



The Haven Wolverhampton E Bulletin



Issue 10
Feb 2011

Supporting women and children who are vulnerable to violence and abuse

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Keeping you up to date with the latest news, events and developments at The Haven Wolverhampton

Welcome...to The Haven's February E-Bulletin

In this edition we highlight various issues including the effect of Domestic Violence on young adolescent males, financial abuse, delivering Domestic Violence Awareness training amongst legal professionals plus lots more!

Thanks for reading

Support for young males exposed to abuse

Public opinion and awareness about Domestic Violence has increased significantly over the years, but as those working in the field are well aware, constant vigilance is essential as there are many areas of work still to tackle.

One area of work which has unfortunately received relatively little attention is the immediate and long-term emotional and psychological needs of adolescent boys who are exposed to Domestic Violence. This exposure can be witnessing/hearing violence and abuse between parents or loved ones or even direct involvement in violent incidents.

For children and young people affected by Domestic Violence expressing thoughts, feelings and emotions will occur in different ways. Adolescents tend to be more abstract in their thinking and are more likely to verbally express their reactions to Domestic Violence, however without professional intervention, counselling or support programmes they often struggle to come to terms with their experiences and find it difficult to resolve problems. It is thought that over 90 percent of children living in homes where incidents of Domestic Violence occur observe violence inflicted by their fathers against their mothers and males who witness such abuse are twice more likely to go on to abuse their own partners.

The Haven, like many other refuge providers in the UK, cannot accommodate young boys who refer with their mother after the age of 16 to emergency refuge accommodation. This is due to the complexities of shared living and funding criteria for women's refuge provision.

Women in desperate circumstances come to refuge for the safety of themselves and their children. Due to such restrictions women with adolescent male children are faced with the prospect of leaving their sons at home, often with the abuser, in the hope they can find alternative accommodation. However during this period of separation the bonds between mother and child can potentially be severed and the abuser can indoctrinate negative feelings toward their mother. Mothers also become concerned that by leaving her children at home the abuser may be violent towards the child due to their frustration with the situation. Not being able to bring your children to refuge can be a major contributing factor as to why some women choose to remain in violent relationships.

The Haven is currently working hard develop work in this area in an attempt to be able to effectively support young men subjected to in family violence and abuse.

For more information please [email](#) Michaila Tope, Head of Accommodation Support Services, or call **01902 572143**

Vacancy – Chair of the Board

The Haven is seeking to appoint a new Chair-person to lead our strong and dedicated Board of Trustees through a process of change at a time of recession.

As our Chair you will bring a strong personal profile, strategic vision and leadership to support The Board and Staff of The Haven. You will have substantial leadership experience, excellent ambassadorial skills and the ability to relate to a wide range of Stakeholders at all levels.

Download the full job description and person specification here.

To apply please submit your CV with references and a covering letter detailing how you meet the person specification to ceo@havenrefuge.org.uk or post to Maureen Staddon, Personal Assistant to the Chief Executive, PO Box 105, Wolverhampton, WV1 4LP.

Closing date: 12/02/2011 Interviews scheduled for 17/02/11

The Haven is also looking to appoint Trustees following the retirement of some current Board Members at the Annual General Meeting on 2nd April 2011.

Please contact ceo@havenrefuge.org.uk to register your interest or for more information.

Haven helpline demonstrates good practice

We are delighted to announce that The Haven has achieved full membership status with the Telephone Helplines Association (THA).

There are more than 1,000 helplines in the UK and Ireland, of which around 450 are Members or Associates of The Helplines Association. THA offers a kitemark for members of the public to enable them to recognise helplines which meet THA's good practice standards.

Having the Quality Standard is a reassuring external 'stamp of approval' for the service and for the staff, and for the good practice already achieved.

The THA Quality Standard is one of those listed by the Cabinet Office's Contact Council guidance on accreditation for public sector contact centres.



Multi Agency Training Successes

The Haven Wolverhampton training department continues to deliver Domestic Violence Awareness multi agency training days four times a year. The programme has been popular amongst individuals and organisations across the City of Wolverhampton, and further afield, for several years. Throughout 2010 we were happy to welcome an increased number of education and legal professionals to the days training. The Haven applauds the insight of all attendees in recognising how important it is to raise awareness of the devastating impact of Domestic Violence. Attending recent multi agency training days we have had representatives solicitors firms in and around Wolverhampton including;

Reena Chumber	Braith Solicitors, 28 Chapel Ash, Wolverhampton
Jarna Rahman	DBLTalbots, Denning House, George St. Wolverhampton
Kirsty Rose	Rees Page Solicitors, Waterloo Rd. Wolverhampton
Jane Gwilt	Rees Page Solicitors, Waterloo Rd. Wolverhampton
JA Godbehere	Wall James Chappell, 15-23 Hagley Rd. Stourbridge
Alison Westwood	Thornes Solicitors, Lich Gates, Wolverhampton
Kate Goode	Thornes Solicitors, Lich Gates, Wolverhampton
Ben Thorne	Thornes Solicitors, Lich Gates, Wolverhampton
Sonali Obhrai	Thornes Solicitors, Lich Gates, Wolverhampton



As a result the solicitors firms who have successfully completed Haven training now appear on a list of approved legal firms for which we signpost and recommend to our clients. Throughout 2011 The Haven training department will be looking to develop training packages to financial institutions and media organisations across Wolverhampton.

The next Domestic Violence Multi Agency training day will take place on 3rd May. Bespoke training packages are also available and can be tailored to suit your needs. For more information [email](#) Alison Worton Jones, Training Coordinator, or call **01902 572128**

What is Financial Abuse?

Financial abuse is recognised by the home office as a form of domestic abuse. Financial abuse is a form of mistreatment in which an abuser forcibly controls a victims economic means. It can involve confiscating, rationing, stealing or withholding money, not allowing the victim to take part in any financial decisions, preventing the victim from working even forcing the victim to quit their job. Financial abuse can also occur when one partner purposely accumulates large amounts of debt in their partners name. For victims of financial abuse it can feel as though there is no means of escape, and particularly in the current economic climate, many feel they will never be able to afford to leave.

In an extract from a case study produced by The Haven, a former client describes how her husband had total control over her finances;

“Not long after opening the joint account he suggested that we did not need two separate debit cards to withdraw money. He said that since I didn’t work in town, I wouldn’t need a card, and so he cut my card up!

He was the only one who could withdraw money from my account, I didn’t even know the pin number. At the time I didn’t think anything of it I just thought he knew best.

After years of emotional and physical abuse I made the decision to leave. But with no access to money and no savings I didn’t have anywhere to go. I was faced with the decision of stay with my husband and endure the abuse or live on the streets!

I pleaded with my bank to help me out, I explained to them that I needed to access the money in our joint account and the reasons why I didn’t have a debit card of my own, but there was nothing I could do. I told them that if I went back to my husband he would kill me! The woman behind the counter just said ‘surely it can’t be that bad’. There was nothing I could do.”



The Haven Wolverhampton financial inclusion team will work with clients who find themselves in situations similar to that above and provide debt management and budgeting skills in order to achieve financial independence. The team will also work with financial institutions across the City in order to raise awareness of financial abuse and develop best practices in order to be able to adequately support those experiencing financial difficulties as a result of Domestic Violence.

For more information on financial abuse and the financial inclusion programme please [email](#) the financial inclusion team or call 01902 572145

Going that extra mile!

This week we were delighted to learn that one of our supporters in sunny Los Angeles, Neal Bartlett, has decided to run the Los Angeles Marathon in order to raise money for The Haven's Children & Young People's Service.

The marathon will start at the home of LA Dodgers, past the shadows of downtown LA's skyscrapers to the historic Crenshaw neighbourhood



past the stately old homes of Hancock Park, Hollywood Bowl, Beverley Hills, Sunset Boulevard, and through the diverse, vibrant district of Koreatown. The finishing line to this year's marathon is the famous Santa Monica Pier.

If you would like to take part in a marathon or other sporting activity and raise money for The Haven just get in touch. We can help you to set up your own online fundraising page, offer tips on how to raise sponsorship and promote your event on our facebook and twitter pages. You will also receive one free 'Say NO to Domestic Violence' T-

Shirt to wear at your event. For more information [email](#) the fundraising team or call **01902 572173**

Go on, Empurple yourself!

Empurple means 'to become purple' – and that's exactly what we want you to do! On **Tuesday 8th March** – International Women's Day – we want you to encourage your friends, family and work colleagues to embrace **purple** and raise awareness about Domestic Violence.

Whether it's a sponsored wear **purple** to work day or a **purple** cake sale The Haven has an A-Z of **purple** fundraising ideas on hand to help!

For more info [email](#) the fundraising team or call **01902 572173**

Home Sweet Home? – Premier Screening

The premier screening of The Haven's first Domestic Violence Campaign Film – 'Home Sweet Home?' – will take place **on Friday 11th March** at Light House Media Centre, Chubb Buildings, Fryer Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1HT.

Screenings will take place at **8.10pm** and **8.40pm**. Please call **01902 572173** now to reserve your place as seating availability is limited.

Feedback

If you have any comments or feedback about this or any previous issues of The Haven E-Bulletin please get in touch on publicity@havenrefuge.org.uk or call **01902 572173**

Contact The Haven

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Office: 01902 572140

Fax: 01902 572144

Post: PO Box 105, Wolverhampton, WV1 4LP

Email: info@havenrefuge.org.uk

Web: www.havenrefuge.org.uk

Competition returns for second year

The Haven Wolverhampton is delighted to announce the return of an exciting competition for women and women's organisations across the European Union (EU) which will help to raise awareness of Domestic Violence on a global level.

The Haven Wolverhampton T-Shirt competition asks women from across the EU to strike a pose and 'get snappy' by taking photographs of themselves and their colleagues wearing The Haven Wolverhampton 'Say NO to Domestic Violence' T-Shirts. Women are then be asked to complete a competition entry form and send their pictures to The Haven Wolverhampton, where a panel of judges, made up of Haven staff and residents, will award a prize to the entry scoring highest in terms of originality and empowerment.

The most imaginative and inventive entry will be given the opportunity to visit the UK and learn from the experiences of staff and volunteers and witness first-hand the work of one of the largest Domestic Violence refuge providers in the UK.

The winner of this competition will be entitled to free accommodation at The Haven Wolverhampton for two weeks, support with subsistence costs and travel expenses up to the cost of £400. To enter write to publicity@havenrefuge.org.uk to

request a T-Shirt. Your first T-Shirt is free and any additional T-Shirts are payable at £5.00 (5.50 Euros) each.

Last date for entries 30th April 2011.



For more information and to download the competition entry form visit our [website](#)

Introducing W4W

W4W (Women 4 Women) is a brand new organisation that aims to work for and on behalf of women in Wolverhampton.

One of the organisations objectives is to support charities that aim to enhance the quality of life for women and as a result approached The Haven to support with fundraising and awareness raising activities.

W4W's first event supporting The Haven will be a pamper evening on **Sunday 13th February** at **The Clarendon Hotel, Chapel Ash**. Entry costs just £2 and the event will run from 5pm to 9pm.

For more information on the pamper event or W4W please contact Joy on **07785284797**



Don't forget...



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<http://twitter.com/TheHavenWton>