



# Protecting Vulnerable People

Bulletin 1

“Welcome to the first bulletin from the County Community Safety Unit about its work to protect vulnerable people across Hertfordshire. This bulletin is aimed at professionals working to support vulnerable people, including victims of domestic abuse, hate crime, sexual assault and abuse against vulnerable adults. It contains just some of the latest news, essential information and contacts to support you.”



*Detective Chief Inspector (DCI) Glen Channer, lead for protecting vulnerable people, County Community Safety Unit.*

## New domestic abuse support site goes live

A brand new online service is being launched in Hertfordshire to offer information, support and advice in dealing with domestic abuse. Featuring tailored information for victims, concerned family, friends and colleagues, young people, perpetrators and professionals, the site aims to be a ‘one-stop-shop’. The website, which goes live on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (White Ribbon) Day, is based on a domestic abuse site from authorities in Warwickshire. Check out the site at [www.hertssunflower.org](http://www.hertssunflower.org) from 25 November.

## Domestic abuse awareness week

Hertfordshire's Domestic Abuse Awareness Week, which runs from 22-28 November, is being marked by a number of initiatives to raise awareness and publicise the ways people can get support.



The poignant ‘Not in my Shoes’ exhibition, which features shoes from local celebrities, dignitaries, victims and professionals, will be running at the Hitchin Museum for four weeks throughout November and December. Other local activities across the districts and borough include the distribution of white ribbons and information around domestic abuse. A new

leaflet which shares the experiences of five women who have suffered domestic abuse has been produced by the Stevenage and North Herts Domestic Abuse Forum and awareness days are taking place in Watford with a media van in the town centre to promote the message.

## Centralised Safeguarding Adults From Abuse (SAFA) team launched

As part of the County Community Safety Unit, officers dealing with allegations of abuse against vulnerable adults are now working as a new centralised team. This new team, which launched on October 7, are based at Police Headquarters in Welwyn Garden City and replaces the Vulnerable People Units. Police officers and staff can refer electronically via the online reporting form.

## Meet the domestic abuse policy team

On hand to offer advice to the county regarding policy and development on a range of issues under the domestic abuse/ violence against women agenda:

**Sarah Taylor,**  
Programme Manager for  
Domestic Abuse.

Contact: 01438 844127  
[sarah.taylor@hertscg.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.taylor@hertscg.gov.uk)



**Michelle Hargrave,**  
Programme Support Officer  
for Vulnerable People (Domestic  
Abuse/Honour Based Violence Policy)

Contact: 01438 757403  
[michelle.hargrave@herts.pnn.police.uk](mailto:michelle.hargrave@herts.pnn.police.uk)



## New service for victims of sexual assault

Following recommendations made by the national support team from the Department of Health, two Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs) are being introduced in Hertfordshire. With funding already secured, the new roles are set to be introduced in the New Year and based at the Sexual Assault Referral

Centres. Their role will be to provide advice and support to victims immediately after an assault and beyond, where required supporting victims through the criminal justice process as well as multi-agency liaison on behalf of the victim.

### Raising awareness of harassment & stalking



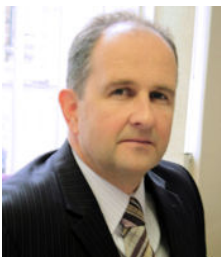
(left to right) Carol Faruqui, Jon Chapman, Tricia Bernal and Paul Williamson.

The mothers of two women killed by stalkers were amongst speakers at a Constabulary conference to raise awareness of harassment and stalking to employees and share best practice. The conference was organised by Detective Sergeant Angela Doran and opened by the head of the County Community Safety Unit, Det. Superintendent Jon Chapman. It included presentations from Superintendent Paul Williamson from West Mercia Police; Tricia Bernal, the mother of Clare Bernal who was murdered in Harvey Nichols in 2005 by a former boyfriend she had dated for just three weeks; Carol Faruqui, mother of Rana Faruqui who was murdered in 2003 by a man with whom she had ended a relationship; and DCI Glen Channer.

Concerned about harassment or stalking? Please contact police on 0845 33 00 222 or for further advice and information is available from the National Stalking Helpline on 0300 636 0300 or by emailing [advice@stalkinghelpline.org](mailto:advice@stalkinghelpline.org).

### Sexual Offences Investigation Team (SOIT)

#### Case Results



Detective Inspector Steve Keating, SOIT

Below is just a small sample of the recent good results from SOIT:  
 - Twenty-nine-year-old Paul Watts from Gant Court, Waltham Abbey, was sentenced to six years in prison after being found guilty of rape, assault and attempting to pervert the course of justice in relation to an incident that took place in London Road, Hemel Hempstead in June of

2009. His mother was also found guilty of attempting to pervert the course of justice.

On September 8 at St. Albans Crown Court, 21-year-old Reid Collins pleaded guilty to the rape of a female in Cheshunt, committed in May 2010. He appeared on September 30 for sentencing and received an Indeterminate Public Protection

Order. The sentencing Judge set a minimum tariff period of three years at which time the offender will be reassessed by the parole board. The investigation was conducted by officers from SOIT.

### Fifty-three-year-old man pleads guilty in ground-breaking child abuse case

A team of specialist officers who travelled to India to investigate allegations of child abuse secured enough evidence to get a Hertfordshire man charged with the rape of a child under 13.



The ground-breaking case, led by Detective Inspector Paul Doran, was investigated by a coalition team made up from the Paedophile Investigation Unit (PIU) with support from the Serious and Organised Crime Agency (SOCA), the Child Exploitation & On-line Protection centre (CEOP), the Indian Police and a non-government organisation called 'Justice and Care' who rescue poverty-stricken families vulnerable to abuse.

It is the first time in Hertfordshire that a local man has been charged with the sexual abuse of a child who lives overseas, in this instance Goa.

The alleged offences date back to between 2005 and 2007 and centre on the abuse of a child who lives in the slums. Following their work, 53-year-old Barry McCloud was charged with twenty two offences including three of the rape of a child under 13, offences of gross indecency, administering a stupefying substance with the purpose of committing sexual abuse and the downloading of indecent child abuse images. He pleaded guilty and is due to be sentenced in December.

### Publications to support you


There is now a range of new publications available in hard copy/electronically from the County Community Safety Unit.

Publications include:




- Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) for professionals.
- Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) for victims.
- Forced Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation for schools staff (a more general leaflet for professionals will also soon be available).

Information for Hertfordshire Schools

Forced Marriage & Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)



How you can help

Please email [Michelle.Hargrave@herts.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Michelle.Hargrave@herts.pnn.police.uk) or visit the new County Community Safety Unit section on Compass (under Fire and Rescue) for copies.

## DASH & S-DASH: a user's guide

### DASH

The DASH (Domestic Abuse, Stalking, Harassment, Honour Based Violence) new risk assessment launched in Hertfordshire on May 17 this year, but how many of you are familiar with it?

Developed by psychologists, the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and Co-ordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse (CAADA), DASH is currently being rolled out nationally by all police forces.

It includes 27 open questions to encourage victims to disclose as much detail as possible about their situation and their perceptions of the risk, with three levels: 'high'; 'medium'; 'standard'.

The key benefit is that all agencies, including the police, are now using the same risk assessment model and the same language in assessing risk. This new method gives more emphasis on 'professional judgement' and recognises that the risk process is dynamic and continually changing.

### S-DASH (Stalking)

If the DASH process identifies stalking or harassment, there are an additional 11 questions, known as S-DASH, which aim to better understand the risk level specifically relating to stalking/harassment.

The National Stalking Helpline website encourages victims to keep a log of incidents and to complete a VS-DASH (Victim Stalking) self assessment which can be presented when reporting to the police.

## Services for victims of domestic abuse

### What's a MARAC?

Victim focussed, a **Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)** is a multi-agency framework in which high risk cases are reviewed to give an integrated response to protect victims and reduce risk of homicides – and sit with the Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) and Local Safeguarding Children Board in public protection arrangements.

### What's an IDVA?

Hertfordshire currently has seven **Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs)** in post, all trained to national recognised standards with full caseloads. Providing a specialist independent victim focused service,

the role of the IDVA supports medium/high risk victims and their families in a multi-agency framework to increase safety, confidence and independence by:

- Prevention, public protection (holding perpetrators to account), reduction in violent crime (repeat victimisation and homicide)
- Specialist case management – coordinating risk management and community responses; offering advice/support to access services (referral pathways), providing specialist/enhanced support and links to refuges (pivotal to safeguarding through longer term support packages and timely move-on)

The professional support offered by the IDVA service may include supporting victims through the criminal justice system, and, where appropriate, acting as an advocate/advisor on court proceedings and MARACs.

## MARAC Steering Group formed

A MARAC steering group has formed to manage the MARAC referrals throughout the county. For more information please email Sarah Taylor (details on page 1).

## Night full of promise...or a morning of regret?

A campaign is being launched at the beginning of December at Stevenage Leisure Park to ask people to consider the impact of too much alcohol. Launched by the County Community Safety Unit and the local Stevenage policing team, it aims to ask pub and club-goers to consider how too much alcohol can leave them more vulnerable to assault, arrest or embarrassment, as well as considering how it



can lead to poor decision-making. Along with the security teams and Taxi Marshals, local licensees are also supporting the campaign through PubWatch and are displaying posters and stickers in their premises. If you would like more information on the campaign, please contact Chief Inspector Richard Liversidge on 01438 757166. A campaign to combat people drinking to excess ('pre-loading') before going out for the night is being carried out in Watford, including cinema adverts on behalf of the Safer Watford Partnership. Please contact Olivia Finucane at [olivia.finucane@herts.pnn.police.uk](mailto:olivia.finucane@herts.pnn.police.uk) for more information.

