



# September 2009 Newsletter

*Welcome to the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the Falkirk Multi Agency Domestic Abuse Forum Newsletter*

## 16 Days of Action for the Elimination of Violence against Women Campaign

For the third consecutive year, a series of events will be held across Forth Valley to mark the 16 Days of Action and the White Ribbon Campaign.

The 16 Days of Action is a worldwide campaign aimed at raising awareness of issues around violence against women. It begins on 25<sup>th</sup> November (International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women) and ends on 10<sup>th</sup> December (International Human Rights Day). The 16 day period also encompasses World Aids Day and the anniversary of the Montreal massacre.

The White Ribbon campaign also begins on the 25<sup>th</sup> November and encourages males to wear a white ribbon for one or two weeks. This is a global campaign of men and boys committed to taking action to end violence against women. Whilst the focus is primarily on involving men, women are encouraged to take part too. You can find out more about the campaign by visiting its website ([www.whiteribbonscotland.org.uk](http://www.whiteribbonscotland.org.uk)). Whilst visiting the website, you can make a pledge to never commit, condone or stay silent about Violence against Women.

Here in Forth Valley, a specific group has been established to plan events aimed at raising awareness of issues around violence against women during the 16 Days. Our full programme of events will be advertised nearer the time - look out for our posters and booklets. Two dates for your diary include:-

**2<sup>nd</sup> December** (12:30pm - 2:30pm) - you are invited to attend an awareness raising event in Forth Valley College, Falkirk Campus. Naomi Breeze will perform her play 'One Lonely Word' which looks at one woman's experience of rape and the impact of this on her life. This will be followed by a panel discussion and opportunities for networking and information sharing. Refreshments available from 12:30pm.

**3<sup>rd</sup> December** - join in our White Ribbon March as a pledge that you will never commit, condone or stay silent about violence against women. Leaves from Stirling Castle esplanade at 6:00pm (don't forget to wear warm clothes)

If you would like to organise your own event aimed at raising awareness of violence against women, let us know and we can advertise it for you. Contact Gail Cook - Domestic Abuse Policy Coordinator - on 07746 317640 for more information.



## Research - Partner Exploitation and Violence in Teenage Intimate Relationships

Research carried out by the NSPCC and the University of Bristol, has revealed that a third of teenage girls in a relationship suffer unwanted sexual acts and a quarter suffer actual physical violence. This is the first UK research on teenage partner violence - spanning Scotland, England and Wales - providing a detailed picture of the incidence and impact of this form of violence on the lives of young people. A confidential survey was completed by 1,353 young people, between 13 - 17 years old, from eight schools in Scotland, England and Wales, with 91 in-depth interviews being undertaken (62 girls and 29 boys).

The survey of 13 to 17-year-olds found:-

- Nearly nine out of ten girls had been in an intimate relationship. Of these, one in six said they had been pressured into sexual intercourse and 1 in 16 said they had been raped. Others had been pressured or forced to kiss or sexually touch.
- A quarter of girls had suffered physical violence such as being slapped, punched, or beaten by their boyfriends.
- Nearly nine out of ten boys also said they had been in a relationship. A smaller number reported pressure or violence from girls. (Only one in seventeen boys in a relationship reported being pressured or forced into sexual activity and almost one in five suffered physical violence in a relationship).
- The majority of young people either told a friend about the violence or told no one. Only a minority informed an adult.
- Girls with a history of family violence had an increased likelihood of having an older partner. Having an older partner, and especially a "much older" partner, was a significant risk factor for girls. Overall, three-quarters of girls with a "much older" partner experienced physical violence, 80% emotional violence and 75% sexual violence.
- Girls experienced all three forms of partner violence (physical, emotional & sexual) more frequently than boys and reported more severe forms.

If you would like to read the research or download a copy of the summary findings please visit [www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)



The LGBT Domestic Abuse project is funded by the Scottish Government and has created a website for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people who are or think they may be experiencing domestic abuse. The website also provides information for service providers who support LGBT people experiencing domestic abuse.

Go to [www.lgbtdomesticabuse.org.uk](http://www.lgbtdomesticabuse.org.uk) to look at the resources and information available. You can also sign up to the project's e-newsletter and receive updates related to LGBT domestic abuse.

## Men Can Stop Rape

Joe Samalin, a guest speaker from the groundbreaking US campaign "Men Can Stop Rape" attended an event in Glasgow recently along with John Watson from Amnesty International. The event was jointly organised by Rape Crisis Scotland and the White Ribbon Campaign in Scotland and provided attendees with an opportunity to hear more about what men can do to stop violence against women.



Men Can Stop Rape (MCSR) was established in 1997 in Washington DC and is now widely viewed as a national leader on engaging young men in gender violence prevention. The organisation has reached hundreds of thousands of youth and trained thousands of professionals from agencies including Rape Crisis centres, Boys and Girls Clubs, State Health Departments, Department of Justice Violence Against Women Office, coalitions against sexual assault, and educational institutions. Their "men of strength" clubs run in New York and Washington DC and encourage boys to challenge sexual violence and to examine what it means to be a man.

John Watson led a discussion on how the White Ribbon Campaign is developing across Scotland and reminded the audience that violence against women is a human rights issue. He encouraged men to work with others in their communities to educate and inspire others to campaign against violence against women.

If you are interested in finding out more about "Men Can Stop Rape" or the White Ribbon Campaign in Scotland please visit their websites.

[www.mencanstoprape.org](http://www.mencanstoprape.org)

[www.whiteribbonscotland.org.uk](http://www.whiteribbonscotland.org.uk)

## Paying the Price: The Social & Economic Cost of Domestic Abuse

Scottish Women's Aid held its annual conference in Edinburgh on 16<sup>th</sup> September. The aim of the conference was to bring together national and local perspectives on the social and economic costs of domestic abuse to individuals, their employers, support services and society as a whole. With keynote contributions from Professor Sylvia Walby, the Cabinet Secretary for Health & Wellbeing - Nicola Sturgeon, Professor Ailsa McKay and the writer and broadcaster Beatrix Campbell, delegates were challenged to consider not whether we can afford to deliver services to people affected by domestic abuse but whether we can afford *not to*.

Professor Walby discussed her 2004 research into the costs of domestic abuse in England and Wales. Her research found that:-

The cost of domestic abuse to the criminal justice system was around £1 billion a year

The cost to the NHS for physical injuries was around £1.2 billion a year

The cost to social services was nearly £0.25 billion a year and is overwhelmingly for children services

The cost to housing services was around £0.16 billion a year

Civil Legal services cost over £0.3 billion about half of which is borne by legal aid costs

Lost economic output accounts for around £2.7 billion a year and is the cost of time of work due to injuries (around half of this cost of borne by employers in sickness absence payments and half by the employee)

For a copy of either the summary or full report of this research contact Gail Cook, Domestic Abuse Policy Coordinator (gail.cook1@tiscali.co.uk)

## Falkirk Domestic Abuse Pathfinder Project

The Falkirk Domestic Abuse Pathfinder Project is a Scottish Government funded initiative underpinned by the Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) framework. It currently operates within the geographical area of Larbert, Stehousemuir, Carronshore and Airth and commenced on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2007. The key objective of the project is to provide a co-ordinated multi-agency response to children affected by domestic abuse. The multi agency approach ensures that all agencies work towards a unified response with less bureaucracy, more freedom to respond to needs of the child or young person and that families get the help they need when they need it.

The project is currently led by a project Coordinator, Detective Sergeant Joyce Greenhorn who is seconded from Central Scotland Police and has funding until March 2010.

The Domestic Abuse Pathfinder Project aims to deliver an appropriate, proportionate and timely response from agencies involved with a family living with Domestic Abuse and reduce the in appropriate reactive referral of single incidents to the local Children's Reporter. It currently operates within the geographical area of Larbert/Stenhousemuir/Airth/Carronshore. It is hoped that by providing an early multi agency response/intervention that support mechanisms can be out in place to support the child and family through this difficult time. The agencies involved with the project include:-

Council for Voluntary Services	Education	Health
Housing	Police	Scottish Children's Reporter Administration
Scottish Government	Social Work	Women's Aid

The information gathered by these agencies is discussed during a weekly multi-agency meeting and is shared by health services, schools or nurseries and social services because it is important to make sure that they provide the additional support that children experiencing domestic abuse may need, as well as providing additional support to the victim.

Further information on the project can be obtained by contacting the Pathfinder coordinator, Ds Joyce Greenhorn on 01324-506706 or e-mail [joyce.greenhorn@falkirk.gov.uk](mailto:joyce.greenhorn@falkirk.gov.uk).

## Corporate Sexism - The Sex Industry's Infiltration of the Modern Workplace

A report recently published by the Fawcett Society (Sept 09) has suggested that the use of lap dancing clubs and displays of pornography in a work context is a major new threat to women's equality at work. The report found that

- 41% of UK lap dancing clubs directly target employers through marketing on their websites
- 86% of lap dancing clubs in London provide 'discrete receipts' which enable employees to claim back expenses from their employer without it being evident the money was spent in a lap dancing club
- Lads' mags are displayed for sale purposes in over 50,000 workplaces. A content analysis of leading titles revealed all contained pornographic imagery. Yet there are no independent, compulsory guidelines regarding the display and sale of pornography, and no major retailer has a policy of covering up lads' mags or putting them on the top shelf
- 26% of trade unions have received enquiries from members who have been exposed to the sex industry - including pornography - at work
- Existing research has also revealed that 20% of men admit accessing pornography at work

Please email [gail.cook1@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:gail.cook1@tiscali.co.uk) if you would like a copy of the full report.

## Domestic Abuse Training in Falkirk

### Understanding Domestic Abuse and the Effects on Children

This introductory/refresher session is aimed at front-line staff who work directly with women, children and young people and who feel that an understanding of the dynamics of domestic abuse will help them in their work. Participants need no prior learning or experience of domestic abuse related issues to attend this course.

Course dates: 08 December 2009, 09 March 2010  
Course venue: Camelon Education Centre, Falkirk  
Time: 09:30am to 16:00pm  
Contact: Alastair Robertson, Domestic Abuse Training Coordinator on 07845 635 052 or email [ARobertsontdc@aol.com](mailto:ARobertsontdc@aol.com)  
Cost: The cost of this course is met by the Forth Valley Domestic Abuse Training Consortium

If you live in the Falkirk Council area and need advice or support you can contact:-

Falkirk & District Women's Aid	01324 635661
Central Scotland Police, Domestic Abuse Unit	01324 678830
Falkirk Council Housing Services	01324 503600 <u>or</u>
Out of hours	01324 503050
Falkirk Council Social Work Services	01324 506400 <u>or</u>
Out of hours	01786 470500
Benefits Advice (DWP)	01324 505000
Victim Support	01324 633433
Relationships Scotland	01324 670067
Central Scotland Rape Crisis & Sexual Abuse Centre	01786 471771
Open Secret (for adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse)	01324 630100

You can also speak to professional staff at your local GP surgery.

Scottish Domestic Abuse helpline (24 hour)	0800 027 1234
Shakti Women's Aid	0131 475 2399
Hemat Gryffe Women's Aid	0141 353 0859



The Falkirk Multi Agency Domestic Abuse Forum is a Partnership which includes key partners from the statutory & voluntary sectors in the area.

We work together to raise awareness of issues around violence against women, including domestic abuse, rape, sexual assault, forced marriage and human trafficking.

We welcome comments on this newsletter as well as suggestions for future articles. Please direct any comments to our Domestic Abuse Policy Coordinator, Gail Cook, by emailing [gail.cook1@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:gail.cook1@tiscali.co.uk)