

#it doesn't matter if... Ashfield District Council reassure survivors of Domestic Abuse that they aren't alone

The White Ribbon Campaign #if love hurts

The 25th of November 2018 to the 10th of December 2018 saw the annual 16 days of activism against gender-based violence. To find out more, follow this link <https://www.whiteribbon.org.uk/>

Our complex-case team at Ashfield District Council, support individuals with various needs, like domestic abuse. Holly Sheffield, our Domestic Abuse Officer, planned 16-days of activism to carry out within Ashfield and this is what happened...

Demystifying the barriers to getting help #it doesn't matter if...

It doesn't matter what it is, come and talk to us...



Holly Sheffield- Domestic Abuse Officer- 07778 517544
Complex Case Team Triage: 01623 457345
Antonio Taylor – Complex Case Team Leader- 07778 518978



campaign

As part of Ashfield District Council's efforts to support the campaign, we used social media to demystify the barriers that individuals face when considering getting help.

“It doesn't matter if your partner has not physically hurt you. Come and talk to us for support and advice”

Different messages were posted on each day to address different barriers.

➤ *Puzzle used in social media*

Spreading the word, out in the community

In addition, to the social media campaign, we also attended several venues to raise awareness of domestic abuse and the support available.

At Idlewells Shopping Centre in Sutton-in-Ashfield members of the community were delighted to see us raising awareness of domestic abuse.

“I’m so glad someone is doing something about this”

Residents were keen share their own experiences of abusive relationships and were grateful for someone to listen.



➤ *At Idlewells with Cllr Helen-Ann Smith*



➤ *At Vision West Nottinghamshire College, speaking with young people about healthy relationships*

Holly was approached by a local resident requesting advice for their own situation, while visiting a stay and play group at Hucknall Children’s Centre. Holly was able to reassure the resident, offer support and signpost her to appropriate services.

Generous Donations, in time for Christmas.

After hearing about our campaign, The Hill Methodist Church at Kirkby-in-Ashfield, invited us to attend their service. They showered us with donations for the domestic abuse survivors we work with at Ashfield District Council.

One resident and her children, who recently fled domestic abuse, were in store for a miserable Christmas. Before leaving the perpetrator, they were a well off family, but now they were struggling to get by. With no gifts under the tree and little festive spirit, her mental health was deteriorating. Not only did Holly, get to give the resident a gift, she enabled her to put presents under the tree for the children.

Health professionals pledging to stand against domestic abuse

When we visited Kings Mill Hospital, we received a great deal of attention from patients, visitors and staff.

Health professionals felt that domestic abuse was an important issue to address but a difficult topic to approach and agreed that raising awareness and improving understanding could tackle this barrier. The majority filled out White Ribbon pledges, to make promises about their future practices.

“I promise to continue to embed domestic abuse awareness across the organisation and support survivors”

The hospital were grateful for our support and are keen to work together on the White Ribbon Campaign next year. As a result, we have developed a good working relationship and are excited to work together in the future.



“I promise that, as safeguarding children’s nurse, I will raise awareness that DV can impact children too.”

Make a Stand

We were one of the first councils to sign up to the Chartered Institute of Housing's Make a Stand campaign, which calls on social landlords to sign up to four simple commitments to support residents and staff experiencing domestic abuse. You can find out more and sign up the Make a Stand [here](#).