



## **DOMESTIC ABUSE USEFUL RESOURCES / INFORMATION LINKED TO COVID-19** **(Update 5)**

### **Domestic abuse services Updates:**

Stop Domestic Abuse (Hampshire): 0330 0165112 Monday – Thursday 9.30am – 5.30pm and 9.30am – 5pm for victims and perpetrators only and 11.30am – 2.30pm Monday – Friday for professionals; email [advice@stopdomesticabuse.uk](mailto:advice@stopdomesticabuse.uk) ; secure email address [advice.hampshire@stopdomesticabuse.cjsm.net](mailto:advice.hampshire@stopdomesticabuse.cjsm.net) Facebook Messenger 9.30am – 11.30am, 3.00-5.00pm, 6.00-8.00pm Monday – Friday. Refuges can be accessed 24 hrs by calling 033 0016 5112 and following the answerphone instructions.

Victim Care Service: 0808 1781641 Mon-Friday 9am – 5pm and outside these hours call 0808 1689111 <https://www.victimsupport.org.uk/help-and-support/get-help/support-near-you/south-east/hampshire-and-isle-wight>

Nepali domestic and sexual abuse service: 07741 261387; email

[ask@citizensadvicersushmoor.org.uk](mailto:ask@citizensadvicersushmoor.org.uk) ; [www.citizensadvicersushmoor.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvicersushmoor.org.uk)

The You Trust (Target hardening): 0800 9169878; email [SPOC@theyoutrust.org.uk](mailto:SPOC@theyoutrust.org.uk).

You First specialist refuge: email [youfirst@theyoutrust.org.uk](mailto:youfirst@theyoutrust.org.uk); telephone 0800 032 5204

Aurora New Dawn 24 hour DA helpline: 023 9421 6816 for victims / survivors across Hampshire

Hampton Trust (perpetrator interventions): 02380 009898 Monday – 9 am to 5 pm, Tuesday – 9 am to 8 pm, Wednesday – 9 am to 5 pm, Thursday– 9 am to 8 pm, Friday – 9 am to 5 pm. Email: [adapt@hamptontrust.org.uk](mailto:adapt@hamptontrust.org.uk) or visit [www.hamptontrust.org.uk](http://www.hamptontrust.org.uk) to make referrals.

### **Emerging Issues**

Nationally, there is increasing concern around the mental wellbeing of victims of domestic abuse. This includes concerns in refuge accommodation (national information) where they are seeing an increase in self harming and worrying increases in the numbers concerned about their mental health or contemplating suicide.

The Mankind Helpline are reporting an increasing number of calls from mothers and sisters whose brother or fathers have committed suicide linked to domestic abuse. Seeing an increasing number of calls linked to mental health concerns due to difficulties in contacting mental health services remotely.

Concerns are also being raised nationally around unregistered religious marriages being conducted online via Zoom or other platforms, particularly those who are being forced into marriage.

The Guardian has reported that the head of intelligence and covert policing at British Transport Police has said that restrictions on public transport during the coronavirus lockdown has not resulted in a reduction in the number of young people being forced by gangs to travel from cities to towns and villages as part of county lines drug trafficking.

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/apr/13/gangs-still-forcing-children-into-county-lines-drug-trafficking-police-covid-19-lockdown>

## **Agency Updates**

### **Stop Domestic Abuse**

The service is still very busy with only 3 refuge vacancies this morning across Portsmouth and Hampshire on 27<sup>th</sup> April.

#### **Referrals to the Helpline**

Since the Government measures introduced on Monday 23 March 2020 Stop Domestic Abuse saw a reduction in self-referrals and referrals from some other agencies e.g. schools and health providers – however referrals from the Police and referrals to refuge remained consistent. Since extending the opening hours of the telephone lines and introducing the virtual drop-in we have had a 50% increase of the number of survivors contacting us. Whilst numbers using the virtual drop-in are relatively low it is being used by victims unable to make a telephone call and we have examples of victims using it to find out about accessing refuge or using it to arrange a suitable time to speak to a worker when it is safe for them.

#### **Group Work**

From 4 May 2020 Stop Domestic Abuse will start delivering The Freedom Programme via Zoom with sessions to be delivered on Tuesday's 7.30pm from 5/5/20 and Thursday's 10am from 7/5/20. It is hoped that the evening session will mean that women with young children will be able to the service once children are in bed.

To make a referral, please email [advice@stopdomesticabuse.uk](mailto:advice@stopdomesticabuse.uk) or [advice.hampshire@stopdomesticabuse.cjism.net](mailto:advice.hampshire@stopdomesticabuse.cjism.net) (secure) or telephone 0330 0165112

### **Young Carers:**

Have now held virtual young carers club sessions for past two weeks with our young adult carers (Years 11+) and senior group (Years 7-10) via the Zoom video app, and undertook our first Zoom session with the junior group (7-12 years) on Friday. We plan to continue running these Zoom sessions with the young carers each week, as well as check in with parents on a regular basis to ensure that they are getting the support they need. This week we have also been out each morning delivering food (comprising mainly bread and bakery products) donated to the project by the Co-op store on Kings Road in Fleet to our more vulnerable young carers' families living in Church Crookham, Aldershot, Farnborough, Blackwater, Yateley and Odiham.

### **Hampshire and Isle of Wight Educational Psychology Telephone Support Line – now open to parents/ carers**

The team have adapted their support offer to schools and are running a Telephone Support Line and from April 20 this also available for parents/ carers to access for any queries relating to the emotional wellbeing of the children they are caring for.

The service will be:

- provided by educational psychologists for staff in all settings;
- available each day from 9.30am -12.30pm and 1.00pm – 4.00pm;
- for any queries related to the emotional wellbeing of children and young people, their families and staff who know them.

Please phone the number below for your local area:

- North (Basingstoke): 01252 814 835
- East (Rushmoor): 01252 814 729

Hampshire & Isle of Wight Educational Psychology (HIEP) have put together a collection of resources which are available to support our communities in managing the worries and anxieties for ourselves and those we are caring for. This information has been sent out to all schools in a leaflet titled 'Supporting mental health and well being – Covid 19'. Further information is available through contacting the Telephone Support Line.

### **Solicitors:**

Solicitors firms have adapted the way in which they deliver their services so that they can support clients online / by email. Family solicitors can apply for civil injunctions, occupation orders, child arrangement orders and other legal remedies.

Some solicitors are able to offer legal aid, and whilst other firms don't currently have legal aid contracts, they often can help with fixed fees and / or free initial consultations or varying lengths of time. For a full list see [www.lawsociety.org.uk](http://www.lawsociety.org.uk)

\*Solicitors offering legal aid

\*\* Legal aid for asylum cases

\*Campbell, Hooper & Co (Sunningdale): 01344 622141

Constantine & Summers (Camberley): 01276 23211

KJ Smith (Basingstoke): 0118 4181000

\*\*Davies, Blunden and Evans (Farnborough): 01252 541633

Woodford, Stauffer (North Camp): 01252 375376

LGFL Ltd (Reading): 01189 735521

Bells (Farnham): 01252 733733

Fulchers (Farnborough): 01252 522475

\*Heald Nickinson (Camberley): 01276 680000

Mullenders (Woking): 01483 771773

Wheelers (Ash Vale): 01252 316316

\*Lovell Chohan Solicitors

One of our former forum members, who is now working as a family law solicitor at Lovell Chohan in Hounslow, has advised me that they have capacity under their legal aid contract to assist with additional cases. They are, in particular, able to take on any new domestic violence cases, given the unfortunate current circumstances.

The majority of family matters are able to be dealt with remotely by both the firm and the courts at this time. To contact Lynn, please email [lynn@lovellchohan.com](mailto:lynn@lovellchohan.com) or see [www.lovellchohan.com/](http://www.lovellchohan.com/)

### **Chrysalis**

Support for transgender people and questioning people, their families and close friends are accepting new members and have adapted their services (with the help of a grant from the OPCC) so that support can be provided virtually. Group support as well as one to one support is available and the service can be contacted on 07823 504306, 9.30am – 3pm Monday to Friday. See [www.chrysalisqim.org.uk](http://www.chrysalisqim.org.uk)

**The NSPCC helpline** has received £1.6 million in government funding to help people report concerns about vulnerable children. The NSPCC Helpline can be reached 24 hours a day by email – [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk) - or through its [online reporting form](#). Their team of experts can also be called Monday to Friday 8am-10pm or 9am-6pm at the weekends on **0808 800 5000**.

### **Bereavement support**

**Butterflies Bereavement Support** remains fully operational is still open and has increased its services, with dedicated online bereavement counselling and support, virtual support groups and also a lonely persons support service in addition to all the other services that remain active. They cover the whole of Hampshire, Portsmouth and Southampton. Tel:07889009393. [www.butterfliesbereavement.co.uk](http://www.butterfliesbereavement.co.uk)

### **Useful Resources**

#### **SignHealth**

Information during the coronavirus lockdown as well as a BSL video. The team now provide remote video advice to victims of domestic abuse across England.

<https://signhealth.org.uk/with-deaf-people/domestic-abuse/>

**NSPCC Briefing summary for social workers and local authorities on how to work during the pandemic to ensure children are protected**

It answers questions including how the Coronavirus Act 2020 affects local authorities' responsibilities; how the child protection system will work during the pandemic; can social workers continue to visit children and families; and how support should be prioritised. The briefing will be updated with new guidance as it is published.

<http://email.nspcc.org.uk/c/1E7BnKQGt8XVVJHHckMV3TVcp>

### **Childline report on calls during the pandemic**

Overall there have been more than 2,200 counselling sessions since January. Analysis of conversations show that: in most of the counselling sessions where coronavirus was mentioned, children spoke about their mental and emotional health; some young people said they have suicidal thoughts and feelings and some spoke about using self-harm to cope; some young people who had been receiving ongoing support for existing mental health concerns said that they are either no longer receiving support or support has been reduced. Other concerns include: family relationships; doing schoolwork at home; bullying; and abuse.

<http://email.nspcc.org.uk/c/1E7BrKc1TSjqTlrTtUbgMSxi0>

### **No Recourse to Public Funding Network**

The NRPF Network has produced a factsheet for council on supporting people with no recourse during the coronavirus pandemic.

<http://www.nrpfnetwork.org.uk/information/Pages/Coronavirus-information.aspx>

### **Guidance for Councils**

The government has published a document for councils which aims to provide a range of resources which offer help, guidance and support to tackle domestic abuse. A brief overview of domestic abuse and how councils can provide help and support to domestic abuse victims during the COVID-19 pandemic, and tackle perpetrators' abusive behaviour is provided

<https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/DA%20guide%20V7%2022nd%20April%20-%20FINAL.pdf>

### **'Plan B' Emergency plan for carers**

Cares Resource have produced a downloadable plan which carers can complete for if they are taken ill or become unable to look after someone who is dependant on them.

<https://www.carersresource.org/news/plan-b-for-carers/>

### **New Government guidance for victims of sexual violence and abuse linked to Covid-19**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-support-for-victims-of-sexual-violence-and-abuse>

### **NSPCC Reading Lists**

The NSPCC has produced some reading lists on domestic abuse and bereavement which may be of interest.

Domestic abuse: <http://email.nspcc.org.uk/c/1EKgfNsERLZGviEjvhHUuYIAf>

Bereavement: <http://email.nspcc.org.uk/c/1EKgjMO0ivlbthovmR6gdXkFQ>

### **Children's Commissioner report on children and young people's experiences of living in lockdown.**

There are also separate reports on children with autism and looked after children's experiences.

<http://email.nspcc.org.uk/c/1EKiTmzPxLdaatc9VGOhf3Uhl>

<http://email.nspcc.org.uk/c/1EKiTmzPxLdaatc9VGOhf3Uhl>

<http://email.nspcc.org.uk/c/1EKiXIVaYuyF8rWINgcCY2wnj>

### **BBC Radio 5 live broadcast – Coronavirus: care leavers**

Nihal Arthanayake programme which was broadcast on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, includes a one hour interview with journalist Ashley John-Baptiste and care leavers discussing their experiences of living in lockdown. Listen from 17.01

### **Coronavirus: co-parenting article**

Family Law has published an article offering advice to parents of children who are the subject of a Child Arrangements Order (CAO) made by a family court. The article provides advice and tips to help manage contact arrangements during the coronavirus crisis.

[https://www.familylaw.co.uk/news\\_and\\_comment/a-practical-guide-to-co-parenting-during-the-coronavirus-crisis](https://www.familylaw.co.uk/news_and_comment/a-practical-guide-to-co-parenting-during-the-coronavirus-crisis)

### **Consultation on the use of remote hearings in the family justice system**

The Nuffield Family Justice Observatory is holding a rapid consultation looking at the use of remote hearings in the family justice system. The consultation ends on **28<sup>th</sup> April 2020**. The summary of responses will be shared with the President of the Family Division with a view to new guidance being issued in early May.

<https://www.nuffieldfjo.org.uk/news/rapid-consultation-remote-hearings>

### **Call for Evidence – The Transparency Review – submissions needed by 11<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

The President of the Family Division is undertaking a review on the current arrangements which regulate access by journalists and the public to, and the reporting of, information concerning proceedings in the Family Court. A Call for Evidence has been issued inviting any person or agency to submit evidence, advice or other material for consideration within the Transparency Review.

Submissions on the following questions are likely to be of particular value:

– is the line currently drawn correctly between, on the one hand, the need for confidentiality for the parties and children whose personal information may be the subject of proceedings in the Family Court, and, on the other hand, the need for the public to have confidence in the work that these courts undertake on behalf of the State and society?  
– if not, what steps should be taken to achieve either greater openness or increased confidentiality?

– any observations on the Practice Guidance: Family Court- Anonymisation Guidance issued by the President on 7 December 2018 and the President's Guidance as to reporting in the Family Courts, issued on 29 October 2019. Please see links to this Guidance below:

<https://www.judiciary.uk/publications/practice-guidance-family-court-anonymisation-guidance/>  
<https://www.judiciary.uk/announcements/president-of-the-family-division-guidance-as-to-reporting-in-the-family-courts/>

Evidence to the Transparency Review can be submitted by Monday 11 May 2020 to the President's Private Office by emailing [pdf.office@judiciary.uk](mailto:pdf.office@judiciary.uk) with the Subject Header of "Transparency Review."

28<sup>th</sup> April 2020