

Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Partner Update

Issue 8
July & August 2019

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

Progress

- We've now trained our first cohort of Domestic Abuse Champions under our new training model!
- New leaflets, posters and a digital guide are now available for our commissioned domestic abuse services. You can download copies from the 'getting help' section of [our DA page](#) and print your own, or email das@a2dominion.co.uk to request printed copies.
- The Domestic Abuse Bill was introduced in Parliament for the first time in July - another step forward!

Celebrations!

A huge well done to A2Dominion (Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Services) who have been awarded another 3 year grant from Children in Need for their children's worker in refuge! The grant also includes funding for school uniform, extracurricular activities, day trips, celebrations and some gardening and play equipment. Feedback from families in refuge tells us what a difference this work makes and it's wonderful to know it will continue.

Domestic abuse in rural areas

The Rural Crime Network have published 'Captive and Controlled': the findings of a research project exploring domestic abuse in rural areas. The report revealed that people experiencing abuse in rural areas are half as likely to report their abuse, and the more rural the setting the higher the risk of harm. The findings highlight the significance of physical isolation as both a tactic of abuse and a factor in access to services and quality of provision. [Read more.](#)

Government call for evidence: DA survivors invited to shape future of family court

The Ministry of Justice has launched a call for evidence inviting survivors of domestic abuse, and those who provide them with support services, to share their experiences of how well the family courts protect them and their children in private family law proceedings. This project is designed to

- shine a spotlight on how the family courts manage the safety & well-being of children when there is a history of domestic abuse
- build a more detailed understanding of any harm caused to parents and/or children during or following proceedings
- examine the risk to children and parents in continuing to have a relationship with a parent with a history of abusive behaviour, including where continuing contact between the parents is required by court orders.

Processes, outcomes, and experiences of the family courts were recently highlighted as a significant concern in our July Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Operational Board meeting, so this feels like a really timely opportunity to share local feedback with central government! The online consultation can be accessed [here](#) and closes on 26th August 2019 – please do share this with anybody you think might be able to contribute.

Next Steps

- We'll be starting work to explore developing tailored training for the courts and linked services

Contact Details

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