

Bexley Domestic Abuse Champions Network newsletter

WELCOME



We are delighted to announce that the London Borough of Bexley have commissioned Solace to provide all domestic abuse services in the borough. Solace will be providing refuge services, an IDVA service for high risk cases, one stop shop, outreach work for medium risk cases,

Freedom programme and other resilience building group programmes. Their aim is that all Bexley residents affected by abuse are given the specialist support needed to build safer lives and stronger futures.

The one-stop-shop in Erith will close with new premises being opened in Bexleyheath town centre. The service should be open to footfall in the summer. In the interim telephone contact with victims and outreach work will continue. An IDVA will be co-located in MASH, housing and the borough's children centres to help ensure victims are identified at the earliest stage and offered support.

To make referrals to Solace on behalf of individuals, download a referral form visit our [website](#) (right click and open hyperlink). Individuals can self refer by calling 0203 1984 659, this number is staffed Monday—Friday, 9 am-5pm (excluding bank holidays).

Footballing community unites in raising awareness of domestic abuse organised by Claire Hearn a Bexley DA Champion!

Crayford Arrows FC played Dulwich Village in a well turned out domestic abuse awareness match that took place on Saturday 30th March 2019.

The teams, both wearing white arm bands as a sign of support, played at Crayford Arrows home ground in Perry Street and secured a comfortable 3-1 win.

Mayor and Mayoress of Bexley, Cllrs Brian and Christine Bishop, police and local businesses went along to the game to show their support. Deborah Simpson, Bexley's Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Strategy Manager, was also on hand to talk to local supporters and ground staff to raise awareness of the services available in Bexley to support victims and reduce domestic abuse in the future.



Cllrs Brian and Christine Bishop with Claire Hearn & Deborah Simpson

Bexley Domestic Abuse Champion Network

Research has shown that domestic abuse victims approach 5 different agencies before receiving the right support. **We are asking every agency and department to nominate a domestic abuse champion** to ensure that they are able to signpost victims to the correct support. FREE training will be provided along with support and guidance.

You do not need to be a frontline worker to be a champion, you just need to be passionate about raising awareness in a safe way.

Check out the DA website to see dates for upcoming information sessions or contact

Deborah.simpson@bexley.gov.uk

Bexley Domestic Abuse Services website

If you are looking for guidance and support for victims of domestic abuse don't forget to visit our website

www.bexleydomesticabuseservices.org.uk Here you will also find information on MARAC / how to refer victims as well training and developments opportunities for professionals.



PROFESSIONALS TRAINING

The 2019/20 training prospectus has just been published.

Training is open to anyone working in statutory or voluntary organisations, including faith and community groups within Bexley. The courses are typically for police officers, children's social workers, adult social care, community safety partnerships, health practitioners (including GP's health visitors, midwives etc), housing officers, substance misuse workers, mental health staff, teachers, children's centres and other non specialist voluntary and community workers.

You can download the new prospectus through the Children's Safeguarding Board website www.bexleyiscb.org.uk/training

Referring to MARAC

Gentle reminder that all referrals to Bexley MARAC should be sent securely to marac@bexley.gov.uk

Hollie Guard

A personal safety app that turns your smartphone into an advanced personal safety device. See attached leaflet to find out more.