



## Violence Abuse & Mental Health Network: June Newsletter



### Recent Activities

- Our network lead Prof Louise Howard was the keynote speaker at the [Pathfinder Mental Health Event](#) on 23<sup>rd</sup> May. The day brought together third sector members, researchers, practitioners and survivors to discuss domestic abuse in the context of mental health care.
- Our network lead Dr Sian Oram and network coordinator Anjuli Kaul attended the Inaugural Symposium of the [King's Health Partners Institute for Women's and Children's Health](#) on 10<sup>th</sup> June, with presentations on research, policy and healthcare and a poster viewing session showcasing women and children's health research across the UK.
- On the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> June the VAMHN hosted workshops on the measurement of violence, abuse, and mental health. The first day was run by Prof. Sylvia Walby and the second by Dr Emma Howarth. A huge thank you to them and to everyone who attended.
- On the 21<sup>st</sup> June, and to mark the formation of the VAMHN, The Lancet Psychiatry has launched a Commission on violence, abuse and mental health, centred on domestic violence. To find out more [click here](#).
- On 25<sup>th</sup> June, our network lead Dr Sian Oram attended a roundtable event at the Women's Health All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) in partnership with Agenda, on achieving gender aware and trauma-informed mental health services, and marking six months since the publication of the [final report](#) of the Women's Mental Health Taskforce.



### VAMHN Funding Opportunities

The VAMHN has recently launched two new funding opportunities.

- Applications are now open for our first small grant competition! We will be making awards of up to £25,000 and proposals should address issues of measurement and definition in relation to violence, abuse, and mental health. The deadline for submission is the **1<sup>st</sup> September 2019 at 5pm**. To find out more and to apply [visit our website here](#).

- There are a few days left to apply to the VAMHN Early Career Researcher Bursary (ECR) Award Scheme. The bursary aims to support junior researchers to attend training courses, research placements at institutions other than their own, and conferences. Bursaries can be used towards training course and/or conference fees, or for travel and accommodation to support attendance. Applications are open from **14<sup>th</sup> June 2019 – 28<sup>th</sup> June 2019 at 5pm**. You don't have to conduct research at a university to apply – to see our eligibility criteria and to apply [visit our website here](#).



## Other Funding Opportunities

- NIHR 'Improving Health and wellbeing for people who are at risk of or exposed to Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)'
  - 🕒 Deadline 20<sup>th</sup> July 2019. [Click here for full details](#).
- MRC 'Fourth call for research to improve adolescent health in low and middle income countries'
  - 🕒 Deadline 16<sup>th</sup> July 2019. [Click here for full details](#).
- NIHR 'Global Health Policy and Systems Research (Global HSPSR) Development Awards'
  - 🕒 Deadline 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019. [Click here for full details](#).
- ESRC Research Grants Open Call
  - 🕒 No fixed closing date. [Click here for full details](#).



## VAMHN Upcoming Events

**Next network meeting:** Our next network meeting will take place on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2019 (save the date!). If you are interested in presenting at the meeting, please email [vamhn@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:vamhn@kcl.ac.uk). More details on the event to follow.



## Other Training and Events

**King's College London** is running The Women's Mental Health Research Summer School which will take place over 3 days to help develop students' understanding of the nature of women's mental health as well as the research principles, methods and evaluation of women's mental health studies. The course will start on the 3rd of July 2019 and run for 3

days. The deadline for applications is the 26th of June 2019. More information including how to book can be found [here](#).

**The Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience** is hosting the 58<sup>th</sup> Maudsley Debate: PTSD on the 4<sup>th</sup> July. The motion is "This house believes that PTSD has become overdiagnosed in western society". To get your free ticket click [here](#).

**St George's University of London** is holding a Centre for Public Engagement Masterclass: Involving Children and Young People in Research. This interactive half-day masterclass is aimed at researchers who want to learn more about involving children and young people in their research. To find out more and to book your tickets click [here](#).

**The Centre for Women's Mental Health** at the University of Manchester is hosting a two-day dissemination event on digital innovations in prisons. The event will bring together service users, prison staff, charities and academics to discuss exciting new digital developments in prisons. The event is over two days - the first day will consist of presentations and the second day will include a series of workshops to showcase digital health innovations. To find out more and book your place [click here](#).



## Resources

### **'Let's Talk Mental Health: Series 2' by the Mental Health Leadership**

Let's Talk Mental Health is a video series of that aims to promote discussion, reduce stigma and increase knowledge of mental health. This project allows young professionals working in mental health related fields like Museums, Technology, Architecture, Genetics and Music the chance to engage with and learn from people with lived experience of mental health problems and vice versa. To watch the full series on Youtube [click here](#).

### **'Changes in Psychiatric and Medical Conditions and Health Care Utilization Following a Diagnosis of Sexual Assault: A Retrospective Cohort Study' by Young-Wolff et al**

This article looks at the relationship between sexual assault and health care utilisation. They found that patients with a sexual assault diagnosis had a higher prevalence of psychiatric and medical comorbidities and greater health care utilisation than the 12 months before the sexual assault diagnosis. To read the full article [open access] published in *Medical Care* [click here](#).

### **'The importance of Children's Social Care responding to the whole family' by Nicky Stanley**

This blog discusses emerging models of whole family interventions for families living with domestic violence and abuse, as well as highlighting two UK based examples; 'Growing Futures' and 'For Baby's Sake'. To read the full blog piece [open access] available at the *SafeLives* website [click here](#).

### **'Sexual violence Against Older People: A Review of Empirical Literature' by Hannah Bows**

This article presents a critical review of the literature reporting empirical research in three overlapping fields of inquiry: elder abuse, domestic violence, and sexual violence. The

review finds that domestic violence literature on elder populations report rates of up to 15% whilst studies find a 2-8% prevalence of sexual violence. To read the full review [open access] published in *Trauma Violence Abuse* [click here](#).

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



## Ongoing research

**SafeLives** are working on a project gathering the voices of men and boys. This work forms a crucial part of their new strategy, helping them to look at the whole picture – and whole society – when it comes to domestic abuse. They're launching two surveys:

- One aimed at boys and men (11+) looking at attitudes around relationships, masculinity, and what behaviours are acceptable in relationships: [click here to access the survey](#)
- The other aimed at men (16+) who have experience of domestic abuse – either as children or as adults: [click here to access the survey](#)

The surveys will be open until the 13<sup>th</sup> August. SafeLives will be producing content on the themes of the work which will be shared on their social media and website channels throughout.

## 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 events or resources for our newsletter, please contact us at [vamhn@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:vamhn@kcl.ac.uk)