

Welcome to the....

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TEAM Newsletter

LIAP is changing it's name ...

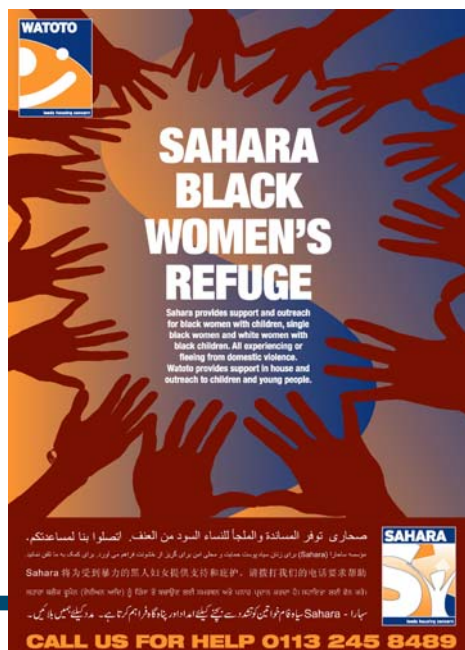
Leeds City Council are streamlining all their marketing and making full use of the good work that they fund. This means that as a successful, long running project and core funded domestic violence team Leeds Inter Agency Project (LIAP) will give up its separate branding.

We are somewhat saddened to bid farewell to a name and a brand that has stood for good practice and innovation in working for every woman and child to live free of violence. Our principles and work, however, do not leave as we change our name to Leeds City Council Domestic Violence Team.

The LIAP Trust will continue to operate nationally. We are hoping to hold an event that will celebrate the fantastic work that LIAP has done as a project and a part of the council over the last 20 years in 2010.

Our Key Messages

- ◆ The Domestic Violence Team is here to support agencies to deliver excellent standards of services to domestic violence victims. If you would like help to improve your service, please contact us on 0113 3952140
- ◆ No-one should have to live with domestic violence. Help is available. Call the National Domestic Violence Helpline on 0808 2000 247. Always call 999 in an emergency.
- ◆ For legal advice on domestic violence, call HALT on 0113 2432632



Sahara

Sahara have a new poster. It carries this message in Urdu, Punjabi, Farsi, Chinese and Arabic.

“Sahara provides support and a refuge from violence for black women. Call us for help”.

To order copies of the poster please contact Sahara on:
0113 230 5087
Or
PO Box 94 Leeds LS3 1DR



Talking can help...



Ku SIKIA Counselling -A New Service

Ku SIKIA provides a free and confidential counselling service to African, African Caribbean, Dual Heritage and other minority ethnic adults and young people. One to one sessions and group work.

You can contact KU SIKIA on:

Telephone: 0113 307 0300

Fax: 0113 307 0700

E-mail: kusikia@blackhealthinitiative.org.uk

Campaign Success

You will have seen the bus ads “You can speak out – call the National Domestic Violence Helpline”. They ran for 4 weeks from 24th November.

As well as the bus ads we also had a radio ad on Radio Aire. For those of you who didn't hear it, it consisted of a vicar reading a “marriage ceremony” where a woman is asked to promise to love comfort..live in fear of him..hide the bruises and the truth from everyone as long as you both shall live”. Then a woman gives the positive message “You don't have to live with domestic violence, you can speak out. Call the national Domestic Violence Helpline 0808 2000 247”

The radio ad was obviously appreciated as we have had a request from Community radio in Essex to use it to advertise their Domestic Violence helpline and a conference. Of course we agreed.

We also got stats from Women's Aid National helpline. While our campaign was running calls from Leeds to the Helpline doubled from an average of 8 calls a month to 17.

National Domestic Violence Helpline 0800 2000 247

Sexual Violence is Domestic Violence Event

90 people attended this event in West Yorkshire Playhouse on 25th November 2008 - part of 16 days of action. It highlighted the fact that Leeds does not currently have a Rape Crisis Centre. A speaker from Bradford Rape Crisis (BRC) told us 92% of the women who contact them have been abused by men they know. BRC began with a helpline and now offer face to face counselling and group work.

Amina, a similar project in London uses trained volunteers to support women who have experienced sexual violence, for an hour a week over several weeks. This leads to positive outcomes for the women.

Particular Issues for Black Women

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The speaker from Leeds Skyline explained some particular issues for black women in regards to sexual violence. Forced marriage leads to forced sex – rape. The man may be HIV positive and use no condom. Some BME women come to UK as dependents and are unaware of their rights and may suffer in silence. Interpretation issues make it difficult to discuss sexual violence and unsafe sexual practices.

Any new service should take these issues into account.

Operation Topaz

West Yorkshire Police have set up a specialised unit investigating rape by men known to the woman (which is the majority of rapes reported to the police). The same officers will interview the victim, organize the forensic examination, arrest and deal with the suspect, build the prosecution case and accompany the victim to court. They will liaise with STAR to ensure she has support and work together with the Crown Prosecution Service new rape and sexual abuse unit. This shows recognition from the police they need to improve.

Tackling Demand for Prostitution and Lap Dancing

Julie Bindel argued that women do not make informed and balanced choices to enter prostitution. Abused women and girls are over represented in prostitution – they are groomed into it. Prostituted women experience repeated and prolonged sexual violence.

Lap dancing clubs charge women fees to perform – landing women in debt. Women then feel they have no choice but to perform sex acts and permit sexual assault to gain more tips – all they earn. Lap dancing clubs also provide routes into prostitution.

We should challenge the apathy around prostitution. We should challenge the acceptability of lap dancing clubs. We should acknowledge the harm of buying sex and sexual services.

Outcomes from the event

Women at the meeting were asked what they would like to come out of it. There was a strong demand for a feminist Network in Leeds so women can get in touch and stay in touch and find out what is going on already. There was a suggestion that this be an on line resource.

There are 2 ways to do this:

- 1 worker or volunteer who receives the information and updates the site weekly.
- all groups have access to the site (like the Women's Aid site) so they can update their own entry and add information. This would require training of all the groups.

Unfortunately neither of these can be set up using Leeds City Council Website. But we have information and contacts if anyone out there wants to start it up.

There was of course a demand for a Leeds Rape Crisis Service. The first meeting to plan the service was held on 11th February, attended by 50 women. A smaller steering group is meeting to take the work forward. We have received a small start up grant of £500 from the Primary Care Trust.

Anyone who wants to help or support do get in touch 0113 3950031

Old Mobile Phones Needed by Leeds Women's Aid

Dear friend and colleague,

Please forgive this direct approach to you, but at Leeds Women's Aid we urgently need your old unwanted mobile phones.

We need mobile phones to give to women experiencing domestic violence that we are supporting. This means that we are able to safely stay in contact with them and help them to plan their escape. We put new sim cards in them so there is no risk to you.

It is not uncommon for violent men to regularly check women's mobile phones as a way of controlling who they can speak to and is part of a pattern of obsessive behaviour. So if a woman has a second, secret mobile phone, she can contact us when it is safe for her to do so. As we run a 24 hour telephone helpline she can contact us whenever she needs to.

We have given mobile phones to women who fear they are about to be forced to marry against their will and successfully prevented them from being forced to leave the country. We have also helped women to escape into our refuges who are literally not allowed out of the house. One woman kept hers under the floor-boards and used it to plan her escape when she had a hospital appointment.

Your old phone could be a life-line to a woman who is experiencing domestic violence.

So please share this e-mail with your colleagues at work and with your friends and help us to replenish our stocks of old mobile phones and chargers.

Thanks for taking the time to read this.

Best wishes,

Rosie Robinson
Director, Leeds Women's Aid

If you have a mobile to donate Contact us on 0113 246 0401



Common Assessment Framework (CAF)

The CAF is a key component in the Every Child Matters: Change for Children programme. The aim is to identify, at the earliest opportunity, children's additional needs that are not being met and provide timely and co-ordinated support to meet those needs. The CAF provides a process to help practitioners gather and understand information about the needs and strengths of the child and a standard form to help record, and, where appropriate, share information with others to ensure the right service delivery.

Any common assessment can involve multiple agencies working across areas and organisational and it is essential that CAF provides practitioners from different sectors easy access to key information to allow them to plan, monitor and review a co-ordinated approach to service delivery.

The e-enablement of the Common Assessment Framework allows an eCAF Form to be generated, and ongoing and completed assessments to be stored centrally but shared electronically between relevant practitioners.

Children benefit because Common Assessment;

- ◆ Reduces need to repeatedly supply personal data to multiple agencies – will be captured once and stored in eCAF communicated more efficiently
- ◆ Encourages early identification and response to a child's needs, helping to ensure needs do not escalate to complex / urgent needs
- ◆ Access to information is strictly controlled by consent and access is limited to defined practitioners and audited on the system
- ◆ Speedier access to information ensures engagement of the right agency at the right time

Organisations benefit because:

- ◆ Facilitates the effective and efficient delivery of a co-ordinated service
- ◆ Promotes multi-agency and cross-border working and early interventions
- ◆ Information can be shared and stored securely, through a centrally maintained database
- ◆ Encourages standardised processes in terms of training, communication and CAF practices

Practitioners benefit because:

- ◆ Creates a holistic view of a child's needs
- ◆ Increases the transparency of work performed by other agencies
- ◆ Allows instant access to the most up to date child information if consent exists and access is granted

Leeds currently has nearly 950 CAFs completed by practitioners from over 168 different settings on an approximately even gender and age balance of 0-19 year olds. The database allows reporting of aggregate information that tells us the highest needs reflected continue to be around emotional health and safety although enjoying and achieving and economic wellbeing continue to occur regularly. Over 80% of assessments go on to multi agency plans, with younger children slightly more likely to have multi agency plans overall than older young people.

The CAF team consists of administrative staff who ensure information and communication is effective for all common assessment activity and Integrated Processes Coordinators (IPCs) who support practitioners and managers to embed the wider Integrated Processes. The IPCs speak to every practitioner who registers a common assessment to provide information, advice and guidance on the whole processes including effective engagement of the right agency at the right time. They offer support in ensuring effective embedding of CAF which can include contributing to guidance, process mapping, writing policies and procedures and contributing to the monitoring of implementation by sharing database information on CAF activity.

For more information contact the CAF team on 0113 2476830.