

Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Partner Update

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A monthly update on how we are responding to domestic abuse across the county and delivering our strategic priorities

Progress

- We're holding weekly meetings focussed on domestic abuse during the Covid-19 outbreak. Services are sharing some brilliant and innovative practice and it's fantastic to see domestic abuse being so well considered in service responses. A massive thank you to everybody keeping people as safe as possible.
- One of our Experts by Experience has developed an app to support people experiencing domestic abuse during the lockdown. We're liaising with national organisations to test and quality assure the app and hope we can roll this out quickly, ensuring those who need help are able to reach it.
- We're linking in with the roll out of a national campaign focussed on Domestic Abuse, funded by the Home Office and led by Hestia. More information on this campaign should be shared next week.
- Oxford Against Cutting have quickly pulled together an excellent working group, including national services Karma Nirvana and the National FGM Centre, focussed on ensuring effective routes to safety and support for those experiencing, or at risk of, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), so-called 'Honour-Based' Abuse (HBA) and Forced Marriage (FM).

We really need your help...

Reports from other countries that went into lockdown before us showed us that domestic abuse increased significantly with the movement restrictions. Despite this, referrals into all of our local services initially decreased quite substantially. They're gradually rising again, but we're still not seeing the spike that has been reported for the National Domestic Abuse Helpline. We're trying to make sure that Oxfordshire residents know that our local services are still open and offering advice and support. So, we've created:

- A [poster](#) to be shared across social media and in windows of shops, pharmacies and anywhere else people might still be visiting in lockdown - including your own home windows if people still walk past! Right click to save, then 'shrink to fit page' if printing.
- Information sheets on local help and support available (both generic and relationship focussed services). They can be found [here](#) with guidance on how each should be shared.

Please share these within and through your organisations, with your networks, and on your own social media if it's safe for you to do so. **We really need your help to get this information shared as far and wide as possible, it really could save lives**, Neighbourhood Watch have a [really helpful area](#) and a [leaflet](#) on their site exploring domestic abuse, signs you might spot & how you can help people. Please do take a look, your knowledge could make the world of difference to people experiencing abuse right now.



National News

- Rates of domestic homicide in the UK have more than doubled since the lockdown conditions were imposed – you can read more [here](#). This increase was somewhat expected, based on reports from other countries, and there is lots of ongoing work both nationally and locally to try and keep people as safe as possible.
- The Government have launched a [national campaign](#) to raise awareness of domestic abuse and routes to support, and to ensure that people know that the household isolation instruction as a result of coronavirus does not apply if you need to leave your home to escape domestic abuse.

Contact Details

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