

## Domestic abuse teams celebrate Green Flag success

Three months after being awarded the only Green Flag nationally for domestic violence services, more than 30 representatives from domestic abuse organisations across Devon got together to mark their success with a special cake.

The adva partnership (Against Domestic Violence and Abuse in Devon) was singled out in the Comprehensive Area Assessment 2009 as playing a vital role in supporting victims of domestic violence and abuse in Devon.

During a visit to Exeter in February, the Attorney General Baroness Scotland said; "It's due to the quality of the services available in Devon and the public awareness of them, the reporting of domestic violence incidents to the police has almost doubled in the last ten years and successful prosecution rates are nearly 90%. The co-ordinated community response in Devon will save many lives and reduce the devastating impact of domestic violence on victims and their families.

Rachel Martin from adva said; "We were delighted to learn at the end of last year that the CAA had recognised the efforts of many organisations and individuals in Devon who have worked very hard to provide vital domestic violence and abuse services for the county.

"It was good to celebrate but we will not be resting on our laurels because there is still much work to be done. In the coming months and years we intend to continue doing as much as we can to ensure that domestic abuse sufferers and perpetrators can have confidence in the high quality and co-ordinated services we provide."





## Help young people in Devon to change their violent or abusive behaviour

If you work with teenagers who may have problems as a result of witnessing violence and abuse as children, a new programme which has just been launched in Devon is looking for referrals and facilitators.

[www.devon.gov.uk/index/childrenfamilies/domestic\\_violence/adva-professionals/linx-programme.htm](http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/childrenfamilies/domestic_violence/adva-professionals/linx-programme.htm)

**The LINX programme** provides specialist support for young people aged between 12 and 18 who are displaying violent behaviour or having problems engaging with other people and forming positive relationships. In many cases their behaviour will have been linked to domestic violence as children.

LINX was developed by The Hampton Trust, a youth charity that works to break the cycle of

domestic violence. It has been brought to Devon in partnership with the Youth Offending Service and adva (Against Domestic Violence and Abuse), following a successful pilot project with the Wessex Youth Offending Team.

**Sarah Carlsen-Browne** who co-ordinates the programme in Devon explains: "LINX works by helping young people make the connection between their experiences, feelings and their behaviour. By discussing issues in a safe environment we can support change and challenge some of the more negative and risky behaviour in young people."

She adds; "We are very keen to receive referrals to this programme which has already had incredibly positive feedback. We would also like to hear from people who could facilitate a course within their own organisation. There are training courses for facilitators running throughout the year and they're free of charge."

Each LINX course lasts for 12 weeks, during which young people are encouraged to develop empathy and emotional awareness through single sex group sessions of up to ten people. They are helped to learn different ways of communicating, other than through violent behaviour. They are also given advice on how to keep themselves safe in a home where there might be violence.

**Sue McGrath**, Head of Devon Youth Offending Service said; "The programme essentially works with young people who have committed offences or who are at risk of doing so. It is well known that offending behaviour is very often associated with a young person's experience of having witnessed or experienced violence or abuse. One of the key lessons for the young people is recognising how people can get

wound-up and then learning how to wind down, and to be better able to manage their behaviour."

On average, victims of domestic violence experience 35 incidents of violence before seeking help. In 90% of incidents, children are present or in the next room. A number of studies have shown a link between experiencing domestic violence as a child and later violent behaviour, which can go on to develop into future domestic violence as an adult.

**Roy Tomlinson** of Devon's domestic violence partnership adva, which is led by Devon County Council said; "Much work is already being done in Devon with victims, their children and adult perpetrators of domestic violence, to help break the vicious cycle of behaviour. The LINX programme will reach out to vulnerable and impressionable teenagers and will help them understand how to empathise and to learn how to deal with their emotions and living with dva."

The LINX programme is delivered by professionals from different agencies including the Youth Offending Service, Youth Service, Devon Action, parent support workers, teachers and domestic violence workers. Referrals to the programme come through agencies that work with young people. The priority group is for those engaged with the Youth Offending Teams (YOT). Work is also being done within mainstream schools, complementary education settings and youth centres. The LINX programme also works with young people who have not been affected by domestic violence but need help in building their confidence and self esteem so that they can fully engage in education, employment or training in order to make the successful transition into adulthood.

# What young people in Devon are saying about LINX

## CASE STUDY 1

**Kieron**, 18, (not real name) was referred to the LINX programme by the Youth Offending Team. He is on an electronic tagging order and regularly attends a CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health) anger management scheme.

*After four meetings I'm finding it easier now to talk about personal and emotional stuff. It's giving me more confidence.*



*I like talking in the group. Everyone is from a different background, with different problems. We were all a bit quiet at first but now we're all joining in and talking about our experiences and our ideas. It's not embarrassing. All my other meetings are one to one but being in a group is much better.*

*It's helped me learn how to talk to my stepfather who I live with. It's always been awkward talking to him because he can be aggressive, verbally rather than physically. Now we can talk about things like television programmes we've watched. I'd say it's really helped with my family relationships.*

*We're also given help with adult stuff like money and paying bills, finding a flat and how to get a job. I want to work as a chef and Sarah's helping me to make the right connections to train and to get a job.*

*I have to go to meetings every day of the week but this is the only meeting that I like to get up for.*

## CASE STUDY 2

**Sam** (not her real name) is 15 and had to change schools after getting into a fight which resulted in the police being called. She was referred to LINX to help her with anger problems.

*I grew up in a home where there was a lot of abusive behaviour. My dad lived with us till I was nine and he always had very bad anger outbursts and used to smash things. It scared me*

*but I thought we were a normal family. My dad is much happier now with his new family but me and my mum argue a lot. When it's just the two of us we get on really well but there are problems when my younger sister is around.*

*The LINX programme is helping me understand how we should communicate with each other and I can practise how I should be with my mum and my sister.*

*In the group sessions, we use the empathy wall to help us understand how people will feel. It's really helped me to see what can happen if you don't think about your actions. If one of the blocks in the empathy wall comes out, then all the others can come out too. If you get into trouble, it can affect other parts of your life and other people.*

*I really hope the LINX programme will help me to control my anger more and solve the conflicts at home with my mum and my sister.*

Please contact LINX Co-ordinator **Sarah Carlsen-Browne** for an initial discussion  
Email: [sarah.carlsen-browne@devon.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.carlsen-browne@devon.gov.uk)  
Tel: 07814 409585

For further information on **the LINX programme** in Devon please visit [www.adva.org.uk](http://www.adva.org.uk)

For further information on **the Hampton Trust**, please visit [www.hamptontrust.org.uk](http://www.hamptontrust.org.uk)



# Adoption and Implementation of a new multi-agency Domestic Violence and Abuse Risk Identification Checklist (DASH) across Devon

**ACPO** (Association of Chief Police Officers) and **CAADA** (Co-ordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse – a national charity supporting a strong multi-agency response to domestic abuse) have worked together to produce an evidence based risk identification check list (DASH) to increase the likelihood of a victim of domestic violence and abuse being responded to appropriately and therefore addressing the risks they face.

This **DASH** (Domestic Abuse, Stalking and 'Honour'-based Violence) risk identification checklist '**RIC**' gives practitioners (both Police and non-police agencies) common criteria and a common language of risk. A positive and very welcome step in the right direction.

The purpose of the checklist is to give a consistent and simple to use tool to practitioners who work with victims of domestic abuse in order to help them identify those who are at high risk of harm and whose cases should be referred to a **MARAC** (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference) in order to manage the risk.

The Police 'went live' with DASH (ACPO DASH – the name of the Police version) across Devon and Cornwall on 1st February 2010. Adva intends to adopt and implement the use of the CAADA-DASH RIC (non-police version) for all other agencies in Devon from April 2010. We are in the process of agreeing copyright with CAADA for joint branding (adva and CAADA) to avoid confusion locally. This will also give the RIC and guidance a local 'look and feel' for Devon, including links to local as well as national services.

The national CAADA-DASH-RIC can be downloaded for information from the CAADA website: [www.caada.org.uk/Practitioner\\_resources/Quick%20Start%20Guidance%20&%20RIC%2009062009.pdf](http://www.caada.org.uk/Practitioner_resources/Quick%20Start%20Guidance%20&%20RIC%2009062009.pdf)

There is also a very useful CAADA MARAC Toolkit for individual agencies which is definitely worth a read: [www.caada.org.uk/practitioner\\_resources/MARACresources.htm](http://www.caada.org.uk/practitioner_resources/MARACresources.htm)

As part of this adoption and implementation of the CAADA-DASH RIC across Devon, adva has developed a new half day multi-agency training course called: '**The MARAC Process in Devon – increasing safety for victims of domestic violence and abuse**'. This course will focus on completing the CAADA-DASH RIC within all agency roles and also what to do with a completed RIC in particular with reference to the MARAC process. Please visit the adva website for more details and about the course and how to book a place: [www.devon.gov.uk/index/childrenfamilies/domestic\\_violence/adva\\_professionals/adva-training/marac-process.htm](http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/childrenfamilies/domestic_violence/adva_professionals/adva-training/marac-process.htm)

This course now replaces the one day 'Preventing Murder and Serious Harm' training day where we looked at risk assessing for DVA using the current adva domestic abuse risk assessment tool (Appendix 5: [www.devon.gov.uk/marac\\_practitioner\\_guide\\_final\\_2.11.07.pdf](http://www.devon.gov.uk/marac_practitioner_guide_final_2.11.07.pdf)) and which will, over the next few months, be replaced with the new CAADA-DASH RIC and associated guidance, local referral pathways and risk management thresholds in line with ACPO DASH.

Even if you have already been on our 'Preventing Murder and Serious Harm' training day – we recommend this half day course as an excellent refresher course and introduction to the CAADA-DASH RIC and the MARAC process.

It will be a more gradual, rolling process implementing the multi-agency CAADA-DASH-RIC across all non-police agencies in Devon. The process will start in April and our new half day 'The MARAC Process in Devon' adva training course is in place to support and embed this change-over process.

# Another outstanding and exciting year so far in the adva training rooms!

Adva Training data 1st April 2009 – 22nd February 2010

We are celebrating yet another very popular and successful year of domestic violence and abuse awareness training in Devon so far:

**Level 1 – Foundation: Tackling Domestic Violence & Abuse** (1 day) course has seen 836 delegates through the doors so far, over 63 courses.

**Level 2 – Accredited Programme: Domestic Violence & Abuse – The Impact on Children** (2 days) course – 150 delegates over 13 courses.

**Preventing Murder and Serious Harm within Domestic Violence & Abuse – Your Responsibility for Victim Focus Safety** (1 day) course – 86 delegates over 7 courses .

Our new **The MARAC Process in Devon – increasing safety for victims of domestic violence and abuse** (half day) pilot courses – 90 delegates over 7 courses.

**Tackling Perpetrators of Domestic Violence & Abuse** (1 day) course – 52 delegates over 4 courses.

**Managers Tackling Domestic Violence & Abuse – The Links to Duty of Care** (1 day) course – 83 delegates over 7 courses.

**Domestic Violence & Abuse – Awareness Raising for Schools in Devon** (2 hour 'Twilight' Session or 1 day) course – 51 delegates over 4 sessions/courses.

Plus, over 310 delegates who have attended adva courses either run in-house within their own agency, or commissioned by specific agencies in partnership with adva (e.g. Health agencies, Early Years agencies via Children's Centres, Torbay Council, Foster Carers, Elected Members, Housing Associations, District Councils across Devon and the Vulnerable Adults training team) to date! Amazing...

A huge thank you to the wonderful adva team who work tirelessly behind the scenes to make this happen, namely Janice and Claire in the adva project support team (and Hayley who has been helping us out recently too) and of course the fantastic adva trainers: Michael, Tess, Jodie, Dinah and Jo: [www.devon.gov.uk/index/childrenfamilies/domestic\\_violence/adva-professionals/adva-training/adva-trainers.htm](http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/childrenfamilies/domestic_violence/adva-professionals/adva-training/adva-trainers.htm) Hoorah!

To find out more about adva training courses and to book yourself a place, please visit the adva website: [www.devon.gov.uk/index/childrenfamilies/domestic\\_violence/adva-professionals/adva-training.htm](http://www.devon.gov.uk/index/childrenfamilies/domestic_violence/adva-professionals/adva-training.htm)

## The top 7 non-English languages in Devon

Teignbridge Housing wanted to know the key languages to use in their leaflets. They contacted Multilingua (Devon), Devon's countywide agency for face-to-face interpreting and translation service, who were really helpful and came up with the following list of the top seven, non-English languages in Devon:

1. Polish
2. Dari (Afghanistan)
3. Farsi (Iranian)
4. Arabic (All middle eastern & N. African countries)
5. Mandarin Chinese (China, Taiwan)
6. Turkish (Turkey, Northern Cyprus)
7. Cantonese (Hong Kong, China, Canton province)

Multilingua also broke this list into areas of most common usage, identifying that Polish is requested in every field; Dari/Farsi in Health and Housing; Arabic in Education and Health and Turkish, Mandarin and Cantonese are requested a lot for Environmental Health checks, food hygiene courses and Health sector.

Any queries relating to Multilingua: [info@multilinguadevon.co.uk](mailto:info@multilinguadevon.co.uk) or visit their website: <http://multilinguadevon.co.uk>

# Feed-back from North Devon and Torridge Violence and Abuse Forum J9

J9 campaign was launched in Holsworthy recently. It was well supported by the local tradespeople of the town and followed a lot of hard work by the Police to publicise and 'push' the event.

The meeting was opened with thanks to all in attendance by DI Andy Berry and Supt Kevin Harris, with Vanessa Billings and Adele Smale presenting a short training session. As with the Torrington J9 launch, all shop keepers within the scheme will be displaying pink hearts in their premises to enable victims to use their phones to access help and support.

## SEEDS Devon

SEEDS Devon continues to grow in strength and has secured funding from adva for a further twelve months. Their next recruitment is scheduled for Friday 23 April 2010, 10am-1.00pm at CVS Offices, Wat Tyler House, King William St. Exeter.

If you know anyone who you think would be ready to join SEEDS Devon please let them know about this meeting. However, please remember SEEDS are NOT a support group but welcome new members who are ready to advocate on behalf of others as well as tell their own story.

There is now a website for SEEDS [www.seeds-uk.org](http://www.seeds-uk.org) which covers all the groups in the South West. Devon SEEDS have their own page within the website.

### Future Plans

SEEDS are hoping to have a more direct role in this year's DA Awareness Week and plan to run a workshop to promote the work that SEEDS Devon undertake. We are gathering poetry and art work from survivors of domestic abuse with a view to publishing to coincide with the 2010 Awareness Week. Please contact us or pass on our details to Victims/Survivors of DA who would like to contribute to our poetry and art book. SEEDS Devon will need to have any material by the end of July if they are to be ready for the Awareness Week.

SEEDS are preparing new Presentation Packs and welcome any invitations from Agencies to attend meetings or be involved in staff training. Even if they have visited your Agency in the past, staff and issues change, so please remember to invite them back. They would also be happy to be involved in a consultation role with regard to policy development or research projects.

SEEDS bi-annual Survey on DA Services is now due. Questionnaires will shortly be ready for distribution and details on how to obtain these will be available from adva in due course.

# East and Mid Devon Forum update

The Forum last met on 2nd March and was attended by 20 people. There was a good cross section of agencies represented including, SAFE, Police, Children's Centres, District Councils, Primary Care Trust, Solicitors, SEEDs.

The Police gave a presentation re alarm systems to help victims of domestic abuse. The Community Safety Partnership has provided Police with funding to purchase 4 GPS type alarms that are currently being used across the country by lone workers but which can be given to victims. The understanding is that similar alarms have also been purchased by Police in Exeter and in the South Devon with partnership money. In the near future this will be another aid that can be given to people across Devon to make them feel safer when outside their homes.

The successful events held during AR week last year included the launch in Axminster, the event held in a hall at Tiverton and of course the very successful rugby match organised by Julia Ryder which raised several hundred pounds for SAFE.

This year it has been agreed to hold separate launches in East and Mid on different days. To date, nothing has taken place in Seaton so this will be a focus for this year, with a possible link with the Youth Service re street art. As the lead up to the World Cup in June approaches, discussions took place re raising awareness of alcohol abuse leading to domestic abuse issues.

# Domestic Violence and Abuse Services

(South & West Devon)

(formerly South Devon Women's Aid)

Can you help publicise Domestic Violence and Abuse Service (South and West Devon)? Domestic Violence and Abuse Service (South and West Devon) offers support to victims of domestic violence and abuse by providing many different services including:

**Pattern changing courses** – an educational programme for victims of domestic violence and abuse. **Helpline** – providing support to victims and those affected by domestic violence and abuse. **Support and advocacy** – to victims of domestic violence and abuse. **Women's safety work** – support and advice to women whose partners attend REPAIR, the community perpetrator programme. **Children and Young People's services** – Providing support to children and young people affected by domestic violence and abuse aged 6+. **Young Persons' service** – Providing support to young people aged 14+.

We have recently had extra posts funded by adva which adds extra capacity to our outreach service and they have also funded a new young persons' worker (thank you adva).

We cover the geographical areas of South Hams, Teignbridge and West Devon and are really keen to get our publicity and promotion materials out to these areas. The more people that know about us and the services that we are able to provide the better!

Would you be able to help? Do you work for an organisation in the above areas? Could you display posters and or leaflets? Maybe you live in an area that is covered by the service and you would be able to get promotion materials into your local area?

If you can help us publicise the services or would like us to come and talk to you about our projects please let us know by emailing: [admin@domesticviolenceandabuseservice.org.uk](mailto:admin@domesticviolenceandabuseservice.org.uk)

# Home Office have extended the pilot

The Home Office have been given an extension of the **Soujourner Pilot** until the end of August 2010.

## Guidance on Engagement and Support Orders

(s.17 Policing and Crime Act 2009)

The guidance on Engagement and Support Orders (orders requiring attendance at meetings – S17 Policing and Crime Act) is available from the Home Office website. Many thanks to all of those who have contributed to developing the guidance and particularly to those that attended the meetings in Coventry and London at the end of last month.

# adva**news**

Your Contribution...

If you'd like to contribute articles or news to this bulletin, please don't hesitate to get in contact.

Your contributions are more than welcome!

[info@devon.gov.uk](mailto:info@devon.gov.uk)

**adva**

against domestic violence and abuse  
in Devon

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