



Paladin E-Bulletin No. 22

Paladin's First Anniversary 11-07-2014

On 11th July 2014, it was Paladin's first birthday and we celebrated with supporters, clients and friends.

Our first year has been exceptionally busy and exciting. In this time we have developed our infrastructure, policies and strategy including continually reviewing our case referral and triage process; recruited, trained, mentored and supervised our greatest asset, which is our staff; developed an agile case management system which continues to evolve, along with our impact and outcomes measurement framework; continuous fundraising activities, scrutinising implementation of the legislation and campaigning on behalf of victims.



As soon as we launched, demand outstripped capacity, which in itself shows how prevalent stalking is and the need for such a service. Many victims require immediate advice and assistance and it's also imperative the team grows in terms of capacity and resilience to match demand. As well as advising high risk victims we also give advice on lower risk level cases to ensure they do not escalate to high risk and therefore every client receives bespoke advice and a risk management package.



CEO Laura Richards

The anniversary event was held in Mayfair and we were privileged to have some wonderful speakers. Baroness Jan Royall, Lady Edwina Grosvenor, ACC Garry Shewan (by means of DVD) joined by John Clough, Paladin Ambassador, and Caroline Criado-Perez who spoke of their experiences of stalking and the need for Paladin. Attendees also heard some quotes from clients about how Paladin had helped them. Here are some of those quotes:

"Paladin was there for me at the time I needed them the most"

"I am so glad to know that there are people out there like Paladin who care about others and are brilliant in their job."

"Paladin got things moving for me. Half of issues in my case wouldn't have got dealt with without Paladin. I probably would have stayed where I was and probably been attacked further."

"Without all of your continued support, guidance and patience, I would not have come so far - I truly feel that I am back to me again"

Paladin gave an award to two of our Single Point of Contacts for Stalking and Harassment with a certificate and prize for being 'Top of the SPOCs'. The winners were DI Lee Barnard from the Metropolitan Police and DS Gill Hamilton from Essex Police who do great work for victims of stalking and assist Paladin.



Lee Barnard & Gill Hamilton

We are committed to giving victims a voice in the criminal justice system and providing advocacy to high risk victims of stalking, as well as campaigning on their behalf. With the introduction of our accredited ISAC training, we will be able to reach more victims who need us across the UK. This will ensure that Paladin remains the centre of excellence for stalking and advocacy.



Guests listening to speeches

We look forward to the next exciting chapter and would like to thank and acknowledge all our partners, funders and supporters who have made our invaluable work with those who need us most possible.

Victim's Network Meeting

During the Stalking Law Reform Campaign and in the early stages of Paladin it was clear that there was no arena for victims of stalking to support and empower each other.



To help develop this mutual support group, a reference group of Paladin clients and ambassadors has been put together to help with key issues arising from this project and to assist in developing the mutual support group. The first Paladin Victim Network Reference Group meeting was held in July 2014. The meeting was hugely successful and key issues affecting our clients were raised and addressed.

Plans are underway to run the first local support session in autumn 2014.



Domestic Violence Law Reform

Paladin, Women’s Aid and Sara Charlton Charitable

Foundation have joined together to campaign for a legal framework that effectively criminalises domestic violence and last month, David Cameron suggested that domestic violence could become a specific criminal offence.

The prime minister commented when he was asked on BBC Gloucestershire about the case of Hollie Gazzard, who was stabbed to death by her controlling and abusive ex-boyfriend in February. She had previously contacted police about her partner’s violent and threatening behaviour, and there is now a review by the Independent Police Complaints Commission is reviewing the force’s handling of her complaint. He said that the “Government needs to get to grip on domestic abuse in Britain and make the justice system more sympathetic to victims.”

The team welcomes these comments and will continue to campaign for change. More information on this campaign can be found on our [website](#).

ISAC Training

Paladin have developed an accredited Independent Stalking Advocacy Caseworkers (ISACs) training course through the University of Brighton. This training will enable Paladin to establish a network of ISACs across the UK as satellites to the national service which will save lives, give victims quality of life and reduce levels of isolation. It is vital that there is a network of specialists locally to ensure victims are given the right advice and supported through the Criminal Justice System, much the same as Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs) and Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs). It is important that there are more ISACs across the UK as their specialist knowledge and advocacy is vital in keeping victims and their children safe. In the long term it will save both lives and money.

The next course will run between the 16th September and 18th November. To apply for your space, visit our [website](#).

Serial Perpetrators Campaign

We are calling on the Home Secretary, Theresa May, to act now to save lives by protecting women from serial stalkers and domestic violence perpetrators by introducing a register which would enable police to proactively identify, track, monitor and manage stalkers.



Currently there is no existing framework which can track or monitor serial stalkers and domestic violence perpetrators. There needs to be a positive obligation on perpetrators to change their behaviour and take responsibility. They are the ones who need to be tracked, supervised and managed and *not* the victim. Specifically, we are making the following recommendations:

- ⇒ **Recommendation 1:** The Government consider making DVPO/Ns a criminal breach to ensure effective sanctions.
- ⇒ **Recommendation 2:** Consideration to amend PACE to ensure police can keep the perpetrator in custody long enough to serve the DVPO on them there, rather than releasing them at a time of increased risk.
- ⇒ **Recommendation 3:** The Government consider creating a register for serial stalkers and domestic violence perpetrators and incorporating it into the existing framework for sex offenders.
- ⇒ **Recommendation 4:** The Government consider creating a new Serial Perpetrator Order (SPO) for serial stalkers and domestic violence offenders.
- ⇒ **Recommendation 5:** The Government consider creating a new Risk of Harm Order for serial stalkers and domestic violence offenders.
- ⇒ **Recommendation 6:** Ensure orders stand across European boundaries so that offending histories, behaviour and restrictions are also shared across borders.

More information on this campaign along with the overview document can be found on our [website](#).



Devon and Cornwall Police

Helen Pearson was stalked for five years. Helen reported more than 125 incidents to Devon and Cornwall police including her car being vandalised, break-ins, and abusive messages were graffiti on the streets around her house, threatening and sexualised letters and a dead cat being left on her doorstep. Helen did not initially know who her stalker was and when thought she knew, the police did not progress the investigation. In October 2013, Helen was on her way to the gym when she was attacked and dragged into a cemetery. Joseph Willis, a man who had become obsessed with Helen, stabbed her eight times in the back, face and neck. Helen was referred to Paladin shortly after this incident for support. Willis was found guilty of attempted murder on 15th April 2014 and was sentenced to 12 years in July 2014.



In June 2014, Paladin met with the Chief Constable of Devon and Cornwall, Shawn Sawyer, to discuss critical strategic issues on how they can manage stalking cases more effectively. Paladin will continue to work with them to safeguard future victims.

Helen’s case highlights the escalating risk and danger in stalking cases and clearly shows why Paladin and a network of specialist ISACs are needed. Helen said “Paladin are brilliant and ISACs are absolutely essential for victims of stalking. They helped to navigate me through a difficult court process and were extremely supportive. If I had been referred to Paladin earlier then I may have had a different outcome. It is an essential role that ensures high risk victims of stalking have a proactive coordinated response and are kept safe.”

Early identification, intervention and prevention is vital in cases of stalking and ISACs save both lives and money. Our new accredited ISAC course will be delivered by leading specialists in the field including Paladin’s Director Laura Richards, Dr Roxane Agnew Davies, a clinical psychologist and expert in domestic violence, stalking and trauma as well as key inputs from victims including Helen Pearson. ISACs are greatly needed to keep all victims of stalking safe and Paladin are delighted this much needed and pioneering course has been accredited by the University of Brighton and we are very grateful to the Women’s Foundation for funding the pilot which starts on the 16th September. More information can be found [here](#).

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Labour Conference

On the 7th July, Paladin’s CEO, Laura Richards, attended the Labour’s Women Safety Conference which looked at the ways justice could be improved for domestic and sex crimes and improving women’s safety. There were a number of sessions entitled ‘How do we create a state response to violence against women that is truly victim-centred’ This was led by Jess Phillips, Labour PPC and works for Sandwell Women’s Aid; Purna Sen, Labour PPC and VAWG campaigner; Polly Neate, CEO, Women’s Aid. There was also a plenary panel from on ‘Women’s safety in the digital world’ in which Laura was joined by Caroline Criado Perez; Toni Pearce, President of the NUS; and Keir Starmer, Former DPP and Chair of Labour’s Victim Taskforce and Helen Goodman MP, Shadow Minister for Culture Media & Sport. It was a productive event and Paladin would like to thank the organisers.



Laura

Shadow Home Secretary Yvette Cooper was the key note speaker and she discussed how 16-19 year old girls most at risk of domestic violence with more than 10% experiencing violence or abuse in a relationship. Those in attendance called for a new law to tackle violence against women.

To read Yvette Cooper’s speech, visit the [Labour website](#).



The panel

To read Yvette Cooper’s speech, visit the [Labour website](#).

Want to work for Paladin?

We are currently accepting applications for a Chief Operating Officer based in London. The full job description can be found [here](#).

If you would like to apply for this role, please send an email to info@paladinservice.co.uk with the following:

- Covering letter explaining why you would like to work for Paladin, your experience and understanding of stalking.
- Your CV

Closing Date: 15th September 2014

Interviews: 22nd and 24th September 2014



Police Mutual

In July, Paladin delivered two awareness sessions to



Colin Sim & Laura Richards

employees of Police Mutual in Liverpool HQ on the threat of stalking, the risks and law. Paladin currently receive funding through the Police Mutual Foundation and offer training. The day went really well and Paladin are grateful for the support of Police Mutual.

Training Opportunities

⇒ **ISAC Training - 16th Sept - 18th Nov 2014**

University Accredited training. Book your space [here](#).

⇒ **DASH Masterclass - 25th September 2014**

This sessions offers training on the DASH Risk Model (2009) and how it can save lives through early risk identification, intervention and prevention.

⇒ **Stalking Masterclass - 2nd October 2014**

This session explores the nature of offending, profile and typologies of the stalkers, the new legislative framework, risk assessment, how best to work with and advise victims, lessons learnt and more.

⇒ **DASH Train the Trainer - 30th October 2014**

This session will enable and accredit you to train others in your organisation/agency on the DASH to ensure sustainability within your own agency.

Visit our [website](#) for more information on how to book.

Bespoke Training

Paladin also offer bespoke training for agencies:

- A) Introducing awareness training on dynamics of stalking, new law and risk.
- B) Cyber and digital stalking
- C) Offender Typologies

To book one of our training, [contact us](#).

Referring to Paladin

Paladin is an advocacy service for high risk victims.

We would like to be in a position to help everyone but we do not have the resources. If we are unable to help we will refer you to local services and/or the [National Stalking Helpline](#).

If you need to refer a case to Paladin or need advice, please visit our website for more information [here](#).

We have developed leaflets for Police, other agencies and victims that are available on our [website](#).

Support Our Work

Paladin is a not-for-profit CIC dedicated to supporting victims of stalking and harassment and campaigning to close gaps for a better deal for victims.

Five reasons WHY you should support Paladin:

- We will give a voice to high risk victims by offering support and advice, ensuring there is a coordinated community response and offer expertise on risk and management.
- We will campaign for a better deal for stalking victims by extrapolating from casework experiences.
- We will publish research briefings for the public, parliament and the media.
- We will scrutinise the new stalking law to ensure it is implemented consistently and properly.
- We will support test case advocacy aimed at changing law and practice through the courts.

If you support our work we will:

- Offer a 25% discount on stalking training.
- Send to you all Parliamentary and media briefings produced by Paladin electronically.
- Continue to send you six weekly briefings detailing our priorities and achievements.

To donate please complete our [form](#) and send it to Paladin, PO Box 64640, London SW8 9DJ

Contacting Paladin

Email: info@paladinservice.co.uk

Telephone: 0207 840 8960

Address: P.O. Box 64640, London, SW8 9DJ

Twitter: [@paladinservice](https://twitter.com/paladinservice)

Website: <http://www.paladinservice.co.uk>