



Welcome to the November/December 2009 edition of CAADA Enews

A very warm welcome to your latest edition of CAADA Enews. We hope it will help you practically in your work, keep you up-to-date about developments at CAADA and give you an opportunity to set the agenda for future editions.

Hard evidence that the IDVA approach works: *Safety in Numbers: A Multi-Site Evaluation of Independent Domestic Violence Advisors*

The final research report from the first large scale, multi-site evaluation of IDVA services across England and Wales was launched on the eve of International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. *Safety in Numbers* contains hard evidence that the IDVA approach to domestic abuse is effective. For the first time since their formal introduction in 2005, there is research to show that the IDVA approach keeps victims of severe abuse and their children safe.

[Click here to download a two page summary of Safety in Numbers](#)

[Click here to download a 16 page executive summary of Safety in Numbers](#)

[Click here to download the full report of Safety in Numbers](#)

Over a two year period, the report looked at the safety outcomes of over 2500 high risk women and 3600 associated children as they received dedicated, specialist support from teams of IDVAs in seven services around the country. The report found that IDVAs make a significant impact on safety. Nearly 60% of all victims supported by an IDVA experienced a complete or near cessation in the abuse they were suffering following around three to four months of contact. For those receiving intensive and frequent contact from their IDVA and access to multiple interventions, the results were even more impressive with two thirds reporting a total cessation of abuse. The authors make four recommendations as a result of the findings: more IDVAs are needed; IDVA services need to be commissioned to a common framework that keeps the safety of the victim central; urgent links need to be made to address the risks to children and stronger links need to be made with health services and those who work with perpetrators.

Funded by The Hestia Fund and The Henry Smith Charity, *Safety in Numbers* was written by Dr Emma Howarth, Louise Stimpson, Diana Barran and Dr Amanda Robinson, with a foreword written by Lord Laming. The launch of the report resulted in media coverage being generated in the [Sunday Telegraph](#); [Society Guardian online](#); [Community Care](#); [Children and Young People Now](#); [Nursing Times](#); [Health Service Journal](#); [Cumbrian News and Star](#); ITV Yorkshire, ITV lunchtime news and BBC Radio Devon.

Spring 2010 IDVA training - sign up today to secure your place

Since we announced that the application process for Spring 2010 IDVA training was open in the last edition of Enews, places have been filling up quickly. If you haven't already signed up, please do so today to secure your place. We are accepting applicants on a first come, first served basis.

CAADA OCN accredited training is available to both statutory agencies and registered charities. We're immensely grateful for funding from The Sigrid Rausing Trust and the Northern Rock Foundation which has enabled us to provide a limited number of subsidised places for registered charities, but these are strictly limited. However, we have more places for both

Did you know?

CAADA is a national charity supporting a strong multi-agency response to domestic abuse. Our work focuses on saving lives and saving public money. CAADA provides practical tools, training, guidance, quality assurance, policy and data insight to support professionals and organisations working with domestic abuse victims. The aim is to protect the highest risk victims and their children – those at risk of murder or serious harm.

As a charity, CAADA does not profit from any element of its work. We subsidise all our loss-making training and support to IDVAs and any charitable organisations by independently raising funds from charitable trusts. We do this to ensure our work helps support the largest volume of high risk victims possible.

Since 2005 we have trained over 800 IDVAs but this is still less than half the 1300 to 1500 IDVAs we estimate are needed nationally.

Since 2005 we have trained over 200 MARACs in operation in England and Wales. This is still well short of full national coverage.

If you'd like to find out more about the work of CAADA, IDVAs and MARACs, please visit our website today: www.caada.org.uk

statutory and voluntary agencies that are able to fund the training independently. Please contact us on dvva.applications@caada.org.uk for more information.

Since 2007 CAADA has trained over 800 IDVAs across England and Wales. [Visit our website today to find out more about the CAADA IDVA course](#) and how it can help you in your role. [Alternatively, click here to read more course feedback.](#)

New risk training for frontline professionals - 12th and 13th January

Due to the excellent response we received from the last edition of Enews, when over 40 professionals contacted us to enquire about risk training, CAADA is now running a one day training course on use of the CAADA-DASH Risk Identification Checklist in frontline work. The course will take place on 12th and 13th January 2010 at the CAADA office in Bristol, costs to be confirmed.

CAADA's new risk training course is aimed at frontline professionals from a range of agencies who engage with potential victims in their day-to-day work. The course aims to equip frontline professionals with the skills to:

- Identify the signs of domestic abuse
- Identify risk factors in relation to abuse
- Refer victims to specialist domestic violence services in their area such as a local IDVA service, MARAC or other services which are appropriate to the level of the victim's risk

Professionals which might benefit from the training include A&E nurses, GPs, housing officers, homelessness officers, health visitors, probation officers and midwives, amongst others. If you'd like to register for the training, express an early interest in other dates or would like more information, please email risk@caada.org.uk today.

Funding for IDVA services – please fill in our online survey today

CAADA is receiving a greater amount of correspondence from IDVA services across the country which are experiencing difficulties with funding. To this end, we've designed an online survey to gauge the opinions of the IDVA sector and to get a sense of the time you spend reporting to different funders. This will give us an indicative snapshot of the situation which we will use to develop new services, such as case management and reporting tools as well as giving the sector evidence about the realities of the funding environment. Our aim is to support IDVA services nationally by helping them to strengthen their case for funding. [To access the online Survey, click here.](#) We will report back on our findings in the next edition of Enews.

Launch of government's *Together we can end violence against women and girls strategy* – CAADA's response

The government launched its largest ever [strategy on violence against women and girls](#) on International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls. Building on a range of consultation responses, the strategy sets out the action the government needs to take to tackle all forms of violence against women and girls and aims to look at what more can be done to challenge the attitudes that may uphold it in order to help them feel safer.

The strategy contained a number of important proposals for the IDVA and MARAC sector, including a public consultation in early 2010 to place MARACs on a statutory footing; improved training for all frontline professionals on domestic abuse and a guarantee that violence against women will be included in the operating framework of the NHS. [CAADA issued a press response to the strategy which can be read here.](#) We will be in touch with our Enews readers in early 2010 to obtain a snapshot of your views on the MARAC consultation which we will use to feedback to the government on this issue.

New appointments at CAADA

After an extensive recruitment drive, CAADA is delighted to announce a large number of new staff, including three Directorships.

Dawn Taylor has been appointed as Director of Quality Assurance. As the former CEO of Survive, a domestic violence support service in Gloucestershire, Dawn is passionate and knowledgeable about the sector. Dawn will be joining CAADA in January 2010 to develop CAADA's quality assurance and service standard programmes.

CAADA's Head of Training, Jo Silver, has been appointed Director of Professional Development. Having led the training team at CAADA for over three years, Jo will now focus her attention on the professionalisation of the growing IDVA and MARAC sector.

Victoria Hill has been appointed as Director of Insights. With a background in customer insights, management consultancy and change management, Victoria will lead on the development of CAADA's growing Insights service.

Other recent successful appointments include CAADA's Head of Finance Wayne Davey; Head of Communications Samantha Brown; Quality Assurance Manager James Rowlands; fundraiser Keziah Rutherford; Quality Assurance Assessors Rina Mehta and Jill Prodenchuk; Quality Assurance Co-ordinator Matt Dunphy; two new training team members – Sara Dilworth and Collette Winters; PA Claire Mitchell; and finally, a new training co-ordinator Cher Platt, who will assist with MARAC training co-ordination.

Very sadly we are also losing Laura Croom, Head of Service Standards who has worked tirelessly for CAADA for four years. Laura will be working as a freelance consultant and working with CAADA on an ongoing basis. We wish Laura the best of luck for the future and look forward to working with her again.

International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women – CAADA activities

CAADA staff undertook a range of voluntary, local fundraising activities around the 25th November to raise awareness about domestic violence and secure funding for an individual IDVA training place. If you'd like to contribute by donating, please visit our [online donation page today](#).

New – MARACs in Northern Ireland

We're delighted to announce that CAADA has been funded to undertake MARAC implementation training and support in Northern Ireland. Supported with funding from the Northern Ireland Office, the Department for Health, Social Services and Public Safety, and the Police Service for Northern Ireland (PSNI), this training will seek to embed the MARAC model across Northern Ireland.

MARACs are a relatively new intervention in Northern Ireland, and the training and implementation support, which commenced in early October, is the first of its kind in the region. CAADA looks forward to working with all agency professionals over the coming months. [A new MARAC practitioner resources website page for Northern Ireland professionals has been created – click here to access relevant toolkits and resources.](#)

MARAC quality assurance – update

A total of 28 MARACs across England and Wales have started CAADA's second intake for quality assurance. The MARACs are now in the process of providing information from their multi-agency partners about their views of the MARAC process and how they engage with it.

The next stage of the process will require MARACs to submit further detailed evidence of their policies, procedures and work, before the CAADA team of assessors start examining this evidence. MARACs that successfully progress through the process will receive a comprehensive report detailing their strengths and making recommendations for continual development, in line with the principles for an effective MARAC. The final report is then verified by an external moderation panel convened by the Home Office.

The development programme is funded by the Home Office and designed to promote 'gold standard' practice in and around MARACs. Intake three is due to start in the New Year. CAADA will be inviting areas directly to take part as well as communicating through Government Office leads. [For further information on CAADA's quality assurance programme, click here.](#)

Launch of the Domestic Violence Coordinators Network

A conference is being held on the 15th December to mark the launch of the Domestic Violence Coordinators Network. Guest speakers include Sylvia Walby, who will be presenting her latest thoughts on the costs of domestic violence. The event will be held at Friends House, 173 Euston Road, and is free to DVCs registered with the Network; however if colleagues wish to attend there is a £60 charge. For more information about the conference or joining the Network please contact Laura Burtenshaw at admin@standingtogether.org.uk.

Pass it on

If you think this e-news is relevant to someone you know please feel free to pass it on, alternatively your contacts may access future issues by emailing 'please subscribe me' to Enews@caada.org.uk. If you wish to unsubscribe from this email newsletter please send an email to Enews@caada.org.uk entitled 'please unsubscribe me'. As always we are keen to invite your feedback on improving the next issue. Please email your suggestions and comments or alternatively telephone 0117 317 8750.

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Legislation updates

Section 12 and 13 of the Domestic Violence Crime and Victims Act came into force on 30th September 2009. Courts now have greater freedom to grant restraining orders when perpetrators appear before them, giving victims immediate protection and sparing them the ordeal of a separate civil action.

Under the new provisions a restraining order can be made following conviction for any offence, and even where someone is acquitted of an offence. Breaking the terms of a restraining order is a criminal offence punishable by up to five years in prison.

[For full details of the extended provisions, please refer to the Home Office circular by clicking here.](#)

[The Crown Prosecution Service have also issued guidance, click here to download.](#)

Forced marriage protection orders; from the 1st November 2009, local authorities are designated as 'relevant third parties'. This means that local authorities can automatically apply for a forced marriage protection order on behalf of (and without the knowledge and consent of, if necessary) the person to be protected.

The government is also conducting a pilot scheme to consider whether IDVAs should also be relevant third parties. The findings will be published in March next year. A number of IDVAs in 11 of the specialist forced marriage court areas are participating in the pilot.

[For more information, please read this article.](#)