



Birmingham Community Healthcare Trust

2nd Safeguarding Conference – Domestic Abuse

Thursday 30th January 2025

Please see the Biographies of our guest speakers below to provide you with more information on their professional experience's and what's brought them to their current roles:

Nikki Plummer, Head of service – Domestic Abuse and interpersonal violence at Birmingham Children's trust.

Nikki is an instrumental part of the citywide developments in conjunction with partnerships to improve the response to domestic abuse and its devastating consequences. With the introduction of a Domestic Abuse Strategy 2024 +, development of a domestic abuse toolkit, shared vision and values, aims for every agency, and individual, across the whole system has a collective responsibility to support survivors, including children, at the earliest point, and to hold perpetrators of abuse to account.

Our vision:

Birmingham is a place where domestic abuse is not tolerated; where everyone can expect equality and respect in their relationships, and live free from domestic abuse.”

Our shared Values:

- Survivor-centred & survivor-led
- Strengths-based
- Early Intervention and Prevention
- Perpetrator Accountability
- Intersectionality
- Robust partnership response

Detective Chief Inspector Matt Underwood and Detective Inspector Laura Allen from West Midlands Police.





DCI Matt Underwood is the current Detective Chief Inspector of the Public Protection Unit. He leads on Evidence Led Prosecutions for Domestic Abuse, has responsibility for all High-Risk Domestic Abuse investigations, MARAC process, and the safeguarding teams that support DA Survivors,

Di Laura Allen joined WMP in 2014, emerging as a prestigious talent and was soon promoted to Sergeant supervising teams in Birmingham City Centre as well as the Ladywood West Neighbourhood Team and Birmingham Exploitation team. Laura was promoted to Inspector in 2023 and had responsibility for the Central Safeguarding Teams, chairing MARAC conferences and ensuring that WMP and partners effectively safeguard high-risk DA Survivors. Laura has now moved to the Adult Investigation teams, where she has responsibility for overseeing 1200 Domestic Abuse investigations and bringing offenders to justice.

Sandaish Pall, CEO of Sikh Women's Aid.

Sahdaish Pall BEM is Chief Executive Officer and Co-founder of Sikh Women's Aid (SWA). She has worked in the violence against women and girls sector for 28 years. SWA is the only female led registered Sikh Women's charity across England and Wales and therefore their work is national. In 2020 Sahdaish was recognised in the Queens New Years Honours for her services to victims of domestic abuse across the West Midlands. Sahdaish is a training associate for SafeLives and is also an elected councillor in Sandwell Council. Sahdaish also volunteers her time to work towards raising awareness of and ending caste based oppression and abuse here in the UK.

Lorraine Garratley, Black Country Women's Aid stalking service.

Lorraine Garratley - Manager of the West Midlands Stalking Support Service, Black Country Women's Aid. The service is a member of the National Stalking Consortium. A qualified Independent Stalking Advocacy Specialist, Lorraine manages a team of Independent Stalking Advocacy Case worker's (ISCA), providing support and advocacy to stalking victims in the West Midlands. One of the founding members of the Stalking Triage Clinic concept, Lorraine has worked with victims of Domestic abuse / Stalking for over 25 years. Black Country Women's Aid (formerly known as Sandwell Women's Aid) is an independent charity which has supported survivors of abuse and exploitation across for 30 years.





Our sensitive and holistic support helps over 8000 victims of abuse each year to escape from violence, cope with trauma and rebuild their lives. We believe that no-one should have to live in fear of violence and abuse. We listen, we support, we care.

Our domestic abuse refuge and community services hold the Women's Aid National Quality Standards. We hold the Lime culture Quality Standards for our sexual violence services for adults and children (ISVA and CHISVA), and for our Ask Marc project supporting men and boys.

Our West Midlands Stalking Support Service supports women and men over 16 who are experiencing stalking and harassment.

Stalking means that someone carries out a pattern of repeated and persistent unwanted behaviour against you that makes you feel scared and threatened.

Emma Castle, Senior Domestic Abuse Practitioner: Way Through (Formerly Richmond fellowship).

In October 2024, Richmond Fellowship and Humankind merged to form Waythrough, a new charity to better support people facing multiple disadvantage. We work with safeguarding professionals, focussing on the perpetrators of domestic abuse behaviour, ensuring the people responsible for abuse take responsibility for their actions. Our approach is based on our sector expertise, gained in part through the development and delivery of domestic abuse interventions across the spectrum of risk and need. We are committed to taking a multi-agency and co-ordinated approach to improve outcomes and experiences for those impacted by domestic abuse. We recognise the need for whole system readiness to support co-ordinated responses to tackling domestic abuse and holistic, person-centred, family orientated support. Interventions are victim and survivor centred; delivered in accordance with the 'Do No Harm' principle as set out in the Respect standards.

David Barker – expert by experience ' My story as a survivor of domestic abuse'.

Councillor David Barker was born and raised in Stirchley, Birmingham. He was first elected to Birmingham City Council in 2022 for the Brandwood and Kings Heath ward. Previously, he worked in communications, as a political campaign manager, and founded a baby bank during the pandemic. He currently sits on the Police and Crime Commissioner's advisory panel, where he focuses on road safety, LGBT+ violence, and domestic abuse.

Shaila Pervez, Manager at Birmingham Roshni





Roshni Birmingham is a charity organisation dedicated to supporting Black and minoritised women victims of domestic abuse. We provide emergency refuge for women and their children fleeing abuse, offering a safe and supportive environment. Our work specialises in areas such as Honour-Based Abuse (HBA), Forced Marriage (FM), and supporting women with No Recourse to Public Funds.

Most recently winning an award at the prestigious Charity awards in 2024.

