

**GINA monthly e-news  
August 08**

**No Boundaries Conference**

The Tayside Domestic Abuse and Substance Misuse project was established in 2006 to target women who have been victims of domestic abuse and also have substance misuse issues. The objectives of the project are to improve access to appropriate service for women and children, to develop the provision of service for both target groups and to ensure professionals are knowledgeable and adequately trained to support both the target groups.

The project recently organised the 'No Boundaries - Domestic Abuse and Substance Misuse Conference' which was held on the 17<sup>th</sup> July at Perth Concert Hall. The conference examined the links between substance misuse and domestic abuse, sharing learning from the past two years of the project as it approaches the end of its funding. The event was chaired by Lily Greenan, manager of Scottish Women's Aid, and other guest speakers included Sarah Galvani, whose research focuses on the overlapping issues of substance misuse and domestic violence, and Marai Larasi, Executive Director of the nia project, a project in London which aims to provide a safe and supportive environment for women and children escaping physical, sexual and emotional abuse. The Geese theatre company created an interactive drama performance to highlight some of the key issues of the conference. Delegates were also able to take part in parallel sessions that shared information with delegates about specific pieces of work undertaken by the project.

The conference marked the launch of The Tayside Domestic Abuse and Substance Misuse Research Report and The Good Practice Guidelines for Partnership Working.

The key findings of the report suggest that the way forward in terms of service provision may be to focus on the similarities between the two services, and work together to overcome any barriers in service provision. It also concluded that sharing specialist information and promoting opportunities for joint training could be valuable for improving skills and knowledge when working with the other issue, and that establishing guidelines for sharing information in relation to clients would help achieve more effective multi agency work.

For further information please contact Kathryn Sharp, TDASM project lead, by email, [kathryn.sharp@dundee.gov.uk](mailto:kathryn.sharp@dundee.gov.uk) or by phone: **01382 434569**



**In the news . . .**

**New warning for mums-to-be on  
drink and smoking danger**

Doctors have urged mothers not to smoke or drink during pregnancy as it emerged one-in-seven babies born in Scotland requires additional care. BMA Scotland has published a new briefing paper on the dangers of alcohol and cigarettes during pregnancy on the unborn child. Two of the main reasons for babies requiring additional care are premature birth and low birth weight, the risk of both of which can be increased through smoking and drinking. Despite this, a quarter of women in Scotland smoke during pregnancy, affecting 12,500

babies. More than half of all women in the UK admit to drinking alcohol during their pregnancies. Dr Peter Terry, chairman of the BMA in Scotland, said: "Smoking during pregnancy has been linked to sudden infant death syndrome, an increased risk of the child developing diabetes and an increased risk of attention deficit disorder. "Alcohol can also increase the risk of infertility, miscarriage and has been linked to an increase risk of sudden death."

Source: [Edinburgh Evening News 10/07/08](#)

### **Put images of diseased livers on drinks bottles, say doctors**

Bottles of beer and wine should include graphic images of diseased livers and mouth cancers to warn of the dangers of drinking too much, doctors at the BMA conference in Edinburgh said. The conference heard that alcohol consumption in the UK had doubled since 1960, alongside a massive rise in alcohol-related illness and crime. Dr Raj Nirula, a urologist at the Princess of Wales Hospital in Bridgend, Wales, proposed the use of graphic images on every single drink as well as on posters in pubs, a move that was backed overwhelmingly by doctors at the conference. Images showing the results of smoking will start appearing on cigarette packets at the end of the year. Dr Nirula said people not drinking were seen as abnormal, with binge drinking becoming the norm. The doctors also called for soft drinks to be made 'significantly cheaper' than alcohol, and for labels showing alcohol units per drink to be mandatory on bottles and bar taps. Source: [The Scotsman 10/07/08](#)



### **Adult's drive kids to drink**

Almost a third of kids think its normal for adults to drink five or more glasses of wine in one night, new research has revealed. survey carried out by leading children's

health education charity Life Education also shows that over a quarter of youngsters think that people who drink beer would normally drink four pints in an evening despite this being above the level described by the NHS as binge drinking. Researchers asked children about their perceptions of adult drinking and say it explains why so many kids turn to booze themselves. The survey found that three out of five of children think people on TV drink too much, almost 60 per cent think people down drink to forget about their problems and over two fifths think people drink alcohol to look cool. Stephen Burgess, national director of Life Education, said: "As educationalists, health workers, the media, advertisers or parents, we must take these results seriously and consider the messages we send to children. We need to look at what role models we wish to provide and to make sure children understand that a healthy life does not involve excessive drinking".

Source: [Paisley Daily Express, 07/07/08](#)

### **Binge drinking fuels female violence**

The number of violent attacks by women has doubled in just five years. Last year 87,200 women and girls were arrested for attacks – the equivalent of 240 every day. It is the first time in history that violence has been the most common crime among women and girls, taking over from theft. The category includes every violent offence from street brawls and assault to grievous bodily harm and murder. The shocking Government figures showed a rise of 8,300 in the number of women arrested for violence compared to 2005-2006 – an increase of 11 per cent. Critics said there are clear links between the epidemic of loutish behaviour and heavy drinking. Earlier this year, the Daily Mail revealed that the number of women arrested for being drunk and disorderly had leapt by more than half nationwide – and tenfold in some areas – in five years. The Police Federation said the days when officers could rely on women to be a 'calming influence' on male drinkers were no more. Elaine Arnall, of London's South Bank University, said: "The bigger picture is that behaviour is changing and there is a link between girls using alcohol and violence."

Source: [Daily Mail Online, 31/07/08](#)

## British voices trilogy

Film maker Kate Taunton and channel 4 news recently screened the 'British Voices Trilogy', telling the story of Britain today by focusing on three lingering national problems; drugs, poverty and alcohol misuse. Over the course of this year, film-maker Kate Taunton has made the three films for Channel 4 News to tell the stories of people whose lives reflect these three challenges. The short films were all broadcast in June and were made through Minnow Films. The third film, which looks at the growing problem of teenage alcohol abuse, focuses on the lives of three young people who talk honestly and openly about their experiences of alcohol and the nature of their drinking. One of the teenagers, Stacey, died of liver disease during the making of the film. All three of the films can be viewed online at [www.channel4.com](http://www.channel4.com)

## Alcohol and pregnancy campaign

Alcohol Focus Scotland and GINA are currently working together to develop an alcohol and pregnancy campaign. The aim of the campaign is to raise awareness of the 'avoid alcohol when pregnant' message among women who are pregnant, are thinking of trying for a baby, and among the wider population who may encourage pregnant women to have a drink. The campaign is due to be launched in November, and will involve radio advertising, online advertising, posters and information leaflets. By engaging with a wide range of media we hope to reach as many people as possible with our 'avoid alcohol' message, and not solely pregnant women. The campaign is still in its early stages, but the creatives should be finalised shortly, and GINA members will be kept updated with the progress of the campaign.

## GINA website launch

We are pleased to announce that the GINA website is now up and running. We welcome anyone who has an interest in or is involved with people whose lives are affected by

alcohol to come and have a look and find out more about the project. Expect to see the site grow over the coming months, with more information about our work.

Please visit [www.ginascotland.org.uk](http://www.ginascotland.org.uk)



## Alcohol Awareness Week

Alcohol Awareness Week 2008 will take place from 5<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> October. This year's theme is 'you can make a positive choice when it comes to drinking alcohol', and the strap line is 'Alcohol Awareness Week – will you take the challenge?' Seven small and achievable tips will be promoted to encourage people make positive choices with their drinking and to drink responsibly. Resources include A3 and A4 posters, flyers, unit calculator wheels, unit measures and tent cards. Small orders of these resources can be made through GINA. Please support AAW by adding the web link to email signatures, websites, and e-newsletters. The 2008 AAW website will be up and running shortly. GINA will be supporting Alcohol Awareness Week by distributing handbag shaped information leaflets aimed at young women, with advice on how to stay safe on a night out.

[www.alcoholawarenessweek.com](http://www.alcoholawarenessweek.com)

## Events

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2008, Binge Britain: Significant Harm for the Unborn Child, Edgehill University, Liverpool**

This is part of a series of four one-day conferences looking at drug and alcohol usage and the effect on the unborn child.

For more information contact Charlotte Lindsell on 020 7520 2880 or email [charlotte@parentsforchildren.org.uk](mailto:charlotte@parentsforchildren.org.uk)

**5 – 11 October 2008, Alcohol Awareness Week**

[www.alcoholawarenessweek.com](http://www.alcoholawarenessweek.com)

**Monday 6th October 2008, Alcohol and violence – Holyrood Conference, Edinburgh**

The conference will bring together experts in alcohol addiction, community safety and policing strategies who will discuss what solutions can be implemented to produce positive cultural change.

**Tuesday 7th October 2008, Roads to Success in Drug Treatment, London**

This conference aims to make recommendations as to how the sector should look at treatment and its successful outcomes. These recommendations will then be presented to policymakers and influencers.

## Resources

**Engaging and empowering women in poverty report**

This report, published by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, examines participatory research conducted with women in poverty living in Birmingham, Cardiff and London. The project aimed to build their political capacity so that they could take their collective knowledge and experience, present it as policy proposals to policy-makers and actively help to produce policy change. The report can be downloaded from [www.jrf.org.uk](http://www.jrf.org.uk)

**Scottish Social Attitudes Survey 2007**

The survey was carried out by the Scottish Centre for Social Research to explore public attitudes and the role that alcohol plays in Scottish culture. The survey reveals people's perceptions of the role alcohol plays in Scottish society, attitudes towards alcohol misuse, and highlights the extent of awareness and knowledge of government advice on sensible drinking. The report can be downloaded from

[www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications)

**Literature Review: Better Outcomes for Children and Young People Experiencing Domestic Abuse – Directions for Good Practice**

This literature review aims to shape and inform appropriate development of all services that are concerned in the improvement of children's lives where there is domestic abuse. The report can be downloaded from

[www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications)

## Training

**Scottish Women's Aid Training Courses, Seminars and Study Days - September 2008 - February 2009**

A wide range of topics surrounding gender based violence, including links with substance misuse. For full information and booking forms please contact

[kate.davis@scottishwomensaid.org.uk](mailto:kate.davis@scottishwomensaid.org.uk)

**Do you have any information you would like to share with the GINA network?**

We would love to hear from you if you have examples of best practice, studies of interest, information on services or upcoming events etc. If so please get in touch.

The next GINA newsletter will be distributed in September 2008.

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