



Champions' Network - Domestic and sexual abuse newsletter #47 19-01-21

Hello all – hope you are all keeping safe and well. Please find latest information below and attached. If you have any information or updates you would like us to share please send them in.

Content Note: some of the articles and information in this newsletter may include detailed discussion of physical, emotional and sexual abuse, please be mindful of your own triggers, safety and feelings – take care.

Safety Net, Carlisle - Job vacancy – see information for job vacancies here

<https://www.safetynetuk.org/vacancies> - Head of Clinical Practice and Freelance Adult and Children, Young People Therapists.

Clare's Law Research Project

Clare's Law was implemented following the murder of Clare Wood by a man with a known history of violence. Domestic Violence Disclosure Schemes (DVDSs) were rolled out in 2014 which allow police to disclose normally confidential information about a person's criminal history to someone deemed at risk for future abuse, with the view that this will help them make more informed choices about their safety. Clare's Law also gives victims a right to ask the police to disclose information about someone who they suspect may have a criminal history. However, there has been no research to date which involved **asking victim/survivor** about **their** experiences of accessing DVDSs or the barriers they face.

They hope to address this gap by **speaking to women from a wide range of backgrounds** who are:

- Women who have used Clare's Law.
- Women who chose not to access information available via Clare's Law or may never even have heard of Clare's Law but feel this could have benefited them but have/would face barriers.
- Practitioners/family members/ friends working with victim/survivors who have accessed Clare's Law for someone they work with/care for.

They also have a short **survey** which can be completed by victim/survivors, practitioners, and family/friends which should take no more than 10 minutes to complete:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=DQSIkWdsW0yxEjajBLZtrQAAAAAAAAAAAAO_dLFuTRUNk5CTDVNMEhNRkRKTEdTRORSTEdaREhTSi4u

You can find out more information by visiting the Clare's Law research project

website <https://clareslawexperiences.wordpress.com/> and Twitter page: @projectclarelaw

Please contact c.barlow@lancaster.ac.uk if you would like to be interviewed, know someone who would, or have other suggestions about how to get people involved. Or happy to discuss with you further if you would prefer.

Safe Spaces – find out more about Safe Spaces here <https://uksaysnomore.org/safespaces/>. See also Ask for ANI below – the Ask for ANI and Safe Spaces schemes are separate but can, and do, sometimes run in parallel. See information attached from Home Office.

Domestic Abuse Ask for ANI - Domestic abuse victims in Cumbria can now discretely seek help from pharmacy staff taking part in a new scheme - by asking for Ani. The national scheme was launched by [Cumbria Constabulary](#) to help people who suffer from or are in fear of domestic abuse.

The phrase "Ask for Ani" will be code that they are making a call for assistance, with staff at participating pharmacies being trained on the next steps to take. Boots stores across the county are taking part and other participating pharmacies will display posters to show they are also available to help – with the scheme being rolled out across Cumbria. All the person who feels at risk needs to do is go to a staff member and ask “for Ani”. They will then be provided with a safe space at the branch and a phone to call for help or information on what support is out there.

If you have been the victim of domestic abuse, or are concerned for someone who is, you can report this by calling 101. Always dial 999 in an emergency.

You can access support services regardless of whether you have reported a crime to the police. To access support services independently, contact Victim Support 24/7 on 0808 1689 111 - or visit the Cumbria Together website www.cumbriatogether.com.

Surviving Economic Abuse launch new website – full of good resources re: economic abuse - <https://survivingeconomicabuse.org/>

Government consultation still open - Seeking to collect views from those with lived experience of, or views on, crimes considered as violence against women and girls. It will run for a period of 10 weeks and is open to all genders. This consultation closes at 11:45pm on 19 February 2021 use the link below for more info.

https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/violence-against-women-and-girls-vawg-call-for-evidence?fbclid=IwAR08QlkyQczZYY_xoH4FuLdicyY_CHc7Ck5jvJ_LcNW7xfW3c2sGqXuuM_k

In the News

1. Covid: 'Growing demand' for domestic abuse services in England - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-55568950>
2. Non-fatal strangulation set to become criminal offence in England and Wales - https://www.theguardian.com/law/2021/jan/10/non-fatal-strangulation-set-to-become-criminal-offence-in-uk?fbclid=IwAR2ON_s8Hnj2fLdsY-HcRftflaK2TGiH_yTH29zrQQlnFtrWsfIP5nATUQ
3. 'Far too many turned away': Domestic abuse victims left with nowhere to go as services struggle in pandemic - <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/domestic-abuse-victims-lockdown-refuge-b1787873.html>
4. What Defines Domestic Abuse? Survivors Say It's More Than Assault - <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/01/22/us/cori-bush-fka-twigs-coercive-control.html>
5. A man asked if he could 'slap' and 'spit on me' – we need to stop normalising sexual violence against women - <https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/sexual-violence-choking-dating-apps-consent-b1790669.html>
6. Abused women deserve to stay in their own homes - it's up to the Government to help them - <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/women/politics/abused-women-deserve-stay-homes-government-help/>
7. 'Unlawful' changes to policy on rape cases led to drop in prosecutions, court told - <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/rape-cases-prosecution-cps-b1793218.html>
8. Including parental alienation in legal definition of domestic abuse 'places victims at great risk' - <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/parental-alienation-domestic-abuse-bill-house-of-lords-b1793006.html>
9. 'I had to escape my controlling boyfriend during lockdown' - <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/christmas/0/had-escape-controlling-boyfriend-lockdown/>

Cumbria Domestic Abuse Champions' Network social media – you can follow Cumbria Domestic Abuse Champions' Network on social media for regular posts/updates. On Twitter [@AbuseCumbria](#) and on [Facebook](#) [@CumbriaDomesticAbuseChampionsNetwork](#)

Champions' Network newsletters - You can find all the previous copies of these newsletters in PDF format at <http://www.womenscommunitymatters.org/cumbria-domestic-champions/> just in case you lose/misplace any info.

Kind regards, Steve