

16th July 2010

## 'Domestic Abuse and the Impact on the Health of Children & Young People'



**Keynote Speaker:** Diana Barran -  
Graduate of Kings College, Cambridge and FRSA

Diana is the founder of Co-ordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse (CAADA), a ground breaking new process of using professional Independent Domestic Violence Advisors, (IDVAs), to support victims and co-ordinate help for them. The system aims to keep victims and their children safely within their homes and unreachable by their abuser who can be speedily dealt with by the criminal justice system. Since 2004, 275 new IDVAs have now been trained and the approach is working. Over 70 Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences, (MARACs), are up and running across England and Wales. Over 20,000 of the highest risk victims within the UK are being supported. An estimated 70% of these families will be made safer as a result of this work. The savings in financial terms will exceed £50 million. The savings in human terms are immeasurable. Diana's ideas are being copied nationally and are influencing government policy, CAADA's future aim is to deliver even greater social benefit; cutting more deaths and injuries and safeguarding the psychological well-being of thousands of vulnerable victims and children.

Commenting on the 2009 Hestia Fund report on 'Children who live in the shadow of violence', Diana said, "The direct threats to kill children really are the tip of the iceberg. For every direct threat made to a child's life, there were three times as many cases where the mother had reason to fear the child coming to harm". Exploring aspects of the most detailed research into domestic abuse carried out in this country forms part of Diana's presentation.

The work of Basildon Women's Aid is featured in a recently published Department of Health practical toolkit - 'Improving safety, Reducing harm', The co-author of this toolkit, aimed at children and young people, Joanna Sharpen will update delegates on the success and challenges of the toolkit and how it affects front line practitioners.

An award winning programme by representatives of the YWCA will introduce delegates to teenage victims of domestic abuse, identify the special challenges for teenagers and focus on solutions and initiatives to combat domestic abuse involving young people.

Working with Communities to combat domestic abuse is the specialist area for London based Linda Finn, and an introduction to the way that 254 children viewed domestic abuse will both feature during the training day.