





## Operation Ribbon

### Police stepped up patrols to combat domestic abuse over Christmas

Police in Sussex provided a pre-Christmas surprise to more than 40 people who have records for repeated domestic abuse of partners.

They all received visits from officers in plain clothes, working with Independent Domestic Violence Advisers (IDVAs), and were told that during the holiday period police would be paying particular attention to any incidents reported as involving them, and would take robust action wherever possible, including arrest, issue of Domestic Violence Protection Notices (DVPOs), and recall to prison.

They were also be given contact details for a charity that specialises in advising perpetrators.

Meanwhile officers and IDVAs visited more than 150 people who have been repeat victims, or who had been reluctant to engage with police following incidents.

From Friday 19 December dedicated patrols responded to reports of domestic abuse over the Christmas and New Year period, with officers equipped with body-worn video cameras to help secure vital evidence, as part of the force's year-round campaign to encourage reporting of such incidents.

Officers continue to respond to and deal with such calls the year round and the force, working with partners, also prioritises the issue through the ongoing **Talk To Us** campaign which encourages the reporting of domestic abuse.

Sussex Police is also working closely with Surrey Police and significant steps have been taken to develop a collaborative approach in tackling domestic abuse. A domestic abuse task force is utilising officers from both forces and was established following the publication of the HMIC report. The intention is to deliver improvements, combine knowledge and experience and deliver economies of scale where possible. This has included the development of our training programme and implementing new domestic abuse legislation, such as Claire's law and Domestic Violence Protection Orders (DVPOs).

Sussex Police was the first police force in England to be awarded White Ribbon status in recognition of the work being done to tackle domestic abuse and is committed to supporting the aims of the White Ribbon Campaign.

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## **CRI's Community Independent Domestic Violence**

**Advisors Service** (IDVAs) provides practical and emotional support to women and men and the service also offers a specialist therapeutic service for children and young people.

“We help victims find out what their options are, including housing, safety and legal issues, and guidance through the court process. We also put them in touch with other organisations that may be able to address their concerns, including refuge accommodation and sanctuary schemes. Our aim is to support people in making informed choices.”

The service provides one-to-one support and individual risk and needs assessments to enable medium and high risk victims of domestic abuse to find the best support for their circumstances. CRI operates safeguarding policies, which are implemented where a person and/or their dependants are thought to be at high risk of continued abuse and further violence. This includes a referral to statutory services and a Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC), to discuss the best possible action for their circumstances and concerns.

Domestic abuse can describe a range of behaviours used by one person to control and dominate another person with whom they have had, or are in a close, intimate or family relationship. It may include abuse of men or women by their partner or ex-partners (including same sex relationships) or one family member to another.

For further information: [http://www.cri.org.uk/domesticabuse\\_eastsussex.php](http://www.cri.org.uk/domesticabuse_eastsussex.php)

“We will not pressurise clients to take action but guide them through the process, enabling them to make an informed choice. They may first want to talk things through with someone who is unbiased and who will not make judgements. Should they want to pursue a prosecution, we can support them to report the incident as well as explain the court process and arrange a pre-court visit”

The service is commissioned by the East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership

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## What is the WiSE Project?

*The WiSE Project is a young people's sexual exploitation project working with and supporting young people up to the age of 25 who are at risk of or experiencing sexual exploitation.*

## How will WiSE support the young person?

*"At WiSE we believe that where a positive relationship already exists between a young person and a worker it is usually most appropriate for WiSE to support that worker in delivering work around sexual exploitation and relationships, rather than taking on a case ourselves. Where a young person has no such relationship with a worker and would benefit from specialist support from WiSE we may offer one to one work. We can meet with a young person to come up with a plan for the work, incorporating their own wishes for support with those from referring agencies and WiSE".*

*"Please be aware that this sort of work takes time. It can only be effective when the young person has built up a relationship with the worker and begins to trust them. Sexual exploitation sits within the broader context of relationships, family, self esteem, body image, assertiveness, rights & responsibilities, and can affect housing, substance use, offending behaviour, mental health, amongst other needs. The work that we undertake at WiSE might involve supporting the young person with some of these other things before approaching the issue of sexual exploitation. We want to work to build on the young person's protective factors and behaviours in order to minimise their vulnerability and risks of being sexually exploited. WiSE also works closely with a number of other agencies and services and it may be most appropriate to refer the young person elsewhere for the support they need".*

*Engagement with the WiSE Project is voluntary; professionals cannot include WiSE as a compulsory part of a young person's contract, order or conditional agreement.*

Referral & Care Pathway - Response should be the same as for any other child protection or safeguarding concern

•Refer to The WiSE Project - to discuss a potential referral call a WiSE Worker on the numbers below:

Hastings & Rother: [Laura.Mende@ymcadlg.org](mailto:Laura.Mende@ymcadlg.org) Mob: 07551 126 731

Lewes & Wealden: [Harriet.Stephens@ymcadlg.org](mailto:Harriet.Stephens@ymcadlg.org) Mob: 07551 126 730

Eastbourne: [Rachel.O'Neill@ymcadlg.org](mailto:Rachel.O'Neill@ymcadlg.org) Mob: 07525 666 946

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**Operation Kite** is the Sussex Police response to Child Sexual Exploitation. Work is ongoing internally with police staff, as well as partner agencies to improve recognition and understanding of Child Sexual Exploitation. This allows them to build a better picture of this type of crime here in Sussex and enables the targeting of perpetrators and safeguarding of victims.

Further information can be found at:  
<http://www.sussex.police.uk/help-centre/ask-us/child-sexual-exploitation/what-is-child-sexual-exploitation>



## National Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Day March 18th 2015

What to do on the day.....

Write a personal pledge on your hands to show support for our Helping Hands campaign. Post your photo on social media with the hashtag #HelpingHands to help us raise awareness of CSE.

<http://www.stop-cse.org/national-child-exploitation-awareness-day/>



The NWG is a charitable organisation formed as a UK network of over 2500 practitioners who disseminate our information down through their services, to professionals working on the issue of child sexual exploitation (CSE) and trafficking within the UK. The NWG is the only child sexual exploitation network working across voluntary/statutory

agencies tackling CSE, with links across Europe, South East Asia, Africa and USA exchanging knowledge, understanding and dedicated to seeking ways to find alternative solutions.

For further information please visit their website: <http://www.nwgnetwork.org/>

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**Consent Awareness Activities** As touched upon in the last newsletter, work has continued with Sussex Police around the issue of alcohol and consent to sexual activity. Some of the rationale behind this work includes:

- There were 89 cases of Serious Sexual Offences in the first quarter of 2014/15 across East Sussex
- 28% of recorded Serious Sexual Offences have involved the offender or victim being under the influence of alcohol
- The Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) activity report for Sussex shows that between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013- 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014, 26% of all referrals were in relation to clients who live in East Sussex. The highest number of referrals were for those within the 18-24 year olds brackets. Just under half of all attendants disclosed having consumed alcohol.

***Whilst it would be positive to see a reduction in offences, it is important that people still feel able to come forward and report incidents***

The Safer East Sussex Team are grateful to Sussex Downs College for enabling us to carry out 4 consultation events from which we received over 100 completed questionnaire's and had a lot of interesting conversations with young people around this topic. Some headlines from this are:

***84% had experienced some form of unwanted sexual incidents***

***1 in 4 students felt that rape was committed by strangers; However the SARC report states '65% of clients presenting to SARC this year (2013/14) knew, or were familiar with the assailant'***

***86% agreed that capacity to give consent can be reduced if under the influence of alcohol***



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Further awareness sessions have also been completed with year 10 pupils at William Parker School in Hastings, and we are delivering the message to year 11 students at the end of the month.

Sgt. Vokins who leads the Sussex Police East Sussex Alcohol Reduction Team revised a personal safety campaign which included the issue of consent, and this was delivered to those working in the night time economy to encourage everyone to look out for those enjoying a night out.

Moving forward we hope to ensure that the topic of consent is understood and delivered to as many people as possible, and work is being done with PSHE (personal, social and health education) leads, Children's Services and Sussex Police to ensure this takes place. There has been a general upward trend in Serious



Sexual Offences where the offender or victim is marked 'under the influence of alcohol' over the past two years.

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## East Sussex County Council Commitment to the White Ribbon Campaign

ESCC supported White Ribbon Day on 25 November. The day is officially recognised by the United Nations as an international day for the elimination of violence against women.

Every year three million women and girls in the UK experience

rape, domestic abuse, forced marriage, stalking, sexual exploitation, trafficking, female genital mutilation (FGM) or honour crimes.

To show support as a Council against this abuse, ESCC have gained The White Ribbon Campaign (WRC) award. The award is for organisations demonstrating their commitment to the following aims of the campaign:

- *Involving men so that the message increases in effectiveness and reach.*
- *Addressing and changing social norms that lead to violent behaviour against women.*
- *Increasing awareness on the issue and providing services aimed at reducing the incidence of domestic abuse.*
- Mobilising the entire local community under the goal of ending violence against women and girls. As a part of the campaign is for male leaders to take an active stand as Ambassadors and to act as positive role models to their local communities, the male members of CMT (Philip Baker, Kevin Foster, Rupert Clubb, Keith Hinkley and Stuart Gallimore) will be applying to become Ambassadors, with Becky Shaw, our Chief Executive, championing the campaign.

**White Ribbon Campaign**  
working to end violence against women



<http://www.whiteribboncampaign.co.uk/>

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The East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership hosted a half day **'Domestic Abuse Hurts Everyone'** conference on Tuesday, 25 November (White Ribbon Day), with a focus on the impact of domestic abuse on children and young people, what we can do as employers to support employees affected by domestic abuse and raising awareness of the White Ribbon Campaign. The morning was comprised of a host of speakers such as the bestselling author Peter James as well as a highly acclaimed performance entitled 'Mockingbird High'.



Picture of some of the speakers: Neil Honor, Katy Bourne, Peter James, Sammie Thurlow-Baker and Louisa Havers

Over 120 people attended, including a mixture of schools, youth support workers, governors, councillors and local businesses. Delegates were also asked to pledge their commitment to the White Ribbon Campaign to 'never commit, condone or remain silent to violence against women and girls' as well as to make a call to action. Examples of some of the pledges included:

***"Raising awareness of vulnerable children within my school"***

***"Using what I have learnt today to take back to my workplace, by talking to colleagues and putting up posters"***

***"Ensuring all children in my school have lessons focussed around domestic abuse"***

Useful resources from the day and helpful links:

<http://www.safeineastsussex.org.uk/domestic-abuse-hurts-everyone.html>

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East Sussex LSCB training is for all professionals who work with children or adults who have children or child care responsibilities.

The LSCB provides a regular programme of over 40 courses every year. We have included some course information below.

For the current training directory:  
<http://www.eastsussexlscb.org.uk/professionals/prof-training/>

## **Domestic Abuse: DASH and Safety Planning – Module 2**

LSC295 **Thursday 26 March 2015 09:30 16:30** Newhaven Enterprise Centre, Newhaven

### **Closing date:**

Thursday 12 March 2015

*All bookings must be made **before** these dates.*

### **Course Aims and Description**

This Domestic Abuse training course is part of a modular based programme and participants must attend both modules. These will run at various times throughout the year and it is not necessary to attend Module 2 straight after Module 1.

The two modules replace the previous LSCB: Domestic Abuse: Recognition and Response course and can be used as a refresher for those who have previously attended this training. Module 2 - will focus on equipping participants to assess risk of harm using the DASH risk indicator checklist, how to determine changes in risk, how to develop effective safety plans appropriate to the level of risk and understand how to undertake case management for those experiencing domestic abuse

## **Domestic Abuse: Recognition and Response - Module 1**

LSC278 **Wednesday 18 March 2015 09:30 13:30** Newhaven Enterprise Centre

**Closing date:** Wednesday 4 March 2015

*All bookings must be made **before** this date.*

### **Course Aims and Description**

This Domestic Abuse Training course is part of a modular based programme and participants must attend both modules. These will run at various times throughout the year and it is not necessary to attend Module 2 straight after Module 1.

The two modules replace the previous LSCB: Domestic Abuse: Recognition and Response course and can be used as a refresher for those who have previously attended this training. Module 1 - will give participants a basic awareness of domestic abuse including contextual information, overview of legislation, and identification of abuse and understanding of the dynamics of an abusive relationship.

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## Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Awareness Workshops

LSC334 **Tuesday 17 March** 2015 09:30 13:00 Lansdowne Hotel, Eastbourne  
LSC335 **Thursday 11 June** 2015 09:30 13:00 BPE Business Connections (Old Print Works) - Wharf Road, Eastbourne  
LSC336 **Tuesday 22 September** 2015 09:30 13:00 The Hastings Centre, Hastings  
LSC337 **Thursday 26 November** 2015 09:30 13:00 BPE Business Connections (Old PrintWorks) - Wharf Road, Eastbourne

### Closing date:

LSC334 - Tuesday 3 March 2015  
LSC335 – Thursday 28 May 2015  
LSC336 – Tuesday 8 September 2015  
LSC337 – Thursday 12 November 2015

*All bookings must be made **before** this date.*

### Course Aims and Description

The aim of this course is to:

- increase the knowledge, awareness, and understanding of professionals of the practice of FGM
- provide greater awareness of the warning signs and risk factors in relation to FGM
- gain information about the safeguarding policies and procedures; law; as well as the challenges and relevant resources in relation to FGM.

Please note that registration and refreshments 15 minutes before each course start time.

### Training costs

Courses are free to staff from Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) member organisations. These include:

- East Sussex County Council staff in Children's Services and Adult Social Care
- NHS staff
- Probation service
- The police

To find out how much courses cost for other organisations please click on the link below

### Apply for a course

To apply for a course, download an LSCB Application Form from the website

<http://www.eastsussexlscb.org.uk/professionals/prof-training/>

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