



Violence Abuse & Mental Health Network: December Newsletter

VAMHN Update

Welcome to our new Lived Experience Involvement Officer!

We are delighted to welcome Sara Dahlen as our new Lived Experience Involvement Officer. Sara will coordinate survivor/service user involvement in VAMHN, including by organising and coordinating a lived experience advisory panel, to which we will be recruiting in the coming months.

VAMHN Early Career Researcher Bursary Award winners:

The VAMHN recently awarded four Early Career Researcher bursaries. Thank you to everyone who applied, and we look forward to receiving your applications in our next round which will open in Spring 2020. Congratulations to our four successful applicants:

Tina Hamilton: [@TB_Hamilton](#)

Tina is a lecturer in Health and Wellbeing in Society at De Montfort University. She recently submitted her thesis exploring the protection of mental health service users from abuse and neglect within NHS organisations from the perspectives of individuals with leadership responsibility. She will use her award to support her attendance at the Tenth International Conference on Health, Wellness and Society.

Bridget Steele

Bridget is completing her DPhil at the University of Oxford. Her research focuses on sexual violence at higher education institutions. She will use her award to support her attendance at the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators Strategies conference which focuses on responding to and preventing sexual violence and mental health concerns at higher education institutions.

Sylvia McKelvie: <http://www.sylviamckelvie.com>.

Sylvia is a research assistant at The Havens, King's College Hospital who specialises in the area of social, health and judicial outcomes for survivors of sexual abuse and assault. She

will use her award to attend a course on 'Communication in Medical and Healthcare Interactions'.

Ashley McCarthy: [@AshleyMcC3090](#)

Ashley is a research assistant at King's College London who works on the HYPE and EYVI project. Her research explores the physical and mental wellbeing of young people. She will use her award to attend a training course on 'Adolescents as Victims and Perpetrators'.



VAMHN Upcoming Events

VAMHN Network Meeting – save the date!

We will be hosting our next open network meeting on Tuesday 24th March in London – save the date! We will be releasing more details in the new year.



Other Funding Opportunities

- The Loneliness and Social Isolation in Mental Health Research Network Funding Call
 - 🕒 Deadline 31st January 2020 at 5pm. [Click here for full details.](#)
 - NIHR Health Inequalities Research Initiative: Call 3
 - 🕒 Deadline 14th January 2020 at 1pm. [Click here for full details.](#)
 - NIHR Public Mental Health Interventions
 - 🕒 Deadline 17th March 2020 at 1pm. [Click here for full details.](#)
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Other Training and Events

The University of Leeds will be holding the next UK Domestic Violence and Health Research Forum, hosted by Prof. Elizabeth Hughes on 21st January 2020 from 10am-4pm. They are currently inviting expressions of interest for speakers. The deadline for expressions of interest is today (19th Dec). If you are interested in presenting or attending please email lynn.sardinha@bristol.ac.uk.

The University of Jyväskylä, Finland will be hosting the 3rd International Violence Interventions on 10th-12th June 2020. For full details [click here](#). Early career researchers wanting to attend may consider applying for a [VAMHN ECR bursary](#) to support their attendance in our next round in Spring 2020.

The Royal British Legion are hosting a community conference on 'Understanding domestic abuse within the armed forces' at the Council House in Birmingham on 23rd March. The conference aims to share insights from new research undertaken within the Armed Forces community into domestic violence and abuse. For full details and to register your attendance [click here](#).

The University of Central Lancashire is hosting 3 seminars of interest in January and February 2020. The first is on 'Supporting staff experiencing domestic abuse' on 15th January. The seminar will run from 4.30-6pm. For full details and to register your attendance [click here](#). The second seminar is titled 'This Is Me: Increasing Mental Health Awareness in the Workplace' on the 24th January from 8-10pm. For full details and to register your attendance [click here](#). The third seminar is on 'What can we learn from dyad research about how substance use contributes to intimate partner abuse perpetration?' on 5th February from 4-5.30pm. For full details and to register your attendance [click here](#).



Ongoing Research

Siofra Peeren (King's College London) is looking for participants of a qualitative interview study that forms part of her PhD research. Siofra would like to speak with around 15 women who have experienced sexual violence and/or abuse after the age of 16 and who have been pregnant since (including women who have had a miscarriage or termination). The interview will explore participants' experiences of pregnancy, birth, early motherhood, or maternity care. For further information about the study [click here](#). For any questions, please contact Siofra at siofra.peeren@kcl.ac.uk. If you work with women who might be eligible to take part, please feel free to get in touch with Siofra and or/pass the information on.



Job and Education Opportunities

The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine are hiring a research fellow in gender violence and mental health. The post is full time with a salary of £40,011-£45,437 per annum, inclusive. The deadline for applications is the 24th December. For full details and to apply [click here](#).

The University of Southampton has an opening for a PhD position on "Mental health outcomes of children exposed to domestic abuse in low- and middle-income countries" at Highfield Campus. The closing date for applications is the 23rd January 2020. For full details and to apply [click here](#).

The Violence and Society Centre at City, University of London is offering a full-time, three-year doctoral studentship for 2020/21 entry. The closing dates for applications are the 10th December and 3rd January. For full details and to apply [click here](#).



Resources

Trauma-informed Approaches: Resource Pack – Violence, Abuse and Mental Health Network

We recently put together a resource pack which summarises some of the current literature on Trauma Informed Approaches (TIAs). The pack briefly discusses the key principles of TIA and looks at why they have not been adopted consistently across the UK. It also provides examples of services that have successfully implemented TIAs and how this has been achieved. To read the full resource which is free to download on our website [click here](#).

Survivor Involvement Ladder – Survivors’ Voices

This new tool, produced by Survivors’ Voices in collaboration with Simone Kennedy, is designed to measure and evaluate the quality of survivor involvement in research about survivors. The Ladder is currently in its pilot phase and they are looking to gather feedback. To access the resource and leave your thoughts [click here](#).

Seeing the whole picture: Our impact in 2018-19 – Safe Lives

Safe Lives has published their end of year impact report which reflects on their strategic priorities and what they have done to make them a reality. The report offers insight into the incredible work they have done on a range of issues from influencing legislation to research on technology and abuse. To access the full report on their website [click here](#).

Supporting Victims of Domestic Violence Online Course – University of Sheffield

The University of Sheffield has produced a new online course to help health and social care workers support victims of domestic violence. This free course aims to provide Continuing Professional Development to workers in this sector. It looks at topics such as identifying gender-based violence, forms of abuse, the impact of domestic abuse, recognising the signs of abuse and working in partnership with the individuals and organisations helping to support victims. To read more about the course and sign up for free [click here](#).

Learning from domestic homicide reviews in England and Wales – Chantler et al, 2019

This paper aims to contribute to the prevention of future domestic homicide by analysing 141 domestic homicide reviews (DHRs) in England and Wales. The findings revealed perpetrators’ mental health was mentioned in 65% of DHRs and 49% of perpetrators had a mental health diagnosis. To read the full article published in *Health and Social Care* [click here](#).

Domestic Violence in Health Contexts: A Guide for Healthcare Professionals – Ali & McGarry, 2019

This textbook is beneficial to a range of health care professionals through an exploration of theories and classifications of domestic violence and abuse (DVA), consideration of DVA in different contexts and consideration of the core issues surrounding working with individuals and families where DVA has been identified. To find out more and get the e-book online, [click here](#).

Caring for long term health needs in women with a history of sexual trauma – Ades et al, 2019

This review provides a comprehensive run-down of the physical and mental long-term health effects of sexual assault as well as advice on identification and management in a practitioner setting. To read the full review published in *BMJ* [click here](#).

For more useful resources and links, take a look at [our website here](#)

Useful Links



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



VAMHN twitter: [@VAMHN](https://twitter.com/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