



Violence Abuse & Mental Health Network: September Newsletter



VAMHN Opportunities

VAMH Network Meeting – save the date!

We will be hosting our next online VAMH Network Meeting on 30th October from 10am-12pm – save the date! We'll be sharing more details in the coming weeks.

Small Grant Competition

Our second plus projects funding call is now open. Grants are available for small projects up to £25k, on the theme of understanding violence, abuse, and mental health. We will commission research that aims to understand:

1. The common sources of harm in the interconnected systems encountered by victims and survivors of violence and abuse?
2. The pathways to experiencing – and/or using - violence and abuse, and their relationship with mental health problems?
3. Which factors are protective against violence, abuse, and mental health problems across the life course, disaggregated by gender, and which could be potential targets for interventions?

Grants can be used to deliver a targeted piece of research or to pump-prime larger projects. Applications are now open and close at **5pm on 11th December 2020**. Full details on how to apply, including the call specification and frequently asked questions, can be accessed from our website [here](#). Information about the projects funded through our first funding call, on the theme of measurement of violence, abuse, and mental health can be found [here](#).

ECR Bursary Award Scheme

Our next round of Early Career Researcher Bursary Awards is now open! 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. This includes registration fees for virtual webinars and conferences.

These awards are open to early career researchers from both UK universities and third sector organisations. The deadline is 4th November 2020. To find out more and to apply [click here](#).


Mental Elf blogging opportunities

The Mental Elf are looking for bloggers to cover the latest research on violence and abuse, trauma, and mental health. If you have mental health knowledge, critical appraisal skills and a knack for writing, they want to hear from you. If you are interested please contact katherine.saunders@nationalelfservice.net .




Other Funding Opportunities

Loneliness and Social Isolation Network Plus Funding Call

 Deadline 2nd October 2020. [Click here for full details.](#)


Closing the Gap Network Plus Funding Call (*physical and mental health*)

 Deadline 30th October 2020. [Click here for full details.](#)

eNurture Network Plus Funding Call (*young people's mental health and the digital world*)

 Deadline 30th September 2020. [Click here for full details.](#)

Place2be Bursary (*under-represented groups in the counselling profession*)

 Deadline 11th October 2020. [Click here for full details.](#)



Other Training, Events and Opportunities

AVA are currently offering a varied programme of training events and webinars over the coming months. To find out more click [here](#).

Adira is a survivor-led mental health organisation that supports black people's mental health issues. They recently ran an online event called Black Mental Health Live which has been recorded and uploaded to their website. The watch the recording click [here](#).

The Royal College of Psychiatrists in running their Faculty of General Adult Psychiatry Annual Conference on 15th-16th October. Topics include domestic violence and abuse, racism, equality and COVID-19 and workforce wellbeing and mental health. For full details click [here](#).

Parveen Ali and Angela Hardwick from the University of Sheffield have developed a project for the Festival of Mind titled 'Phoenix: Impact of Domestic Violence and Abuse'. You can

explore [photos from the installation](#), listen [to a podcast](#) and [watch a talk](#) about the project to find out more.

Standing Together Against Domestic Violence have launched this year's Blooming Strong campaign to promote the strength of survivors of abuse. They have a programme of events as part of the campaign which you can find out more about [here](#).

Standing Together Against Domestic Violence also launched their MOPAC funded London Domestic Homicide Review Case Analysis and Review of Local Authorities DHR Process. You can watch the recording of the launch on YouTube [here](#).

The American Psychological Association are issuing a call for papers on "Stigma and COVID-19". The journal particularly welcomes qualitative or quantitative papers looking at stigma associated with the virus. For full details [click here](#).

The Sexual Violence and Health Research Network are issuing a call for abstracts for their Sexual Violence and Health Research Day on 5th November. For full details please contact sylvia.mckelvie@nhs.net.

The European Congress of Psychiatry will take place in Florence on 10th-13th April 2021. They are accepting abstracts until the 30th September. For more details click [here](#).

The Forces in Mind Trust are hosting a virtual conference on 7th October from 10am-1pm on 'Understanding Domestic Abuse within the Armed Forces'. To register your attendance click [here](#).

The COVID-19 Taskforce on Domestic Violence are running a panel discussion on 'Tech-based trauma support for domestic abuse survivors' on 8th October from 4-5.10pm. To register your attendance click [here](#).



Community Spotlight



361Life support is a new national survivor led network offering emotional education to survivors. We ask - victim, survivor, what lies beyond? Our 361 Recovery programme, funded by NSUN, is a 12 week programme for women survivors. Our new programme starts on Sunday October 25th 4-6pm on zoom and each participant receives a 361 journal in the post. Our 13th session forms a user led group which becomes part of the 361 Life Support survivor network. 361 is a gift from survivor to survivor. 361 Sober starts Sunday October 25th 7 - 8.30pm for 6 weeks for sober

curious men and women and those in their first year of sobriety. You can also follow the 361 Recovery programme on our 361 Recovery podcast.

More information available here: 361lifesupport.co.uk

Ongoing Research

UCL STEaPP, University of Queensland and QUT are calling for domestic violence sector workers in the UK and Australia to take part in a survey to assess the impact of Internet of Things (IoT) technology on survivors of domestic violence. Participants will be asked to share their own, or their organisations, thoughts, insights and practices of working with survivors of domestic and sexual violence and to consider whether the emergence of technology-facilitated abuse is affecting the ways in which women use technology to find information, support and safety. The survey should take 5 to 10 minutes to complete. For more information and the link to the survey click [here](#).

The TAP CARE study at University of Bristol (PI Natalia Lewis) synthesises evidence on the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of trauma-informed models of primary health care and community-based mental health care – more information [here](#). So far, they identified six eligible studies, all from North America. They are reaching out to experts for additional evaluation reports of trauma-informed models of primary health care and community-based mental health care. If you are aware of any relevant reports (peer reviewed or grey literature) please share or signpost via email: nat.lewis@bristol.ac.uk

The Sexual Violence Priority Setting Partnership are working with the James Lind Alliance to set up a 'Priority Setting Partnership' in the area of unwanted sexual experiences. The Partnership brings together survivors and health and social care professionals with direct experience working with survivors, to identify important unanswered questions for future research. They are running a survey to ask survivors and professionals what the most important unanswered questions are that future research should answer on how to support survivors of unwanted sexual experiences. For more information and the link to the survey click [here](#).

The University of Birmingham is running a PhD project on Image Based Sexual Abuse (also known as revenge porn) and the impact this has on the well-being of LGBTQ individuals. The team are looking for people who identify as LGBTQ and have experience of image based sexual abuse to get in touch with them to participate in their study. More details can be found [here](#) and you may contact the research team by email: ibsa@contacts.bham.ac.uk.

The University of Oxford and our sister network Emerging Minds are running the Co-SPACE study exploring how families are coping during the pandemic and what parents can do to help support their children's mental health. If you are the parent or carer of a child who is in school year 0-11 (foundation/reception to the end of GCSEs) or P1 to S4 and you are living in the UK, you are eligible to take part in their survey. For full details and the link to their survey click [here](#).

Siofra Peeren at King's College London is looking for participants for a new study exploring maternity care professionals' experiences of working with women who have experienced sexual violence as adults

- Are you a maternity care professional (incl. student midwives) who is currently or has previously practiced in the UK?
- Can you spare one hour to take part in a one-to-one, online interview about working with women who have experienced sexual violence as adults?

Please contact siofra.peeren@kcl.ac.uk for more information about taking part. You do not need to have direct experience of working with women with these experiences.

Researchers at UCL are hoping to improve interventions for children and families who have experienced domestic violence and/or child maltreatment. [Their study](#) aims to find out what outcomes are most important to people accessing services and programmes. This study has been approved by the UCL Research Ethics Committee. They want to hear from you if you are:

- A parent who has suffered violence or abuse (including financial abuse, emotional or psychological abuse, or coercive control) from your partner during the lifetime of your child/ren,
- or you experienced violence or abuse as a child (this might include physical or sexual abuse, it also includes experience of abuse between parents/caregivers)
- and you're aged over 18 years

Participants will take part in an interview about their goals and priorities during and after the abuse. Participants will be compensated for their time and the team will discuss with you how best to carry out the interview (including what questions they will ask) so you feel as comfortable and safe as possible. Speaking to or meeting with a researcher to hear more about the study will not commit you to taking part. Deciding not to take part will not affect any services you receive. If now isn't the right time for you to take part but you might be interested later on in the year, please do get in touch to let them know. If you took part in their workshops, they can't interview you but we would really appreciate it if you could forward this invitation on to anyone you know who might like take part. For further information or if you have any questions, please contact Claire at c.powell@ucl.ac.uk or 07586 144250.



Resources

The Consequences of the COVID-19 Lockdown on Stalking Victimisation – *Bracewell et al, 2020*

This brief report draws on a service evaluation undertaken immediately prior to and during the 2020 COVID-19 crisis. The pandemic creates a paradox when considering safety in the home, but it is important to recognise the dangers this presents to many victims of stalking. The information presented in this report is based on existing literature and early evidence from semi-structured interviews and discussions with 15 victims and six practitioners. To read the full review in the *Journal of Family Violence* click [here](#).

London Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) Case Analysis of Local Authorities DHR Process – *Montique, 2019*

This report follows on from the work conducted by Standing Together and London Metropolitan University analysing DHRs in 2016. This work looks at the report's key findings and recommendations to see what comparisons or differences there are in London. The report highlights learnings and gaps that are not only relevant to London, but at a regional and national level. To read the full report click [here](#).

Online and ICT-facilitated violence against women and girls during COVID-19 – UN Women, 2020

UN Women have published this brief which highlights emerging trends and impacts of COVID-19 on violence against women and girls facilitated by technology. It makes recommendations to be considered by governments, women's rights organizations, civil society organizations, internet intermediaries, and other practitioners committed to enhancing women's and girls' online safety. To read the brief click [here](#).

Piloting the CSA Practice Leads Programme in adult substance misuse services: Evaluation report – Graham, 2020

The Centre of expertise on child sexual abuse (CSA Centre) has published an evaluation report on piloting the child sexual abuse (CSA) leads programme in adult substance misuse services. The report evaluated pilots in three local authorities and in a national charity supporting adults with substance misuse support needs, who are likely to be survivors of child sexual abuse. To read the full report click [here](#).

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

VAMHN Data Directory

We are currently in the process of developing an online Data Directory of quantitative data resources that include information on violence / abuse and mental health to help guide researchers, policy makers, practitioners, survivors / survivor organisations and the third sector toward useful resources available in the field. For this directory, we are interested in gathering information in a set format on three types of resource: 1) Datasets 2) Data Repositories 3) Aggregate / Published Statistics.

We are currently trialling our first version of the directory which you can view on an unpublished [link here](#). What we need from you is information on any UK datasets, data repositories and/or sources of aggregate / published statistics on violence / abuse and mental health that we can add to this Directory. If you would like to submit one to us, please do so 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 by **1st August 2020**. Resource submissions should be either publicly available or available upon application.

Many thanks in advance for helping us develop this resource – we look forward to formally launching our new online Data Directory at the next VAMHN networking meeting in the autumn. For further information about the directory please email contact Dr Jude Towers at j.s.towers@ljmu.ac.uk

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](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