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# **CARDIFF DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE FORUM**

## **SUMMER E-UPDATE**

### **July 2009**

**WELCOME TO CARDIFF DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE FORUM'S SECOND E-UPDATE. CARDIFF DSV FORUM IS THE KEY PARTNERSHIP OF ORGANISATIONS WORKING TO ADDRESS DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE WITHIN THE CITY. THE ORGANISATIONS WORK TOGETHER TO ENSURE THE PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE, PROTECTION AND SUPPORT OF VICTIMS AND THE PROSECUTION AND ACCOUNTABILITY OF PERPETRATORS. THIS E-UPDATE WILL INFORM YOU OF DEVELOPMENTS IN SERVICES AND POLICY IN REGARDS TO DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CARDIFF. IT WILL ALSO INFORM YOU OF EVENTS, TRAINING AND POTENTIAL FUNDING STREAMS.**

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## **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS WITH NO RECOURSE TO PUBLIC FUNDS**

Due to immigration laws women with insecure immigration status under UK law have no access to public funds. In this paper no recourse to public funds (NRPF) refers to people who are subject to immigration control and have no entitlement to welfare benefits, UK Border Agency support or to public housing. These women are often in the UK legally on spousal visas, work visas, student visas or other temporary visas. They may also be classed as being here illegally having been trafficked into the UK, or having over-stayed their visa. Women with NRPF have no right to access local authority housing or the main welfare benefits including income support. This means that if they are experience domestic violence they have no means of accessing temporary housing or benefits which will assist with their living costs and their children's. Many abusers know that these women cannot report them to the authorities for fear of being sent back to their countries of origin where, as a divorced or separated women, they are likely to face persecution from the state and society.

Women and girls from European Union accession countries (A8) are also restricted in their ability to access public funds if they have been in the country less than a year, or if they are not registered under the workers registration scheme. A woman from an A8 country who leaves her abusive partner that she was dependent on forfeits any recourse to public funds. Her only means on accessing funds is through work which is often impossible due to child care.

Currently the UK government has recognised the need for support and accommodation as vital in improving and saving the lives of domestic violence victims. However, due to the no recourse ruling, women of insecure immigration are not entitled to these vital services and are therefore at high risk.

The Domestic Violence Rule allows women with insecure immigration status experiencing domestic violence to apply for leave to remain. However there are many problems with this rule, namely that the decision can take from a few weeks to months to come through and there is no guarantee that the application will be successful. While waiting for a decision victims of domestic violence continue to have NRPF. The requirements for the Domestic Violence Rule are also restrictive including the need for substantial evidence.

The Home Office is currently in discussion with service providers from across the country to look at a proposal for retrospective and conditional payment for up to 20 working days to cover accommodation and basic living costs for women who are successful in obtaining indefinite leave to remain under the Domestic Violence Rule in immigration law. This unlikely to elevate the problem for frontline services at the point the woman presents in needing service provision.

Supporting NRPF domestic violence victims is complex and time consuming. Those with NRPF are disproportionately impacting on frontline services time and causing pressure on funding. In Cardiff domestic violence services try to accommodate NRPF where possible but they are a strain on manpower and resources.

In 2007/08 BAWSO supported 77 NRPF. 25 were accommodated in refuges or safe houses, while the remaining 52 were provided with outreach support due to the absence of available safe accommodation. Last year BAWSO's total expenditure supporting women with NRPF was £222,437.31. BAWSO is supporting only a proportion of NRPF women with many others accessing Cardiff Women's Aid or other services.

The current situation, without a clear pathway for decisions on funding, means that cases of NRPF utilise critical time of crisis intervention services.

A task & finish group will be meeting to work together to develop protocols and guidance that would improve the service provision for women with NRPF. The task and finish group will provide a multi-agency approach to the issue at a local authority level. If you would like to join this task & finish group or would like any further information on the issue please contact Gwendolyn Sterk, Domestic & Sexual Violence Coordinator – Cardiff:  
[dsvcoordinator@cardiffwomensaid.org.uk](mailto:dsvcoordinator@cardiffwomensaid.org.uk).

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## **Welsh Assembly Government: Strategic Action Plan to address Violence against Women and to update WAG's Domestic Abuse Strategy - Consultation**

The Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) has launched a consultation on a Strategic Action Plan to address violence against women (VAW) and to update their Domestic Abuse Strategy (2005). The consultation was launched on June 22<sup>nd</sup> 2009 and the deadline for responses is **September 21<sup>st</sup> 2009**.

In 2008 the Community & Cultures Scrutiny Committee of the National Assembly of Wales carried out a review of the All Wales Domestic Abuse Strategy 2005 and the service provision across Wales. The key recommendation that came out of this review was that the WAG should produce an action plan which it would report on annually to

evidence how it was taking forward and implementing progress in regards to the domestic abuse strategy.

WAG has done a significant amount of work on domestic abuse in Wales since the launch of the All Wales Domestic Abuse Strategy in 2005. WAG has given financial support to domestic abuse services in Wales, increasing the domestic abuse budget from £1.4m in 2004 to £3.7m in 2009. WAG has also led the way on health (including Care Pathways) and education (including the rolling out of domestic abuse education to 97% of school pupils in Wales), in addition to delivering some awareness-raising campaigns, the 24-hour Wales Domestic Abuse Helpline and a helpline for male victims of domestic abuse.

The domestic abuse strategy's primary objective is to provide a structural 'backbone' to direct domestic abuse intervention across Wales. It aims to facilitate the development and implementation of a 'joined-up' problem solving approach which addresses domestic abuse holistically. The strategic action plan which WAG is now consulting on should support this primary objective and facilitate the implementation of partnership working. The action plan is intended to sit alongside the All Wales Domestic Abuse Strategy 2005.

The strategic action plan aims to progress the implementation of the strategy and take on board the recommendations from the Communities and Culture Committee's 2008 review. WAG has also identified the need for the strategic action plan to also address violence against women including trafficking, prostitution, female genital mutilation, forced marriage, sexual assault and honour codified behaviour crimes.

The action plan will have an impact on all services involved in the above objectives. Much of the implementation of the plan will be delivered at a local level so it is critical that local partners are engaged with this consultation. Those agencies working within housing, children services, education, health, community safety and the third sector will be affected by the implementation of the plan. As a key partnership of domestic and sexual violence service, Cardiff DSV Forum will be submitting a response to the consultation and it is critical that partners identify points for this submission.

If you would like to input a comment to Cardiff DSV Forum consultation response, please contact the Domestic & Sexual Violence Coordinator for Cardiff – Gwendolyn Sterk – [dsvcoordinator@cardiffwomensaid.org.uk](mailto:dsvcoordinator@cardiffwomensaid.org.uk) by **8<sup>th</sup> September 2009**. Agencies are also encouraged to submit their own specific response. To do this and for a copy of the consultation document contact Steve Bartley: [Steve.bartley@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Steve.bartley@wales.gsi.gov.uk) or visit the Welsh Assembly Government website:

<http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/housingcommunity/vaw/?lang=en>

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## **LAUNCH OF THE FORCED MARRIAGE MULTI-AGENCY PRACTICE GUIDELINES**

New guidelines have been developed by the Forced Marriage Unit (a joint Foreign & Commonwealth Office and Home Office Unit) in collaboration with other Government departments, the Association of Chief Police Officers, Crown Prosecution Service and the Welsh Assembly Government.

These guidelines are an essential tool in directing multi-agency working to better protect victims of Forced Marriage. The multi-agency practice guidelines are for frontline professionals (such as teachers, police officers,

social and health care professionals, housing officers) to help them to work more closely together and to better identify and protect children and adults at risk of forced marriage. The revised guidelines replace the existing individual guidelines which were tailored for specific professionals and bring the guidelines together into one single document.

According to the Henna Foundation 11 cases of forced marriage and honour based violence have been reported to South Wales Police in the first six months of 2009. Foreign & Commonwealth Office's Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) has received 770 calls or emails about suspected forced marriage so far this year - an increase of 16 per cent in the same period last year. This increase is also reflected in an increase of cases in Wales.

The new guidance can be downloaded from the Foreign & Commonwealth Office website at: <http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/fco-in-action/nationals/forced-marriage-unit/>.

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## **Family law advice to be available through Community Legal Advice helpline**

The Legal Services Commission Community Legal Advice helpline is now providing advice on family law. The addition of family law advice follows the recent extension to Community Legal Advice's opening hours. Clients can now get help for debt, housing, employment, education and welfare benefits problems between 9.00am and 6.30pm on weekdays and 9.00am and 12.30pm on Saturdays. The service provided in Wales will be with Morgans Solicitors, who are based in Cardiff, Swansea and Milford Haven. The firm currently provides Community Legal Advice telephone advice in English and Welsh in the categories of debt, employment, housing and welfare benefits.

Call **0845 345 4 345** to get free help for family related legal problems.

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## **TRAINING COURSES**

### **BAWSO—Trainings in Forced Marriage, Female Genital Mutilation & Domestic Abuse**

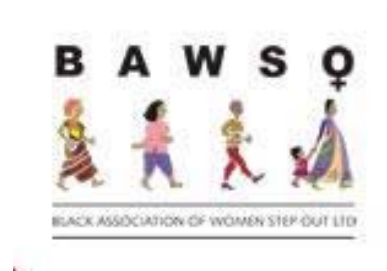
BAWSO Women's Aid is running training on Forced Marriage, Female genital mutilation and Domestic abuse throughout Wales. This training is an important tool to ensure that all support service providers are aware of the issues involved and the barriers that prevent victims accessing mainstream resources. The victims of these crimes include young children and are amongst the most vulnerable in society.

There are a number of dates in Cardiff, Swansea and Wrexham. For more information please contact:

Lorraine Johnson

Tel. No.: 02920 644633

Email: [lorraine@bawso.org.uk](mailto:lorraine@bawso.org.uk)



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## **EVENTS**

### **BRIGHT IDEAS CONFERENCE - GLDVP - 15TH SEPTEMBER**

**Creative ways of implementing the Improving Safety and Reducing Harm - Children, Young People and Domestic Violence toolkit.**

The Greater London Domestic Violence Project is holding a unique event comprising a selection of practical, active and fun sessions for frontline workers to experiment new ways of working with children and young people who are affected by violence. Each session is based on an aspect of the new Department of Health and GLDVP toolkit: Improving Safety and Reducing Harm - Children, Young People and Domestic Violence. This will not be a typical conference! Participants will learn and develop skills in an innovative, unique and enjoyable way!

This event is aimed primarily at frontline practitioners across all sectors that work directly with children and young people where domestic violence is an issue in their lives, whether at home or in their own relationships.

Participants will have the opportunity to:

- \* Learn and develop new skills such as art therapy
- \* Hear from young people directly about their experiences
- \* Explore different ways of working with young people
- \* Network with each other in dynamic and creative ways
- \* Benefit from 'caring for carers' and therapeutic interventions.

Where - Shoreditch Town Hall 380 Old Street, London EC1V 9LT

When - Tuesday 15th September 2009, 9am until 4.30pm

Conference costs:

£119/£129 vol/stat if your booking form is received before the end of July.

£139/£159 vol/stat price thereafter.

For details please contact: [cypconference@gldvp.org.uk](mailto:cypconference@gldvp.org.uk)

### **Cymorth Cymru Events**

#### **Life Begins@Home Week**

Raising public awareness for the housing related support and the homelessness sector - 2nd - 9th October, Wales Wide!

#### **Nuts & Bolts**

A one day event aimed at improving frontline service delivery of housing related support - 21 October 2009

For further information on any of these events please contact the office and ask for Nicola Evans or Karen Dronfield

Cymorth Cymru, Norbury House, Norbury Road, Fairwater, Cardiff, CF5 3AS

Telephone: 029 2055 3687 - Fax: 029 2056 4165 - Email:

[info@cymorthcymru.org.uk](mailto:info@cymorthcymru.org.uk)

## **HOW SHOULD WE MOST EFFECTIVELY TACKLE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ABUSE AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION? - SEMINAR**

- CHALLENGING CULTURE AND ATTITUDES
- ERADICATING THE SILO MENTALITY

**Monday 5 October, 2009 - Royal Commonwealth Society, London**

The fee for the day's Seminar is £345.00 plus VAT. Earlybird Discounted Price of £250 + VAT for bookings received before 4 September.

For more information and booking please contact Louise Rushworth on 01422 845004 or email [seminars@cppseminars.org.uk](mailto:seminars@cppseminars.org.uk)

## **BASPCAN CONFERENCE - NEW CHALLENGES IN PROTECTING CHILDREN AND WOMEN**

**A day conference confronting Domestic Abuse & Violence, Female Genital Mutilation, Forced or Arranged Marriage & Honour Based Violence**

**Friday 11 December 2009 - UCL- Institute of Child Health, London**

This important event will examine a range of contemporary issues in relation to Abuse and Violence against Women and Children. Presentations from leading experts will seek to inform the development of effective interventions and explore practice issues from political, legal and ideological perspectives.

For more information contact the British Association for the Study and Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect by email:

[conferences@baspcan.org.uk](mailto:conferences@baspcan.org.uk)

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## **Funding Opportunities**

### **WVCA launches new funding website**

WCVA has launched a new website to provide organisations with up-to-date funding information and advice. The funding portal provides access to a searchable database of UK funding opportunities, advice and support on raising funds and tips on how to diversify funding.

Visit [www.sustainablefundingcymru.org.uk](http://www.sustainablefundingcymru.org.uk).

### **Comic Relief Funding**

Young people experiencing Domestic and Sexual Violence funding programme.

This programme aims to provide support for young people aged 11-25 who have witnessed or directly experienced domestic and sexual abuse.

There are two strands to the open programme:

### Crisis Support:

Comic Relief will fund support services with the aim of helping young survivors to cope with the physical, emotional and mental harm that they have experienced. This could include services such as counselling, advocacy and group work.

Applications should demonstrate how your support services will build a safer future for young survivors. This could include activities that help young people cope better or increasing their understanding of abuse.

### Young Voices:

Comic Relief will fund work that helps young people to heal through having a voice. This could include setting up a new survivors group or support for an existing group.

This fund will also cover work which aims to build networks of young survivors who can speak out to policy makers, planners and the sector, so that their views and voices are heard directly.

The deadlines for the first three grant making cycles are:

Cycle 1 - 24 July 2009

Cycle 2 - 13 November 2009

Cycle 3 - 5 March 2010

For more information contact the Comic Relief UK Grants Team:

Comic Relief  
5th Floor  
89 Albert Embankment  
London  
SE1 7TP

Phone: 020 7820 5555

E-mail: [ukgrants@comicrelief.com](mailto:ukgrants@comicrelief.com)

## **Joseph Rowntree Foundation: Responsive Mode Grant Funding**

The Foundation is inviting ideas for proposals addressing areas within the broad remit of the Foundation. The Foundation is seeking projects with a clear element of originality, not routine research nor repetition of existing research.

Proposals must have relevance to the Foundation's mission to 'search, demonstrate and influence, providing evidence, solutions and ideas that will help to overcome the causes of poverty, disadvantage and social evil' and be within one or more of our overarching themes:

- Poverty: to examine the root causes of poverty and disadvantage and identify solutions
- Empowerment: to identify ways of enabling people and communities to have control of their own lives

- Place: to contribute to the building and development of strong, cohesive and sustainable communities

For more information visit:

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/funding/calls-for-proposal/insights-innovation>

The timetable for proposals is as follows:

Deadline for receipt of outline proposals: noon on Monday, 27 July 2009

## **Funding for work on Female Genital Mutilation**

Rosa, the first UK-wide fund for projects working with women and girls, in partnership with City Parochial Foundation and Esmée Fairbairn Foundation have announce a new UK-wide Special Initiative to fund community-based, preventive work to safeguard children from the practice of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in all its forms.

Applications are invited from organisations to develop a programme of work with young people, parents, faith leaders, and/or the wider community to raise awareness about this harmful practice and to empower communities to say no.

They will consider funding for staffing, peer advocacy schemes, creative projects, resources, volunteers expenses and relevant running costs. This is not an exhaustive list, and they are open to new ideas of work that will meet the aims and objectives of this initiative. Funding will be available for one, two or three years, depending on the nature of the proposed work.

There is no application form for this initiative, please submit a proposal outlining:

- A description of your organisation
- Details of your proposal
- Evaluation of the work
- Financial Costs
- Contact details
- Additional documents

Your proposal should be not more than five A4 pages long.

Proposals should be sent to:

Annabel Durling  
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation  
Kings Place, Fifth Floor  
90 York Way  
London N1 9AG  
Tel: 020 7812 3732

[annabel.durling@esmeefairbairn.org.uk](mailto:annabel.durling@esmeefairbairn.org.uk)

Any queries please contact either Sioned or Annabel at the telephone numbers/emails above, or Dinah Cox at Rosa on 020 7324 3045.

Closing date for applications: **24 July 2009**

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For further information on anything raised in this e-update or to include anything in future e-updates please contact:

Gwendolyn Sterk – Domestic & Sexual Violence Coordinator – Cardiff

Email: [dvscoordinator@cardiffwomensaid.org.uk](mailto:dvscoordinator@cardiffwomensaid.org.uk) Tel: 07500 836 620