, consistent service that is assured in the future.

We will complete running the four current groups, along with our BRAVE EMBRACE and BRAVE Community and will not be able to accept any new referrals.

It has been a pleasure working with you all in a joint endeavour to support men and women who have experienced domestic abuse. We will be closing knowing that there are many dedicated, knowledgeable and compassionate people working in excellent services who will continue to work tirelessly for this client group”.

Updates and requests from BWA and The Dash Charity

BWA is celebrating 50 years this year! As part of our golden celebratory year, we are planning a few special events to raise awareness of BWA and domestic abuse, celebrate 50 years since the first refuge was being run by 5 volunteers and fundraise for the charity (£50k for 50 years).

We have the following events arranged:

- Conference in partnership with Reading Borough Council – 21 May – more details to follow soon
- Summer tea party for survivors

- 50 Years Celebration Dinner & Fundraiser at Trunkwell House: 11 September – invitations will be out soon
- A podcast/interview with the founder (who remains a Trustee on the Board)

We hope everyone will be able to get involved in some or all of our events throughout the year: please do come and help us celebrate 50 important years working with and supporting survivors across many areas of Berkshire.

The Dash Charity has secured two years of funding for a [specialist domestic abuse role at Wexham Park Hospital](#).

The role commenced in January 2025, working within the hospital’s Safeguarding team to enhance support for patients and staff, including providing appropriate training.

The role does not hold a caseload, so please do not refer clients. Referrals will come from hospital staff or self-referrals while clients are on site in hospital. The role will assess and support clients during their hospital stay and refer them to their local commissioned service (Hestia for Slough; BWA for Bracknell, The Dash Charity if RBWM etc.) thereafter.

The Dash Charity have several **vacancies**, including:

- [Fundraising and Communications Officer](#)
- [Refuge IDVA](#)
- [Chief Executive Officer](#)
- Full time Outreach Worker – details coming soon to the [website](#).

International Women’s Day Professionals Networking event

On Friday 7 March, 10am-12pm, the Family Hub Service and The Dash Charity, in partnership, will be hosting an informal professionals event which will include networking opportunities and creating pledges to support this year’s theme [‘Accelerate Action’](#) for gender equality. The event will take place at Windsor Family Hub.

To book your place, please complete this [form](#) (all genders welcome).

The Dash Charity are currently running 3 **Freedom Programmes** (one face to face and two virtual programmes) with the new cohort starting in April. There is a Tuesday evening virtual group running for individuals to attend after work. Freedom Programme referrals will be accepted from Dash Charity clients or professionals working with a family who believe the Freedom Programme would be beneficial.

TRAINING

Understanding and Responding to Domestic Abuse / Introduction to Domestic Abuse

Gives participants an understanding of domestic abuse issues through increasing knowledge and understanding and how to respond supportively.

RBWM (click on the relevant date to book – account required)

[Thursday 13 March 2025](#), 10:00 – 16:30 (face-to-face)

[Tuesday 10 June 2025](#), 09:30 – 13:00 (virtual)

[Monday 15 September 2025](#), 10:00 – 16:30 (face-to-face)

[Wednesday 10 December 2025](#), 09:30 – 13:00 (virtual)

[Wednesday 11 March 2026](#), 10:00 – 16:30 (face-to-face)

Please note these dates are only for RBWM based practitioners.

Virtual sessions via MS Teams, face-to-face sessions to be held at Windsor Family Hub, 65 Alma Road, Windsor, SL4 3HD.

Bracknell Forest

Thursday 6 February 2025, 09:30-13:00 (virtual)

Thursday 8 May 2025, 10:00-16:30 (face-to-face)

Wednesday 16 July 2025, 09:30-13:00 (virtual)

Wednesday 5 November 2025, 10:00-16:30 (face-to-face)

Monday 9 February 2026, 09:30-13:00 (virtual)

Virtual sessions via MS Teams, face-to-face sessions to be held at The Alders Family Hub, Branksome Hill Road, Sandhurst, Bracknell, GU47 0QE.

BFC employees apply via iWorks, external staff please email learning.development@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference) and DASH (Domestic Abuse, Stalking, Harassment and Honour Based Violence)

Gives participants increased confidence and skills in relation to responding to victims of domestic abuse. Including an understanding of high-risk factors for serious harm and homicide, how to use the DASH risk identification checklist and make appropriate referrals into and engage effectively with the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC).

RBWM (click on the relevant date to book – account required)

[Monday 28 April 2025](#), 10:00 – 16:30 (face-to-face)

[Tuesday 8 July 2025](#), 09:30 – 13:00 (virtual)

[Wednesday 8 October 2025](#), 10:00 – 16:30 (face-to-face)

[Thursday 15 January 2026](#), 09:30 – 13:00 (virtual)

Please note these dates are only for RBWM based practitioners.

Virtual sessions via MS Teams, face-to-face sessions to be held at Windsor Family Hub, 65 Alma Rd, Windsor, SL4 3HD.

Bracknell Forest

Thursday 12 December 2024, 09:30-13:00 (virtual)

Tuesday 25 March 2025, 10:00-16:30 (face-to-face)

Tuesday 17 June 2025, 09:30-13:00 (virtual)

Thursday 25 September 2025, 10:00-16:30 (face-to-face)

Monday 8 December 2025, 09:30-13:00 (virtual)

Wednesday 18 March 2026, 10:00-16:30 (face-to-face)

Virtual sessions via MS Teams, face-to-face sessions to be held at The Alders Family Hub, Branksome Hill Road, Sandhurst, Bracknell, GU47 0QE.

BFC employees apply via iWorks, external staff please email learning.development@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL NEWS

26 November

[Nearly one million UK women trapped with a dangerous abuser because of economic abuse](#) (see full report under [Useful Publications, Research and Resources](#))

3 December

[Man who raped and threatened new partner is jailed](#)

6 December

[Murderers who use strangulation or kill ex-partners face longer jail terms](#)

13 December

[Stalker who threatened boyfriend and his ex jailed](#)

18 December

[Minister tested Ask for Angela scheme undercover](#)

2 January

[Woman feared domestic abuser would kill her](#)

7 January

[Paid leave bill for domestic abuse victims 'huge'](#)

7 January

[MP calls for domestic abuse law after own ordeal](#)

13 January

[Abusive man cleared of partner's manslaughter](#)

15 January

[Police call handler's quick thinking after woman rings 999 about domestic incident – but asks for pizza](#)

16 January

[Dorset: Kevin Reid pleads guilty to harassing former wife](#)

16 January

[Abusive boyfriend sentenced to six years after death of Kiena Dawes](#)

17 January

[Kiena Dawes: The complex question at case's heart](#)

20 January

[Domestic abuser jailed for 'sustained attack'](#)

21 January

[Grimsby woman who beat husband with rolling pin jailed for coercive control](#)

25 January

[Man, 83, charged with murdering woman, 84, in home](#)

26 January

[Man charged with murdering his 75-year-old father](#)

28 January

[Man charged with murder remanded in custody](#)

29 January

['My abusive husband tried to kill me multiple times'](#)

3 February

[Government encourages victims of sexual violence to seek support](#)

3 February

[Better protection for victims from domestic abusers](#)

4 February

[New £13m police centre to tackle violence against women and girls](#)

10 February

[Trial to offer domestic abuse victims extra support](#)

12 February

[Mum tried to murder her two children in 'revenge' for husband's affair](#)

13 February

[Serial domestic abuser jailed for attacking women](#)

17 February

['Monster' jailed for murdering mother-of-three](#)

18 February

[Man who murdered wife and stepson jailed for life](#)

21 February

[Newbiggin Hall son jailed after burning mother with 'scalding' oil and headbutting her during attack](#)

21 February

[Sister of man who was killed by partner calls for more awareness around male domestic abuse victims](#)

21 February

[Domestic abuse 999 pilot launched after murders](#)

24 February

[Jury discharged in trial of man accused of murder](#)

25 February

[Teenager's school shooting plan 'extremely shocking'](#)

28 February

[TV auctioneer cleared of assaulting wife](#)

NEW USEFUL PUBLICATIONS, RESEARCH & RESOURCES

26 November

[Measuring Economic Abuse](#) - Surviving Economic Abuse Preliminary findings on the prevalence and impact of economic abuse on women in the UK.

['The Roots of Honour Based Abuse' Animation](#) – Karma Nirvana

A powerful video exploring the journey of those affected by Honour Based Abuse (HBA). Created for Karma Nirvana's training, this video illustrates how deeply rooted beliefs entangle individuals and how, with the right support, they can break free and rebuild their lives.

[Why Should Our Rage Be Tidy? Minoritised Survivors' Experiences of Mental Health in the context of Violence and Abuse](#) – Imkaan

Exploring intersection and life-altering consequences of mental ill-health and trauma experienced by racially minoritised women, due to violence and abuse.

[Domestic abuse in England and Wales overview: November 2024](#)

Figures on domestic abuse from the Crime Survey for England and Wales, police recorded crime, and other organisations.

[Gender, Power & Abuse: Examining Domestic, Sexual and Spiritual Violence in the Sikh Punjabi Community](#) – Sikh Women's Aid

A ground-breaking report highlighting the alarming levels of domestic, sexual, spiritual and faith-based abuse experienced by Sikh Panjabi women in the UK.

[Honour Based Abuse Myths vs Facts](#) video – Karma Nirvana

Honour Based Abuse (HBA) can take many forms and is often misunderstood. Karma Nirvana have released a video to allow individuals to test their knowledge by identifying the common myths and facts about HBA and forced marriage.

[Shifting the Scales - Transforming the criminal justice response to domestic abuse](#) – Domestic Abuse Commissioners Office

Published on 22 January 2025, the report calls for an end to a "justice lottery" experienced by domestic abuse victims which it says are being failed by the criminal justice system at every stage – from police to probation.

The report finds that victims routinely face a lack of specialist service referrals, poor enforcement of protective orders, court delays and early release of abusers.

It puts forward twelve recommendations to make systemic shifts in how the criminal justice system responds to domestic abuse.

Unsafe and Unheard: Lessons from families affected by Child and Adolescent to Parent Violence and Abuse (CAPVA) – Respect Young People’s Service

A landmark new report which brings together families’ and practitioners’ experience of CAPVA and offers recommendations for meaningful change.

The Annual Audit 2025 – Women’s Aid

An in-depth picture of the provision, usage and work of domestic abuse services in England during the 2023-24 financial year. It has found that domestic abuse services continue to face intensive funding pressures, with many dipping into reserves or having to cease some projects altogether.

Victim-survivor disengagement from police in domestic abuse cases: who, when and why? – Dr Lis Bates and The Open University

This research evidences the scale of victim-survivor disengagement at the very start of the police process. It proposes a theory of disengagement and makes recommendations to support police practice to target and improve victim-survivor engagement.

“She’s Not Innocent Either”. Actually, Yes She Is Innocent – Dr. Emma Katz

Why we need to develop a better understanding of domestic violence and coercive control victims-survivors who fight back against their abusers

The person most likely to kill a victim of domestic abuse... is themselves – Tim Woodhouse, Churchill Fellow

This report aims to provide the first comprehensive examination of domestic abuse related suicides and their aftermath.

Boys, Childhood Domestic Abuse, and Gang Involvement – Jade Levell

This book offers radical and important insights into a hidden social problem – the neglect of boys and young men’s relationships to domestic violence and abuse (DVA) in childhood.

PUBLISHED DOMESTIC ABUSE RELATED DEATH REVIEWS (DARDRs), OTHER SAFEGUARDING REVIEWS AND RESOURCES

National Domestic Homicide Review [library](#).

Bracknell Forest Community Safety Partnership [Jenny 2022](#) – published February 2025. Overview Report, Executive Summary and Learning Brief.

Norfolk Community Safety Partnership

[Val – published February 2025](#). This report examines agency responses and support given to Val before he took his own life in March 2023.

AAFDA (Advocacy After Fatal Domestic Abuse)

provides specialist expert advocacy and specialist peer support to families and friends bereaved by domestic homicide, domestic abuse related suicides and unexplained deaths. They are the only organisation providing specialist support and advocacy to families bereaved by suicide following domestic abuse.

There are various resources on the AAFDA website including:

- A series of [practical resources](#) to help professionals to better understand the link between domestic abuse and suicide, and to improve the response to suicide after domestic abuse
- [Specialist resources](#) focused on the particular needs of children and young people who have been impacted by fatal domestic abuse which can be accessed by children and their carers
- Domestic Homicides Reviews – [information for professionals](#)

TO WATCH...

Channel 4 - 24 Hours in Police Custody: The Murder of Jane Doe

A woman calls police at 4am. She’s in deep trouble and many miles from home. Soon she’s in a coma. Can detectives solve the mystery of how she got this way?

Netflix – American Murder: Gabby Petito

What happened in the final days of Gabby Petito’s life? In this gripping true-crime series, her loved ones reveal the untold story of her tragic murder.

LADbible Minutes With episode (YouTube) – I survived 18 years of abuse and attempted murder.

An interview with Rachel Williams, who survived 18 years of domestic abuse at the hands of her husband, Darren.

Karma Nirvana (YouTube) – The Truth about the Anwars

In a deeply moving follow-up to the documentary [The Push: Murder on the Cliff](#), Yasmin Javed opens up about her experiences with Fawziyah’s in-laws, the Anwars.

Liverpool City Council (YouTube) – Male victims of domestic abuse: Kasey Anderson’s story

Liverpool City Council have released a powerful and harrowing awareness-raising film featuring interviews with family members of Kasey Anderson, who was stabbed to death by his girlfriend, Natalie Bennett, in March 2023.

Full details of the case are covered in a [Manchester Evening News report](#).

U – Special Ops: To Catch A Criminal

[Season 1 Episode 1: Operation Inuit](#)

The Thames Valley Major Crime Unit investigate a tragic murder on the eve of Valentines Day – fuelled by jealousy, anger and pride, it's a tale of love gone wrong.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Bracknell Forest Domestic Abuse Forum

12 March 2025, 10am-12pm

4 June 2025, 10am-12pm

10 September 2025, 10am-12pm

3 December 2025, 10am-12pm

All via MS Teams

For more information, contact Joyce Barnett

joyce.barnett@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

RBWM Domestic Abuse Forum

27 March 2025, 10am-12pm

19 June 2025, 10am-12pm

16 September 2025, 10am-12pm

9 December 2025, 10am-12pm

All via MS Teams



For more information, contact Sophie Wing-King

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If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please email Sophie Wing-King (Domestic Abuse Strategic Lead, RBWM & Bracknell Forest) Sophie.wing-king@bracknell-forest.gov.uk with 'Remove' in the title box