

The Wish Centre Behaviour Change Programme Newsletter



Welcome to the latest instalment of the WCBCN. This is an opportunity for us to share with you, the referrers, information relating to our perpetrator work monthly – namely the Gateway to Change workshop and the Make the Change programme. This will allow us to share case studies with you, not only on how the programme works, but how important your referrals are to making a difference in the lives of those affected by DA/DV by enabling them the chance to make changes to their behaviours and, ultimately, their lives and the lives of those affected.

Important Updates for April 2024

- We are planning to host an online workshop about our Make the Change programme and Gateway to Change workshop. This will be a highly informative workshop and will give clear indicators on what should be referred into the service. We are mindful about the dwindling numbers of referrals from LCC, and this may be especially beneficial for you and your staff.

Please drop me an email to let me know your interest -

Andrew.mcauliffe@thewishcentre.org





INFORMATION ON SUBMITTING REFERRALS

We understand that time is precious when supporting people in the work we all do. In order to save you waiting time with referrals, there are a few key bits of information you may need to know.

- *There is a distinction between Make the Change and Gateway to Change. Gateway is a 2-session awareness raising workshop and comes with no report on completion. Make the Change is the full perpetrator programme which runs between 16-22 weeks (depending on the outcome of the assessment) which comes with a court accepted report upon completion.*
- *Make the Change and Gateway to Change are not anger management courses. They are for behaviour change in relation to DA and DV.*
- *We can only look at referrals relating to DA/DV towards an intimate spouse or ex/current partner.*
- *It is vitally important to complete the referral forms in as much detail as possible, providing relevant contact details where applicable. This saves time when processing the forms and enables the facilitator to have as clear a picture before going into any assessment.*
- *If open/known to Family Court/CAFCASS additional information/documentation will be requested.*
- *Men must acknowledge that their behaviour is or could be classed as abusive and want to change this.*
- *It is important to know that a referral does not guarantee a place. Acceptance on GTC and MTC is subject to assessment.*

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Blackburn & Darwen District Without Abuse

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Domestic Abuse in the Media

Police officers made misogynistic and sexualised comments about domestic abuse victim.



Two ex-police officers, Terrence Flanagan and Iwan Williams, were heard making derogatory, misogynistic, and sexualized remarks about a victim they encountered during a domestic incident. Their offensive comments, captured on a body camera in a police van after responding to the call, led to an accelerated misconduct hearing. Both officers resigned before the hearing, which revealed they would have been dismissed from North Wales Police if they had not already left. Chief Constable Blakeman said the fact the comments were made inside a police van and not in front of members of the public did not take away from their seriousness.

In a statement following the hearing she said: *"There is no place for behaviour such as this in North Wales Police or our society. It is totally unacceptable, and I remain committed to rooting out and dealing both swift fully and robustly with anyone who does not demonstrate at all times the professional standards needed to earn and keep the respect and trust of our local communities. I expect the highest standards of conduct and behaviour from my officers and staff."*

News From Around the World

Domestic Abuse an "Epidemic" in Australia







An expert warns that women in regional Australia face heightened vulnerability to domestic violence, with limited escape options. Dr. Bridget Mottram, a senior policy officer at Domestic Violence NSW, highlights the dire situation, amid a nationwide surge in protests demanding an end to violence against women. This year, 26 women have reportedly been killed by partners or ex-partners in Australia, marking a significant increase from last year. Recent tragedies, including the deaths of Molly Ticehurst, Emma Bates, Erica Hays, and the Bondi Junction stabbing, underscore the urgency. 'What Were You Wearing' organized 'No More: National Rally Against Gender Based Violence' demonstrations across the country, urging governmental action against domestic violence.

According to Domestic Violence NSW, 40% of Australian women have encountered violence since age 15. Men predominantly perpetrate this violence, leading to higher hospitalization rates for women than vice versa. Experts assert that women in regional NSW encounter greater obstacles when seeking to flee abusive relationships, dubbing them "sitting ducks" compared to their urban counterparts. Domestic Violence NSW has more than 150 member organisations across the state specialised in domestic and family violence services. The peak body has called on the state government to increase its funding by \$852,000 per year. It has also lobbied for a 20 per cent rise to domestic and family violence services nationwide and a state government commitment of \$40million for prevention. Domestic violence is estimated to cost the Australian economy \$25billion.

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Domestic Abuse in the Media

Emmerdale to air special showing two viewpoints amid domestic abuse storyline.



"Emmerdale" will feature a unique episode portraying conflicting viewpoints at a dinner party amidst a domestic abuse storyline. Airing on May 7, the episode follows Tom and Belle hosting a tumultuous dinner party. The first half presents Rhona and Marlon's perspectives, while the second half rewinds to reveal Belle and Tom's viewpoint, shedding light on Tom's controlling behaviour. Emmerdale have been working with Refuge for the Tom and Belle storyline.

Emmerdale producer Laura Shaw said: *"The dinner party episode puts a sharp lens on the relationships of the gathered people and gives the audience a unique view into their lives. Stepping away from the usual Emmerdale format, it offers our viewers the chance to see how some relationships like Rhona and Marlon's can very publicly unravel and fall apart, whereas other relationships, like Tom and Belle's, can present in public as perfect and behind closed doors tell a very different, much darker story."*

Domestic Abuse in the Media

Police say threatening and insulting text messages do not count as domestic abuse.







The police are discounting threatening and insulting text messages as a form of domestic abuse with tens of thousands of incident records estimated to be missing. The Domestic Abuse Commissioner warned almost 17,600 domestic abuse crimes are missing from data released on Thursday due to the government overhauling the rules on how the police should record incidents.

In June last year, the Home Office ordered the police to only count one crime for every time a victim reports abuse, as well as permitting officers to stop counting incidents where victims receive threatening or abusive messages. The fiercely criticised government changes come after a review by the National Police Chiefs Council, with ministers saying the move was an attempt to curb administration. Lucy Hadley of Women's Aid said – *"The inability to capture accurate data on domestic abuse risks further denting women's trust in the justice system and allowing perpetrators to continue to commit crimes with impunity."*

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**Unveiling the Dark Side:
Domestic Abuse and Coercive Control in
"Rosemary's Baby"**







In the realm of horror cinema, few films have achieved the legendary status and chilling impact of Roman Polanski's "Rosemary's Baby." Released in 1968, this psychological horror masterpiece has haunted audiences for decades with its eerie atmosphere, sinister plot twists, and unsettling themes. Beyond its supernatural elements, the film also serves as a disturbing portrayal of domestic abuse and coercive control, shedding light on the insidious dynamics of manipulation and power within intimate relationships.

Set in New York City, "Rosemary's Baby" follows the story of Rosemary Woodhouse, a young wife played by Mia Farrow, and her struggling actor husband, Guy, portrayed by John Cassavetes. The couple moves into the Bramford, an ominous apartment building with a dark history, where they befriend their peculiar elderly neighbours, the Castevets. As Rosemary becomes pregnant with her first child, she becomes increasingly isolated and vulnerable, falling victim to a web of manipulation orchestrated by her husband and their sinister neighbours.

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At its core, "Rosemary's Baby" depicts the manipulation and control exerted by both Guy and the Casteverts over Rosemary. Guy, desperate for success in his acting career, strikes a Faustian deal with the devil, offering his wife as a vessel for Satan's child in exchange for fame and fortune. He gaslights and deceives Rosemary, exploiting her trust and love to further his own ambitions. Meanwhile, the Casteverts, particularly the enigmatic Minnie, employ subtle tactics of manipulation and coercion to ensure Rosemary's compliance and submission to their sinister agenda. The apartment itself, an imposing Gothic structure, becomes a physical manifestation of the control exerted over her, with its labyrinthine corridors.





Coercive control, a form of domestic abuse characterised by psychological manipulation and domination, is evident throughout the film. Guy and the Casteverts systematically isolate Rosemary from her friends and family, eroding her support system and amplifying her dependence on them. They undermine her perception of reality, gaslighting her into doubting her own sanity and intuition. Moreover, they exert control over her body and reproductive rights, using her pregnancy as a means to further their own malevolent ends.



One of the most disturbing aspects of "Rosemary's Baby" is its portrayal of how societal structures and power dynamics enable and perpetuate domestic abuse. Guy, as the breadwinner and patriarchal figure, wields economic and social

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power over Rosemary, exploiting her vulnerability and dependence for his own gain. Similarly, the Casteverts leverage their social status and influence within the community to manipulate and control Rosemary, highlighting how abusers often operate within positions of privilege and authority. The use of charm and flattery by the Casteverts also masks their true intentions, as they begin to dictate every aspect of Rosemary's life, including her diet, medical care, bodily autonomy, and social interactions.







Thus, throughout the film, Rosemary's agency and autonomy are systematically stripped away, echoing the experiences of countless real-life survivors of domestic abuse. Her journey serves as a harrowing reminder of the pervasive nature of intimate partner violence and the importance of recognising the warning signs of coercive control.

The climax of the film reveals the extent of the betrayal, as Rosemary discovers that her pregnancy is the result of a satanic ritual involving Guy and the coven. The baby she carries is not the product of her marriage but a means to an end for the coven's sinister purposes. The realisation that her body and her child have been used as pawns in a diabolical plot is the ultimate expression of coercive control.

"Rosemary's Baby" remains a timeless and deeply unsettling exploration of the horrors that can lurk within the confines of domesticity. By shining a light on the insidious dynamics of manipulation and power within intimate relationships, the film serves as a stark warning against the dangers of unchecked coercion and abuse. As we revisit this classic horror masterpiece, let us not only tremble at its supernatural terrors but also reflect on the all-too-real horrors of domestic abuse it so chillingly portrays.

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End of Programme Participation Feedback - AD



What has been your main learning from attending the Make the Change programme?

To look at every decision I make from every person's angle before making a decision of my own.

Looking back, do you recognize your role in perpetrating abuse in relationships and do you accept responsibility for it?

Yes, I do.

Do you feel you have a better understanding and control of your own feelings?

Yes.

Do you feel you have a better understanding of other people's feelings and perspectives?

Yes, I do.

What do you hope to achieve in future relationships?

Happy, nice environment and a settled household, the ability to talk about problems before they become an issue, never go to bed on an angry word.

What part are you going to play in having a non-abusive relationship in the future?

The main part.

How do you feel about the victim now you have completed the programme?

I feel like I owe her an apology. I was controlling and tried to make things perfect but in doing so was making it hell.

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Can you identify any of your belief system that has been challenged on the programme?

My derogatory attitudes towards women.





What was difficult for you on the programme?

Remembering, coming to terms with my behaviour and accepting responsibility for it.

***Please do continue to
send referrals for
GTC/MTC to
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