Appendix C - Hertfordshire Coronavirus Domestic Abuse Response

Herts Sunflower

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| * Providing information and signposting to support for everyone affected or concerned by domestic abuse in Hertfordshire.
* There are now two specific Coronavirus sections:

Support during coronavirus – **For the public**. Linked to an emergency Coronavirus message on each page or accessed via the news reel at the bottom of page. <https://www.hertssunflower.org/support-during-coronavirus.aspx>For local and national Coronavirus information about where to get help and how to keep safe, service updates, guidance, key messages and signposting. <https://www.hertssunflower.org/media/documents/coronavirus-temporary-content/hertfordshire-coronavirus-interim-domestic-abuse-service-response.pdf> * The document attached above provides information about what services are available in Hertfordshire and nationally and how they are operating to help.

Herts Domestic Abuse Helpline

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| * Providing free and confidential telephone support and signposting for anyone affected or concerned by domestic abuse, 9am-9pm Mon-Fri and 9am-4pm Sat/Sun.
* Currently operating a full telephone service
* Now have a confidential email address: kim@mailpurple.org
* The no-appointment drop-in service which operates from the offices of JKC Lawyers in Watford has had to close for the time being but the 24 hour emergency legal helpline remains open - 0203 9355 999

Safer Places* States on their website ‘Due to the impact of COVID-19, we are now facing a devastating loss of funds’
* Safer Places will be purchasing additional equipment to slow the spread of Coronavirus and support families in Hertfordshire refuges during the current pandemic after securing emergency funding from Hertfordshire Community Foundation.
* Since the global spread of coronavirus resulting in the Lockdown of the UK the number of women murdered every week due to domestic abuse has rose to 3.
* Safer Places has launched a live chat service via their website. 8:30am-5:00pm Monday-Thursday 8:00am-8:00pm Friday-Sunday.

<https://www.saferplaces.co.uk/News/live-chat-launch>The Stefanou Foundation- For Baby’s Sake* For Baby’s Sake teams are continuing to work with families throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, delivering For Baby’s Sake using video technology, and also offering wider support to local authority partners in protecting children and families.
* Resources are available online for Free access to COVID-19 guidance on trauma and resilience and to Parental Relationships Spectrum (parental conflict/domestic abuse)

SADA (Stevenage Against Domestic Abuse) * They provide a specialist local service for victims of domestic abuse and have seen a dramatic increase in numbers who need help, during the pandemic.
* SADA will now be available to help domestic abuse victims across the district after East Herts Council agreed to fund the service for its residents. <https://www.eastherts.gov.uk/latest-news/2020/ground-breaking-domestic-abuse-service-launches>
* <https://www.north-herts.gov.uk/sites/northherts-cms/files/sada_leaflet.pdf> . SADA leaflet

Women’s Aid* Joint VAWG (Violence against women and girls) sector emergency Covid-19 funding statement the chancellor has announced a £750 million pot to support frontline charities, including those supporting domestic abuse victims, during the coronavirus outbreak.
* worldwide reports are showing a rise in domestic violence in response to the global lockdown. We are monitoring this unprecedented situation and are currently collecting and analysing data from over 70 domestic violence services in England and all our referral services.
* It is too early to give specific data at the moment. Sometimes the picture is not immediately clear. Calls to helplines may go down because survivors are at home with the perpetrator so are less able to email, pick up a phone or go to a shelter. However, we are closely monitoring the situation and will release significant data as soon as it is available.
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