

Dear Friend of Standing Together,

Well here we are mid-way through 2011 and we are feeling optimistic about the future. Despite the nervousness washing around the sector in relation to cuts we have managed to secure funding for the remainder of the year with most posts intact. Some of our senior managers have reduced their hours to allow the operational staff to stay full-time in their very busy roles, but this is a better outcome than we expected. Our success has not always been replicated by other charities in the domestic violence sector and some services are facing cuts which must mean victims will receive less support at a crucial time in their lives. As ever we will be working to ensure that the response to domestic violence is as complete and effective as possible.

On the national stage we are gradually being recognised as the organisation which understands the partnership approach to domestic violence. Our model of a coordinated community response is even more essential now as services become stretched. The role of the statutory sector will be vital in any developmental work over the coming months. They have not always understood the centrality of their role in this and our approach, which emphasises the part they play in any response, will not let them off the hook!

We are now represented at many levels within the national framework and this has led to our reputation reaching abroad. As we have told you previously our expertise has been sought across the Channel and we are delivering our experience from one end of Europe to the other. It is fascinating to see how some of these European nations are experiencing exactly the same issues that we were struggling with 10 or 15 years ago. We hope it is heartening that we can describe how similar our pain was – and that you can find a way through it.

Finally you will remember me mentioning the guidance we are writing for domestic violence partnerships. This has been supported by the Home Office and we are about to provide it free to every partnership in the country. We believe this guide will allow any partnership to seek and achieve excellence in their response, if local strategic leaders commit to that ambition. To become excellent does not necessarily require massive investment of funds. It simply requires considerable investment in prioritisation and commitment to this awful social evil. Our receipt of some Government (Transitional) funding will also allow us to spread the message across the UK to create more momentum.

As ever I hope you are mentioning Standing Together wherever you meet people and if you, or anyone you meet, wants to know more about us please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Best wishes

Anthony Wills  
*Chief Executive*

## New Website

Back in our early days we were one of the first voluntary sector organisations to have a website and we have always been proud of this facility. We owe much to Iain Anderson, who now lives in Australia, for his dedication to the building, development and maintenance of the site over many years. Of course technology and style moves on and we knew we had to bite the bullet and refresh the design and its functionality. Fortunately one of our “Friends”, Ian Wolter was able to fund, with his brother Carl, such a refresh. We now have a vibrant site which contains more information and we can update immediately – as news and policies change. Feel free to look at [www.standingtogether.org.uk](http://www.standingtogether.org.uk) to see how good it looks.

## Comedy Fundraiser

Briony Redman, our MARAC Coordinator, has arranged a fun night of character comedy, sketches and improv! Enjoy a night of sketches and improvisation with all proceeds going to Standing Together and [ADVANCE](#). Head upstairs at the [Hop Poles Pub](#), 17-19 King Street, Hammersmith to enjoy the show (Nearest Tube is Hammersmith – District, Piccadilly and Hammersmith & City lines. Doors open at 7.30pm with the show at 8.00pm. Donations £5 for entry. [Wednesday Night Live](#) has included such guests as Trodd En Bratt, James Card (1/3 of Rule of 3), Paul Foxcroft & Tom Salinsky (Horse Aquarium), Bronya and Siony, Steph and Rosie (1/2 of the Faux Pas), Cariad Lloyd as well as special guest improvisers from Radio 4's Showstoppers and BBC's Fast and Loose. It's a fun-filled night of character, sketch and improvised comedy with the upstairs bar nearby for drinks and food. To reserve a ticket email [wnlcomedy@gmail.com](mailto:wnlcomedy@gmail.com) stating the night you would like to attend and how many tickets you would like to reserve. Reserved tickets need to be collected at 7.30pm on the night.

## 112

On average 112 women die as a result of domestic violence every year. On the 5th May, Standing Together and friends once again set out to ride 112 kilometres in one day to highlight the prevalence of domestic violence within society and the damage it causes. This was a huge success and the day raised over £22,000! We are doing it again in 2012 – 12<sup>th</sup> May, and it would be great if you could join us! Spaces on The Challenge (the full 112km route) are limited to 112, so to make sure you don't miss out, complete your [booking form](#) now. In order to confirm your place we ask riders to commit to raising a minimum of £112. We are conscious that in the current economic climate asking friends and family for money can be difficult, so to make it that bit easier we have come up with a few [fun ideas](#) to raise the money; or we have a [sponsor form](#) you can use if you prefer to do it that way. Cyclists and runners can also take part in The Roundabout, an 11.2 mile route around Windsor Great Park. Not a cyclist? Check out the [112 page](#) on our website for more details of other ways you can support the event.

## 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

Around November Standing Together will be celebrating its 10 year anniversary. In these challenging times we have decided not to spend our hard-earned funds on a big bash. We do think that we cannot allow such an auspicious date to go by without some form of event so we are simply going to invite friends and colleagues to some licensed premises near to us to enjoy each other's company and, without any formality, recognise the success we have achieved and how the world has changed in that time. Look out for the invites nearer the time.

## Building Our Internal Capacity

We have agreed to pilot an intern programme for American students on a study-abroad programme. Assisted by EUSA (EUSA is a not for profit internship organisation specialised in customised, academically directed programmes in London, Madrid, Dublin, Paris, and Geneva [www.eusa-edu.com](http://www.eusa-edu.com))

The study abroad programme is optional for students, compliments their university education and gives them highly desirable international experience. Our first intern Amanda Hoeker settled in wonderfully and really valued the opportunity to work with us. Emily Lee will be with us through July – August and already seems to have settled in. The standard and calibre of students is excellent and we get to meet some lovely people.

Congratulations to Tera Lally for being a great example of a model intern, for working with us from September 2010 – June 2011 and giving birth to James in June the day after her official leaving do at the Hop Poles!

## The Local Partnership

Despite a challenging year with public sector funding cuts, staff redundancies and local tri borough restructuring the H&F domestic violence partnership continued to be a vital resource which enables effective joint working. With increased pressure to work creatively and with limited resources, more than ever agencies need to work together to minimise the impact of reduced resources. Although we miss James Reilly enormously, we are fortunate that Lyn Carpenter has picked up the gauntlet to chair the strategic group and lead us through these difficult times. Lyn Carpenter is Director of Resident Services in LBHF and comes with a fresh perspective, drive and energy which is already having an impact.

## Annual Domestic Violence Conference

Due to the generous support of the LBHF Safer Neighbourhood Division, the 2011 LBHF DV Conference will take place on the 21<sup>st</sup> October 2011 at Queen Charlotte's Hospital Conference Centre. Laura Richards and Patricia Bernal are our keynote speakers and will be giving a professional and personal perspective on the risks and links between domestic violence and stalking. Patricia Bernal is the mother of Clare Bernal who was shot dead in 2005 by her stalker whilst at work. Laura Richards has recently published a book on domestic violence and policing, co-authored by Simon Letchford and Sharon Stratton. In addition 'Tender', a national organisation delivering healthy relationship education, will be talking about their approach to prevention work with young people.

## Specialist Domestic Violence Court Annual Review

The annual review of the Specialist Domestic Violence (SDVC) at West London Magistrate's Court took place on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2011 in the lovely venue of Linden House in Hammersmith. The SDVC is coordinated by Standing Together and the review is an opportunity for Standing Together to consult with all partner agencies involved in the SDVC in order to identify issues and areas of best practice. This year's review was very 'action' focused in that participants were asked to identify areas in which the SDVC could be more effective, and formulate suitable actions and areas of work targeted at improving the response to domestic violence delivered by the Court and associated partner agencies. For example, processes were enhanced to ensure that victims of domestic violence are consistently offered special measures (e.g. screens so that the victim does not have to see the defendant while giving evidence) if they are required to attend Court for trial. There were many issues discussed at the review which has also formed the work plan of the SDVC Coordination for the coming year.

The annual review is also a good opportunity for the partner agencies to identify and celebrate good practice observed in the Court. There have been quite a few changes in personnel within each agency since last year so it was a welcome opportunity for people to meet each other and newer personnel to see the extent of multi-agency partnership working in the borough. A few SDVC Coordinators in other areas of the country also attended and fed back that they found the day useful and informative for their own areas.

## Annual Domestic Violence Forum

On the 28<sup>th</sup> June 2011, Briony Redman, MARAC Coordinator, spoke at the National Annual Domestic Violence Forum about the Hammersmith & Fulham and Kensington & Chelsea MARACs using local expertise to meet the needs of at risk families. The Forum was an opportunity to raise the profile of the work of Standing Together and to highlight the good practice being carried out by our partner agencies in Hammersmith & Fulham and Kensington & Chelsea. Other speakers at the conference included Nicola Harwin CBE, Chief Executive Women's Aid, Diana Barran, MBE, Chief Executive, CAADA (Co-ordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse), Jane Keeper, Director of Operations, Refuge and Marai Larasi MBE, Director, IMKAAN. The Forum also had a live webcast and is available on-demand on [policyreview.tv](http://policyreview.tv)

# Maternity Project - Big Lottery Grant



In January 2011, funded by the BIG Lottery, Standing Together and Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust (ICHT) began collaborating on the Maternity Project. The partnership will bring together the expertise of survivors, healthcare professionals, specialist independent domestic violence advocacy (IDVA) services, children's safeguarding services, and black and minority ethnic community organisations to develop a coordinated and survivor-centred approach to identifying and supporting the **1 in 6 pregnant women who experience domestic violence.**

We are developing a comprehensive domestic violence training programme for student midwives which will begin in October 2011 when ICHT welcomes new trainees from the Florence Nightingale School of Nursing and Midwifery at King's College London. We are also building training and development opportunities for existing staff into induction programmes, ward and team meetings and run a regular skills development drop-in for midwives at Queen Charlotte's Hospital on Thursday mornings.

Accessing the knowledge and expertise of IDVAs in working with vulnerable women to identify risks and facilitate pathways to safety is pivotal to improving outcomes for survivors and babies. It is therefore with much gratitude that we have seen the universal engagement of IDVA services across the ten West London boroughs of Imperial's 'footprint' area with the maternity project. Midwives are already making referrals for their support.

The National Institute for Clinical Excellence has recommended that antenatal care services address the fears of women experiencing domestic violence about the involvement of children's services. This will therefore be one of the project's key priorities over the coming months.

## DV & Children Coordination

Our work with children has centred on the Our Time project, which is group therapy provision delivered by DVIP. The sessions are for children aged 5 – 13 years old, who've been affected by domestic violence. The sessions allow children to process their emotional response to the trauma they've experienced, with other children who've had similar experiences. There is also individual therapy available for children where groups are not appropriate (for example, those with high support needs). Referrals have been a bit slower than we would like, but the sessions have been going well and we've been seeing a good impact on the children concerned.

The second element of the project is the work with vulnerable young people. We have been working in partnership with youth groups to provide a session on domestic violence and other forms of gendered violence. The aims with this part of the project are to increase awareness of the dynamics of domestic violence, and to empower young people to feel safer about seeking help should they ever experience it. Thus far we have delivered a session to young people from HAFAD (Hammersmith and Fulham Action on Disability), and are aiming to deliver another session to young people involved with the Old Oak Community and Children's Centre in the next two months.

## Contact Details

For information about specific areas of the CCR please contact Standing Together on 020 8748 5717 or by email:

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