



Violence Abuse & Mental Health Network: January Newsletter



VAMHN Opportunities

VAMHN End of Network Events Update:

In our last newsletter, we had previously advertised three end of network webinars running across February this year which would showcase some of the amazing work our members have done over the past 4 years on the themes of *measurement, understanding* and *interventions*. However, due to the recent announcement by the University College Union (UCU) that university staff will be striking throughout the months of February and March, we have decided to cancel these events to accommodate any speakers and attendees who may be planning to strike.

However, even though we will no longer be hosting these events as live webinars, we are asking all our speakers to pre-record their presentations so that we can share them on our website. This means you won't miss out on hearing about some of the incredible work being done in the violence, abuse and mental health space. We will be collating these videos over the next month and anticipate launching them on our website in March (date TBC). We will be sure to update you once these resources have been made available online through our newsletter and on Twitter - so watch this space!

(Re)Sounding Silence: Active Listening as Activism against Abuse

In November 2022, VAMHN grantholder Dr Alana Harris (King's College London) collaborated with Concetta Perot (Survivors' Voices), Jane Chevous (Survivors' Voices) and Lisa Ward (VAMHN) to host a one-day, informal workshop. The workshop gathered survivor researchers and their allies to explore differing interdisciplinary, scholarly, and socially engaged mechanisms to amplify the voices and priorities of survivors – with a focus on “active listening”, “receptive hearing” and the need to co-create contexts for “silence breaking” or “supported speaking”. The aim of the workshop was to share reflections and recent experiences surrounding the opportunities and challenges involved in survivor-led co-production, and through this mapping of good practice to offer frameworks and tools, especially orientated to preliminary research design, deriving from our differing disciplinary and epistemic settings.

Three infographics summarising the breadth and depth of issues covered during the workshop were created which you can view on our website [here](#).



Other Training, Events and Opportunities

VAMHN Arts Competition awardees Dr Tina Sikka and Lady Kitt are running an online event titled “Sexual Ethics and Lived Experience: Empowering Sexual Futures Symposium” on the 2nd February from 11am-1pm. This VAMHN funded artistic engagement symposium will discuss the findings from conversations during a socially engaged art and research project on sexual ethics. The event will include an interactive digital installation of the completed and curated artwork. To reserve your space click [here](#).

VAMHN Arts Competition awardees Dr Angela Sweeney, Jane Chevous and Laura Fischer are hosting an opening reception for their T.R.A.U.M.A. art exhibition on the 8th February from 5.30-8pm at the Social Genetic and Developmental Psychiatry Centre, Memory Lane, London SE5 8AF. The event will launch their arts-based card deck aimed at building awareness of abuse, facilitating conversations, and animating public debate. The exhibition and card deck are a collaboration between SURE, Survivors Voices and Traumascap.es. To book your place click [here](#).

The Health and Social Care Committee is launching a new inquiry into prevention. They want to hear from researchers, organisations and individuals interested in or working in preventative healthcare to suggest what specific issues they should be exploring. For more information on how to get involved in the inquiry click [here](#). The submission deadline is the 8th February.

The National Sexual Assault Conference will run in San Francisco from the 22nd – 24th August. The deadline for proposals is the 14th February. For more information click [here](#).

Traumascap.es are curating an event at the Whitechapel Gallery entitled “The Survivor Lens: Reframing Trauma Narratives through Filmmaking” on the 25th of February from 11.30am-6pm. The event will feature screenings, conversation, and reflection on the role of artists' films in reframing trauma narratives. For more information and to book your space, 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 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](#).



Ongoing Research

A postgraduate researcher at Coventry University would like to talk to people who have experience of providing or receiving support to/from people in their personal networks, such as their friends, partners or family members. Participants will not be expected to talk about the sexual violence or abuse that you/the person supported experienced, and all questions will be optional to answer. The overall aim of the project is to develop resources that can help supporters in the future. Sarah will arrange a time convenient for participants to talk about their experiences with informal support. Interviews will last around an hour, with the option to take part by phone or online call (with or without video). To find out more, email Sarah West at wests13@coventry.ac.uk, call/text 07724 004 297 or leave your contact details at <https://bit.ly/3BFiYFH> with no obligation to participate. Participant recruitment will remain open until February 2023.



Resources

The co-occurrence of substance misuse, domestic abuse, and child maltreatment: Can Family Drug and Alcohol Courts play a part? – Harwin and Barlow, 2022

This review focuses on the inter-relationship between substance misuse, domestic abuse, and child maltreatment in the context of child protection proceedings. It reviews what is known about the prevalence and impact of co-occurring domestic abuse and substance misuse on adult and child victims, and the response of criminal and family law and intervention programmes in supporting families to address these problems holistically. To read the full paper in *Frontiers in Psychiatry* click [here](#).

Developing new portals to safety for domestic abuse survivors in the context of the pandemic – Stanley et al, 2022

This study examined the emergence and implementation of community touchpoints established in the UK during the COVID-19 pandemic for victims/survivors of domestic abuse. To read the full article in *Health and Social Care* click [here](#).

The Mental Health Research Community Map - The Mental Health Research Incubator

The Mental Health Research Incubator have just released the Mental Health Research Community Map is an interactive map for mental health researchers to find collaborators and connect mental health research in the UK quickly and easily. Their ambition is to build a collaborative, multidisciplinary directory of mental health researchers by encouraging anyone to drop a pin and share their research interests and professional contact details. They have published [a helpful guide](#) and a short animation about the map and how to use it. To access the map, 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 Dr Jude Towers at Towersj@edgehill.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 Dr Jude Towers at Towersj@edgehill.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 Dr Jude Towers at Towersj@edgehill.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