Cambridge City Community Safety Partnership

- 13 October 2026
- Closed session for CSP Board and Members: 10:00 - 10:25
- Meeting open to the public at 10:25
- Eva Hartree Hall, Clay Farm Centre, Trumpington, Cambridge CB2 9FN with a hybrid option for CCSP Members
- The public can submit pre-advised questions before 10am on Monday 12 October to email address: Community.safety@cambridge.gov.uk

AGENDA

No	Item	Lead Officer(s)	Time (Mins)
1	Closed session for Cambridge CSP (CCSP) Board and Members Welcome, housekeeping / introductions and apologies	Samantha Shimmon (Chair)	10
2	Closed session for CCSP Board and Members Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews (DARDRs) Action Plans Update	Keryn Jalli (City Council)	15
3	Meeting open to the public Welcome, housekeeping / introductions and apologies Presentation: Neighbourhood Approach	Chair Diane Lane (Cambridgeshire South Care Partnership)	5 25
4	Pre-advised questions from the general public	Chair	5
5	Minutes of 7 July 2026 meeting: Agreement	Board / members	5
6	Action points: Review	Board / members	5
	Comfort break		10
7	Update about changes in the Probation Service Early Release Scheme	Agata Ciesielska (Probation Service)	15
8	Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)	Chair	10
9	Update on CCSP Strategic Priorities 2025-2027 Year Two: Priority 1: Preventing Violence and Exploitation	Keryn Jalli (City Council) /	15

	Priority 2: A Neighbourhood Approach Priority 3: Tackling Acquisitive Crime - National Acquisitive Crime Reduction Award 2026 Partnership Project - Winner: CCSP Cambridge Cycle Crime Reduction Group	Chair / Board / members	
10	Deep Dive reports for 2026/27	Keryn Jalli (City Council)	5
11	Update on Health and the Street Art Project	Becca Cooke (Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Integrated Care System (ICS))	10
12	Cambridgeshire Serious Violence Duty Funding 2026-27 and feedback from the High Harms Board	Keryn Jalli (City Council)	5
	Written reports circulated to note		
13	Plans for future reports from CCSP Sub-Groups	Louise Walker (City Council)	5
14	Cambridgeshire DASV Annual Report 2025 – 26 County Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Report Q1 2026/27 – To note	County DASV Partnership	*5*
	Verbal information to be noted		
15	National Hate Crime Awareness Week 10-17 October 2026 National Hate Crime Awareness Week - Nationalhcaw	Chair / Board / members	*5*
16	Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Against Scams Partnership: Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) Scams Awareness Campaign 12 - 25 October 2026	Chair / Board / members	*5*
17	Any other business	Chair / Board / members	5
18	**Date of next Cambridge CSP meeting**	**9 March 2027**	**165**

Information for the general public and media representatives

Public attendance

You are welcome to attend this meeting as an observer, and to ask questions or make statements during the relevant item on the agenda. It may be necessary to request that you leave the room during the discussion of matters that are classed as confidential.

Public questions

1. Questions are invited towards the beginning of the meeting.
2. You are requested to restrict questions or statements to matters set out in the meeting's agenda. If you wish to raise a question or make a statement concerning a matter that is on the agenda, then please notify your intention to speak with the Community Safety Partnership Support Officer before the start of the meeting.
3. If you wish to raise a question or make a statement on a matter that is not on the agenda, then please ensure that notice of the question or subject matter is given to the Community Safety Partnership Support Officer on 01223 457808 or via e-mail (community.safety@cambridge.gov.uk) by 10am on the working day preceding the meeting.
4. Questions and statements should be directed to the Chair in all cases; the Chair will then either respond directly or request that the appropriate member of the Partnership to respond.
5. Please be brief and keep to the question or statement, as advised.
6. Please be aware that you may not get a verbal response to your question, especially if the question is detailed; a written response will be offered in such cases.
7. If your question raises issues that should be correctly addressed in a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Chair will advise you of this.
8. The Chair may refuse to reply to a question and may refuse to refer the question to another member at their discretion. The Chair may also refuse to permit questions or statements if the matter has already been put or made to a meeting of a Council committee or other body.
9. The Chair's decision is final.

10. The use of audio and visual recording equipment is permitted.

Emergency evacuation

1. In the event of a fire or other emergency, you will hear a continuous ringing alarm. You should leave the building by the nearest exit and proceed to the assembly point outside.

Cambridge Community Safety Partnership meeting, 7 July 2026: draft minutes

- 10am to 12.30pm
- Hybrid at Parkside Place Community Fire Station, Cambridge CB1 1JF

Attendees

Board

- Samantha Shimmon (Chair), Cambridge City Council (Communities)
- Hannah Archdeacon (Vice Chair), Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service
- Becca Cooke, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Integrated Care Board (ICB)
- Inspector Shawn Emms, Cambridgeshire Constabulary
- Mark Freeman, Support Cambridgeshire
- Cambridgeshire County Councillor David Levien
- Ian McLaughlin, Cambridgeshire County Council
- Bethany Markham, Probation Service – Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Probation Delivery Unit
- Cambridge City Councillor Mike Todd-Jones, (Cabinet Member for Safety, Wellbeing and Tackling Homelessness)

Members

- Keryn Jalli, Cambridge City Council (Communities)
- Susie Talbot, Cambridgeshire County Council Public Health Team Commissioning (Drugs and Alcohol)
- Louise Walker (Minutes), Cambridge City Council (Communities)
- Michael Yates, Cambridgeshire County Council (Policy, Performance and Intelligence Service)

Guests

- Uche Ezekwueme, Cambridgeshire County Council (Policy, Performance and Intelligence Service)
- Cherryl Henry-Leach, Domestic Abuse Related Death Review (DARDR) Independent Chair
- Perri Selwood, The Bobby Scheme

1. Welcome, housekeeping, introductions, and apologies

1.1 Samantha Shimmon, Chair of Cambridge Community Safety Partnership (CCSP) welcomed everyone to the meeting hosted at the Fire Station. There was one attending member of the public after the closed session.

1.2 Apologies were received from Board members: Agata Ciesielska represented by Bethany Markham (Probation Service), Diane Lane (Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Integrated Care System (ICS)), and Claire Saggiorato represented by Becca Cooke (Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Integrated Care Board (ICB)). There were apologies from members: Peter Fleming (Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust), Hannah Hancock (Cambridge Business Against Crime (CAMBAC)), Richard Humphries (British Transport Police), Michelle Reynolds (University of Cambridge), and Andy Sawyer (Anglia Ruskin University). Also, apologies from Mark Kirby (Olive Academies), Shona McKenzie (Office of Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC)), Rachel Speechley (Cambridgeshire County Council Missing and Exploitation Team) and Annie Wolf (Department of Work and Pensions (DWP)).
It was noted that a new Board representative for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust is awaited.

2. Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews

2.1 During a closed session for CCSP Board members, Independent Chair Cherryl Henry-Leach provided an update on the Domestic Abuse Related Death Review (DARDR) for B. The DARDR for B. was currently with the Home Office Quality Assurance Panel and an action plan had been developed which was being progressed.

2.2 For other current Cambridge City DARDRs, Keryn Jalli provided the CCSP Board members with an update on each. Very sadly, also she said that there was another request to initiate a DARDR for someone who died by suicide having experience domestic abuse in the lead up to their death. Once approved by the Home Office, the final DARDRs are published at Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews - Cambridge City Council

2.3 The Chair thanked Cherry Henry-Leach and Keryn Jalli for their updates. Following this agenda item, the Chair opened the meeting to the public.

3. Presentation: The Bobby Scheme

3.1 Perri Selwood, The Bobby Scheme Trust Manager presented an overview of The Bobby Scheme, a crime prevention charity supporting victims of crime across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Key points included:

- Over 1,000 home visits and approximately 1,500 referrals completed during the previous financial year.
- Support provided to older and vulnerable residents, victims of burglary, fraud, scams, antisocial behaviour and some domestic abuse victims.
- Practical crime prevention measures include security assessments, video doorbell installations and home security improvements.
- The scheme provides wider support through welfare checks, signposting and referrals to partner organisations.
- Referrals can be made directly by organisations and members of the public.

3.2 The Chair thanked Perri Selwood for her presentation and opportunities were identified for further collaboration with public health services, home improvement agencies, fire safety services and relevant multi-agency groups outside the CCSP meeting. The Bobby Scheme information would be shared with agencies to disseminate and to explore opportunities for closer operational links between The Bobby Scheme and relevant multi-agency groups. Action point 07/01

4. Confirmation of CCSP Chair and Election of Vice Chair

4.1 Samantha Shimmon (Cambridge City Council) was reappointed as Chair of the Cambridge Community Safety Partnership (CCSP), proposed by Mark Freeman and seconded by County Councillor David Levien.

4.2 Mark Freeman (Support Cambridgeshire) was elected as Vice Chair, proposed by Hannah Archdeacon and seconded by Samantha Shimmon.

4.3 The Board thanked Hannah Archdeacon (Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service) for her service as Vice Chair during the previous year as well as for her contributions and commitment to the CCSP.

5. Pre-advised questions from the general public

5.1 There were no pre-advised questions received from the public.

6. Minutes of 24 February 2026 meeting: Agreement

6.1 The Minutes of 24 February 2024 were agreed and would be published.

7. Action points: Review

7.1 The action points from the July CCSP meeting were reviewed. The neighbourhood model would be shared at the October CCSP meeting. Work relating to lithium-ion battery safety and e-scooter/e-bike charging remains ongoing. Members discussed the potential role of Trading Standards in leading future work due to the links with product safety and

battery standards. Action points 07/02 and 07/03

8. Overview of the Crime and Policing Act 2026

8.1 Inspector Shawn Emms gave an overview of the Crime and Policing Act. Key changes highlighted included:

- Decriminalisation of rough sleeping and begging.
- Expanded powers relating to closure orders for addressing antisocial behaviour.
- New powers allowing seizure of vehicles involved in antisocial behaviour without a prior warning.
- Stronger enforcement measures relating to fly-tipping, including driving licence penalty points.
- Continued emphasis on serious violence reduction, antisocial behaviour and partnership-based prevention activities.

The Partnership noted that the new legislation broadly supports current local priorities rather than creating significant changes in local direction.

9. Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) and Update on CCSP Strategic Priorities 2025-2027 Year Two:

9.1 Keryn Jalli updated the CCSP on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). Key points included:

- Future Community Safety Partnership arrangements will need to reflect new unitary authority structures.
- Existing statutory duties must continue seamlessly through the transition process.
- Consideration is being given to governance, operational delivery, local intelligence sharing and maintaining effective partnership arrangements.
- Further updates will be provided as government decisions on future geography become available.

It was agreed for Keryn Jalli to seek further information from the OPCC regarding impacts of devolution and governance changes. Action point 07/04

9.2 As there are changes within different agencies such as the Probation Service, Police and NHS, it was agreed for agencies to bring an update on their organisational change programmes to a future meeting. Action point 07/05

9.3 Keryn Jalli updated about the Strategic Priorities 2025-2027 (Year Two)

Priority 1: Preventing Violence and Exploitation - Progress included:

- Continued implementation of Operation Alleviate to identify and support children at risk of exploitation.
- Referrals from businesses and community organisations continued during Quarter 1.
- Tackling County Lines education work delivered in schools.
- Development of new educational materials with Anglia Ruskin University.
- Ongoing support for Romsey Mill targeted youth work and projects tackling violence against women and girls.

Priority 2: A Neighbourhood Approach - Progress included:

- Continued neighbourhood engagement activity.
- Deployment of remote CCTV where appropriate to address antisocial behaviour concerns.
- Development of neighbourhood-based data and intelligence approaches.

Priority 3: Tackling Acquisitive Crime - Progress included:

- Development of a retail crime evidence pack.
- Ongoing work on a retail crime pilot.
- Continued success of offender-focused activity.

Ongoing work of the Cambridge Cycle Crime Reduction Group, with a reported 70% reduction in cycle crime since 2019.

10. Deep Dive Reports 2026/27

10.1 Following a presentation by Keryn Jalli and Mike Yates, the Board agreed two proposed deep-dive areas:

- Development of a neighbourhood dashboard and data framework to improve understanding of local communities and to enhance decision-making. The deep dive report is not to create the dashboard, nor make the final decision on the datasets to be included but to produce a detailed review of the potentially available datasets with recommendations where possible.

- A review of Community Safety Partnership governance, statutory duties and future arrangements in light of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) and wider organisational change across partner agencies. The Board emphasised the importance of ensuring future governance arrangements continue to support effective partnership working. Action point 07/06

11. Update on the Health and the Street Art Project

11.1 Becca Cook provided an update on the "Healing Through Street Art" project which worked with young people to explore the impact of trauma through creative arts. Highlights included: Exhibitions have been displayed at Cambridge Central Library, Huntingdon Library and are planned for further venues including Anglia Ruskin University. Positive public feedback has been received, particularly regarding awareness of trauma, wellbeing and available support services. A journal article and wider communications activity are being explored to share learning nationally.

12. Serious Violence Duty Funding and High Harms Board Update

12.1 Keryn Jalli said that the CCSP funding applications had been approved for:

- Romsey Mill targeted youth support.
- Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) prevention work.

The CCSP noted concerns regarding increased national requirements for match funding and tighter criteria for future Serious Violence Duty funding allocations. These developments may present future funding risks for local prevention projects.

13. Annual Review 2026: Agreement

13.1 Louise Walker presented a draft version of the Annual Review, which provides an overview of the work of the partnership, priorities, and projects. The CCSP Board noted the wide range of partnership activity undertaken during the year, including violence prevention projects, Student safety campaigns, and Purple Flag activity. The Annual Review was approved and would be published on the CCSP webpage.

14. Community Safety Fund 2025/16 End of Year Financial Report

14,1 Louise Walker presented the financial report. The Partnership Members were advised that available funding had been fully allocated to agreed projects and initiatives. A small balance will be carried forward for future partnership priorities.

15. Partnership Terms of Reference: Agreement

15.1 The revised Terms of Reference were approved. Updates reflected the Crime and Policing Act 2026, organisational name changes among partner

agencies, and administrative updates.

16. Future Meeting Dates: Agreement

16.1 The meeting dates were agreed for 2026/27. The Chair thanked Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service for hosting the meetings. Venue arrangements for future CCSP meetings were discussed and alternative city locations would be explored with other CCSP agencies. Action point 07/07

17. Written reports noted

17.1 The County Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Report for Q4 2025/26 was noted.

18. Any Other Business

18.1 The CCSP noted national recognition received for partnership work:

- Cambridge BID's Purple Flag partnership work was shortlisted in the Town and City Management Industry Awards 2026.
- The CCSP Cycle Crime Reduction Group was shortlisted in the National Acquisitive Crime Reduction Awards 2026. In addition, Inspector Shawn Emms and Keryn Jalli were presenting the Cambridge Cycle Crime Reduction Group's work at a national conference.

18.2 As there was no other business, the Chair thanked the Board and Members for their valuable contributions and the meeting was closed.

Cambridge Community Safety Partnership

- 13 October 2026

ACTION POINTS FROM 7 JULY 2026

MONTH / NUMBER	ACTION POINT	ACTION
07/01	Louise Walker (City Council) to circulate to CCSP members The Bobby Scheme information to explore relevant opportunities for closer operational links in the city.	Closed: Shared on 7 July 2026. The website link is The Bobby Project - Making Homes Safer which has a referral form or email: bobbyscheme@cambs.police.uk This was shared with CCSP Members including Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service, and Public Health as well as Cambridgeshire Home Improvement Agency (HIA) - a strategic partnership between Cambridge City Council, Huntingdonshire District Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council.
07/02	Diane Lane (NHS) and Vicky Haywood (City Council) to share neighbourhood model update at CCSP.	Closed: October CCSP meeting agenda item.
07/03	Ian McLaughlin (County Council) to contact Trading Standards regarding potential leadership of CCSP lithium-ion battery/e-scooter safety work.	Closed: Action carried over from July 2026 meeting and update to be shared.
07/04	Keryn Jalli (City Council) to seek further information from the OPCC regarding impacts of devolution	In progress.

	and governance changes.	
07/05	Louise Walker to liaise with agencies about bringing an update on organisational change programmes (LGR, NHS, policing, probation and related reforms) to a future CCSP meeting.	In progress - Probation to provide an update at the October 2026 meeting.
07/06	Mike Yates (County Council) and Keryn Jalli to develop the agreed deep-dive specifications and circulate proposals to members.	Closed – To be shared at the October 2026 meeting.
07/07	Louise Walker to liaise with CCSP agencies about potential future CCSP meeting venues.	In progress.

Cambridgeshire County Council

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Partnership

Cambridgeshire Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Partnership

Annual Report

2025/26

Working Together to Tackle Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Across Cambridgeshire

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Prepared by:
Cambridgeshire Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence Partnership

Reporting Period:
April 2025 – March 2026

Date of Publication:
July 2026

CAMBRIDGESHIRE
DOMESTIC ABUSE & SEXUAL VIOLENCE PARTNERSHIP

Cambridgeshire Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence (DASV) Annual Report 2025/26

Introduction

I am proud to present the 2025/26 Annual Report for the Cambridgeshire Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Partnership Team.

This has been a pivotal year of change, marked by the decoupling of arrangements across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. As a result, this is the first report that solely reflects the Cambridgeshire partnership.

Within the report, you will find updates across all areas we are responsible for under the Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy, alongside updates on the Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) Service, Domestic Homicide Reviews, and the wider work of the partnership.

Over the past year, we have continued to build resilience within services, improve pathways for victims and survivors and deepen our understanding of the challenges faced across Cambridgeshire. While we are proud of the progress made, we remain ambitious and committed to further strengthening our response, tackling gaps, and ensuring that those affected by domestic abuse and sexual violence receive the support, safety, and justice they deserve.

Throughout the report you will find case studies illustrating the work that has been undertaken. Names within the case studies have been changed to protect identities.

This report not only reflects on our achievements but also sets out priorities for 2026/27 as we continue to drive forward.

Julia Cullum
Head of Service – Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence, Cambridgeshire County Council

CAMBRIDGESHIRE
DOMESTIC ABUSE & SEXUAL VIOLENCE PARTNERSHIP

Independent Domestic Violence Adviser (IDVA) Service

The IDVA Service supports victims of domestic abuse that have been referred by a professional. The service takes referrals for:

- High Risk Victims: MARAC level or those scoring 14-16 on DASH Risk Assessment with consent
- Housing Link: Referrals from housing providers and associations at any risk level
- Minority Ethnic: Victims at any risk level, predominately from South Asia
- Young People: Aged 13-17 experiencing domestic abuse in their own intimate relationships
- Stalking: High risk domestic abuse related stalking and non- domestic abuse related stalking at any risk level
- Conditional cautions: Victims where the perpetrator has been given a conditional caution for domestic abuse related crimes.

In 2025/26 the service received a total of **1,957** referrals and supported **1,794** clients. The overall engagement rate for clients was **83%**

Referrals received by district:

	Total referrals	Referral Criteria	Repeat Referrals
Cambs City	470	396	172
East Cambs	204	181	54
Fenland	320	278	101
Hunts	482	423	168
South Cambs	340	288	116

Young Peoples (YP) IDVA

78 referrals were received across Cambridgeshire & Peterborough during 2025/26
YP IDVAs cover the county of Cambridgeshire including Peterborough City. The Peterborough IDVA Service take discretion on high-risk MARAC YP referrals that come into their service.
2025/26 referrals saw a significant drop in comparison to 2024/25. This is directly linked to the change in age threshold from 13-19 years to 13-17 years. Referrals continue to be accepted for clients who have been looked after children (LAC) but the age is now clients up to 21 years and not 24 years.
The change in threshold is to enable YP IDVAs to maintain a strong focus on targeting schools and colleges with students aged 13-17 years and specialist Young Persons Services in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.
The YP IDVA role was created with a focus on promoting early intervention and prevention work with young people, particularly those who are prematurely entering into abusive intimate relationships. Often YP IDVA clients are being groomed and / or targeted into abusive intimate relationships by others.
Networking has included freshers' days / open days / student groups in ten education settings.

Effective working links have been made with the following YP professionals in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough:

- Cambs Risk Outside the Home Team (ROTH)
- Peterborough Young Persons Service (ROTH team equivalent)
- Cambridge Rape Crisis.
- Peterborough Rape Crisis.
- Peterborough Women's Aid
- Centre 33 YP Counselling Service.
- CASUS- substance misuse service for YP.
- CAMHS – children and adolescent mental health service.
- CF Networking Forum (YP Mental Health)
- 'Fire Break' face to face sessions in partnership with Cambs/ Peterborough Fire Service. The sessions containing approximately 10 children focussed on 'consent' within intimate relationships, with young people The children were aged around 15 years who had been involved in the Youth Criminal Justice system. In addition, a YP IDVA presentation was made to all Fire Service Safeguarding leads for

- Cambs and Peterborough. In total, there were nine sessions spanning 6 months. A further Fire break session plan will take place in this forthcoming year also.
- Cambs Education Teachers Conference.
- Peterborough Education conference.
- YP IDVA online presentation to 'Safer Corridors Tool Kit' with countywide school safeguarding leads.
- Safer Schools Sergeant - Susie Tinsley, who oversees all allocated Police School Liaison officers in Cambs and Peterborough.
- YP IDVA presentation during 16 DASV Days of Action.
- SVD Community of Practice Day- YP IDVA online presentation and Q and A session organised by Police Serious Violence Co-Ordinator Sharon Ward.
- Cambridge Romsey Mill- working with challenging and disadvantages YP and families.

YP IDVAs have embraced the SureSafe Watches Scheme, with five of the ten watches we have been given going to YP IDVA clients. The feedback has been very positive; clients use has been part ongoing bespoke safety plans, and they feel very much safer for having them.
SureSafe watches are a discreet, immediate support tool that can be used by high-risk post-separation survivors to call for help in dangerous situations.

Case Study: Client accessing YP IDVA support

Situation

Emily was a 17-year-old pregnant female living with her parents and siblings, who had recently separated from her intimate partner, whom she identified as the perpetrator of domestic abuse. The initial referral was made by the Family Nurse Partnership via a DASH following Emily's disclosure of abuse. During early engagement, the IDVA gathered further information regarding the risks posed by the perpetrator and escalated the case to MARAC. Emily disclosed that she had experienced significant coercive and controlling behaviour, alongside threats made towards her pets, family, and property. She sought support regarding her safety, the wellbeing of her unborn baby, and concerns about the perpetrator's involvement as the child's father. She was particularly worried that the birth of the baby could trigger further escalation and was unsure of her rights in relation to contact. A referral to Children's Social Care had also been made, resulting in a strategy discussion, with the unborn baby placed on a Child Protection Plan and Emily on a Child in Need Plan.

Challenges

At the outset, Emily found it difficult to engage with Children's Social Care, and advocacy support was required to strengthen this relationship. She was initially unsure about her separation from the perpetrator and minimised aspects of the abuse she had experienced. Emily did not wish to report the abuse to the police, which required sensitive and supportive discussions around informed decision-making. Her age and pregnancy added further complexity, alongside her concerns about the perpetrator's ongoing involvement. There were also identified risks of escalation, including potential arson, which required careful safety planning and coordinated multi-agency intervention

Response

A multi-agency approach was taken, with the IDVA working closely alongside midwifery, the Family Nurse Partnership, and Children's Social Care. Emily was supported through domestic abuse education, including beginning the *Own My Life* programme, to help her understand healthy and unhealthy relationship behaviours. Ongoing safety planning was completed collaboratively, including exploring her options, legal rights, and safe ways to manage the perpetrator's involvement during pregnancy, birth, and future child contact. Target hardening measures were implemented, including a visit from the local fire service due to the identified arson risk. The IDVA also provided consistent advocacy to support Emily's engagement with Children's Social Care and ensure her views were represented.

Outcome

As a result of the intervention, comprehensive safety planning was established, jointly created with Emily and Children's Social Care, addressing her safety during pregnancy, birth, and beyond, including arrangements for safe child contact and communication. Emily engaged well in one-to-one sessions with the IDVA and worked through tailored *Own My Life* modules, which supported her to reflect on her experiences and build self-efficacy. Her engagement with Children's Social Care improved significantly following ongoing advocacy and support.

Impact

Emily developed a greater understanding of domestic abuse and the risks posed to both herself and her unborn baby. She became more receptive to professional concerns and worked more collaboratively with services to make informed decisions about her future and her child's wellbeing. Her confidence increased, and she became better able to recognise unhealthy behaviours and maintain her safety. The coordinated multi-agency approach reduced immediate risks and strengthened safeguarding arrangements for both Emily and her baby.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE
DOMESTIC ABUSE & SEXUAL VIOLENCE PARTNERSHIP

Case study: client accessing YP IDVA support

Situation

Abby, aged 15, was referred shortly after being diagnosed with ADHD. She entered a relationship with a male of a similar age that quickly became controlling, then physically and emotionally abusive. He isolated her from friends, controlled her appearance and movements, and only allowed her out if he was present. He threatened to kill her with a knife and filmed intimate acts, later using these recordings to coerce her by threatening to share them. His contact was relentless, alternating between threats and affection, creating a cycle of fear and manipulation.

After a serious assault, Abby ended the relationship and reported it to the police. Despite being arrested, the perpetrator breached bail conditions, manipulated Abby into meeting him, and encouraged secrecy. He escalated the abuse by sharing an intimate video with one of her friends. Abby then disclosed to her mother, leading to his re-arrest and remand in custody. From this point, Abby engaged fully with services, completing ABE interviews and supporting the case to court.

challenges

Abby's engagement was initially inconsistent due to the perpetrator's control, manipulation and threats, which affected her trust in professionals. Her ADHD diagnosis also impacted her ability to engage consistently and process trauma.

Risk remained high during the bail period as the perpetrator maintained influence over her. His emotional hold made it difficult for Abby to recognise the abuse and disengage. The criminal justice process added further complexity, particularly as she had to give evidence without her mother's support, as her mother was also a witness.

Response

Support was provided from referral using a flexible, person-centred approach, allowing Abby to engage at her own pace. Sessions were held in environments she chose, including school, home and community settings, with practical support such as transport. This helped her feel in control and improved engagement.

As trust developed, Abby disclosed more about her experiences. Informal educational work challenged beliefs shaped by the perpetrator, covering sexual health, consent, coercion (including Biderman's theory), abusive behaviours, and identifying healthy relationships, boundaries, and red and green flags.

Support continued throughout the investigation, with multi-agency liaison and attendance at Child In Need meetings. Through the court process, Abby received emotional and practical support, including preparation, physical support and help delivering her victim impact statement, which was especially important without her mother present.

After court, an adapted "Own My Life" programme was introduced, alongside ongoing safeguarding support from a Police Prevention and Vulnerability Hub officer.

Outcome

The perpetrator received a 12-month Detention and Training Order, with approximately two months remaining after time served on remand. A one-year restraining order was issued, and he was to be monitored by the Youth Offending Team for six months post-release.

This period of separation allowed Abby to reflect on the abuse and begin rebuilding her autonomy, while developing confidence and resilience to refuse future contact.

Impact

Abby made significant progress, gaining a clear understanding of the abuse and recognising the perpetrator would not change. She developed a sense of agency, understanding she did not have to maintain contact.

She became more optimistic and independent, engaging well in college and exploring future goals. Her relationship with her mother improved, she engaged in CAMHS counselling and began managing her ADHD more effectively by taking medication consistently.

Support remains ongoing through the adapted "Own My Life" programme and beyond the perpetrator's release, to manage potential risks and reinforce Abby's safety, independence, and emotional wellbeing.

Minority Ethnic (ME) IDVA

147 ME referrals were received in Cambridgeshire during 2025/26 of which **37** were high risk.
During the autumn of 2025 the ME IDVA has delivered NRPF training to all Cambs IDVA staff. The feedback from all three sessions was very positive and clearly empowered and gave renewed confidence to IDVA staff supporting NRPF clients.

The ME IDVA has marketed the role with the following DA partners:

- Cambridges Women's Aid.
- Fenland and Mid Hunts Refuges.
- Sakina Helpline- a helpline for SE Asian women in crisis.
- Forced Marriage Unit and Helpline.
- Southall Black Sisters
- SE Asian WhatsApp Group.
- Trusted named Immigration solicitors in Cambridgeshire.
- Project 17
- Maternity safeguarding at The Rosie Hospital at CUH.

Extensive networking with services such as PWA Dahlia Project, Immigration Advisors and solicitors helps to maintain the profile of the ME IDVA

Case study: ME IDVA support

Situation

This case highlights the importance of continuous learning, professional curiosity, and confident advocacy, alongside the need to challenge gaps in partner agency understanding.

Suriya had experienced 20 years of abuse, escalating after moving to the UK four years ago. She faced coercive control, emotional and financial abuse, and total financial dependence. After leaving the relationship, she secured MVDAC but was ineligible under the DV route. Her subsequent visa application was refused, and she submitted an in-time appeal with legal support.

Challenges

When Suriya's MVDAC leave expired, her benefits were stopped and she was made homeless, despite Section 3C extending her leave and entitlement during her appeal. She relied on friends, food banks, and vouchers, which significantly impacted her wellbeing.

Housing support presented further barriers:

- First refusal – "No right to reside": Housing incorrectly denied her eligibility, disregarding Section 3C and questioning her Universal Credit.
- Second refusal – Denial of review rights: A statutory review was refused, with incorrect demands for Home Office evidence.
- Third stage – Resistance to statutory guidance: Only after challenge, legal clarification, and potential escalation did housing accept a review request.

Suriya experienced high anxiety throughout, fearing loss of her only income. IDVA support was vital in maintaining her confidence, safety, and consent-led engagement.

Response

The IDVA provided consistent emotional and practical support. Through professional curiosity, they identified Section 3C and successfully supported reinstatement of Universal Credit, with Home Office confirmation of entitlement.

They persistently challenged housing, corrected misinformation, and asserted legal duties, including the right to a review. Escalation was used where necessary. A strong, trust-based relationship ensured Suriya remained informed, empowered, and in control of decisions, enabling continued advocacy.

Outcome

Following sustained advocacy, housing overturned their decision, accepted a homelessness duty, and placed Suriya in temporary accommodation. After six months, she secured social housing, with additional financial support from the IDVA service.

Impact

Suriya is now safe, settled, and rebuilding her life.

This case demonstrates the impact of informed advocacy, particularly in complex immigration cases, and how misunderstandings across agencies increase risk. It highlights the importance of challenge, knowledge-sharing, and trauma-informed, empowering practice in helping survivors regain stability, dignity, and independence.

Independent Stalking Advocacy Caseworker (ISAC)

The ISAC based within the IDVA service, has had a significant and clearly positive impact across Cambridgeshire over the past 12 months, strengthening how victims of stalking and harassment are identified, supported, and safeguarded.

100 referrals, both domestic abuse and non-domestic abuse, have been received during 2025/26.

The involvement in the **C**ambridgeshire **S**talking **I**ntervention **P**rogramme (CSIP) has ensured that victims receive specialist advocacy alongside behavioural-change work with perpetrators, helping reduce repeat harm and improving long-term safety planning.

The ISAC's co-location within the Victim and Witness Hub in Peterborough has also impacted positively on partnership working; being physically embedded with criminal justice partners has created faster referrals, more accurate risk assessments, and a more joined-up response for victims at the earliest opportunity.

A major, recent development this year has been the introduction of countywide Stalking Clinics, a new initiative that gives officers direct access to expert advice and guidance on live cases. Clinics are held in police stations across the county. These clinics allow frontline officers to consult specialists, including the ISAC, on risk, evidence gathering, victim safety and stalking behaviours, improving both investigative quality and victim experience.

Overall, the ISAC's presence has strengthened the county's entire response to stalking; improving professional knowledge, enhancing victim safety, and ensuring that stalking and harassment are recognised and treated with the seriousness they demand.

Case study: support from ISAC

Situation

Trudy, 57, experienced non-domestic stalking after declining a relationship with a fellow allotment holder. The perpetrator's behaviour escalated, driven by resentment and false beliefs about her, including accusations of racism and access to confidential information. He carried out intimidating acts such as leaving threatening notes, erecting a "female burial plot" sign, and deliberately working close to her to cause fear.

Challenges

Over 18 months, the stalking became persistent and intrusive, severely affecting Trudy's safety and wellbeing. The perpetrator followed her, identified her home, waited outside, and appeared to track her movements. Incidents escalated to suspected trespass, property interference, vehicle damage, and distressing acts like throwing a dead rat into her garden. She experienced significant psychological distress and feared not being believed.

He also caused reputational harm by sending derogatory emails to allotment holders and council colleagues, affecting her confidence and career. Feeling unsafe, she stepped down to a lower-paid role and took sick leave. She was later diagnosed with anxiety and depression, requiring medication and counselling.

Response

The case was referred to a multi-agency safeguarding framework (CSIP), with consideration of a Stalking Protection Order. Trudy was supported to report incidents and gather evidence. ISAC and partners worked with the Officer in Charge to address delays and progress the investigation.

Practical safety measures were implemented, including security equipment such as cameras, lighting, and reinforced locks. She was referred to counselling and given ongoing emotional support.

Engagement with other affected women led to further reports. Additional support included housing advice, job applications, and regular safety planning, ensuring she remained informed throughout the process.

Outcome

Following multi-agency intervention, police reopened the case, recorded stalking offences, and gathered witness statements. The perpetrator faced potential arrest, and an SPO was considered. The council also acted by removing his allotment access, installing CCTV, and forming a women's safety group. Despite this, the criminal case resulted in no further action, and the SPO was unsuccessful. The perpetrator has since ceased contact. Trudy remained engaged with support services and pursued a Victims' Right to Review, though the decision was upheld. Positively, she secured a new job despite earlier concerns.

Impact

Although the legal outcome was disappointing, the support had a significant positive impact. Trudy felt believed, validated, and supported, helping rebuild her confidence and resilience. She is now better able to move forward and is determined not to let the perpetrator control her future.

The case highlights the lasting impact of non-domestic stalking and the importance of coordinated holistic support. Continued reporting and access to support have reduced her isolation and empowered her recovery.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE
DOMESTIC ABUSE & SEXUAL VIOLENCE PARTNERSHIP

Feedback from IDVA clients

'you have played so many roles in supporting me throughout

You have been – well yes, a rock obviously !

Thank you for standing beside me when I was terrified and helping me believe that safety, dignity and hope were still possible.

Your involvement was absolutely fundamental, without you I honestly think I'd have dissolved early on

I will always remember the warmth, determination and hope you carried into my home and into my life.

What you do is 'literally, actually really awesome'

Thank you so much I am now not afraid to seek help if needed in the future you have given me the courage to do that

Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)

MARAC meetings are held in Cambridgeshire on Wednesdays and Fridays, with additional meetings scheduled during periods of increased demand.
MARAC Plus meetings are convened for particularly complex cases where more than the standard twenty minutes is required to develop a comprehensive, risk-led action plan.
MARACs are chaired on a rotational basis by managers from the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (DASV) Partnership and Police Inspectors.
In 2024, the DASV Partnership commissioned SafeLives to undertake an independent review of MARAC, with the findings shared in late 2025. Recommendations have been considered at both operational and strategic levels, with many already implemented through the service improvements outlined below.
The MARAC is governed by the MARAC Steering Group which meets quarterly and continues to provide strategic oversight, driving development and improvements to the effectiveness and performance of MARAC arrangements. Findings and recommendations from the Safe Lives review have been considered by the Steering Group including reviews of risk thresholds, format and frequency of meetings. The Steering Group addresses attendance issues and monitors performance data.
Over the past 12 months, a comprehensive review of the processes underpinning MARAC has been undertaken. This has included revisions to the Operating Protocol, Closed Case Protocol and Information Sharing Agreement.
Cambridgeshire County Council DASV Partnership - Strategic Documents,
Several service improvements and new processes have been introduced during the year to strengthen the effectiveness of MARAC. These include earlier circulation of agendas to allow partners sufficient time to prepare, clearer and more consistent recording of children listed on agendas, and the development of an acronyms list.
Cambridgeshire County Council DASV Partnership - MARAC.
The Safe Lives review suggested a focus on structured risk identification, SMART action planning and bespoke timescales. MARAC meetings – led by the Chairs – are now focussed on supporting partners to practice and implement these recommendations.
Earlier this year, a MARAC Case Audit process was introduced. Core partner agencies meet quarterly to evaluate the effectiveness of multi-agency contributions throughout the MARAC pathway, from initial referral through to the completion of agreed actions. The audits aim to identify strengths, gaps and shared learning opportunities to enhance partnership working and improve outcomes for victims.

MARAC Data

A total of **941** referrals were made to MARAC during 2025/26 representing an increase of **93** referrals compared with the previous year. There was a notable rise in referrals at the escalation stage.
The proportion of repeat referrals was **35%**, showing a slight decrease from the previous year. In response to repeat cases, the police have introduced additional triaging processes to ensure that referrals are appropriate for consideration at MARAC.
The overall age profile of clients remains consistent with the previous year. The highest proportion of referrals related to clients aged 36 - 41. There were **63** referrals for clients aged 60 and over, including one case involving a client aged over 90. Referrals for clients aged 25 and under totalled **150**, marking an increase compared with last year.
Analysis of gender shows a small increase in the proportion of male clients (8% compared to 6% last year), although most referrals continue to involve female victims.
While the police remain the primary referral source, there was strong engagement from partner agencies. Of the **941** referrals, **193** originated from agencies other than the police, demonstrating continued multi-agency involvement.
There was a slight decrease in cases involving children, with **523** referrals compared to **549** in the previous year.
Additionally, **51** clients, approximately **5%**, were recorded as being pregnant at the time of referral.
The collection of data relating to disability and sexuality continues to be an area for development.

- **257** referrals, **27%**, identified the client as having a disability.
- In terms of sexuality:
  - **873** clients, almost **93%**, were recorded as heterosexual
  - **3** clients identified as bisexual
  - **6** as gay
  - **6** as lesbian

Improving the completeness and accuracy of this data remains a priority.
Ethnicity data was not recorded for **12%** of referrals, indicating further scope for improvement in data capture.
White British clients remain the largest recorded ethnic group, accounting for **33%** of referrals.

MARAC Co-Ordinators

MARAC Coordinators are the central coordinating hub. Working at the heart of the MARAC process, they ensure that information flows smoothly between partners and cases move efficiently from referral through to coordinated multi agency action.
Key Responsibilities

- Manage referrals efficiently, working to ensure a smooth and timely journey from cases arriving in the inbox to being scheduled on MARAC agendas and distributed to partners, including responding flexibly when last minute changes are unavoidable.
- Work closely with partner agencies to gather and share information in advance of meetings, enabling thorough research to be completed and ensuring the right professionals can attend and contribute on the day.
- Plan and coordinate attendance for each case, keeping oversight of partner participation so that meetings can progress as smoothly as possible.
- Monitor timing carefully, recognising that MARAC don't always run to schedule.
- Accurately capture and record the information shared during meetings, including risks identified and actions agreed.
- Monitor and record action completion outside of MARAC meetings, including issuing reminders for outstanding actions after two months.
- Maintain the wider MARAC infrastructure, ensuring information sharing agreements are in place, transferring cases into and out of area where required, and contributing to ongoing development and scrutiny activity.

Supporting partner agencies to participate in MARAC is at the heart of the MARAC co-ordinator's role, aiming to reduce administrative burden and stress, offering practical assistance wherever possible and making participation in MARAC as straightforward and accessible as it can be.
They are readily available to:

- Answer questions
- Share information
- Troubleshoot issues
- Provide guidance on process and expectations

As Coordinators, they are grateful for the strong commitment shown by MARAC partners, whose active participation is key to the effectiveness of the process. They also appreciate the understanding and collaboration shown when, despite everyone's best efforts, meetings do not always run entirely to plan. This collective approach is fundamental to delivering an effective, responsive MARAC that keeps survivor safety at its core.

DHR's

In the last year there have been four referrals for DHR's made. two of these have not met the criteria for a DHR to be held, the other two have resulted in DHR's being commenced.
Ten reviews were submitted to the Home Office for the Quality Assurance process. Unfortunately, there are large delays currently at this stage in the process and only four were returned in the same period, three requesting further work and resubmission and one only requiring minor edits prior to publication.
Four reviews have been published and are available via the DASV partnership website - either in full or summary documents have also been produced Cambridgeshire County Council DASV Partnership - DHR Summaries
Work is currently ongoing to complete a review of DHR's commenced since the DASV partnership took over the co-ordination of the reviews in April 2021. The aim is to look for recurring themes and recommendations of the 26 reviews - 14 relating to homicides and 12 to suicides.
Recommendations from the reviews are constantly being implemented across all agencies involved and learning events held in various formats.

Domestic Abuse Strategic Health Lead

This new post was introduced in May 2025, following the restructure of the DASV service, and is funded by Public Health Cambridgeshire. The purpose of the role is to improve the recognition of and response to domestic abuse from health agencies across Cambridgeshire.
A key challenge of the role initially was the removal of the Health IDVA posts, due to reduced funding from government, and the shortened referral pathways that had been in place to allow health agencies to refer to the IDVA Service without completing a DASH or full MARAC referral. The Health IDVA roles had significantly improved the number of referrals from health agencies, particularly GPs, so it was key to maintain and build on these improvements and relationships.
The Health Strategic Lead worked closely with the Integrated Care Board to ensure messaging about changed referral pathways was communicated to all health agencies and provided training and awareness on assessing risk in domestic abuse.

Several activities were delivered between May 2025 and March 2026, including:

- Training both in person and online to 200 staff in GP practices
- A workshop around domestic abuse and dementia with Older People's Mental Health
- Writing bi-weekly DA focussed articles for the ICB GP newsletter email
- Meeting with the SARC manager to identify and take forward issues around health agency referrals
- Linking with Cambridge University Hospitals to update carer policies to include domestic abuse
- Setting up an operational group to take forward work around DASV and Health
- Joined the PH Suicide Prevention Group to lead on work around DA and suicide
- Developed two new awareness resources focused on non-fatal strangulation and coercive control specifically for display in health settings

DASV Partnership Officer

The DASV Partnership Officer supports the effective day-to-day operation of the partnership, ensuring that partners remain connected, informed, and able to work collaboratively. This includes coordinating meetings and events and creating opportunities for professionals to come together to share learning, address challenges, and maintain a collective focus on improving outcomes. A key aspect of the role is communication, including the development of a monthly newsletter, the dissemination of key information, and supporting efforts to raise awareness of domestic abuse and sexual violence across communities.

The role also involves supporting and developing the Domestic Abuse Champions network, working closely with members to strengthen their confidence, knowledge, and engagement within their respective organisations.

In addition, the DASV Partnership Officer contributes to partnership reports and provides quarterly data to support the monitoring of progress and the identification of emerging themes, helping to ensure that the partnership's work remains evidence-informed and responsive to need.

Overall, the role plays a vital part in enabling collaboration and maintaining momentum across the partnership, supporting its continued ability to respond effectively to those affected by domestic abuse and sexual violence.

White Ribbon

The DASV Partnership is responsible for co-ordinating Cambridgeshire County Council's White Ribbon Accreditation.
White Ribbon is a global movement and ethos focused on ending violence against women and girls (VAWG) by engaging men and boys as part of the solution.
Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) has been White Ribbon Accredited since 2018 and was successfully reaccredited in 2024. Accreditation lasts for three years and demonstrates a genuine organisational commitment to preventing VAWG.
White Ribbon Accreditation shows that an organisation takes VAWG seriously and holds leaders accountable for modelling respectful behaviour. It requires active senior leadership involvement, clear governance, and evidence of action, not just statements of intent. CCC's White Ribbon Steering Group meets twice yearly to oversee progress and delivery.

Ambassadors and Champions
25 men employed by CCC are White Ribbon Ambassadors. Each has taken a pledge to actively promote the White Ribbon ethos and help prevent men's violence against women and girls through everyday leadership, influence and action.
Around 19 women employed by CCC are White Ribbon Champions. Champions uphold White Ribbon values, encourage respectful behaviour and challenge harmful attitudes and norms that contribute to VAWG.

Action and progress
CCC has a three-year White Ribbon Action Plan, which is regularly reviewed by the Steering Group to ensure momentum and accountability

Key achievements include:

- HR policies that explicitly cover domestic abuse and sexual violence (DASV) and VAWG, supported by a Respect at Work Disclosure Tool.
- The Wellbeing Hub now features DASV support prominently on its front page.
- White Ribbon information is included in induction training for all new starters.
- Twice-yearly Ambassador meetings to share learning, stay aligned with VAWG priorities and access relevant training, such as Suzy Lamplugh Trust Bystander training.
- Ongoing communications promoting the White Ribbon ethos, encouraging colleagues to sign up as Ambassadors and Champions and signposting to DASV support and safe spaces.

White Ribbon Day and 16 Days of Action

White Ribbon Day takes place each year on 25 November, marking the start of the 16 Days of Action against gender-based violence.

In 2025, White Ribbon was the focus of a CCC EDI Conversation. Hearing directly from someone with lived experience made the session particularly impactful, with almost 200 colleagues attending or watching the recording. To further reinforce the message, Cambridgeshire County Council Chief Executive, Stephen Moir, and Lead Ambassador, Cllr Laurence Damary-Homan, recorded interviews highlighting the importance of stamping out VAWG.

The Christmas tree at New Shire Hall was adorned with White Ribbons, with a plaque linking the decoration to the White Ribbon ethos.

Together, these actions reflect Cambridgeshire County Council's ongoing commitment to creating a respectful, supportive workplace and playing an active role in ending violence against women and girls.

Safe Accommodation Strategy (SAS)

Safe Accommodation Needs Assessment

In 2025/26 the Cambridgeshire County Council Policy and Insight team undertook a Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Needs Assessment for Cambridgeshire. This is a requirement of Tier 1 local authorities from the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and follows the previous needs assessment in 2021.

The full needs assessment can be found here:

Safe Accommodation Needs Assessment 2025

The main recommendations are:

- Care Experience and Armed Forces - improvements in data collection for these groups
- Sanctuary Scheme / Target Hardening – improvements in data collection, including number of children supported
- Managed Reciprocals Scheme – to be reviewed considering national policy changes
- Second Stage Accommodation - consider the provision of Second Stage accommodation in Cambridgeshire
- Flexible Funding - to continue to offer flexible funding in Cambridgeshire as part of the Whole Housing Approach to safe accommodation.

- Accessibility - consider improvements in accessibility to include establishing one wheelchair accessible dispersed property and working with Cambridgeshire Deaf Association around safe accommodation for deaf victims
- Homelessness / perpetrators - link with systems and processes to understand how perpetrator access to stable accommodation affects risk to victims/ survivors locally
- Homelessness / co-occurring needs - explore making analysis of co-occurring needs possible with local data in future, to understand local patterns among households owed a homelessness duty
- Rough Sleeping - to develop processes to support those rough sleeping in Cambridgeshire experiencing domestic abuse to access support appropriate to their safe accommodation needs
- Capacity constraints and level of provision - to record patterns of occupancy in safe accommodation locally and review processes. This can help ensure occupancy rates are maximised
- Drug and Alcohol related needs - to seek ways to support consistent recording where clients disclose drug and alcohol use to Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs)
- Pet Ownership - to explore how pet ownership can become less of a barrier to accessing safe accommodation in Cambridgeshire
- Victim Voice – to carry out journey mapping exercises with both clients and professionals to gain more detailed insight
- Upcoming national changes – work to respond to the upcoming renters reform bill.

Over 2025 into 2026 there were positive additions to the SAS in our ability to fund a room in a complex needs refuge, 'The Nest', which provides refuge accommodation to survivors with drug and alcohol dependency. Accessing safe accommodation for survivors who are alcohol or drug dependent is an issue nationally, and these survivors are often at significant risk of harm and revictimisation. To be able to have access to safe accommodation for these survivors within our SAS is something we are proud of. We worked with the Household Support Fund (HSF) to pilot a flexible funding 'Rehouse Fund' to assist survivors moving into new homes with flooring, furniture and other housing costs. The aim was to increase client's sense of well-being and security, reduce the risk of re-victimisation and encourage resilience. This also helps to improve the well-being of the children of survivors by providing beds to sleep on, tables and chairs to eat and work on and reduces that sense of difference and fear that children experience when having had to flee their previous homes and possessions. This pilot made a

positive difference to survivors and their families taking that huge step into their own new safe homes.
We continue to build on our relations with local Housing Advice Teams and Housing Associations. There were temporary changes to co-location and referral pathways for housing teams for part of the year due to staffing and demand within the wider IDVA service.

one survivor has been supported at The Nest this year
Survivors supported by The Housing Support Rehouse Fund 2025/26
28
Children supported by The Housing Support Rehouse Fund 2025/26
42

Case study: Client where flexible funding was accessed

Situation

Una faced multiple and significant barriers that increased her vulnerability.

Her immigration status meant she was dependent on the perpetrator

She had no recourse to public funds (NRPF)

She was unemployed and had limited English language skills

The perpetrator actively exploited these vulnerabilities to exert control, deepening her isolation and dependency

She had previously been reluctant to leave the relationship, despite feeling unsafe

Response

The IDVA service maintained open access, ensuring Una knew support was available when she was ready. Following the escalation:

A risk-informed response was implemented

The IDVA supported Una in her decision to leave the relationship.

Emergency accommodation and travel were arranged using flexible funding due to her NRPF status.

Outcome

Una and her child were successfully relocated to refuge accommodation in another area.

The immediate risk of harm was significantly reduced.

Impact

The intervention marked a critical turning point, empowering Una to take her first steps towards leaving an abusive relationship.

Barriers relating to immigration status, finances, and language were effectively mitigated through tailored and responsive support.

Una's safety, independence, and future stability were significantly strengthened.

Case study: Client where flexible funding was accessed:

Situation

Margaret is an adult woman living with significant vulnerabilities linked to her complex mental health needs, including bipolar disorder severe anxiety and depression, alcoholism, and agoraphobia. She was residing in her own home where her adult son also had access. Over time, the relationship became unsafe, with escalating patterns of domestic abuse. Margaret's circumstances left her socially isolated, with limited financial resources and reduced ability to seek support independently, making her increasingly reliant on emergency services during crisis situations.

Challenges

Over a period of approximately three years, Margaret experienced high-risk domestic abuse from her adult son. A repeated cycle developed in which she would contact the police during dangerous incidents, leading to her son's arrest, but she would later withdraw her support due to feelings of guilt and fear of him receiving a criminal record. This pattern enabled the perpetrator to become increasingly empowered, as he would return to her home after release and continue the abuse.

The situation escalated further, with physical violence becoming more severe. Her son would also hide or destroy her phone, preventing her from seeking help during incidents. As a result, Margaret lived in constant fear and had limited financial means to take protective measures independently, further increasing her vulnerability.

Response

A personalised safety plan was developed to support Margaret, which included the provision of a hidden "burner phone." This phone was funded through Flexible Funding, as Margaret did not have the financial means to purchase one herself. The device was carefully concealed within her home to ensure it remained unknown to the perpetrator.

This intervention provided Margaret with a reliable and discreet method of contacting emergency services, even in situations where her main phone had been taken or destroyed by her son. The safety planning focused on ensuring she could access help at critical moments without increasing her risk.

Outcome

Margaret was able to successfully use the burner phone during incidents of danger to contact emergency services. On these occasions, police attended and arrested the perpetrator. The perpetrator subsequently pleaded guilty to Actual Bodily Harm (ABH) in court.

As part of the longer-term safety measures, Margaret was relocated to a new property, and her son does not know her current address.

Impact

The use of Flexible Funding to provide the burner phone directly enhanced Margaret's safety, ensuring she could access emergency help when she would otherwise have had no means to do so. This intervention played a crucial role in reducing immediate risk and helped to break the ongoing cycle of abuse.

Margaret is now living in a safer environment, free from the perpetrator, and is no longer subject to the ongoing fear and control she previously experienced. The intervention also supported longer-term

Housing Link IDVAs

We have three IDVAs linking in with housing in areas of Cambridgeshire. Previously known as Housing IDVAs they are now called Housing Link IDVAs. This change clarifies their role in working with housing teams / providers to develop understanding and knowledge of domestic abuse and its impact on clients, as well as learning about housing options for survivors and understanding the legislation, policies and demand for housing in Cambridgeshire.
Housing Link IDVAs accept referrals at any risk level from housing teams and, going forward into 2026/2027, will develop links with the increasing number of Housing Associations providing social housing in Cambridgeshire.
Housing link IDVAs work closely with local councils and are currently co-located with South Cambridgeshire District Council and Huntingdon District Council and have links with Domestic Abuse (DA) leads in Cambridge City, Fenland District Council and East Cambridgeshire. We continue to support the teams with their commitments to Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) Accreditation, offering input into the steps they take to provide survivors with a trauma informed response to when facing housing crises and homelessness due to Domestic Abuse.

Housing Link IDVAs supported **102** survivors in 2025/26

DA awareness sessions and DAHA support

DA / IDVA awareness sessions were provided across Cambridgeshire to housing teams as well providing support to housing teams with their DAHA accreditation and reaccreditation journeys. This was via case audits, DAHA meetings and providing a review of housing services DA policies and procedures at their request.

Target hardening

Target hardening continues to provide clients of the IDVA service and Domestic Abuse services, across Cambridgeshire, a very swift sense of safety by ensuring their homes are made more secure.
This is achieved by:

- Bespoke safety assessments of survivors' properties
- Lock Changes

- Window and door alarms
- Door / letterbox security features
- Video Doorbell (VDB) and response lights for high-risk clients

The provider of the target hardening contract changed in January 2026, and 'Safe Partnership' now provide the service in Cambridgeshire. They are a Not For Profit (NFP) organisation offering a trauma informed service to all survivors.

Survivors supported by target hardening in 2025/26
308
Children supported by target hardening in 2025/26
404

Survivors with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF)

Survivors with NRPF encounter significant barriers in finding safe accommodation and *culturally appropriate* domestic abuse support. We continue to assist these survivors with short-term emergency accommodation funded through flexible funding. Within the IDVA service the minoritised ethnic (ME) IDVA has provided significant professional advocacy on behalf of clients supported, particularly those clients with children. The ME IDVA has also provided internal training to the IDVA team and developed a resource library to assist other IDVAs when they support clients with NRPF.

Dispersed Accommodation

Our dispersed accommodation properties still provide a safe option for clients, including those with pets and / or large families across Cambridgeshire. We continued our partnerships with Survivors Against Domestic Abuse (SADA) and Places for People to ensure that this resource is available to IDVA clients. In 2026/27 we would like to increase the number of these properties, in particular single person and disabled adapted accommodation.

Survivors supported in dispersed accommodation 2025/26
Eight

Children supported in dispersed accommodation 2025/26
Nine

Survivors supported in DASS dispersed accommodation 2025/26

Four

Children supported in DASS dispersed accommodation 2025/26

Seven

Case Study: Client Accessing Dispersed Accommodation with a Pet

Situation

Molly was referred to the IDVA service through a MARAC referral in December 2024. At the time, the perpetrator had been admitted to hospital and immediate safety planning, and support were put in place.

In February 2025, the situation escalated when the perpetrator was due to be discharged home. Molly was extremely fearful that they would return to the joint tenancy, placing her at risk of harm.

Challenges

Molly had a dog, and it was clear that she would not be separated from her pet. This meant she was unable to access local authority temporary accommodation, creating a significant barrier to safety. Remaining in the marital home was not a safe option.

Molly also faced additional challenges, including significant dyslexia, which made completing forms and managing a Universal Credit claim extremely difficult.

Response

A referral was made to dispersed safe accommodation in another area of Cambridgeshire where Molly could safely take their dog.

Alongside this, the IDVA service provided housing-related advocacy and ongoing safety planning, while P3 supported her with benefits and form-filling. The IDVA also liaised closely with the council's housing team regarding Molly's homelessness application.

Outcome

Molly was successfully offered permanent accommodation in a safe location. Support was provided with target hardening, a referral to Emmaus, and practical help to move into her new home.

Molly described her new home as *'my place, where I can be happy and not be frightened'.*

Impact

Molly reflected that it had been one of the most difficult years of her life - fleeing her home, living with constant fear, and coping with the death of her mother.

She expressed deep gratitude that a safe place had been found for her and her dog. With the support of the IDVA service, P3, SADA and the police, the client began to rebuild confidence and self-belief, recognising her own independence and strength.

Local refuges

Cambridge, Fenland and Mid Cambs / Hunts continued to receive funding via the Safe Accommodation Strategy Funding and continue to evidence the significant demand for refuge accommodation locally and nationally. The local refuges all said that the increased demand for social housing in Cambridgeshire had led to survivors having to remain longer in refuge. This can lead to additional support being provided for those families and therefore a lack of available bedspaces for survivors needing emergency accommodation.
All local refuges also noted the challenges of supporting NRPF survivors and their families in their refuges. Not only having to chase funding / payments from children's services teams in other parts of the UK, but also the additional support these clients need due to their immigration status, lack of independent means and often limited English being spoken. Local refuges continue to provide excellent and empowering support to all those survivors and their families.

Survivors supported in refuge 2025/26:

CWA	**20**
Fenland	**26**
Mid Cambs	**28**

Children supported in refuge 2025/26:

CWA	**20**
Fenland	**31**
Mid Cambs	**38**

Compliments from Refuge clients

Best refuge I have been in, and staff were lovely and caring

To staff, thank you for being there in our darkest days and helping us towards the bright! Will always remember the kindness, patience and support we received from all of you! All our love

Thank you for all your support ,hard work and kindness, thank you for helping and showing us a new life and a new hope, thank you for making our stay feel like a real home

I couldn't have done it without you. All the staff work really hard and doing such a good job

Case study: client accessing refuge

Situation

Maisie self-referred to the refuge in July 2025 at the age of 18 after experiencing prolonged domestic abuse from her mother throughout her childhood and into early adulthood. The abuse included both physical and psychological harm, alongside highly controlling behaviour, which had a profound impact on her wellbeing. As a result of these experiences, Maisie's mental health was significantly affected, leading to a diagnosis of PTSD and the development of an eating disorder.

Challenges

Maisie faced a range of complex and interrelated challenges when she arrived at the refuge. The long-term nature of the abuse had deeply affected her confidence and self-esteem, leaving her feeling disempowered and uncertain about her future. Her mental health needs, including PTSD and disordered eating, required sensitive and consistent support. In addition, having left an unsafe and controlling environment, Maisie needed to begin rebuilding trust in others while also learning how to live independently for the first time.

Response

Within the refuge, Maisie received tailored, person-centred support designed to meet her individual needs. This included providing a safe and stable environment where she could begin to recover from her experiences, alongside emotional support to help her process the trauma she had endured. The support focused strongly on empowerment, working with Maisie to rebuild her confidence, strengthen her self-esteem, and support her in regaining a sense of control over her life. Staff worked alongside her to encourage independence and help her identify and work towards her personal goals.

Outcome

As a result of this support, Maisie began to make positive progress. Over time, her confidence and self-esteem improved, and she developed the ability to make decisions about her future with greater independence. She was successfully able to move on from the refuge into young persons' supported living accommodation, providing her with a more independent setting while still offering an appropriate level of ongoing support.

Impact

Maisie is now living in a safer and more stable environment and has taken significant steps towards independence. She is beginning to build a more positive and hopeful future for herself, demonstrating increased resilience and autonomy. With the foundation of support she received, Maisie is now better equipped to take control of her own life and continue her journey towards recovery and long-term wellbeing.

Outreach services

Outreach services continue to be funded through the strategy and, following the 'de-coupling' from Peterborough City Council, Domestic Abuse Support Service (DASS) / Impakt have remained the provider of Outreach services in Cambridgeshire. They continue to provide survivors with short term housing support, signposting and advocacy.
DASS have been successful this year in gaining Safe Lives Leading Lights Accreditation.

919 referrals were received by DASS during 2025/26 of which **704** were supported.

A small grant has also been provided to Cambridge Women's Aid to facilitate enquiries to their service and onward signposting to DASS.

Compliments from DASS clients

Really just wanted to say thankyou for your support through a very difficult time.
Without your help I wouldn't have got *free like I am now*

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for your help and support over the last 9 months or so. The neighbours are really nice I think I'm going to be happy here.

Thank you so much for this, I really appreciate it

Case study: client accessing support from DASS

Situation

Jane made a self-referral to DASS in July 2025. During the initial conversation, she disclosed that her relationship with her partner had been psychologically, financially, and emotionally abusive. She reported that the alleged perpetrator had installed cameras throughout the home under the justification of security, but she experienced this as a form of surveillance and control. Jane has mobility issues and mental health challenges, uses a mobility scooter, and has access to a Motability vehicle. She lived in an adapted rented bungalow suitable for her needs, with a joint tenancy shared with the alleged perpetrator.

Challenges

Jane faced multiple and complex challenges. She described significant financial control within the relationship, with the alleged perpetrator managing all household finances and limiting her to £100 per month, requiring receipts for all spending, which left her financially dependent. Despite Jane having access to a Motability vehicle, the alleged perpetrator used it daily for work, restricting her independence and leaving her reliant on her mobility scooter. Jane also raised safeguarding concerns about animal welfare within the home, stating that while her cats were cared for, the alleged perpetrator's rabbits were being neglected. Additionally, her housing situation was complicated by accessibility needs and the joint tenancy, making it difficult to relocate safely.

Response

A range of coordinated interventions and support were provided. A Duty to Refer was submitted to Huntingdonshire District Council to explore housing options; however, the accommodation offered was unsuitable for Jane's mobility needs and was declined. Refuge options were also explored.
Jane was supported with advocacy to contact the police regarding the abuse and was provided with information about legal advice and eligibility for legal aid. Ongoing emotional and practical support was given to assist her in applying for a Non-Molestation Order, including preparation for video link court proceedings. To improve her wellbeing and reduce isolation, she was signposted to Good Mood cafés and other community-based support. She was also referred to the Freedom Programme and Project Skylark to strengthen her understanding of domestic abuse and support recovery.

Outcome

In May 2026 Jane successfully moved into a new one-bedroom home in Huntingdon that met her needs. A Non-Molestation Order was granted, increasing her safety. The RSPCA intervened to rehome the neglected rabbits. Jane has attended Good Mood café events, and a referral to the Angels Foundation UK enabled her to access essential items, including furniture and white goods, to establish her new home.

Impact

As a result of the support provided, Jane is now living independently in safe and appropriate accommodation. She has increased protection from the perpetrator through legal measures and improved emotional wellbeing through engagement with community support services. Her independence has been strengthened through access to appropriate resources and removal from financial control. Additionally, wider safeguarding outcomes were achieved through the rehoming of the neglected animals. The case has now been successfully closed, with the client in a significantly safer and more stable position.

Coproduction

Claire Thatcher started in the new role of Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (DASV) Coproduction Facilitator in November 2025. The focus of the role is to ensure that people with DASV lived experience have meaningful opportunities to influence and contribute to shaping service design and delivery and informing professional practice.
Claire has been networking with specialist DASV services, statutory partners, and community organisations across Peterborough and Cambridgeshire to raise awareness of coproduction, build relationships, and ensure services are aware of how coproduction can contribute to and enhance the valuable work already being delivered.
Claire has met DASV survivors who courageously shared their experiences'
These conversations explored both their experience of abuse and their attempts to access support, including challenges faced and examples of good practice. With consent, four lived experience accounts have already been shared across relevant forums to raise awareness and inform ongoing developments.
The first women-only coproduction forum was held in Peterborough on 5 March 2026 and explored:

- What support people found helpful
- Ideas for how support available can be improved
- What people found unhelpful or created barriers to accessing support.
- What they treasured or found protective during their experience
- Promises they could make to themselves around self-care

This feedback has been shared across a range of professional and partnership forums to raise awareness of lived experience-led learning.
In addition, coproduction work has supported guidance for parents who, due to child contact arrangements and family court processes, must continue to parent alongside an abusive ex-partner. People with lived experience have shared what helped and what caused harm, and this insight supported to inform and develop guidance for both professionals and parents navigating these systems.

Support for children

Embrace Child Survivors of Crime are commissioned to provide both emotional and therapeutic support for children aged 5 -18 in Cambridgeshire who have experienced domestic abuse.
In 2025/26 **61** children were triaged for support of which **59** were supported.

Demographics

Age	Female	Male
12-18	13	8
7-11	21	19

Of the **59** Children supported **53** have concluded support and exited the service.
69% of Children received Counselling and **31%** trauma informed emotional support

Case study: child accessing support through Embrace

Situation

Jacob, aged 8, was referred to the service after experiencing ongoing domestic abuse within the family home. He had witnessed repeated incidents of abuse between his parents and had also been subjected to physical and emotional abuse by his father. When Jacob first engaged with support, he presented as withdrawn, anxious and emotionally overwhelmed. He struggled to understand and express his feelings, often becoming angry or upset quickly both at school and at home. He also showed low self-esteem and frequently blamed himself for the abuse within the family.

Challenges

Jacob faced significant emotional and behavioural difficulties as a result of his experiences. He had limited ability to regulate his emotions, found it difficult to identify and communicate his feelings, and was easily triggered into distress or anger. His negative self-beliefs, particularly self-blame, further impacted his confidence and overall well-being. These challenges affected his relationships, his engagement at school, and his sense of safety and stability.

Response

Jacob was provided with 10 sessions of trauma-informed counselling tailored to his age and level of understanding. Using creative, child-centred approaches, the sessions focused on helping him feel safe, recognise and name his emotions, and develop coping strategies. The work also addressed emotional regulation, identifying triggers, building resilience, understanding healthy relationships, and reinforcing that the abuse was not his fault. Alongside this, wider family support was offered, including a theme park day out facilitated by Embrace, which gave the family an opportunity to create positive shared experiences and strengthen their relationships in a safe and supportive environment.

Outcome

Over time, Jacob began to engage positively with the sessions and showed increased confidence in expressing his thoughts and feelings. He developed practical strategies to manage emotions such as anger, worry and overwhelm, and gained a clearer understanding of healthy relationships. Both school and home environments reflected positive changes; his school reported improvements in his emotional regulation and classroom behaviour, while his parent observed increased confidence and happiness at home. The family day out also provided meaningful opportunities for connection and enjoyment, helping to rebuild family dynamics.

Impact

Following the intervention, Jacob presented as significantly happier, more emotionally secure, and better equipped to communicate and manage his feelings. His journey demonstrates the value of early, trauma-informed support in helping children recover from the effects of domestic abuse. It highlights how targeted emotional support, combined with positive shared experiences, can support children in rebuilding self-esteem, resilience, and a sense of safety, ultimately improving their long-term emotional well-being.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE
DOMESTIC ABUSE & SEXUAL VIOLENCE PARTNERSHIP

Feedback from Embrace clients

From the first contact with Embrace after my children were referred for therapeutic support, I felt at ease.

That first telephone call was the first time I had felt validated in how I felt myself and my children had been impacted by the abuse we suffered

From the first call the start of my children's therapy was so quick. Three therapists were matched and had made contact with their school within a week and made such a difference to them.

The day out we chose made a big difference. I have really struggled to take my children out locally on walks or to the park, things we used to always enjoy. Having the opportunity to go somewhere we had never been before gave us the opportunity to make memories which weren't tainted by previous experiences, helped my confidence as a mum and allowed us time to laugh and explore together.

I have noticed some positive changes in all three children. It has also meant a lot to me that they had space to share their experience and worries in a way that felt safe to them.

Cambridgeshire Deaf Association

Cambridgeshire Deaf Association provide direct support to victim/survivors of domestic abuse who are deaf alongside providing groups such as the Freedom Programme. This support is jointly funded by Cambridgeshire DASV team and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. In 2025/26 **six** survivors in Cambridgeshire received direct support.

Shared Lives

The Cambridgeshire Shared Lives Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (DASV) Project supports adults with learning disabilities and/or autism who have experienced domestic abuse. The project provides flexible, trauma-informed support through the Shared Lives model, shaped around individual needs, choices, and circumstances.
Support options include short-break respite, long-term Shared Lives placements, day support, and access to services such as the Cambridgeshire Outreach Service, which offers one-to-one support in the community. These services are offered based on individual need and may change over time, with a focus on safety, wellbeing, and independence.
During 2025/26, the Shared Lives DASV Project supported **11** people across Cambridgeshire. The project's impact has been recognised nationally, with the service named as a finalist in the Local Government Chronicle (LGC) Health and Social Care Award.
The case study below highlights the difference this approach can make in practice

Situation

Ben is a 36-year-old man whose life has changed significantly since joining the Cambridgeshire Shared Lives Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (DASV) Project. Prior to this, he had spent many years in an environment marked by abuse, neglect, financial exploitation, and isolation. He was not engaged with support services and reported that he could not remember the last time he had been able to leave his local area.

Challenges

- Long-term exposure to abuse and neglect
- Financial exploitation and lack of independence
- Severe isolation and limited community access
- Low confidence and lack of trust in others
- No existing engagement with support services
- Unsafe home environment with limited options for change

Response

Ben initially accessed the Shared Lives DASV Project through respite support, staying two nights every fortnight with Cath, a Shared Lives Domestic Abuse Carer. This provided him with a safe, consistent, and caring environment where he could begin to build trust at his own pace.

Alongside this, Ben was supported to access the Cambridgeshire Outreach Service, receiving one-to-one support in the community. This helped him gradually increase his confidence, engage in activities, and rebuild independence.

As his needs became clearer and his confidence grew, a longer-term solution was identified. In February 2025, Ben moved into the home of Grace, a long-term Shared Lives Domestic Abuse Carer. He continued to receive respite support with Cath, maintaining an important and reassuring relationship.

Outcome

- Ben successfully transitioned from respite to long-term Shared Lives support
- He developed trusting relationships with multiple carers and professionals
- He became more independent in daily living skills, including managing medication, personal care, and grooming
- He remains engaged with Outreach services and participates in a volunteering placement
- He made the informed decision to cease contact with his parents, improving his sense of safety and wellbeing

Impact

Ben describes his move as “a fresh start” and now feels his life is “amazing.” He is happier, more confident, and more hopeful about the future.

He now leads an active and fulfilling life, enjoying activities such as walking, days out, and gardening, which provides a sense of achievement. He has also increased his independence and social connection, including purchasing and using an iPad to stay engaged and connected.

Overall, Ben’s journey demonstrates the transformative impact of trauma-informed, relationship-based support. Through the Shared Lives DASV Project, he has moved from harm and isolation to a life characterised by safety, independence, meaningful relationships, and optimism for the future.

Future Planning 2026/27

DRIVE

Cambridgeshire Constabulary will be launching the DRIVE perpetrator programme during 2026.
The IDVA Service will be supporting victims of perpetrators who are part of this programme through a dedicated post, funded by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC)

Domestic Abuse Groupwork

Cambridgeshire has partnered with the OPCC to jointly commission domestic abuse group work provision in all districts in Cambridgeshire. In 2026 the following providers will be offering group work.

- The Meadows: Cambridge City and South Cambs
- Angels Foundation: Huntingdonshire and East Cambs
- Peterborough Women's Aid: Fenland
- The Edge: Cambridge

Own My Life Course

The first IDVA 'Own My Life Course', will take place in September 2026 at Romsey Mill, Cambridge. Most IDVAs in the team have now been trained, with two YP IDVAs also due to receive training on the specific young people's version of the course.
The course in September will consist primarily of existing / former YP IDVA clients and Romsey Mill young parents, who are DA survivors, with further courses being planned.

Raneem's Law

Raneem's Law is a new UK initiative that embeds domestic abuse specialists directly into police control rooms, so victims get faster, safer, and more informed responses. Cambridge IDVA Service placing four Domestic Abuse Proactive Support Specialists (DAPSS) in the Force Communication Hub aligns directly with this model, strengthening how police support victims who call for help.

Raneem's Law was created in memory of Raneem Oudeh and her mother, Khaola Saleem, who were murdered in 2018 after Raneem repeatedly called 999 without receiving adequate protection. The law introduces specialist domestic abuse professionals inside police 999 control rooms, ensuring that calls involving domestic abuse are properly assessed, responded to urgently, and linked immediately to support services. These specialists advise officers, review risk assessments, listen to live calls, and help ensures that no safeguarding opportunities are missed.

Under this national approach, several police forces have already begun embedding these specialists to improve victim safety and strengthen frontline decision-making. Their responsibilities include guiding call handlers, supporting risk assessment, ensuring referrals to specialist services, and helping officers understand the dynamics of abuse during live incidents.

In line with this model, Cambridge IDVA Service will have four Domestic Abuse Proactive Support Specialists (DAPSS) based within the Force Communication Hub at Police HQ, Hinchingbrooke. Their role will be to work alongside police call handlers and officers to provide real-time expertise when victims call the hub. This means victims will receive immediate specialist support, more accurate risk assessment, and faster safeguarding responses. The presence of DAPSS ensures that every domestic abuse call is treated with the seriousness and urgency intended by Raneem's Law, helping prevent repeat harm and improving outcomes for survivors.

Review of Strategies

During 2026/2027 the partnership will be reviewing both the DASV Strategy and Safe Accommodation strategies, in preparation for the end of the existing strategies in 2027.

Knife Angel

The DASV Partnership and YP IDVA will also be involved in the hosting of the 'Knife Angel' Statue on the Palace Green at Ely Cathedral for two days in June 26. Nine Cambs schools will visit the Knife Angel and 40 children from each school plan to attend over the two days. The YP IDVAs will be facilitating a session with each school on Healthy Relationships. The DASV Partnership will also be holding a stall at the event on a weekly basis.

Cambridge United Football Foundation - United in Safeguarding Conference

Cambridge United Football Foundation, in partnership with the Cambridgeshire DASV service will be holding a conference later in the year, date to be confirmed.
The focus of the day will be:

- Domestic Abuse & Coercive Control
- Lived-Experience Insight
- Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG)
- Online Safety, Social Media & AI Risks/Digital Safeguarding Awareness
- Early Intervention Pathways
- Practical Policy Guidance

Co-Production Forums

Co-production forums will run six weekly throughout the year at the following locations:
Anne's House, 32-34 Cromwell Road Peterborough, PE1 2EA
Living Keys, The George Alcock Centre, Whittlesey Road, Stanground, PE2 8QS
The Meadows Community Centre, 299 Arbury Road, Cambridge, CB4 2JL
Work is ongoing to establish forums in Fenland, Huntingdon, and East Cambridgeshire.

MARAC Development Day

A MARAC Development Day is planned for 9th July 2026, providing an opportunity for partners to come together to share knowledge, reflect on learning and strengthen best practice across the partnership.

Domestic Abuse Health Strategic Lead

The Government's VAWG Strategy, published in December 2025, launched the Steps to Safety project aimed at improving DA response in GP settings, the DA Health Strategic Lead will be working closely with the newly restructured Central East ICB to roll out Steps to Safety locally.
Further projects planned for 2026/27:

- Working with pharmacies to ensure DA resources are available following the end of the government's 'Ask for ANI' scheme
- Raising awareness of the links between domestic abuse and suicide with a public and professionals' campaign,
- Piloting a shortened DA risk assessment tool in specific hospital departments and GPs
- Working with Community Safety Partnerships and Neighbourhood Health to improve DA awareness and access to support in rural areas.

DASV Champions Online sessions

DASV Champions sessions will continue quarterly.
Future topics planned include:
Barriers to support for Minority Ethnic Survivors
Supporting Older Survivors of Sexual Violence – barriers and good practice
Learning from DHRs
Victim Blaming

Domestic Abuse Quarterly Performance Report 2026 – 27

Quarter 1st April – 30th June 2026

Total referral data

	Total Referrals Q1	Q4 2025 - 26	Referral criteria met Q1	Q4 2025 - 26	Engagement % of criteria met referrals Q1	Q4 2025 - 26	Repeats - of total referrals Q1	Q4 2025 - 26
IDVA Referrals	**489**	465	**445**	412	**78%**	77%	**170 (35%)**	153 (33%)

All risk level referrals in Geographical Areas

	Total Referrals Q1	Q4 2025 – 26	Referral criteria met Q1	Q4 2025 – 26	Engagement % of criteria met referrals Q1	Q4 2025 - 26	Repeats - of total referrals Q1	Q4 2025 - 26
Cambs City	**142**	103	**125**	92	**76%**	82%	**47**	36
East Cambs	**34**	38	**31**	30	**74%**	70%	**11**	9
Fenland	**77**	93	**72**	83	**71%**	75%	**30**	29
Hunts	**104**	98	**95**	91	**86%**	84%	**29**	36
South Cambs	**101**	92	**95**	86	**77%**	84%	**43**	33
Out of Area	**12**	14	**10**	11	**100%**	90%	**4**	6

Empty – address not documented on Oasis	**-**	12	**-**	5	**-**	40%	**-**	0
Not Known – Client moved to refuge – no forwarding address documented	**-**	-	**-**	-	**-**	-	**-**	-
Peterborough	**19**	15	**17**	14	**76%**	79%	**5**	4
Total	**489**	465	**445**	412	**78%**	77%	**170**	153

<u>All risk level referrals by Specialism</u>

	Total Referral Q1	**Q4 2025-26**	**Referral criteria met Q1**	**Q4 2025-26**	**Engagement % of criteria met referrals Q1**	**Q4 2025-26**	**Repeats of total referrals Q1**	**Q4 2025-26**
CYP Cambs 13 –17	**12**	9	**18 of 19**	13 of 16	**78%**	77%	**3**	2
CYP Peterborough Excluding MARAC referrals	**7**	7	**-**	-	**-**	-	**-**	-
Housing	**37**	28	**37**	26	**68%**	65%	**2**	0
Minority Ethnic	**21**	20	**20**	20	**80%**	80%	**5**	9
Stalking (All – Cambs and Peterborough)	**31**	31	**31**	31	**84%**	94%	**11**	10
OOCD (Out of Court Disposals)	**0**	0	**-**	-	**-**	-	**-**	**-**

*CYP – Children and Young People

Other relevant data

Agency	Q1 2026-27	Q4 2025 - 26
MARAC referrals	252	212
Cases heard at MARAC	210	238
Police DA Incidents Cambs	2479	2422
Police DA Crimes Cambs	1909	1717
Male Victims	23	31
Disability	140	123
LGBT	Lesbian 3 Gay 2 Bisexual 2 Pansexual 1	Lesbian 4 Gay 3 Bi 2 Not asked 14

Other relevant information

Both IDVA and MARAC referral rates have increased in Q1, creating a delay in MARAC cases being heard. Additional MARACs are planned to alleviate this. Engagement rates for the IDVA Service remain high.

The Cambridgeshire IDVA Service is now hosting 4 posts, called Domestic Abuse Proactive Support Specialists (DAPSS), who will be working in the police force control room to provide independent domestic abuse specialist advice to improve police responses. This is part of the government's roll out of Raneem's Law. The IDVA Service will also be working with the DRIVE perpetrator programme when it starts in autumn, to provide victim support.

October DASV Champions sessions will focus on Victim Blaming and Learning from Recently Published DHRs.

The Safeguarding Conference that is being hosted by Cambridge United Foundation, in conjunction with the DASV Partnership, has been postponed until Friday 16 October 2026 at Cambridge United Football Stadium. The focus of the conference will be on young people and VAWG.

The DASV Partnership, in consultation with the Reducing Parental Conflict Lead, has produced guidance on 'Parenting with an Abusive Ex': Cambridgeshire County Council DASV Partnership - Parenting

The DASV Partnership has published its annual report for Cambridgeshire for 2025/26 and can be found at: Cambridgeshire County Council DASV Partnership - Strategic Documents