

**Violence Abuse & Mental Health Network: April/May Newsletter**

**VAMHN Opportunities**

**VAMHN Grant Competition – Now Open!**

The third VAMHN Grant Competition on the theme of *interventions* is now open! Grants are available up to a maximum of £25,000 and can be used to deliver a targeted piece of research or to pump-prime larger projects. The deadline for applications is the 2nd June 2021 at 5pm. To find out more and to download the application pack click here.

We recently ran a webinar with our VAMHN Lived Experience Advisory Group to discuss good practice on lived experience involvement for violence, abuse, and mental health research. You can find copies of the slides here.

**Webinar recordings**

We’ve been busy running a number of webinars over the last couple of weeks. You can watch them, along with all our previous webinars on our website here.

**Expert and network directories**

We are expanding our online Directory resource to include both an Expert Directory and a Network Directory, and we would like to invite you to join one or both of these. These two new resources will be hosted on the VAMHN website and accessible to all Network members.

Expert Directory

The first new directory is for expert individuals – e.g., academics, policy-makers, practitioners, those with lived experience, etc – and will collate details of Network member expertise. Individuals should complete the expert directory template, and we will make the directory available to Network members via the VAMHN website. The resource will help members find experts to help with bids or research or more general questions and queries.

Network Directory

The second new directory is for organisations and networks – again, academic, policy-making, practitioner, lived experience, third sector, voluntary sector, etc. These may be formal or informal; organisations, discussion forums, mailing lists; etc. Networks and organisations should complete the network directory template, and we will make the directory available to Network members via the VAMHN website. The resource will help members to find relevant networks to join, to signpost others to and potentially to help with bids or research or more general questions and queries.

If you would like to receive a template form, please contact vamhn@kcl.ac.uk and email the completed template Jude Towers: j.s.towers@ljmu.ac.uk

You can add or amend your details at any time – do stay in touch.

Any queries, please contact Jude Towers: j.s.towers@ljmu.ac.uk

**Other Training, Events and Opportunities**

**The Global Perspectives, Marginalisation and Thriving Communities Research Cluster** are presenting a series of four weekly sessions on Gender Based Violence. All webinars are on Tuesdays from 4-5.30pm:

* **18th May 2021 - Domestic Abuse Safeguarding during Covid-19: Initial findings from practice – sign up** here**.**
* **25thMay 2021 - New Neurological Approaches to Effectively Treating Trauma – sign up** here.

**Manchester Metropolitan University** are hosting a webinar on the 18th May from 4-5.30pm on “Domestic Abuse Safeguarding during COVID-19”. To sign up click here.

**The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine** are hosting a webinar on “A realist evaluation of an ecological intervention to improve health system responses to domestic abuse” on the 18th May from 12-1pm. To sign up click here.

**The Violence and Society Centre** are running a webinar on “The recourse to the (criminal) law: understanding intersecting inequalities and violence” on the 19th May from 2-5pm. To register your attendance click here.

**The MARCH Network** are hosting a webinar on the 2nd-3rd June on “Creative Lives: Tackling Inequalities”. To sign up click here.

**The Havens Sexual Assault Referral Centre** are hosting their 7th International Conference on the Survivors of Rape online on Wednesday 9th and Thursday 10th June 2021 with a pre-conference on Tuesday 8th June. Registration and abstract submissions are now open. For more information click here.

**London Councils** is developing a new four-year programme to combat homelessness and tackle domestic & sexual abuse. Expression of interest for those who are interested in applying for funding from April 2022 is aimed at voluntary, community & non-profit organisations specialising in those areas. For more information & to complete an expression of interest, visit the London Councils website (London Councils pan-London Grants Programme 2022-2026 – Expression of Interest | London Councils). The deadline for expressions of interest is 12pm on 25th June 2021.

**The Fourth European Conference on Domestic Violence** takes places in Slovenia from 13th-15th September 2021. Registration for the conference will be opened form the 30th April. For more information click here.

**Dr Jaimee Mallion & Dr Erika Gebo** are currently editing a special issue of the open-access *Societies* journal on "Collaborative Community Approaches to Address Serious Violence”. If you have expertise in this area and would like you to consider submitting an article to this journal please contact Dr Jaimee Mallion at mallionj@lsbu.ac.uk. To find out more about the special issue click here.

**Job, Education and Voluntary Opportunities**

**City, University of London** are looking for a researcher with lived experience to join their team for a 3-year Studentship on Complex PTSD in the Black British community. The closing date is the 7th June 2021. For more information click here.

**Safe Lives** are looking for Pioneers to join their team. SafeLives Pioneers are people who have been personally impacted by domestic abuse who are looking for an opportunity to use this experience as a tool to advocate for change, with and for all survivors. To find out more and to apply click here.

**Ongoing Research**

**The MARCH Covid Social Study** are beginningone-to-one interviews with women who have experienced intimate partner violence during the pandemic and how this has impacted behaviours, mental health and wellbeing. If you are interested in participating in the study and feel safe to do so, you can find more information from here or contact Alison McKinlay at a.mckinlay@ucl.ac.uk.

**The International VAMHN** is surveying people’s wellbeing and how relationships have been affected by COVID-19 in different places. Please complete this short survey and share it with others. HR-19/20-19295

**UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)** are in the next stage of bringing together each of the UKRI councils into one place online, at the new UKRI website. Please do sign up to contribute to how information useful to our network, is reached and presented online. Sign up here.

**Resources**

**Sex differences in experiences of multiple traumas and mental health problems in the UK Biobank cohort –** *Yapp et al, 2021*

This paper is part of the VAMHN’s linked series with the Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology Journal on violence, abuse, and mental health. The study looks at reported traumatic experiences in males and females separately, and their associations with mental health problems. To read the full paper (free) click here.

**Safe Lived Marac data: Key findings – Safe Lives, 2021**

A Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (Marac) is a meeting where information is shared on the highest risk domestic abuse cases between representatives of local police, health, child protection, adult social care, housing practitioners, Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (Idvas), probation and other specialists from the statutory and voluntary sectors. This report presents datarepresenting cases heard at Maracs between 1st January 2020 and 31st December 2020. To read the full report click here.

**Findings from a Systematic Review of DVFR/DHRs’ Processes and Recommendations** – Jones et al, 2021

The Homicide Abuse Learning Together (HALT) research team have published their first briefing paper based on their systematic review of the recommendations for the conduct of Domestic Homicide Reviews globally as well as recommendations made for improving policy and practice responses to domestic violence and abuse.  To read the full briefing paper click here and check out their website here.

**The COVID generation: A mental health pandemic in the making: The impact on the mental health of children and young people during and after the COVID-19 pandemic –** *The All-Party Parliamentary Group on a Fit and Healthy Childhood, 2021*

This report from the APPG on a Fit and Healthy Childhood summarises the evidence on the impact of COVID-19 on children’s and young people’s mental health. This includes discussion on children’s mental health associated with increased rates of child abuse and domestic violence, as well as information on recommended trauma-informed approaches for children and young people’s mental health care. To read the full report click here.

**Identifying and responding to domestic violence and abuse in healthcare settings** – *Keynejad et al, 2021*

This paper outlines the importance of identifying patients experiencing domestic abuse, how practitioners can respond appropriately (including in the context of COVID-19), and how to connect patients with specialist support is part of good holistic care. To read the full article in the *British Medical Journal* click here.

*For more useful resources and links, take a look at* *our website here*

**VAMHN Data Directory**

The VAMHN Data Directory has now launched! This new resource indexes UK datasets, data repositories, and aggregate/published statistics about violence, abuse, and mental health, providing you with information about these resources and how to access them. Do check it out here.

We’ll be continually adding to the data directory, so if you know of a resource that we haven’t yet indexed, please tell us about it by completing the template at the bottom of the Directory webpage here, and emailing to Dr Jude Towers at j.s.towers@ljmu.ac.uk. Please note that the resource should be either publicly available or available upon application.

**Basecamp**

Basecamp is a forum which you can use to connect with other members of the network. If you’re looking for collaborators, sharing a survey or looking to connect with across different disciplines, feel free to post a message on the project page.

We currently have two pages – one for all members and one for early career researchers. We define an early career researcher as “an individual who is within eight years of the award of their PhD or equivalent professional training, or an individual who is within six years of their first academic appointment”. This includes independent and charity researchers. ​Please let us know if you are an early career researcher and would like to be added to this page as well as the main page.

**Please note** that by requesting an invitation to join our Basecamp page, your email address will automatically be shared with all other members of the Basecamp group. Additionally, Basecamp often daily update emails which some may find excessive – however you can easily adjust this in your account settings once you sign up. If you would like to join the VAMHN Basecamp page, please email vamhn@kcl.ac.uk to request an invitation

**Useful Links**

VAMHN website: https://www.vamhn.co.uk/

VAMHN twitter: @VAMHN

We are one of eight UKRI funded mental health networks. To find out more about the other seven, click here

**If you have any collaboration or funding opportunities, events or resources for our newsletter please contact us at** **vamhn@kcl.ac.uk**