

# Bexley Domestic Abuse Champions Network Newsletter

**Welcome Domestic Abuse Champions.** In this issue we look at raising awareness of coercive control.



Following our recent domestic abuse strategy consultation exercise earlier this year, we learned that there was overwhelming support to raise awareness of coercive control amongst adults, children and young people.

Subsequently, partners have jointly committed to resourcing a large campaign, across all statutory agencies and some VCS partners, to increase knowledge and understanding of coercive control. We held our first tasking and finishing group in August to work out how we were going to deliver the campaign. We are now looking to launch in November to coincide with the 16 days of activism for violence against women and girls with posters/literature, themed events and coercive control awareness training for professionals.

## DAY Programme

We are delighted to announce that the DAY Programme has been launched in Bexley.

There are 10 facilitators, fully trained in delivering the programme at five separate locations across the borough, thanks to Shield Partnership for funding. All of the locations have kindly provided us with a room at no cost, to ensure that we can reach our young people across Bexley. In addition, we have no referral criteria, meaning that it is really is accessible to all. Whether a YP age 14+ has experienced domestic abuse in the home, in a relationship or has no experience of domestic abuse, they can all be referred as this is a healthy relationship programme. (The programme can be adapted to suit 11+ children and this group will be launched in the new year).

DAY is a 10-week healthy relationship programme delivered for 1 hour per week. It uses video's, music and interactive methods to educate young people about abusive relationships and how to identify what is a healthy relationship.

Resources for the programme can be found on our [Bexley Domestic Abuse website—young people](#)



## Safe Lives DASH Risk Assessment and MARAC referral forms

To refer high risk domestic abuse cases to MARAC please use the latest forms.

Click [here](#) to download and to access other useful on-line resources from our partnership Bexley Domestic Abuse Services website.

## See Change for perpetrators of domestic abuse

The roll-out of a new perpetrator programme in Bexley is expected towards the end of December 2021. It is a change behaviour programme, funded for three years and being run through Solace. See Change includes a combination of 1:1 direct work and a 27-week programme. There will be a perpetrator panel to assess the referrals and key members will be invited to be part of the panel. At the end of the three years there will be an independent evaluation. The criteria and referral forms will be circulated to all partners shortly.



Our new training prospectus is available at [Bexley Domestic Abuse Services](#) and includes details of how to book yourself onto the courses. The training is open to all agencies and is FREE.

Three new virtual training packages have been added:

- \* Level 2 Coercive Control
- \* Level 1 Routine Safe Enquiry
- \* Level 3 Safety Planning

On completion of the Level 1 Routine Safe Enquiry training you will be given lanyard cards to assist you with your safe enquiry questions and you can also later carousel the training to your colleagues and teams.

The training sessions will be delivered via the Microsoft Teams app. Once registered, you will be sent a calendar invite that includes a link for you to download the FREE app and further instructions on how to access the training.

**Spaces for these new courses are going to be popular, so don't delay in getting yours booked.**

### Introduction to MARAC (1 hour)

This is a Level 1 webinar training for professionals who want to understand how to make a comprehensive referral to MARAC, identify what cases should be referred, how to use professional judgement to escalate cases to MARAC, what happens at the MARAC meeting and how to be prepared for the meetings.

#### Next available dates:

- ◇ 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021
- ◇ 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022
- ◇ 21<sup>st</sup> February 2022
- ◇ 21<sup>st</sup> March 2022

To book your one-hour introduction to MARAC session email [shield@bexley.gov.uk](mailto:shield@bexley.gov.uk)

Date	Event	Details	Time	How to join / link
25/11/2021	Introduction to Solace	A virtual introduction to our domestic abuse provider for Bexley and the services they provide	10 – 12pm	To sign up for this session email: <a href="mailto:leslee.williams@bexley.gov.uk">leslee.williams@bexley.gov.uk</a>
29/11/2021	Domestic Homicide Review / Lessons Learnt	DHR1 Nargiza and DHR2 Victoria – virtual seminar	10 - 12pm	To sign up to this seminar email: <a href="mailto:shield@bexley.gov.uk">shield@bexley.gov.uk</a>
30/11/2021	Film Showing	Coercive control through the eyes of a child - virtual	2 - 3.30pm	To sign up to this seminar email: <a href="mailto:shield@bexley.gov.uk">shield@bexley.gov.uk</a>
03/12/2021	Training – recognising and understanding coercive control	Getting to understand the different context of coercive control and how to identify it and understand the law relating to the crime - virtual	10 – 12pm	<a href="#">Recognising and understanding Coercive Control - 3rd December 2021</a>
06/12/2021	Seminar – Domestic Abuse Act 2021	Getting to grips with the new legislation and our statutory duties - virtual	10 - 11.30am	To sign up to this seminar email: <a href="mailto:shield@bexley.gov.uk">shield@bexley.gov.uk</a>
06/12/2021	Introduction to MARAC – Level 1	Virtual training for participants to understand how to make a comprehensive referral to MARAC.	11-12pm	To sign up to this training email: <a href="mailto:shield@bexley.gov.uk">shield@bexley.gov.uk</a>
07/12/2021	Training – Criminal Orders and Civil Orders	Understanding the court process in relation to domestic abuse and about the different orders that are available for those who do not wish to follow a criminal justice route.	9 – 12pm	<a href="#">Criminal &amp; Civil Orders in relation to Domestic Abuse - 7th December 2021</a>
08/12/2021	Launch of Bexley's One Stop Shop	Official launch at Central Library, Bexleyheath	2pm	By invitation only
09/12/2021	Film Showing	Coercive control through the eyes of a child - virtual	2 - 3.30pm	To sign up to this seminar email: <a href="mailto:shield@bexley.gov.uk">shield@bexley.gov.uk</a>
10/12/2021	Training – routine enquiry and an introduction to lanyards	Virtual training session to provide you with the skills to ask questions relating to domestic abuse	10 – 12pm	<a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/routine-enquiry-workshop-tickets-163621691885">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/routine-enquiry-workshop-tickets-163621691885</a>

**WANTED ... donations of gifts, toiletries and sanitary products for Bexley Refuge. Donation boxes can be found at Reception, Civic Offices, and Central Library, Bexleyheath**



## The Bexley One Stop Shop

Abuse can be physical, sexual, emotional or economic which takes place within an intimate or family relationship. Abuse can include neglect, controlling behaviour, forced marriage, honour based violence or female genital mutilation.

If you are being abused, remember you are not alone. We can help you by providing advice and support with:

- Improving your safety
- Housing and homelessness
- Finances and welfare benefits
- Access to legal services
- Parenting and children
- Emotional support

### The Bexley One Stop Shop

The Bexley One Stop Shop, offering a range of advice all under one roof to help victims of domestic abuse will be open from November 2021. The service will be open every **Wednesday** from the **3rd November from 12:30pm to 3pm** at **Central Library Bexleyheath, Townley Road, DA6 7HJ** and will include legal representation, domestic abuse specialist support, plus other agencies, all offering advice on issues concerning domestic abuse. No appointment is required, all advice is free to anyone visiting the One Stop Shop.



020 3198 4659



[bexley.community@solacewomensaid.org](mailto:bexley.community@solacewomensaid.org)



[solacewomensaid.org](http://solacewomensaid.org)

**If you are in immediate danger call the police on 999**

Solace Women's Aid is a charity registered in England & Wales. Charity Number 1082450. Company Number 3376716.

**solace**

## NEW Faith based abuse professionals training

FORWARD is hosting free training for professionals in Bexley under the Prevention & Action Through Community Engagement & Training (P&ACT) EHP Partnership Project.

### Objectives

- Increase awareness of faith-based abuse
- Increase knowledge and skills for identifying those affected or at risk of faith-based abuse
- Enhance knowledge of support or facilities for those affected
- Gain awareness of the legal context surrounding faith-based abuse

### Who should attend?

- Health & social care professionals
- Legal practitioners
- Community organisations & leaders
- Education professionals

DATE: 2 FEBRUARY 2022

TIME: 10.00AM - 1.30PM

Email: [shield@bexley.gov.uk](mailto:shield@bexley.gov.uk) to book your place

For more information about Forward's training programmes visit their website or email [forward@forwarduk.org.uk](mailto:forward@forwarduk.org.uk)

## Bexley Domestic Abuse Strategy (2021-2026)

The consultation period for our 5-year DA Strategy is now over. We listened to the views of our partners and the public to ensure that our aims and delivery plan intended to reduce domestic abuse and provide support to residents was achievable. From the feedback we received the following four themes were identified:

- Targeted work to increase access and update of DA services to those who have protected characteristics
- A campaign to increase knowledge and understanding around coercive control
- Ensure local groups and faith groups support in the delivery of the strategies key themes
- Education / programmes around understanding healthy relationships amongst young people.

The strategy and delivery plan will be updated to include the above themes and will then go through to governance before publication. Watch this space for our updates!



CouRAGEus is a pan-London partnership offering violence against women and girls support for young people aged between 14 and 24. The project supports black and minoritised young women, including BME, LGBT+ and disabled young women who live, work or study in any London Borough who are at risk of/have experienced any form of VAWG or gender-based violence. The project also offers a range of 1:1 support, group work, workshops, training for professionals and programmes on various gender-based violence issues, including emotional wellbeing. Referral route is via Leanne Higgins at Solace Women's Aid.

Webpage [www.wgn.org.uk/CouRAGEus](http://www.wgn.org.uk/CouRAGEus) Instagram @womenandgirlsnetwork Email [couRAGEus@wgn.org.uk](mailto:couRAGEus@wgn.org.uk)

## SASS in Bexley

Solace have now entered their 3rd year as our commissioned provider for domestic abuse services in Bexley. Part of that service is delivering SASS, Solace Advocacy and Support Service and if you haven't heard of it, read on .....

SASS supports all victims/survivors of domestic abuse aged 16+. It offers 1:1 advocacy and support for medium and high-risk survivors as well as offering advice and group work to ALL survivors. It is staffed by three co-located IDVAs, one within the police station, one in MASH and the other in housing, a senior IDVA, two caseworkers and one duty caseworker plus a service manager. In addition to this core offer, we have been successful in additional funding to provide a health IDVA, children's IDVA, specialist BAME outreach worker and a complex needs worker.

Group work includes delivering the ARISE (freedom programme) and ABC programmes. ARISE is run over eight sessions with workshops that cover different aspects of domestic abuse such as "is this abuse?" and "how can I stay safe". ABC (assertiveness, boundaries and confidence) is a six-week follow up group to ARISE aimed to build on the three ABC qualities.

REMEMBER, you can call Solace on **0203 1984 659** or email [bexley.community@solacewomensaid.org](mailto:bexley.community@solacewomensaid.org) if you need advice.

## MARAC

Bexley MARAC remains consistently busy. Ensure you know when to refer a case to MARAC.

**Who is referring?** Our main referrers continue to be SOLACE, Police, Children's Social Care, MASH along with an increased number of referrals coming from our health partners.

The average number of repeat cases is slightly above the national average due in part to professionals identifying repeat incidents of DA and referring back to MARAC. SafeLives estimate nationally that the repeat rate of referrals should be between 28-40% and Bexley currently have an average repeat rate of 43%.

SafeLives defines a 'repeat' as any instance of abuse between the same victim and perpetrator(s), within 12 months of the last referral to MARAC.

The virtual MARAC meetings continue to be held fortnightly. As Bexley Council staff cautiously start to return to the office, the continuation of virtual [MARAC](#) meetings will be reviewed in line with the Council's new ways of working.

## #News from across London#

### Ask for Angela

The Met police joined forces with the Mayor's Office, Safer Sounds, which is part of the Safer Businesses Network, local councils, pubs and other venues across London to help keep people safe while enjoying a night out.

In August 2021 they relaunched Ask for Angela across many pubs, clubs and other venues. The safety campaign allows people to discreetly seek help by approaching venue staff and using the code-name, 'Angela'. This code-phrase will indicate to staff that they require help and a trained member of staff will then assist them. This might be through reuniting them with a friend, seeing them to a taxi, or by calling venue security and/or the police.

Venues that support Ask for Angela will also have been given or offered Welfare and Vulnerability Engagement (WAVE) training to give staff the ability to help customers who may be in a situation that makes them vulnerable or unsafe.

The logo for 'ASK FOR ANGELA' is displayed in white, bold, uppercase letters on a dark red background with a subtle grid pattern.

### Operation tackling violence against women and girls (VAWG)

Over 650 officers from across the Met took part in an operation to tackle violence against women and girls in London on 26th August 2021. The operation led to more than 100 arrests for offences including domestic abuse, sexual offences and harassment.

This activity was reflected across the South East, with the arrest of outstanding individuals wanted for domestic and VAWG matters. Licensing premises were also visited and the Ask for Angela campaign highlighted. Crime prevention advice was also given by the local safer neighbourhood team at Bexleyheath Broadway.