

Police Community News

December 2022

In addition to our usual newsletter, we are producing this one high-lighting 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM. For those who don't know, 16 days of activism is a global movement that aims to eliminate gender-based violence, specifically all forms of violence and aggression towards women and girls.



16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign

November 25 - December 10



It starts annually on the 25th November 2022, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and runs until 10th December, Human Rights Day but work continues every single day, because every single day, women and girls are subjected to violence and aggression. This year is the 30th anniversary of the event; yes, it really has been going that long!

Each year has a theme, and this year the theme is "UNITE! Activism to end violence against women and girls", and so let's do that, let's all UNITE and do our bit to end gender-based violence and aggression....and remember, 'it only takes one'.

'It only takes one', is a county-wide campaign, which aims to high-light the issues, share information with our communities, and encourage bystanders to call out and challenge abusive behaviour. And ultimately reduce incidents of violence, harassment, and abuse.



Violence against women and girls is an umbrella term used to cover a wide range of abuses against women and girls, such as domestic femicide, domestic abuse, sexual assault, child abuse, female genital mutilation (FGM), forced marriage and harassment in work public life.

Harassment can include such things as being cat-called or wolf-whistled in the street, leered at on a bus, groped or sent unwanted sexual messages.

Abuse can be emotional, physical, sexual or financial. It can be inflicted by a partner or ex-partner, a family member, colleague, friend or stranger.

While men and boys also suffer the same forms of abuse, they disproportionately affect women and girls.

Any behaviour that embarrasses, demeans, frightens, or distresses women and girls is ABUSE. And it must stop.

SO DO YOUR BIT. IT ONLY TAKES ONE...

...Second to check YOUR behaviour

...Bystander to look the OTHER way

...Person to say this is NOT ok

...Community to say ENOUGH is enough

For more information, visit
itonlytakesone.org.uk

If you are the victim of any type of abuse, you can report it to Northants Police by calling 101 or reporting it on-line, in cases of emergency, always call 999.

However, there may be times when people don't want to involve the police, this is often the case when the abuser is known to the victim, but did you know that help is still available to you without involving the police?

The Sunflower Centre together with Voice, the victim's service are there to help, even if you haven't reported the abuse to the police.

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Tel: 101 ext 343415
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So, you are a Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Coordinator what is that exactly?



I am employed by West Northamptonshire Council, acting as the council's champion in this field. This will involve supporting the delivery of the Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence strategy to ensure that West Northants Council complies with the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. I am based within the Community Safety and Engagement Team, but I will be working with all services across the authority, as well as building strong relationships with not only core partner agencies, but with those areas of our community that may be less heard or harder to reach.

Tell us why there is a need for this role.



After 4 years, the Domestic Abuse Bill became law in April 2021, and with this came a statutory definition of domestic abuse; an effort to put domestic abuse at the top of everyone's agenda, to protect and support victim survivors, to hold perpetrators to account, to recognise children as victims and to make our response to domestic abuse and sexual violence more consistent and accessible.

We hear time and time again that domestic abuse and sexual violence can happen to anyone, and our provision for victim survivors must truly reflect this. I hope to work with local communities and services to build relationships with those who may face additional barriers in sharing their experience and accessing services.

What attracted you to the role?

I am a qualified Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) and have supported many victim survivors within West Northamptonshire as an IDVA and a Complex Needs IDVA. Prior to that I worked for many years as an Operations Manager in a rapidly growing business.



I have seen first-hand the visible challenges and barriers that exist and prevent access to services in West Northamptonshire. I hope to use my insight and knowledge to influence and educate, and ensure the local authority remains focused on the Domestic Abuse Strategy. We need to make sure this is not a moment of temporary awareness, but the start of a change in narrative.

I aim to ensure we provide all front-line workers within West Northamptonshire Council adequate training to not only recognise domestic abuse, but to assess the risk, and have the confidence in their knowledge to be able to refer onwards and signpost appropriately. We have already started implementing this and our first training session takes place on 21st November with around 60 members of staff invited.

There is a vast amount to achieve, but I am relentless in my desire to inform and support change throughout our community.

How do people access help and support from you?



My role will be focussed more on strategic support for organisations, building relationships and ensuring we meet our duties under the Domestic Abuse Act. But this does not remove the fact that every day, people within West Northamptonshire are experiencing domestic abuse and sexual violence. Accessing support does not always mean an incident has to be reported to police and I would encourage anyone to make contact with one of the local support services. As a county, we are very lucky to have a specifically trained Inclusion and Diversity IDVA who is working hard to build community relationships and will approach each case with the holistic approach it needs.

There is support in our County for anyone who needs help, please see the back page for more information on where to access support.

Tell us a bit about yourself



I spent some time working as an Operations Manager in a competitive, sales driven environment, but after becoming a Mum to my third child, it was time for a change. My husband and I took a big leap and started the first independent bakery in Northampton in 2015 which is still going strong today. I then did some voluntary work and studied health and social care before becoming an IDVA. I have lived in West Northamptonshire for many years, I have raised my family here and I want to support others to live a safe and risk-free life if this is where they choose to settle.

Using three words that have the same initial as your first name, describe yourself with reasons



This is harder than you think!! MOTIVATED - MINDFUL - MISCHIEVOUS

Every day I try to find something to push me to do my best, whether in my personal or work life. I try to be aware of what is happening around me and always do my best to 'read the room', but there is still a part of me that is a bit cheeky and likes a bit of fun!



So, you are a Diversity and Inclusion IDVA...what is that, exactly?



My role as a Diversity and Inclusion IDVA is to serve the Black and Asian communities of Northamptonshire including other minority communities offering information, advice and support to help keep them and their families safe from domestic abuse. An IDVA is an Independent Domestic Violence Advisor and I work for Voice for Victims and Witnesses in Northamptonshire. My role sits within the Sunflower Centre which is part of Voice and provides practical and emotional advice and support to clients who are at the most risk of domestic abuse. An IDVA's job is varied involving crisis intervention, risk assessment and individual safety planning including discussing options on how to keep a victim safe. An important part of the role is to give victims a voice, listening and enabling an individuals' interests to be heard. IDVA's work closely with the MARAC team, this is the Multi Agency Referral Assessment Conference that is used to bring professionals together to safeguard victims, reduce risks and manage perpetrator behaviour.

Tell us why there is there a need for a Diversity and Inclusion IDVA?



Domestic abuse is widely under reported across communities, however there are additional barriers faced by Black and Asian communities which means that speaking out about domestic abuse is even more challenging. Immigration issues, no recourse to public funds and fear of honour-based abuse and violence are some of the reasons that may prevent a victim from reporting domestic abuse. This sadly means that the abuse is likely to continue for longer as victims are less likely to report. I am very passionate about helping these communities to have easier access to support from domestic abuse agencies locally and nationally, to support with housing, explaining legal options, completing safety planning and offering workshops on domestic abuse. I am aware there are some communities I am yet to meet and therefore please do share information with anyone you feel may benefit from this support.

What attracted you to the role?



I worked for fifteen years in Early Intervention and Family Support Teams in London and really enjoyed the ethnically diverse communities with which I served, learning a lot from the experiences supporting clients from a wide range of cultural, ethnic and racial backgrounds. It was a real privilege to work with a blend of every culture and I was very keen to continue working within diverse communities when I moved away from London which is what attracted me to my current role. I also enjoy the variety it brings; no two days are the same! It is my aim in this role to be respectful to the communities in which I am serving, to bring an awareness of the different cultures, however a keenness to listen and learn from individuals' experiences and the difficulties they are facing. I hope that by building trust in Black, Asian and minority communities this will lead to more reporting of domestic abuse in the future and that through the joint work with partner agencies such as NDAS and Eve that we continue to raise awareness to some of the counties' most vulnerable victims.

How do people access the help and support of the Diversity and Inclusion IDVA?



Access to support is straightforward and can be achieved by a direct referral to Voice for Victims and Witnesses. A complete and thorough needs assessment will be completed, and appropriate advice and support provided. Domestic abuse support can be provided by Voice and where IDVA support is identified as being required the referral will be passed through to the Sunflower Centre. The Sunflower team will consider the risks and needs for that individual, and where complex needs or diverse needs are identified the referral will be passed to the appropriate IDVA.

Voice offers an independent, confidential service and individuals can get support without reporting to Police by directly referring themselves to the service. In cases where victims have felt able to report to the Police, we are automatically made aware of the referral. In cases where hospital staff have recognised abuse, they can refer by their dedicated Hospital IDVA service.

We have a wide directory of local and national services and work closely with other services in the county to support victims of domestic abuse including Crime Prevention, Refuge, Housing, Karma Nirvana, Sistah Space, Serenity Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) and legal services offering immigration advice and support.

Our phone number is **0300 303 1965**. We also have a website which has some great information and a Professionals Referral Form. Website: **www.voicenorthants.org** Email Address: **info@voicenorthants.org**

Using three words that have the same initial as your first name, describe yourself with reasons



NURTURING, NOSTALGIC AND NOURISHED, I'm a mama to three little people who mean the world to me, I love reminiscing and reminders of good times, I take a million photos and I'm more focused on self-care than ever before since becoming a parent. You can't pour from an empty cup!

Feel unsafe? Report it

Street harassment is not OK

Flare Report is an anonymous reporting app that lets women tell us about experiences that have made them feel unsafe.

We can build up a picture of where inappropriate behaviour is happening, and take action.



Download Flare Report – send up a Flare



NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
POLICE, FIRE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER



NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
POLICE

Flare Report App

We know that most women do not report incidents of street harassment - like cat-calling or inappropriate behaviour - to the police.

Flare Report app allows women to quickly and anonymously make a report about inappropriate behaviour on the street. It's not for emergencies, Flare Report is a way to tell the Police about street harassment and similar incidents.

The information submitted on Flare Report will help build a clearer picture of what is happening in the county, so that Police and other partners can understand where inappropriate behaviour is happening, and then take action to stop it.

Flare is free to download and can be installed on any mobile device.

Please share this information with your contacts and help us make communities in northamptonshire safer.





West Northamptonshire
Community Safety Partnership

SUPPORTING SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE



Don't face violence alone.
Get confidential advice and support locally.

www.nadasa.co.uk

If you or anyone is in immediate risk of harm please ring 999.



CrimeStoppers
Speak up. Stay safe.



Crimestoppers

0800 555 111

Crimestoppers

0800 555 111

Northamptonshire Domestic Abuse Service

0300 012 0154

Northamptonshire Domestic Abuse Service

0300 012 0154

Eve

07827 239 496

Eve

07827 239 496

Sunflower Centre

01604 888211

Voice

0300 303 1965

Northamptonshire Rape Crisis

0300 222 5930

Northamptonshire Rape Crisis

0300 222 5930

Serenity

01604 601713

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01604 601713