

Welcome

to the inaugural newsletter from the Domestic Abuse Team at Safer Communities Torbay!

Following feedback from the Domestic Abuse Forum earlier this year, it was suggested that regular domestic abuse updates would be helpful. Therefore, we have developed this newsletter, which will be distributed twice a year to keep you updated and informed of progress and developments both locally and nationally.

We are open to suggestions, comments or receiving articles, so please do not hesitate to contact:

Safer Communities Torbay
Tel: 01803 841274 Email: scatt@torbay.gov.uk

The Torbay Domestic Abuse Team

The Domestic Abuse Team consists of Sally Bullingham-Taylor, Project Manager Domestic Abuse; Geraldine Howard, Specialist Domestic Violence Court Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (SDVC IDVA) and Caroline Farmer, Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC IDVA).

Sally manages the team and is responsible for leading the development and delivery of Torbay's Domestic Abuse Strategy; which include key initiatives such as the development and accreditation of the Specialist Domestic Violence Court in South Devon (one of only ninety eight nationwide), the joint commissioning of new domestic abuse floating support provision, expansion of refuge bed-spaces, development of IDVA services, delivery of multi-agency domestic abuse training and delivery of programmes for abused women and children who have witnessed domestic abuse.

Geraldine works with victims of domestic abuse whose cases are being heard at the Specialist Domestic Violence Magistrates Court. The SDVC programme at Torquay and Newton Abbott Magistrates' Court is a combined approach from Her Majesties Court Service, Devon and Cornwall Police, the Probation Service, the Crown Prosecution Service, Magistrates' and Victim and Witness Support. The agencies work together to identify, track and risk assess domestic violence cases, support victims and share information to bring more offenders to justice. As the SDVC IDVA Geraldine provides support, advice and information to clients throughout the criminal justice process, ensuring that victims are fully aware and informed of events.

Caroline supports very high risk female victims whose cases are being managed by the MARAC process; providing advice, information and advocacy to support victims to reduce the risks that they face.

To contact the Domestic Abuse Team, call 01803 841274 or email scatt@torbay.gov.uk



Speak
out
break
free

newsletter
Torbay exposing domestic abuse


Safer
Communities
Torbay

Torbay Launches Speak out Break Free

The Domestic Abuse team have been working with leading design agency Gendall to develop a new campaign to help us raise awareness of domestic abuse in the Bay.

Following meetings with survivors and key partners, Speak Out Break Free was created. The new campaign focuses on breaking the cycle of silence that surrounds domestic abuse and recognises that speaking out is a significant milestone for many victims to overcome.

The team will be producing leaflets and banners to publicise the campaign across Torbay.

Please contact the Safer Communities Team on 01803 841274 email: scatt@torbay.gov.uk if you would like to receive leaflets relating to:

- Torbay MARAC
- SDVC
- Domestic Abuse and Health Practitioners
- SEEDS Survivors Group

The new campaign will be launched by Mayor Nick Bye and others at the beginning of National Domestic Violence Awareness week, 24-28th November 2008.



Training Update

The Domestic Abuse Team is currently offering a range of courses to practitioners & professionals who wish to develop their knowledge around domestic abuse.

Level 1 - Foundation Course: Tackling Domestic Violence & Abuse (one day)

(pre-requisite for Level 2 DA training and Safeguarding Domestic Violence-The Impact on the Child training) This course is fully subsidized by Safer Communities Torbay.

A one day multi-agency course for practitioners to examine the nature, scale and consequences of domestic violence and to how to take appropriate action, where possible. The course will raise awareness of the impact of domestic violence upon children and families, increase understanding of how best to offer help and support and raise standards of practice both individually and collectively.

Level 2 – How Perpetrators Operate (1 day course)

This course will incur a fee

A one day multi-agency course for practitioners who work with families. This course explores pattern 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.

Level 2 – Preventing Murder and Serious Harm in Domestic Violence & Abuse

one day (formerly Tackling Domestic Violence & Abuse) This course will incur a fee

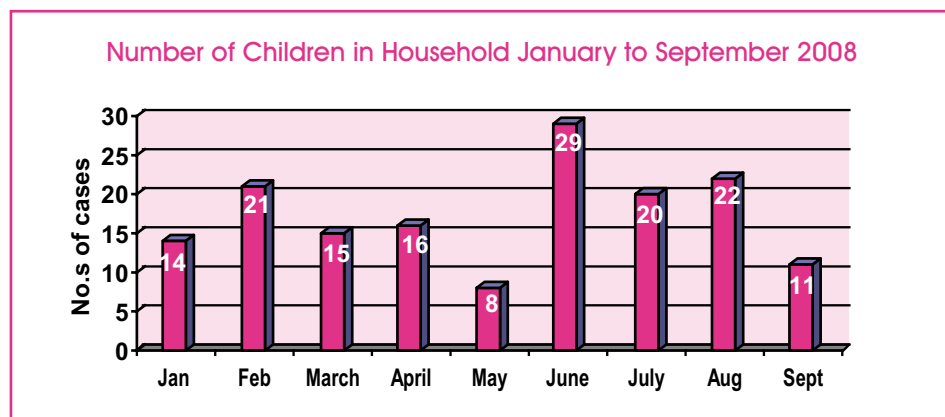
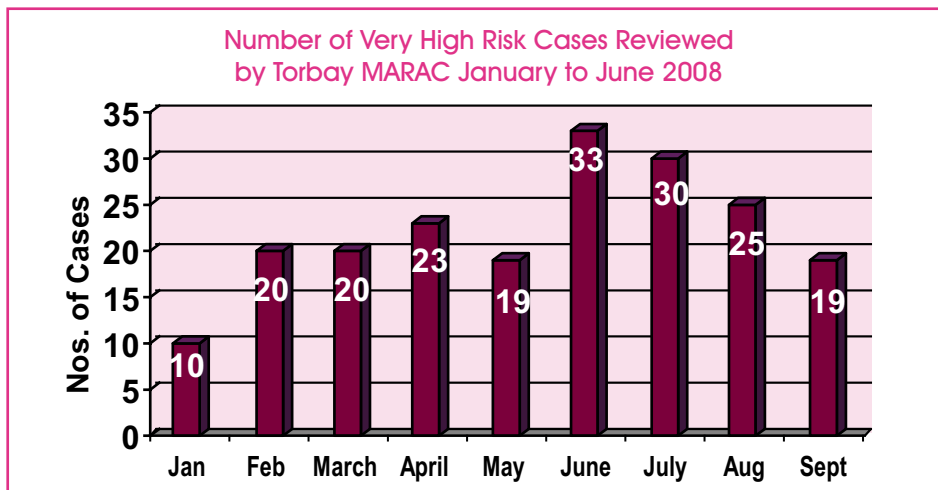
A one day multi-agency course for practitioners which has been developed to meet the increasing need for agencies to understand the level of risk to their client who may be experiencing Domestic Violence and to be able to refer them appropriately (including to the monthly Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)).

To check availability and dates please contact Laura Wright on 01803 841274 or email laura.wright@torbay.gov.uk

Torbay MARAC Update

What is a Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)?

The aim of the MARAC is to reduce the risk of serious harm or homicide for a victim and to increase the safety, health and wellbeing of victims – adults and any children. In a MARAC local agencies meet to discuss the highest risk victims of domestic abuse in the area. Information about the risks faced by those victims, the actions needed to ensure safety, and the resources available locally are shared and used to create a risk management plan involving all agencies.



Torbay MARAC

The Torbay MARAC meets on a monthly basis and is supported by a MARAC co-ordinator who is responsible for the administration and planning of the meetings. The MARAC is chaired by the Police and on average reviews 20 very high risk cases a month. Disclosures to the MARAC are made under the Data Protection Act and the Human Rights Act. Information can be shared when it is necessary to prevent a crime, protect the health and/or safety of the victim and/or the rights and freedom of those who are victims of violence and/or their children. It must be proportionate to the level of risk of harm to a named individual or known household.

For further information see the FAQs on disclosure of information at MARAC available at www.caada.org.uk Tel 01749 812968

The Torbay MARAC is currently being reviewed by CAADA (Co-ordinated action against domestic abuse) to ensure the process is 'fit for purpose'. This is a three stage process which involves:

1. an initial visit, training session and report – received November 2007
2. an observation visit to the MARAC- expected Dec 2008
3. final report expected spring 2009.

For more information regarding the MARAC, please contact Sharon Payne, MARAC Coordinator on 01803 841469 or email Sharon.payne@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk

New Services Update

The Domestic Abuse team in partnership with Supporting People and the Probation Service have been working together to deliver new and expanded services for victims of domestic abuse in the Bay. A tendering process is currently underway to select providers for the following services, which will be operational from April 2009:

A new Domestic Abuse Floating Support service to support both male and female victims of domestic abuse. This service will have the capacity to support up to 50 people across the Bay at any time; although it will not be a 24 hour service there will be flexibility to support people when they need it most, provided it is safe to do so. This service will also include Women's Safety Work which is integral to the delivery of the Probation service Integrated Domestic Abuse Programme (IDAP) for convicted offenders.

April 2009 will also see the expansion of refuge provision in the Bay in line with national guidance, from the existing 7 bed spaces to 14 in a phased development.

Is there anything you would like to see included in the next issue of this newsletter? Please send your ideas to Sally Bullingham Taylor at the email address below.

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

South Devon Women's Aid
01364 643866 - Outreach Office
01803 315154 - 24 hour helpline
01364 644088 - helpline 10am-1.00pm
www.womensaid.org.uk

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
0345 023 468

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