

Domestic Abuse Newsletter

Bracknell Forest and RBWM



June 2025

LOCAL NEWS

March 2025

[SAFE!](#) has published their latest [Impact Report](#) showcasing the strides made in transforming young lives and highlighting the breadth and quality of the work of SAFE!.

26 April

Author visits Bracknell library

On 26 April, [Sarah Harper](#), author of [Ella's Ghost](#) hosted a thought-provoking and uplifting discussion about her debut novel Ella's Ghost, a psychological thriller that explores the themes of domestic abuse against a backdrop of the supernatural, offering a compelling story of resilience and hope.

Sarah, who balances her writing career with a civilian staff role in custody for the Metropolitan Police, shared her inspiring journey to becoming an author. She read excerpts from her book and spoke about the motivation behind her work, bringing attention to the vital conversation about domestic abuse.

The event aimed to raise awareness and encourage open dialogue about domestic abuse. Following the talk, attendees were given the opportunity to share their experiences in a safe and supportive space. Representatives from [Berkshire Women's Aid](#) (BWA) and [Kaleidoscopic UK](#) were present, offering support.

Ella's Ghost can be borrowed from Bracknell Library.

6 May

Joint child protection inspection of victims of domestic abuse in Reading

This [letter](#) summarises the findings of the joint inspection.

10 June

[14 arrested in domestic abuse operation](#)

Updates and requests from BWA and The Dash Charity

28 March

[Domestic abuse survivor from Berkshire says more help needed to prevent suicides](#)

12 April

[Domestic abuse charity celebrates 50th anniversary](#)

BWA have a number of vacancies, details of which can be found on their [website](#).

March 2025

Launch of BWA's lived experience group for survivors, Voices for Change

BWA firmly believe the development of policies, practices and services are stronger and more meaningful when those individuals they aim to serve are included in the design, production and feedback related to these services. BWA is committed to involving survivors of domestic abuse in the development of services and empowering them to contribute to local and national initiatives and conversations.

The aims of the Voices for Change group are:

- To bring together and empower survivors.
- To create a safe space for survivors to discuss relevant issues and use these discussions to inform local and national decision-making and strategy.
- To provide feedback on BWA's services and help us develop new ones.
- To contribute to the development of or provide feedback on external services.
- Be offered the opportunity to contribute to focus groups, academic research, fundraising and community involvement, commissioning processes or funding bids.
- To speak and interact with other services in the area.

If anyone with Lived Experience is interested in joining the group, please contact volunteer@bwaid.org.uk.

If any commissioners, statutory services or third sector partners would like to consult with the group (in person or virtually, and topics can be wide ranging e.g. survivor's experiences with healthcare, social care processes, MARAC, or more general feedback that links into local needs assessments), please contact Mariam at BWA mariam@bwaid.org.uk

The Dash Charity

A reminder to practitioners supporting RBWM residents experiencing domestic abuse that the Dash Charity have specialist roles in place to provide tailored support:

- **The Older Persons IDVA** supports anyone aged 55 and over, recognising the unique vulnerabilities older adults experiencing domestic abuse may face – this includes abuse from partners, adult children, or carers. This role provides individual advocacy and support, acknowledging the complexities of later-life abuse, particularly adult-child to parent abuse which requires sensitive, expert handling.
- **The Housing IDVA** focuses on victim-survivors needing safe accommodation. Based in-house with local

housing associations, this role works closely with the council and partners to: explain housing rights and legal processes, offer practical assistance (e.g. home visits, management transfers, and risk management) provide tailored safety planning, make referrals to supported accommodation, and provide advice on shared ownership, temporary housing, and refuge placements.

Referrals to both these IDVAs (self or professional) can be sent directly to: referrals@thedashcharity.org.uk or by calling the Dash Charity helpline on 01753 549865.

The Dash Charity is currently running three **Freedom Programme** groups (two virtual, one face to face). Referrals are welcome from all agencies. Individuals do not need to have previously been supported by the Dash Charity, but they will be assessed for suitability for the group if they have not had 1:1 work previously). Referrals can be sent to: gaby@thedashcharity.org.uk

The Dash Charity have a **new Community Fundraiser** join the team. Watch this space to see how they will be championing the Dash Charity and finding new ways to engage with the community.

TRAINING

Understanding and Responding to Domestic Abuse / Introduction to Domestic Abuse

Gives participants an understanding of domestic abuse issues through increasing knowledge and understanding and how to respond supportively.

RBWM (click on the relevant date to book – account required)
[Monday 15 September 2025](#), 10:00 – 16:30 (face-to-face)
[Wednesday 10 December 2025](#), 09:30 – 13:00 (virtual)
[Wednesday 11 March 2026](#), 10:00 – 16:30 (face-to-face)

Please note these dates are only for RBWM based practitioners.

Virtual sessions via MS Teams, face-to-face sessions to be held at Windsor Family Hub, 65 Alma Road, Windsor, SL4 3HD.

Bracknell Forest

Wednesday 16 July 2025, 09:30-13:00 (virtual)
Wednesday 5 November 2025, 10:00-16:30 (face-to-face)
Monday 9 February 2026, 09:30-13:00 (virtual)

Virtual sessions via MS Teams, face-to-face sessions to be held at The Alders Family Hub, Branksome Hill Road, Sandhurst, Bracknell, GU47 0QE.

BFC employees apply via iWorks, external staff please email learning.development@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference) and DASH (Domestic Abuse, Stalking, Harassment and Honour Based Violence)

Gives participants increased confidence and skills in relation to responding to victims of domestic abuse. Including an understanding of high-risk factors for serious harm and homicide, how to use the DASH risk identification checklist and make appropriate referrals into and engage effectively with the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC).

RBWM (click on the relevant date to book – account required)

[Tuesday 8 July 2025](#), 09:30 – 13:00 (virtual)
[Wednesday 8 October 2025](#), 10:00 – 16:30 (face-to-face)
[Thursday 15 January 2026](#), 09:30 – 13:00 (virtual)

Please note these dates are only for RBWM based practitioners.

Virtual sessions via MS Teams, face-to-face sessions to be held at Windsor Family Hub, 65 Alma Rd, Windsor, SL4 3HD.

Bracknell Forest

Tuesday 17 June 2025, 09:30-13:00 (virtual)
Thursday 25 September 2025, 10:00-16:30 (face-to-face)
Monday 8 December 2025, 09:30-13:00 (virtual)
Wednesday 18 March 2026, 10:00-16:30 (face-to-face)

Virtual sessions via MS Teams, face-to-face sessions to be held at The Alders Family Hub, Branksome Hill Road, Sandhurst, Bracknell, GU47 0QE.

BFC employees apply via iWorks, external staff please email learning.development@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL NEWS

25 February

[Exclusive: Nearly 50,000 babies referred to social services every year due to domestic abuse](#)

26 February

[How courts punish the victims of domestic abuse](#)

26 February

['Hidden scandal' of domestic abuse-related suicides 'needs urgent attention'](#)

2 March

[My cheeky big brother became a shell of who he was – then she killed him](#)

5 March

['I want my happy life back' – domestic abuse victim](#)

5 March

[More than 170 mothers killed by their sons in 15 years in UK, report reveals](#)

- 6 March**
[Man found guilty of raping ex-girlfriend during triple murder](#)
- 6 March**
[Chancellor urged to boost funding for charities supporting crime victims amid 'mounting challenges'](#)
- 6 March**
[Man sentenced for the manslaughter of his wife in Cheltenham last year \(2024\)](#)
- 7 March**
[Women's Aid launched sobering children's book 'The Monster Who Came to Tea' and call on the Government to improve funding for women and children survivors of domestic abuse this International Women's Day](#)
- 8 March**
[My evil ex was jailed for life after gouging out my eyes – now he's being released and I'm being told to feel sorry for him instead of campaigning to keep him inside...I'm a sitting duck when he gets out](#)
- 10 March**
[Shoe display aims to highlight domestic abuse](#)
- 11 March**
[Body identified as Valentine's Day murder suspect](#)
- 11 March**
[New exhibition highlights domestic abuse](#)
- 11 March**
[Kyle Clifford sentenced to life in prison](#)
- 12 March**
[Domestic abuse pilot scheme 'saved woman's life'](#)
- 13 March**
[Woman's sickening five-year lie to con her partner out of thousands of pounds](#)
- 13 March**
[These tragic murders followed the 8 stages of the Homicide Timeline](#)
- 13 March**
[Wife who hid husband's body in garden found guilty](#)
- 14 March**
[Holly Bramley's mum campaigns for domestic abuse register to protect domestic violence victims](#)
- 15 March**
[Loose Women marks anniversary of domestic abuse campaign 'Facing It Together' with powerful special episode](#)
- 16 March**
['When it's your kids hitting you, you can't leave'](#)
- 18 March**
[Only one in three women fleeing domestic abuse can be helped by refuges as services on 'brink of collapse'](#)
- 19 March**
[Commissioner warns ministers over domestic abuse](#)
- 20 March**
[Kiena Dawes's mum opens domestic abuse hub](#)
- 25 March**
[Stuart Hogg 'complying' with domestic abuse order](#)
- 25 March**
[UK police to charge more abusers with manslaughter after suicide of partner](#)
- 25 March**
[Suicides among domestic abuse victims surpass homicides](#)
- 27 March**
[Introducing Somaia's Law Campaign](#)
- 28 March**
[Podcaster appears in court on domestic abuse charges](#)
- 31 March**
[Charity and banks aim to stop abusive ex-partners using mortgages as 'weapon'](#)
- 31 March**
[SmartWater trial to protect domestic abuse victims](#)
- 1 April**
[Wife alleges she was abused for months before Maui doctor tried to push her off cliff](#)
- 2 April**
[Man who tried to throw his ex down a well jailed](#)
- 6 April**
[Tracking the murder of Lilie James to the 8 stages of the Homicide Timeline](#)
- 7 April**
[Domestic abuse 999 pilot gives victims support](#)
- 9 April**
[Woman who murdered husband sentenced to life](#)
- 11 April**
[Campaigning Claire 'heartened' by the level of support from Westminster](#)
- 13 April**
['His ability to switch from a loving partner to a monster kept me in a permanent state of stress'](#)
- 18 April**
[Zverev heckled again over domestic abuse allegations](#)

22 April

[Domestic abuser choked teenager and burnt her hair](#)

23 April

[Police officers who fail background checks to be automatically sacked](#)

28 April

[‘I’m fleeing domestic abuse – it cost me thousands because I have a job’](#)

29 April

[Thousands of children facing domestic abuse alone as support services risk financial collapse](#)

7 May

[Tech abuse: What is digital coercive control and why is it increasing?](#)

7 May

[Rapists and domestic abusers have sentences increased after Solicitor General intervenes](#)

12 May

[Prioritise mental health of those affected by domestic abuse, charity urges](#)

12 May

[Mum-of-two, 34, charged with conspiracy to murder former partner who died after acid attack appears in court](#)

12 May

[Police officer abused for years by wife urges others to get help](#)

14 May

[Towie star admits gender violence against partner](#)

14 May

[More inmates released early to stop prisons running out of space](#)

15 May

[Recalled sex offenders and domestic abusers face early release as prisoners near ‘zero capacity’](#)

16 May

[More adults likely to experience domestic abuse than previously thought](#)

19 May

[Murderer who stabbed her partner to death in ‘drunken temper’ jailed for life](#)

20 May

[‘You don’t do that to someone you love’ – doorbell camera captures domestic abuse](#)

21 May

[Lying detective was on ‘mission to destroy’ ex](#)

27 May

[Domestic abuser jailed for ‘evil’ murder of partner](#)

4 June

[‘Delayed review into my daughter’s killing has left me broken’](#)

4 June

[‘Review into sister’s killing was waste of time’](#)

7 June

[‘He was going to kill me’: More strangulation cases recoded by police – but many investigations falter](#)

9 June

[Domestic violence can affect victims’ brain health for life, study suggests](#)

NEW USEFUL PUBLICATIONS, RESEARCH & RESOURCES

[Living without hope](#) - Woman’s Trust

Bringing together compelling evidence outlining the devastating impact of domestic abuse trauma for survivors, and for those women who sadly feel they have no option but to end their own lives.

23 February

[Coercive Control, Family Court and Systemic and Family Therapy: A Match Made in Hell](#) – Emma Katz

Why some therapies cause harm in contexts of domestic violence and abuse

March 2025

[Domestic Homicides and Suspected Victim Suicides 2020-24 Animation and Report](#) – Vulnerability Knowledge & Practice Programme, Domestic Homicide Project

The fourth annual report from the national Domestic Homicide Project which works across England and Wales. The report examines all deaths identified by police as domestic abuse related to improve understanding of risk indicators, victim and perpetrator demographics.

7 March

[Justice Delayed: Human toll of gruelling Crown Court delays on victims](#)

New [research](#) from the Victims’ Commissioner exposes the devastating toll court backlogs are taking on victims, victim services, and the wider criminal justice system.

April 2025

[Survivors’ Needs: how financial services firms can support customers experiencing economic abuse to regain financial control and rebuild their lives](#) – Surviving Economic Abuse

11 March

New Femicide Census report – 2000 women

Analysing the deaths of 2000 women killed by men in the UK. The report found that 1 in 8 women killed by men are over 70, and that more than 170 mothers were killed by their sons over 15 years in the UK.

28 March

Blog: Tech abuse – how it can happen and how to avoid it – Hestia

1 April

Gaslighting is domestic abuse – do you know how to spot the signs? – Knowsley Council

2 April

VAWG sector briefing on counter allegations – Rights of Women

14 April

Staying safe from suicide – NHS England

Best practice guidance for safety assessment, formulation and management

24 April

HBA Identification tool – Karma Nirvana

The first ever free Honour Based Abuse (HBA) Identification Tool, a vital new resource designed to support frontline practitioners in recognising and responding to cases of Honour Based Abuse (HBA). Developed with accompanying guidance.

29 April

'Victims in their own right? Babies, children and young people's experience of domestic abuse' – Domestic Abuse Commissioner



Centred around children's voices, this report brings together policy, practice insights and research into the provision of support available to children, to turn the spotlight on the legal status of children as victims in their own right.

The DA Commissioners website hosts the: [Full policy report](#), [Executive Summary](#) and [Technical report](#), 'Tell Nicole' report, a stand-alone document

highlighting the feedback from children and young people who engaged with the research.

The report includes 66 recommendations to aimed at improving the statutory and multi-agency responses to children, including prevention, early intervention, crisis support and recovery.

A short [video](#) featuring Nicole can be shown to children and

young people with experience of domestic abuse, explaining her role and how she's working to improve support for them (Note: this is not intended to be a universal video for all children and young people).

9 May

Statutory guidance – Independent Domestic Violence Adviser Statutory Guidance – Ministry of Justice

Statutory guidance for Independent Domestic Violence Advisers (IDVAs), as part of the changes introduced by the Victims and Prisoners Bill. This guidance outlines what IDVAs do, how they should be supported, and the minimum standards for the role—including a model job description.

The Friends and Family Handbook – Women's Aid

A handbook for friends, family members, neighbours, and colleagues of survivors. The Friends and Family Handbook provides practical support and information for anyone worried about someone in their lives.

Empower Kids Project – Barnardos

A multi-agency collaboration with services from around Ireland including the voices of children and young people who have ensured the impact of domestic violence and abuse. Various useful resources available including animations, posters, leaflets and resources developed by children.

PUBLISHED DOMESTIC ABUSE RELATED DEATH REVIEWS (DARDs), OTHER SAFEGUARDING REVIEWS AND RESOURCES

National Domestic Homicide Review [library](#).

24 March

New book explores domestic abuse-related deaths and how to bring change

TO WATCH...

BBC – The Hunt for Peter Tobin

Three murders 15 years apart, connected by one man. Families, detectives and forensic experts devoted their lives to exposing the truth and bring a serial killer to justice.

Home Office (YouTube) - Alice Ruggles' Parents: The Stalking That Led to Her Murder

After months of being relentlessly stalked by her ex-partner, Alice Ruggles was tragically killed in her own home in October 2016.

Press Red (YouTube) – Men, we need you to help end violence against women

A filmed spoken word, calling upon men to be part of the solution to end violence against women and girls.

Women's Aid (YouTube) – The Monster Who Came to Tea

Loose Women (YouTube) - [Mums Share How Domestic Abuse Led to Their Daughters' Deaths](#)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Bracknell Forest Domestic Abuse Forum

10 September 2025, 10am-12pm
3 December 2025, 10am-12pm

All via MS Teams

For more information, contact Joyce Barnett
joyce.barnett@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

RBWM Domestic Abuse Forum

19 June 2025, 10am-12pm
16 September 2025, 10am-12pm
9 December 2025, 10am-12pm

All via MS Teams



For more information, contact Sophie Wing-King
Sophie.wing-king@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

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Strategic Lead, RBWM & Bracknell Forest)
Sophie.wing-king@bracknell-forest.gov.uk
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