



Violence Abuse & Mental Health Network: February Newsletter



VAMHN Opportunities

ECR Bursary blogs

Over the past 4 years of the VAMHN, we have been able to award over 40 early career researchers with awards of up to £350 to support their attendance at training courses and conferences relevant to violence, abuse and mental health. Our final round of bursary awards closed this year, but our bursary awardees have been writing blogs and reflections about the events they were able to attend using their bursary award. You can read these blogs on our website [here](#).



Other Training, Events and Opportunities

The **iVAMHN** are hosting an online meeting on the 27th March from 12pm. The meeting will share the latest evidence on understanding and addressing the relationship between gender-based violence and mental ill-health. To register your attendance, click [here](#). The meeting will hear from keynote speakers as well as some short talks by early career researchers. If you are an ECR and would like to speak at the meeting, please email Roxanne.1.keynejad@kcl.ac.uk.

The **NIHR Incubator for Mental Health Research** has opened applications to the GROW Researcher Development Programme for 2023. Applications are sought from early career researchers in England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland working in a research role following a PhD or with equivalent research experience. Successful applicants will receive a range of benefits including professional career coaching sessions and monthly cross-disciplinary skills workshops. Applications close on the 29th March 2023. To find out more and apply click [here](#).

VAMHN Arts Competition awardees Viv Gordon (Viv Gordon Company) and Alison McKinlay (UCL) are launching the Plain Sight short film series on Tuesday 21st March at Riverside Studios in West London. There will be a networking session from 7pm and film screening from 8pm followed by a Q&A session. The short films are designed to challenge harmful attitudes that exist in Society about adult survivors of child sexual abuse. Ticket info will be

posted to the Viv Gordon Company website when available at this [link](#). Please contact Alison McKinlay a.mckinlay@ucl.ac.uk if you have any queries about the event.

The APPG on Domestic Violence and Abuse are meeting on the 22nd March from 1.00-1.45pm to discuss “How the police are tackling violence against women and girls”. To find out more and to attend, please email info@womensaid.org.uk.

The East Kent Rape Crisis Center are running the “Listen, Support and Believe Conference 2023” on the 19th April 2023. To find out more click [here](#).

The University of Sunderland are hosting a VAMHN funded conference on addressing intimate violence and abuse among autistic adults and adults with learning disabilities on the 12th April from 9.30am-3pm. To find out more click [here](#).



Resources

The TAP CARE Study Animation – University of Bristol

The TAP CARE study, led by Natalia Lewis, has launched a new animation to share findings from their study on the evidence for implementing trauma-informed healthcare in the UK. The four-minute video tells the stories of Sophie and Saida, both of whom carry traumatic experiences from the past, which shape their health and behaviour and put them at risk of re-traumatisation in health services. To find out more and to watch the animation click [here](#).

Domestic violence and mental health during COVID-19 – Keynejad, 2023

This review reports what is currently known about global DVA prevalence during the pandemic and its impact on mental health. It summarises key guidance for clinicians assessing patients during periods of social distancing and proposes recommendations for the ‘new normal’ and future pandemics. To read the full review published in PROGRESS in Neurology and Psychiatry, click [here](#).

Underexamined and underreported: Suicidality and intimate partner violence:

Connecting two major public health domains – Agenda Alliance and VISION Consortium, 2023

This briefing directly addresses the gap in the research around self-harm and suicidality in women by unpacking the link between intimate partner violence (IPV) and suicidality, and the ways in which this disproportionately impacts women. To read the full briefing click [here](#).

Perinatal Mental Health and Domestic Abuse – Maternal Mental Health Alliance, 2023

This briefing explores multiagency responses to domestic abuse and perinatal mental health including information what works for new and expectant mothers, babies and families experiencing domestic abuse. To read the full briefing click [here](#).

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

VAMHN Forum

Whether you want to share a survey, find collaborators for a bid or discuss a paper you've written, the VAMHN forum is a space for you to do that. To sign up to the forum and start connecting to other VAMHN members click [here](#). Full instructions on how to use the forum can be found on the homepage.

VAMHN Directories

The VAMHN has developed three active directories available on our website for our members to access. To access our directories masterpage click [here](#).

1. VAMHN Data Directory

This 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. To access this resource, click [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 and emailing to vamhn@kcl.ac.uk. Please note that the resource should be either publicly available or available upon application. You do not need a password to access the data directory.

2. VAMHN Expert Directory

Our Expert Directory collates details of Network member expertise – e.g., academics, policy-makers, practitioners, those with lived experience, etc. This resource can be used to help members find experts to help with bids or research or more general questions and queries. To access the Expert Directory webpage click [here](#). **The password to the webpage is UKRInetwork1!**

3. VAMHN Network Directory

This 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. The resource can be used to help members find relevant networks to join, to signpost others to and potentially to help with bids or research or more general questions and queries. To access the Network Directory webpage click [here](#). **The password to the webpage is UKRInetwork1!**

Both the expert and network directory webpages include instructions on how to use them effectively, and also include a video introduction from our network co-investigator Dr Jude Towers.

If you would like to add your details either the expert or network directory, you can download the template form from our website at the web-links above and send to vamhn@kcl.ac.uk.

We hope you find the directories useful! If you would like to refer these directories onto colleagues who are not currently members of the VAMHN, please kindly ask them to join the network [here](#) and contact us at vamhn@kcl.ac.uk to request the password.

4. VAMHN Blog Directory

Our blog directory which contains blogs by people with lived and living experience of violence, abuse and mental health. The blogs are about diverse forms of domestic and sexual violence, diverse types of mental health and different experiences of services e.g. health, policing, research etc. To access the blog directory, click [here](#). The password to the webpage is *UKRInetwork1!* For any and all enquiries about this directory please contact vamhn@kcl.ac.uk.

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