

# Welcome

to the second newsletter from the Domestic Abuse Team at Safer Communities Torbay.

Do you have a suggestion, comment or article you would like to be included in the next issue? If so, please do not hesitate to contact Mandy Riley, Business Support and Project Officer on:

Tel: 01803 841274

Email: [mandy.riley@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:mandy.riley@torbay.gov.uk)

## New Domestic Abuse Services for Torbay

Safer Communities Torbay in partnership with Supporting People, Devon and Cornwall Probation Service and West Country Housing Association are pleased to announce the arrival of the Torbay Domestic Abuse Support Service (DASS).

DASS forms a key component of Torbay's Coordinated Community Response to Domestic Abuse; providing support to men, women and transgender individuals who are experiencing or have experienced domestic abuse. The service aims to be both flexible and responsive to individual needs and can offer support with:

- practical and emotional issues
- access to other services
- resettlement and housing issues
- education, training and employment
- access to health and wellbeing services.

For more information and to make a referral please contact the team on 01803 217614 or [DASS@westcountryha.org.uk](mailto:DASS@westcountryha.org.uk)

April 2009 saw Torbay Refuge, previously managed by Domestic Violence and Abuse Support Service (DVASS), transfer to Westcountry Housing Association following a competitive tendering process. Our appreciation and thanks go to DVASS (formerly SDWA) for their work over the years in Torbay.

The refuge will be expanding its accommodation options over the next twelve months by sourcing additional homes around the Bay that can offer support to a greater number of people with a variety of needs.

The Refuge will be staffed Monday to Friday 8am to 8pm, Saturday 8am to 5pm with a limited staff presence on Sundays and Bank Holidays. To access Refuge services or for more information please call: 01803 524594 or mail to: [torbayrefuge@westcountryha.org.uk](mailto:torbayrefuge@westcountryha.org.uk)



Speak  
out  
break  
free

newsletter

Torbay exposing domestic abuse



Safer  
Communities  
Torbay

## MARAC Practitioners Toolkits

Do you attend MARAC? If the answer to this question is yes, download the CAADA 2009 MARAC Representative's Toolkit from [www.caada.org.uk/toolkits](http://www.caada.org.uk/toolkits). This essential document helps troubleshoot practical issues around the whole MARAC process. Also listed are specific Toolkits for MARAC Chairs and Administrators.

## Torbay Pattern Changing Programmes

Pattern Changing is an educational group programme that is designed to support and work with women who have been or are in an abusive relationship. The course aims to give women the opportunity to address the many complex issues involved in their abuse and offers encouragement and practical skills to help them to become empowered and gain control of their lives.

Women choose to do the course for many different reasons but all have a desire to make positive and long lasting changes in their lives and the lives of their children. They possess a determination that, whilst the abuse they have experienced has been damaging, with support and encouragement, this damage can start to be repaired. The focus of the course is on the abused woman

herself and the power she has in changing her life.

If you would like to find out more about the Pattern Changing Programme in Torbay please contact Kay at Bridge Associates on 0845 053 5627 [www.bridge-associates.org.uk](http://www.bridge-associates.org.uk)



## Training Update: Training dates still available!

**Level 1 - Foundation Course: Tackling Domestic Violence & Abuse** (one day course, pre-requisite for Level 2 DA training and Safeguarding Domestic Violence-The Impact on the Child training). There are a few places still available for 11th March 2010 training day, all other dates are full.

**Level 2 – How Perpetrators Operate** (one day course). This course will incur a fee. A one day multi-agency course for practitioners who work with families. This course explores patterns of behaviour and belief systems of those who perpetrate domestic violence and abuse, the effects of these behaviours both on partners and on the helping agencies, and offers strategies to enable participants to challenge perpetrators more effectively. There are a few places still available on 26th November 2009 and 12th February 2010 training days, all other dates are full.

**Level 2 – Preventing Murder and Serious Harm in Domestic Violence & Abuse** (one day course, formerly Tackling Domestic Violence & Abuse). This course will incur a fee.

A one day multi-agency course for practitioners which has been developed to meet the increasing need for agencies to understand the level of risk to their client who may be experiencing Domestic Violence and to be able to refer them appropriately, including to the monthly Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC). There are a few places still available for 23rd October 2009 and 25th February 2010 training day, all other dates are full.

To book a place on any of these courses contact the Safer Communities Partnership Administrator on [scatt@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:scatt@torbay.gov.uk) tel: 01803 841274.



## SDVC Performance

Since its inception the Specialist Domestic Violence Court (SDVC) has achieved higher than average performance in successful prosecutions (83% compared to 75% area average) and guilty pleas (71% compared to 67% area average).

The SDVC IDVA has received 132 referrals and has engaged with 121 clients (May 2008-March 2009).

If you would like further information about the SDVC please contact Sally Bullingham-Taylor (Domestic Abuse Manager) [sally.bullingham-taylor@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:sally.bullingham-taylor@torbay.gov.uk) tel: 01803 841506.

# Domestic Violence Awareness Week

## 23rd - 27th November 2009

### You be the Judge!

Are you are interested in finding out how justice is delivered in Torbay?

If the answer is "Yes" then step into a Magistrate's shoes at a free and unique, interactive sentencing event called 'You Be The Judge'. The event this year will have a domestic abuse theme and will be held in the Torbay area on Tuesday 24th November as part of DV Awareness Week.

The event, organized by the Local Criminal Justice Board\*, aims to involve local people more in the justice process by giving an insight into the criminal justice system and the different factors involved when magistrates sentence offenders.

Details of cases will be read out and the audience will then use keypads to vote on the sentence they feel is most appropriate for each crime. The true outcomes of each case will then be revealed and explained by local magistrates, giving a behind-the-scenes insight into the role of magistrates and the justice system.

A member of the Magistrates' Court legal team and magistrates will then talk through why the sentence was given, explaining what options are available for each crime and what factors are taken into consideration and why. Representatives from criminal justice agencies including the courts, probation, the Crown Prosecution Service and the police will also be available to answer questions from the audience.

For more information about 'You Be The Judge' in Torbay contact 01392 452594 or email [lcjb2@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk](mailto:lcjb2@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk)

\*The Local Criminal Justice Board works to improve the local criminal justice system and give communities greater confidence in the delivery of justice. For more information about the Devon and Cornwall Criminal Justice Board visit their website at [www.cjsonline.gov.uk/devonandcornwall](http://www.cjsonline.gov.uk/devonandcornwall)

Are you planning an event for DV Awareness Week? If so please let us know so we can help publicise it.

Contact Safer Communities Torbay  
Tel: 01803 841274  
Email: [scatt@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:scatt@torbay.gov.uk)

## Domestic Abuse and Health Services

Over seventy health practitioners attended a Domestic Abuse Health Conference earlier this year. The event aimed to raise awareness amongst health colleagues of the signs and symptoms of domestic abuse and examine key issues relating to the identification of domestic abuse in healthcare settings, with keynote speakers from the University of West of England and Derriford Hospital in Plymouth sharing examples of best practice.

Following the event a multi-disciplinary Health Forum has been established to take forward work which supports health practitioners to routinely ask questions about domestic abuse within A&E, Maternity and Health Visiting.

If you would like further information about the Domestic Abuse Health Forum please contact Sally Bullingham-Taylor (Domestic Abuse Manager) [sally.bullingham-taylor@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:sally.bullingham-taylor@torbay.gov.uk) tel: 01803 841506.



# Specialist Domestic Violence Court Update

## What is a Specialist Domestic Violence Court (SDVC)?

SDVCs provide a specialised way of dealing with domestic abuse cases in magistrate's courts. SDVCs refer to the approach of a whole system, rather than simply a court building or jurisdiction. All agencies work together to identify, track and risk assess domestic abuse cases, support victims of domestic abuse and share information better, so that more offenders are brought to justice. SDVCs are a fundamental part of the government's efforts to improve the support and care we provide victims of domestic abuse.

## South Devon SDVC

Following a panel interview with the national SDVC Programme Steering Group, Torbay successfully achieved the accreditation standard required and was selected for inclusion within the national SDVC programme in May 2008. This success recognised the dedicated partnership working that had taken

place and brought the additional resource of an SDVC Independent Domestic violence Advisor (IDVA) into the Bay.

The SDVC IDVA is independent from the justice system and acts to explain the function of the SDVC to the victim/witness i.e. dedicated domestic abuse prosecutors, specially trained magistrates and legal advisors, clustering of domestic abuse cases on a designated day. The IDVA will liaise with the Witness Care Unit to ensure the victim is kept informed of the progress of their case throughout the Criminal Justice System. They will also attend the SDVC court each Wednesday to support the client in conjunction with the Witness Service and provide individual support at trial, as appropriate.



## Useful Contact Numbers

**Project Manager Domestic Abuse**  
01803 841274  
sally.bullingham-taylor@torbay.gov.uk

**IDVA Service (MARAC & SDVC)**  
01803 841274  
geraldine.howard@torbay.gov.uk  
caroline.farmer@torbay.gov.uk

**Police Domestic Abuse Unit**  
01803 841468  
devonbcudaosouth@devonandcornwall.  
pnn.police.uk

**MARAC Co-ordinator**  
01803 841468  
sharon.payne@devonandcornwall.  
pnn.police.uk

**Safer Communities Torbay**  
01803 841274  
scatt@torbay.gov.uk

**Victim Support**  
0845 676 10 20

**Torbay Council General Enquiries**  
01803 201201

**Torbay Council Housing Advice & Enquiries**  
01803 208723

**Torbay Social Services**  
01803 208500  
01803 292166 - Emergency Out of Hours

**Torbay Domestic Abuse Support Service (DASS)**  
01803 217614

**Sexual Abuse Line in Devon**  
0808 800 0188

**M.A.L.E (Mens Advice Line & Enquires)**  
0808 801 0327

**Women's Aid National DV Helpline**  
0808 2000 247

This document can be made available in other formats.  
For more information please contact 01803 841274