

# SUNFLOWER NEWS



# #18

## September 2024

A newsletter for Hertfordshire domestic abuse, violence against women and girls, homelessness and multiple disadvantage networks.



## NATIONAL NEWS

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### New survey looks at impact of court delays on victims

New victim survey seeks to understand the impact of court waiting times — including delays caused by the Crown Court backlog — on victims across England and Wales.

The Victims' Commissioner, Baroness Newlove, has launched a new survey exploring the impact court waiting times have on victims across England and Wales and the services in place to support them.

Amid lengthy delays throughout the criminal justice system – from police investigations to court proceedings, including the Crown Court backlog – it's important for the Victims' Commissioner to hear from victims about the impact these are having on their experiences of the criminal justice system.

[Read more ...](#)

## WHAT'S INCLUDED?

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- **GOOD NEWS**

- **SERVICE  
SPOTLIGHT:**

## **New Powers for Judges makes early engagement with mediation vital**

The changes, which came into force in April, will mean families going through court could see higher costs and longer proceedings if they don't engage in alternative dispute resolution.

**ONE** of the UK's leading relationships charities, **TLC: Talk, Listen, Change**, has urged families considering court proceedings to engage with mediation services early in the process following recent changes to the Procedure Rules.

These new changes mean judges can now promote non-court dispute resolution without needing agreement from the parties, potentially adjourning hearings which can lead to additional costs and delays, as well as requiring a new form to be submitted explaining why non-court dispute resolution has not been attempted or has failed.

Since 2011, individuals have been required to attend at least a Mediation Information and Assessment Meeting, known as a MIAM, before filing a court application, with certain exemptions. These meetings involve a consultation between an individual and a Mediator to discuss why mediation could benefit the parties in the negotiation process.

The new raft of powers available to judges are set to radically shake up these processes in which mediation is involved, and are aimed at reducing the number of decisions that proceed to a court ruling.

As well as adjourning proceedings, judges can also order individuals to pay the other party's costs if they deem their refusal to try non-court dispute resolution unreasonable.

Following these developments, experts at Talk, Listen, Change have warned parties going through court that they should try to engage with the mediation process early in order to save significant costs further down the line.

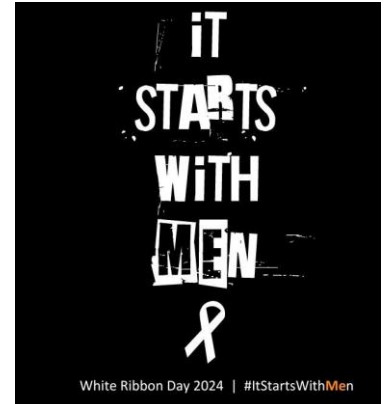
Participants involved in mediation can also get financial assistance for the process. In March 2021, the Government Voucher Scheme was launched, providing £500 towards joint mediation sessions for separated families discussing child-related issues.

## White Ribbon Day 2024: It Starts with Men

White Ribbon UK last week launched their campaign for the White Ribbon Day 2024, which takes place every year on 25 November. This year the **It Starts with Men** campaign seeks to affect positive behaviour change to transform harmful cultures by encouraging men to hold themselves accountable to women and to each other.

As usual, the campaign is accompanied by a range of [resources](#) accessed via the White Ribbon UK website including:

- Campaign briefing
- Communications assets
- Learning resources to use with young people
- Briefings for politicians



The Hertfordshire Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls Partnership have started planning for this year's White Ribbon Day, along with the rest of the annual 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence and Abuse campaign period (25 November to 10 December). We'd love to hear your suggestions for partnership activities and focus, and any plans you may have for the campaign period so we can work better together to raise awareness and prevent violence against women and girls.

## World Suicide Prevention Day - 10<sup>th</sup> September 2024

World Suicide Prevention Day (WPSD) is an annual awareness and advocacy day established in 2003 by the International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP) in conjunction with the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Attached to this newsletter, there are some posters and media files to promote suicide prevention in men, which we encourage you to download and use as you wish.

# Thinking of joining the Herts J9 Sunflower Champion network?



The Herts Sunflower Champions Network underpins the efforts of the Hertfordshire Domestic Abuse and Violence Against women and Girls Partnership to work in a coordinated and consistent manner across frontline service delivery.

As a Herts J9 Sunflower Champion you will receive fully funded Domestic Abuse Awareness training, have access to online and physical resources to support you in your role and become part of a growing network of Domestic Abuse Champions across Hertfordshire!

Find out more about the champions network and the different levels of champion online: [hertssunflower.org](http://hertssunflower.org)

**Our next Herts J9 Sunflower Champion Training session:  
Wednesday 18 September 2024, 10.00 -13.00**

HERTFORDSHIRE  
**domestic abuse**  
PARTNERSHIP



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## Impakt Networking Event

Impakt are holding their third networking event after a really successful second networking session where they hosted around 30 professionals. The event will be held on Wednesday **11<sup>th</sup> September 10am – 12pm** in the group room in the Ernest Gardiner Centre, Pearsall Close, Pixmore Avenue, Letchworth, SG6 1QZ.

In light of some of the feedback Impakt have received, they are proposing to hold these events four times a year and would like to invite four services to give a short 10-minute presentation about their service and referral pathways etc.. Impakt still currently have slots available at the next event, so if you are interested in booking one of these slots or a slot at future events, please contact [sarah.cowen@impakt.org.uk](mailto:sarah.cowen@impakt.org.uk)

If you are interested in coming along, please confirm your attendance either by calling 0300 3735677 or by emailing [dastreferrals@impakt.org.uk](mailto:dastreferrals@impakt.org.uk) Please note that there is no on-site parking, but plenty of free on-street parking nearby.

If there are any colleagues who you feel would benefit from this event, please do pass the details on to them.

## **Future Living Hertford's One Stop Shop – A supportive space for survivors of domestic abuse in East Hertfordshire**

Future Living Hertford (FLH) are pleased to provide further information about their Domestic Abuse Drop-in and One Stop Shop.

When a survivor of domestic abuse initially decides to leave and reach out for support, it can seem overwhelming with so many different services available. That is why FLH wanted to create a safe space where those affected can find the help they need in one place, whilst letting FLH support them along the way.

Their friendly team are on hand every Tuesday from 10am – 12pm at Vale House in Hertford.

[Read more .....](#)

## **Chrysalis Centre Conference – 16th September 2024**

Join us for a day of learning and networking on the 16th September 2024 as we explore Leading Transformational and Cultural Change in approaches for working with perpetrators of domestic abuse. This in-person event, aimed at practitioners and managers who are working with client groups where domestic abuse is or could be a factor, will be held at the Hertfordshire Development Centre.

[Chrysalis Centre Conference "Leading Transformational and Cultural Change" Tickets, Mon 16 Sep 2024 at 09:30 | Eventbrite](#)

## **Respect Young People's Programme**

TLC (Talk Listen Change) are now accepting referrals for their 'Respect Young People's Programme' which supports young people to become aware of their harmful behaviours and address them. The intervention works with young people and their parents or carers through a series of 1-1, family and online parent / carer sessions. The intervention focuses on building positive relationships and communication.

For further information, please see the attached flyer, or alternatively contact [enquiries@chrysaliscentre.net](mailto:enquiries@chrysaliscentre.net)

## Prince's Trust 12-week TEAM Programme



As students are preparing to receive exam results tomorrow and next week, a reminder of the FREE Team program Hertfordshire, designed for 16-25 year olds and delivered by the Hertfordshire Fire & Rescue's Youth Engagement team.

The 12 week personal development programme is recruiting now in Stevenage, North Herts, Hemel Hempstead and Watford with a start date of 16<sup>th</sup> September.

- ★ Gain new skills
- ★ Build Confidence
- ★ Meet new people

Step2Skills is proud to part-fund this programme, which has just celebrated ten years of helping young people across the county who have not been in education, training or work and have been supported on their journey to new skills and increased confidence.

Learn more about the Team programme on the Step2Skills website:

[www.step2skills.org.uk/employmentsupport](http://www.step2skills.org.uk/employmentsupport)



# HERTS SUNFLOWER CHAMPIONS NETWORK TRAINING & EVENTS CALENDAR 2024

## What is the Herts Sunflower Champions Network?

The Herts Sunflower Champions Network underpins the efforts of the Hertfordshire Domestic Abuse and Violence Against women and Girls Partnership to work in a coordinated and consistent manner across frontline service delivery, develop training and awareness, raise public confidence, and create better opportunities. With a network of eyes and ears around Hertfordshire, there's a better chance to ensure that no-one experiencing domestic abuse is left isolated and without the support they want.

[Find out more about the champions network and the different levels of champion here.](#)

## To become a champion:

1. Read and complete the Champion application form (can be found via the link above)
2. Return your application form to [strategic.partnership@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:strategic.partnership@hertfordshire.gov.uk)
3. Book onto your required level of training using the links below:

## NEW TRAINING DATES: SAVE THE DATE!

### J9 Community Champion Domestic Abuse Training

- Wednesday 18 September 2024, 10.00 -13.00 [BOOK HERE](#)

### Lead Champion Training

- TBC

### Strategic Champion Training

- Wednesday 25 September 2024, 10.00 – 16.00 *In Person event – SAVE THE DATE!*

We also hold quarterly online Champions Network Meetings, with guest speakers, training, and networking opportunities. ALL champions or prospective champions are welcome to attend:

## Herts Sunflower Champions Network meetings:

'Domestic abuse and the criminal justice system', guest speakers include Hertfordshire Constabulary DAISU, Refuge IDVA service and Advance

- Wednesday 02 October 2024, 10.00 -12.00 - SAVE THE DATE!

# RECRUITMENT, LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT

## Step2Skills – September Workshops

Whether you're looking for one-to-one support into local employment, or you are looking to gain new skills & qualifications, Step2Skills is here for Hertfordshire residents.

Step2Skills have a range of courses and workshops (flyer attached) beginning this Autumn and Hertfordshire residents can book onto any of these learning opportunities on the Step2Skills website, [www.step2skills.org.uk](http://www.step2skills.org.uk).

## My Life – Watford Women's Centre

Watford Women's Centre have partnered with Step2Skills to run some 'My Life Domestic Abuse Awareness Programmes and Workshops' from September 2024 through to July 2025.

For more information on how to book onto these courses, please refer to the attachments to this newsletter.

## Safe Lives – Specialist Training for Professionals

**Non-fatal strangulation (NFS)** is used by perpetrators of domestic abuse to control and intimidate their victim. It is an insidious and lethal form of physical violence which recently became a standalone criminal offence in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. Despite the strong link between NFS and domestic homicide, it can be difficult to evidence due to a lack of visible injury.

- **20,000** women in the UK experience non-fatal strangulation every year
- **32%** of Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) caseloads involve a client who has experienced NFS
- Between July 2022 and June 2023, around **700** offenders were sentenced for non-fatal strangulation or suffocation offenses, with an increase in each quarter since the offense was introduced

We're thrilled to have worked with the Institute for Addressing Strangulation to develop and deliver specialist training for professionals who encounter victims and survivors of NFS.

There are multiple webinars and half-day sessions available through 2024 and 2025, with applications now open!

[More information and details on booking ...](#)



## Preventing sexual harassment in the workplace' – The Change Project

From October 2024, the Worker Protection Act comes into effect. Workplaces will have new legal duties to ensure they take reasonable steps to prevent sexual harassment in the workplace.

The Change Project is providing 'preventing sexual harassment in the workplace' training for all workplaces. The training is tailored to the individual needs of the organisation. The Change Project will meet with organisations for a consultation and assessment prior to conducting the training.

Should you be interested in booking training for your workplace or would like more information, please get in contact with our training and development team: [training@thechangeportfolio.org](mailto:training@thechangeportfolio.org)

Other Change Project training coming soon:

- Bystander intervention and domestic abuse webinar
- Myths, beliefs and attitudes webinar
- Professional Boundaries and working with domestic abuse webinar
- History, theory and cycle of domestic abuse webinar

To find out more information and to join our webinars: <https://www.thechange-project.org/for-professionals/training-programmes>

## Respect Training

Respect and the Drive Partnership have teamed up to launch new training. Bookings for the first two-day session of [Culturally competent work with perpetrators of domestic abuse \(24.09.24\) \(respect.org.uk\)](https://www.respect.org.uk) is being delivered on 24 and 25 September.

## ICON Webinar – 24<sup>th</sup> September 2024

ICON is an evidence-based programme designed to help prevent abusive head trauma. Following a successful launch to GPs, Public Health Nursing and Midwifery, this webinar will provide an introduction to the key ICON messages for any professionals working with families across Hertfordshire and Essex.

For further information and details on how to book, please see the attached flyer.

## Step2Skills have launched an autumn campaign, centred around 'Skills Pay the Bills'



The campaign is designed to raise awareness of the Multiply Government-funded scheme, designed to improve the numeracy skills of adults in the UK.

Included in the campaign is a leaflet drop to Hertfordshire households (copy attached), with the opportunity to be entered into a prize draw to win a Tablet if the person signs up and attends a workshop between now and the end of October.

There are a range of workshops available to book onto, all designed with an underlying aim to improve understanding of key maths concepts.

More detail on the campaign, prize draw and the workshops can be found here: [Skills Pay Bills \(hertfordshire.gov.uk\)](http://Skills Pay Bills (hertfordshire.gov.uk))

## Schools are back this week!

**STEP 2 SKILLS**  
PREPARE FOR SUCCESS IN HERTS

**DID YOU KNOW?**

We specialise in offering learning to small groups of adults with a usual maximum limit of 10 people in a class. This allows the teacher to support each learner effectively and learners can feel more comfortable in contributing their views.

**WWW.STEP2SKILLS.ORG.UK**

The Step2Skills term kicks off soon so if there's a skill you're looking to gain or enhance, don't delay and book your place on a course or workshop today.

(The timetable for September is attached.)

[www.step2skills.org.uk](http://www.step2skills.org.uk)

## Latest Safer Places Training

### Short Courses

12 August: DASH Masterclass, use code HCC for £10 discount [DASH Risk Assessment Masterclass – Safer Places](#)

3 September: Understanding children’s experiences of domestic abuse, use code HCC for £10 discount [Understanding Children's experiences of Domestic Abuse – Safer Places](#)

19 September: Tech Abuse Masterclass, use code HCC for £10 discount [Tech Abuse Masterclass – Safer Places](#)

24 September: Stalking Masterclass, use code HCC for £10 discount [Stalking Masterclass – Safer Places](#)

1 October: Understanding older people’s experiences of domestic abuse, use code HCC for £10 discount [Understanding Older People's experiences of Domestic Abuse – Safer Places](#)

3 October: Understanding Ethnic Diverse communities experiences of domestic abuse, use code HCC for £10 discount [Understanding Ethnic Diverse Communities experiences of Domestic Abuse – Safer Places](#)

7 October: Sexual Violence Masterclass, use code HCC for £10 discount [Sexual Violence Masterclass – Safer Places](#)

### Get qualified in 2024/25

#### Qualifications

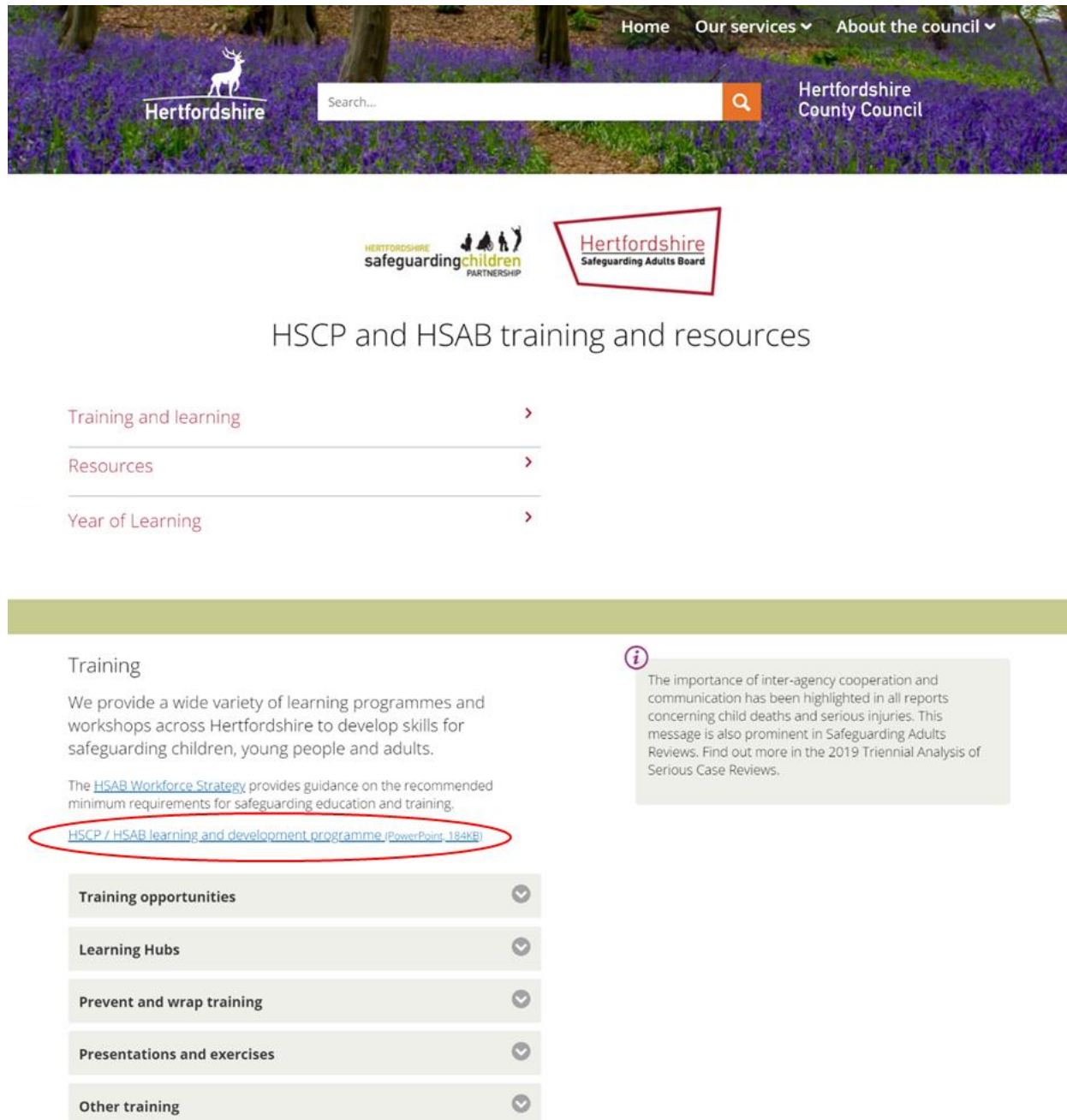
- Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) qualification: November 2024 or February 25 [Level 3 Independent Domestic Violence Advocate \(IDVA\) | Safer Places](#)
- Children’s Domestic Abuse Advocate (CDAA) qualification: September 2024 or January 25 [Level 3 - Children's Domestic Abuse Advocate – Safer Places](#)
- Young Person Violence Advisor (YPVA) qualification: November 2024 [Level 3 Young Person Violence Advisor \(YPVA\) | Safer Places](#)
- Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) qualification: November 2024 [Level 3 Independent Sexual Violence Advisor \(ISVA\) | Safer Places](#)
- Supporting Medium Risk - Long Term Resilience and Recovery qualification: Dec 2024 [Level 3 Supporting the Long Term Recovery and Resilience of Domestic Abuse Victims | Safer Places](#)
- Safe Accommodation for Refuge Managers qualification: September 2024 [Level 4 Safe Accommodation for Refuge Managers | Safer Places](#)
- Independent Stalking Advocacy Specialist (ISAS) qualification: January 2025 [Level 4 Independent Stalking Advocacy Specialist \(ISAS\) | Safer Places](#)

For more information about any of courses, please visit our website: [Training – Safer Places](#)

## Hertfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board (HSAB) & Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children's Partnership (HSCP) Learning & Development Programme

[HSAB and HSCP have published their Training and Resources offer for 2024.](#)

Check the [HSAB and HSCP training and resources page](#) regularly for monthly L&D event schedules.



The screenshot shows the Hertfordshire County Council website header with navigation links for Home, Our services, and About the council. Below the header is a search bar and the Hertfordshire logo. The main content area features the Hertfordshire Safeguarding Children Partnership and Hertfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board logos. The title "HSCP and HSAB training and resources" is centered. A list of menu items includes Training and learning, Resources, and Year of Learning. A green horizontal bar separates the header from the main content. The "Training" section is highlighted, with a sub-section titled "Training" containing a paragraph about learning programmes and a link to the "HSAB Workforce Strategy". A red circle highlights a link to the "HSCP / HSAB learning and development programme (PowerPoint, 184KB)". To the right, an information icon is followed by a text box stating that inter-agency cooperation and communication are highlighted in reports concerning child deaths and serious injuries, and that this message is also prominent in Safeguarding Adults Reviews. A list of training opportunities is shown at the bottom, including Training opportunities, Learning Hubs, Prevent and wrap training, Presentations and exercises, and Other training.

A training programme for each month will be uploaded to the location circled in red, containing detail regarding each training course.

## FUNDING & COLLABORATION

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### Grants for Drop-In Hubs to Help Young People with their Mental Health (UK)

The **Prudence Trust** is making £1.5 million in funding available to support drop-in hubs that offer mental health interventions to young people aged 11-25 across the UK. The funding aims to support young people's early support hubs in maintaining existing services, strengthening relationships with clinical partners, or adding new services. The opportunity is open to UK-registered charities or CICs with an annual income of over £1 million and at least three years of experience delivering a drop-in hub. The Trust anticipates awarding **3 to 4 grants of between £250,000 to £500,000** each for up to 24 months. Eligible costs include salaries, evaluation work, and training. The deadline for first-stage applications is 2pm on the **9th of September 2024**.

[Read more and apply ...](#)



# SUNFLOWER NEWS SUBMISSIONS

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Please email all submissions, 'Service Spotlight' requests, distribution list requests, feedback and AOB to [sunflower.news@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:sunflower.news@hertfordshire.gov.uk).

Submissions will be copied and pasted directly into the newsletter (we do not write up, proof-read or edit them). Authors are responsible for ensuring that their content is formally written, containing all relevant information and attention to detail. Submissions received in an inappropriate or incomplete format are not guaranteed to be included.

There are no maximum or minimum word counts for submissions, however we encourage limiting articles to ~300 words and including images wherever possible.

**The next Sunflower News will be published on Tuesday 1 October 2024.**

The deadline for inclusion in the next Sunflower News is **5pm, Wednesday 25 September 2024.**

**If your news cannot wait until the next newsletter, please still send it to the Sunflower News inbox marked as "URGENT" in the email title, and we will circulate it separately.**

Sunflower news is collated and distributed by the Hertfordshire County Council Strategic Partnerships team on behalf of the Hertfordshire Domestic Abuse, Violence Against Women and Girls, Homelessness and Multiple Disadvantage networks.

