



Safe in East Sussex

In Focus – Domestic Violence & abuse, Stalking,
Sexual Violence and Abuse

January 2016

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Welcome

Following the production of the Strategic Assessment of Community Safety 2015, partners met to select the county wide work streams for inclusion in the Partnership Business Plan in September 2015.

‘Domestic Violence and Abuse and Stalking’, as well as ‘Rape and Sexual Violence and Abuse’ were among the work streams selected. These crime types are often hidden problems. They also have a significant impact in East Sussex. For example, reports of domestic violence and abuse have seen a rise of 8.7% (+365) when compared to the same period in the previous year. Meanwhile sexual and serious sexual offences have continued to increase, and in the 12 months to October 2015 have seen an increase of 32% (+381).

In the Partnership Business Plan, key priorities include developing specialist interventions to help victims/survivors achieve safety, and longer term support to help promote their recovery, as well as developing a communications campaign to raise awareness of issues consent. Events such as the 16 Days of Action and the White Ribbon Campaign, as well as practical steps like the launch of new Specialist Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse Service - ‘The Portal’ - are just part

of what partners across East Sussex are doing to address these crime types.

“In order to rid society of domestic violence and abuse, we need to raise awareness of its impact on individuals and the support available for those affected. I applaud the efforts being made by organisations, authorities and individuals in our communities to raise the profile of the White Ribbon Campaign and promote the support available for those affected by domestic abuse.”

Cllr Bill Bentley, East Sussex County Council’s lead member for adult social care and a White Ribbon Ambassador, commenting on the 16 Days of Action and White Ribbon Campaign, 10 November 2015

The East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership is supported by the Safer East Sussex Team, made up from Community Safety staff from Sussex Police, East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service and East Sussex

County Council

New Specialist Service

The Portal provides a single point of contact for victims and survivors of domestic or sexual abuse and violence who are 16+ and living in, working in or visiting Brighton & Hove or East Sussex to enable them to cope and recover from the impact of violence and abuse. The Portal can also give advice and support to friends, families and professionals.



Eligibility

Help and support available depends on levels of risk, identified support needs, the type of support requested, as well as service user eligibility. If a service user is eligible – and accepts the service – they will be allocated to the appropriate team and a Safety and Support Plan will be developed. If a service user is not eligible they will be given advice on other local support.

How to refer

- Go to www.theportal.org.uk and click on the 'Professionals' icon.
- Download and complete the Referral Form.
- Where relevant, attach a completed [Domestic Abuse Stalking and Harassment Risk Identification Checklist](#) (DASH RIC).
- The referrer must ensure that the service user is aware – and has given their consent – to the referral (unless you are a Police Officer).
- Please note: If a referral form is missing key information you will be asked for more information and The Portal may not be able to accept the referral until this information has been provided.



To discuss a case, for information and advice on the help and support available, or for help in making a referral call Freephone **0300 323 9985**.

To order printed materials, including posters and cards, go to The Portal website and click on the 'about us' tab.

The Portal 'goes live' on the 4th February 2016.

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White Ribbon and the 16 Days of Action

What are the 16 days of Action?

The 16 Days of Action for the Elimination of Violence against Women runs from 25th November (the UN International Day of Elimination of Violence against Women) to the 10th December every year (Human Rights Day). Over 16 Days, a range of agencies, groups and individuals are coming together to work to end all forms of violence against women. The 16 Days of Action is a global initiative, seeking to galvanize action to end violence against women and girls around the world. Local events range from awareness raising in the community, making sure people know where to go for help and support and sharing stories about people's experiences, recovery and work.

For more information about the 16 Days, visit <http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/take-action/16-days-of-activism>.

What is the White Ribbon Campaign?

The White Ribbon Campaign recognises the positive role that men play in preventing violence against women, based on the understanding that most men are not violent. It is therefore a means for men to speak out against violence and abuse and to safely challenge the attitudes and behaviours of a minority of men who use or condone violence against women.

The White Ribbon Campaign award is for organisations demonstrating their commitment to the aims of the campaign:

- Involving men and boys as ambassadors in the mobilisation of entire local communities to engage in awareness raising activities
- Addressing and altering social norms leading to violent behavior against women and girls
- Providing services aimed at reducing the incidence towards anyone at risk of interpersonal abuse and violence.

You can show your support for the campaign all year round by pledging never to commit, condone, or remain silent about violence against women and girls in all forms by wearing a white ribbon on the day. For more information about the campaign, visit www.whiteribboncampaign.co.uk.



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Talking Stalking

A Talking Stalking launched the 16 Days of Action this year at a venue in Brighton & Hove. The aim of this event was to raise awareness and to commemorate the 3rd Anniversary of the Stalking Law Reform with the launch of an anthology of creative writing, written by survivors and professionals drawing on their experiences of stalking.

The event brought together agencies, professionals and survivors in the community in order to continue to challenge the devastating nature of stalking and to identify ways of improving outcomes and partnership work.

The event was organised in partnership between Veritas Justice CIC, Writing for Recovery and University of Brighton,

The event was kindly supported by The High Sheriff of East Sussex, Juliet Smith, Brighton & Hove City Council and East Sussex County Council.



Veritas Justice combines professional expertise with personal experience to inform Training, Research, Reform and Support.

Their extensive knowledge of domestic abuse, child protection and stalking issues inform educational, legal and therapeutic expertise, and qualify them to offer a comprehensive and unique service to clients.



In January 2016 Veritas launched a stalking advocacy service, and have published the anthology of the experiences of survivors of stalking and professionals, introduced at the event.

Where I can get help about stalking?

You can find out more at www.stalkinghelpline.org, or contact the National Stalking Helpline on 0808 802 0300 or by email advice@stalkinghelpline.org

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A wide range of activities also took place across the Districts and Boroughs as part of the 16 Days of Action and White Ribbon Campaign.

On 25th November, **Hastings** and **Eastbourne** held awareness raising days in the Priory Meadow and Arndale shopping centres.

At Bexhill College, **Rother** launched 'Scarlet's Story' – a video scribe put together by young people in Rother about positive relationships. A formal launch of the range of support provided by victims/survivors of domestic abuse in the last 12 months also took place at Bexhill Town Hall.

The 26th November and 3rd December also saw events taking place at the **Eastbourne** and **Lewes** sites of Sussex Downs College which aimed to gather student's thoughts in relation to gender stereotyping and healthy relationships. Advice as to what to do was also provided to students who may be in unhealthy relationships.

A further awareness raising event took place on 28th November for the **Lewes** Districts Tenants Conference and a -RISE Living Library event was held at Lewes Library on 3rd December.

Wealden District Council hosted a domestic abuse training event delivered by psychotherapist Zoe Lodrick. The training was designed to assist professionals to recognise the signs of domestic abuse, explore some of the stereotypes around victims and perpetrators and to improve understanding of the psychology of Domestic Abuse – what makes some victims return to abusive relationships and why some abusers continue to abuse.

Did you know?

East Sussex County Council has '**White Ribbon Status**', a status also held by many of the local Districts and Boroughs.



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.

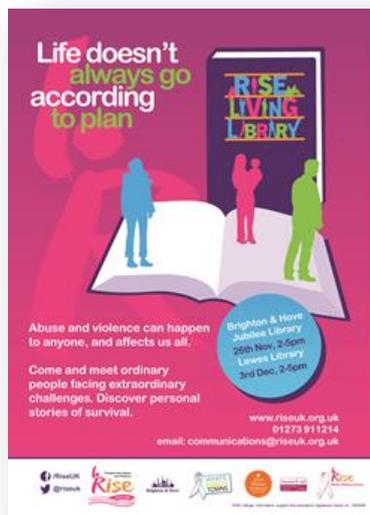
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The RISE Living Library

Life doesn't always go according to plan and any one of us can find our lives affected by domestic abuse. Volunteer Living Books will make themselves available to be 'borrowed' by members of the public for open conversation about their lives and experiences.

The RISE Living Library started in 2010. Developed to promote dialogue, reduce prejudice and encourage understanding about domestic abuse the simple format creates an opportunity to speak to survivors and those who work to support people affected by domestic abuse.



Living Books include survivors, refuge workers, the police and others speaking one on one with interested members of the community. Each 'reading' lasts up to 15 minutes.

RISE Living Library has been described by readers as *"beautiful, inspirational and moving"*.

"I was just passing and didn't have the time to build up expectations. It didn't matter. It is so inspirational and beautiful. I feel grateful people wanted to share their experiences."

RISE – along with the CRI Domestic Abuse Service – is one of the organisations delivering 'The Portal'.

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Operation Ribbon

As Christmas approached, Sussex Police and partners launched a crackdown on domestic abuse.

The often hidden problem can blight family and personal relationships, especially at such a happy time for most people. Operation Ribbon is the force's overall year-round response to the problem. The force had a busy festive period with 1928 calls related to domestic abuse (against 1922 for a similar period on 2014/5)



There were 915 recorded crimes (compared with 766 last year) and so far there have been 532 arrests (compared with 557 last year) with further investigations under way. There were also 1133 incidents (compared with 1163 last year) which did not result in recorded crimes but which still resulted in referrals to multi-agency support and assessment.

Detective Chief Inspector Ali Eaton said; "Whilst the numbers of offenders appears to have dropped off, there was an increase during the period in charge rates showing 23% of alleged offenders charged, cautioned or dealt with by community resolution as opposed to just over 12% in 2014.

The domestic abuse awareness campaign aims at encouraging both women and men to report abuse.

From Monday 14 December, advertising ran inside buses across Sussex, radio advertisements will be broadcast on Heart FM, Bright FM and other local radio stations, and an advert ran on the digital screen at Brighton railway station.

From 14 December police officers and Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVA) from local specialist services - including CRI, RISE and Worth Services - visited 10 previous victims every day, whether high risk or repeat victims or both, with information, support and reassurance.

Starting on the following Monday, 21 December, dedicated police 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.

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Mankind

Specialist support services to men (18+) who have experienced childhood sexual abuse and/or adult sexual assault at any time in their lives.

Mankind are a Sussex based charity who work with males who have been impacted with unwanted sexual contact at some point in their life. Since 2000, they have been delivering specialist support services to men (18+) who have experienced childhood sexual abuse and/or adult sexual assault at any time in their lives. Mankind developed from the need for an agency in Sussex that could provide appropriate services to men. Funded by the Big Lottery, they are the only service of its kind in the South East.



They are working on a new project aimed at engaging 16-25 year olds. As part of the project they are hoping to offer a new service that will be more accessible for young people to use when they need support. In order to increase their understanding of what is needed, they would like to hear the voices of young people to develop future services and resources.

The first stage of the project is to encourage people to take part in a video survey. The survey looks at some campaigns that have been used in the past to address the issue of consent and abuse and asks people what they know about the topic.

Although they are aiming to target 16-25 year olds the survey is open to anyone so please feel free to complete and share with anyone who is interested.

Get involved

There are lots of ways to help and have your say:

- The C² survey**
Tell us what you think stops male survivors talking about their abuse, and what people might be uncomfortable hearing. Give us your ideas for what we could do to change things & help survivors to speak out at www.mankindcounselling.org.uk/news
- The C² focus groups**
Want to get more involved? Why not come along to one of our focus groups & contribute to the discussion to turn ideas into real world initiatives. Sign up at the end of the survey...
- The C² project advisory group**
Got more time, energy or expertise? Why not be part of our project advisory group and help us steer & support the teams taking each of these initiatives forward. While specific skills like marketing, project management, design etc would all be great. The most important qualification is the passion for a solution & the commitment to make it happen. Come along to a focus group to meet us or contact us direct to get involved...

Contact

Although designed to put the community in control, the **Community Squared (C2)** project has been set up, and will continue to be supported by Mankind.

Please direct any enquiries to:

 **mankind**
1 Brunswick Road
HOVE
East Sussex
BN3 1DG
01273 911680
admin@mankindcounselling.org.uk
www.mankindcounselling.org.uk
@MankindCharity

The **Community Squared (C2)** project
Supported by
 **The National Lottery**
through the Big Lottery Fund

C²
community squared

working together to
break the silence of abuse

find out more at
www.mankindcounselling.org.uk/news

registered charity no: 1096575

The survey is not specifically for young men, it is inclusive of any gender. The survey 'Hashtag Mankind' can be found on their website: www.mankindcounselling.org.uk/news.php

Nicky Mahoney - Young Person's Engagement Worker - Mankind

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Coercive Control Law Comes into Force

Coercive or controlling domestic abuse became a crime punishable by up to five years in prison from Tuesday 29th December 2015. The Crown Prosecution Service's new powers have been introduced as Citizens Advice reports a steep rise in the number of victims seeking help over the past year.

The new legislation will enable the CPS to bring charges where there is evidence of repeated, or continuous, controlling or coercive behaviour within an intimate or family relationship. The CPS identify that abuse can include a pattern of threats, humiliation and intimidation, or behaviour such as stopping a partner socialising, controlling their social media accounts, surveillance through apps or dictating what they wear.



Controlling or coercive behaviour is defined under section 76 of the Serious Crime Act 2015 as causing someone to fear that violence will be used against them on at least two occasions, or generating serious alarm or distress that has a substantial effect on their usual day-to-day activities.

“He used to hide either 5, 6 or 7 marked pound coins around the house - only he knew how many - and if I hadn't got the right amount in my hand when he came home from work then he knew I hadn't done enough thorough cleaning and I would suffer.”

“It wasn't just that I was walking on eggshells ... I was making too much noise doing so.”

“He used to make me parade around the house naked in front of the children. They saw my bruises; he wanted them to see what he had done. I was so embarrassed and so was my teenage son.”

For legislation around coercive control see here:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/9/section/76/enacted>

Guidance for professionals is available here:

http://safelives.org.uk/practice_blog/are-you-ready-coercive-control-law

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Sexual Assault Referral Centre

A Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) is a special facility where recent victims of rape or sexual assault can receive immediate help and support. This includes access to a forensic medical examination, which is carried out by an experienced and qualified doctor, and the opportunity to speak to the Police about what has happened to them if the client wishes to do so. The Saturn Centre provides a range of services to anyone in Sussex aged 14 and over, who has been raped or sexually assaulted.

The Saturn Centre services are available whether or not the assault has been reported to the police. All you need to do is ring us first to make an appointment.

Immediate Services: If someone has been raped or sexually assaulted the SARC offers the following services:

- Forensic medical examination by a specialist nurse.
- Emergency Contraception and a referral to sexual health services.
- Emotional Support from a dedicated Crisis Support Worker

Follow-up Services: The effects of rape or sexual assault can take time to resolve. It may have happened some time ago but still affects your well-being. The Saturn Centre provides a professional victim focused service, with access to a wide range of support and advice. The SARAC can provide referral to an **ISVA** (Independent Sexual Violence Advisor), who is a specialist dedicated support worker who will keep in touch with you and provide you with information about other services or organisations that may be of help.

The SARAC can also provide you with information about **Counselling** services available in your locality to help you come to terms with what has happened, as well as discussing your individual needs and signposting to the appropriate agency for help and advice tailored to each person using the service.

You can also access **Support through criminal proceedings**, this is the path you wish to take, or get assistance with criminal injuries compensation claims where trained staff at the centre can explain the system to you.

Web: www.saturncentre.org
Tel: 01293 600469 (9am-5pm) 24 hour answer phone
Out of Hours Help Line: 0800 033 7797
Email Address: sc-tr.saturncentre@nhs.net

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Spot the signs
take action
2nd March

human trafficking
missing people
modern slavery

**A FREE event for
professionals who
work with vulnerable
adults and children**

Date and time:
Wednesday 2nd March,
9.30 – 1pm

**An estimated 800,000 men, women and
children are trafficked across international
borders each year - up to 50% are minors**

Growing numbers of people in the UK are exploited and
controlled by others in our cities and neighbourhoods.

140,000 children go missing in the UK each year

So, get the facts:

- hear from a range of speakers
- learn about local and national initiatives
- find out about signs, indicators and appropriate responses
- help to raise awareness among your colleagues
- network with other professionals

For more information and
to book a place:

[ASCH.Conference&Even
ts@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:ASCH.Conference&Events@eastsussex.gov.uk)

Join us at our FREE event for professionals.
Who should attend? Anyone who works with
vulnerable adults and children.

Wednesday 2nd March, 9.30 – 1pm
Congress Suite, Compton Street, Eastbourne, BN21 4BP

Refreshments
will be
provided

More information and to book a place:
ASCH.Conference&Events@eastsussex.gov.uk

Please note that places are filling up fast and cannot be guaranteed but you can
express an interest in attending

If you would like to find out more about what the team have been doing, then why not
sign up to the new fortnightly e-bulletin.

This complements the current newsletter which will continue to provide an in depth
focus on our priority areas.

To sign up please do so at: <http://eepurl.com/bfQM6H>

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