



**COORDINATOR'S PACK |  
THEATRE VENUES**

# CONTENTS

1. Introduction
2. Safer Places
3. Local Domestic Abuse Services
4. J9 Training
5. J9 Information Pack
6. Making your venue a safe space
7. Funding
8. J9 Network
9. National Numbers

# INTRODUCTION

## **Domestic Abuse**

Domestic Abuse is far more widespread than you may think and is rarely a one-off incident and will usually escalate over time. It becomes a pattern of behaviour that allows one partner to establish and maintain power and control over the other.

Domestic abuse currently claims the lives of two people per week and affects millions of people. One incident of domestic abuse is reported to the Police every minute.

## **Background**

The J9 Domestic Abuse Initiative is named in memory of Janine Mundy, who was killed by her estranged husband in June 2003 while he was on police bail. Janine was the mother of two young boys. The initiative was started by her family and the local police in Cambourne, Cornwall, where she lived. Janine used to sign her text messages J9, hence its name.

The J9 Domestic Abuse Initiative was established to raise awareness and understanding of domestic abuse amongst professionals in all sectors and improve their signposting of victims to the relevant agencies.

The J9 national initiative aims to provide safe and secure opportunities for victims to disclose domestic abuse and then access a full support system. J9 venues display pink J9 stickers in their windows, signalling to the public that it is safe to talk. Staff at each J9 contact point are provided with training to raise awareness and increase understanding of domestic abuse. They are trained to signpost, advise and spot the signs of domestic abuse. Each venue has a safe place where victims can access information and use a phone to call for further help.

In Essex, the J9 initiative was started by Epping Forest District Council. It expanded to Harlow and Uttlesford soon afterwards. Training is now available across Essex County. The initiative is backed and facilitated by domestic abuse charity Safer Places.

Throughout the development of the Smack That (a conversation) Rhiannon Faith has collaborated with Joanne Majauskis, Head of Programmes and Practice at Safer Places. Together Rhiannon Faith & Joanne have created a legacy package, which will allow venues to become part of the J9 initiative.

As part of the Smack That (a conversation) UK tour, Rhiannon Faith and Safer Places are delivering free J9 training to theatres nationwide so they can become J9 venues.

## SAFER PLACES

Safer Places is an independent charity which provides a comprehensive range of services to adults and children affected by domestic and sexual abuse who live in Essex, east Hertfordshire and Southend.

Domestic abuse and social isolation rob people of their confidence, self esteem and their hope for the future. Safer Places comprehensively work with the survivors of domestic abuse, to help them recover, to empower them, to rebuild their lives and to go on and achieve for themselves things they might once have thought of as impossible.

Safer Places provide support to people living in their own homes or in one of our refuges. We also offer legal advice, specialist programmes for people who have experienced Domestic Abuse, counselling, individual and group support, support with accessing housing and benefits and a wide range of activities for adults and young people. They also offer excellent training and employability within a safe and nurturing environment where learners can develop new skills, gain qualifications and get the support and help they need to be able to go on to further education or employment.

Safer Places are the charity which deliver J9 training.

**Address:** Safer Places, PO Box 2489, Harlow, Essex

**Phone:** 03301 025811

**Email:** [info@saferplaces.co.uk](mailto:info@saferplaces.co.uk)

Charity Registration Number 1018832

Company registration number 2789572

## LOCAL DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES

Safer Places works throughout Essex, east Hertfordshire and Southend. They are working with Rhiannon Faith to deliver the J9 initiative throughout the UK, however they are not the appropriate support service for victims of domestic abuse outside of these areas.

Rhiannon Faith and Safer Places work together to identify the domestic abuse service local to each venue. The local service provider provides their information for the J9 information pack, and they will be the point of contact for any victims seeking further support. An introduction will be made between the local service provider and the venue's J9 coordinator to encourage a working relationship between both organisations.

## J9 TRAINING

J9 Domestic Abuse awareness training was developed by Safer Places to support the creation of networks of Domestic Violence Champions and safe places for victims to disclose abuse.

The training sessions provided by Safer Places are intended to raise awareness and increase knowledge and understanding of domestic abuse for staff in theatre venues. The training consists of a half-day session that seeks to help delegates gain an understanding of coercive control, recognise and respond to victims and understand how to refer that person to appropriate help and support.

Following the J9 training and displaying the J9 logo, staff may come into contact with someone they suspect is a victim of domestic abuse, or a colleague, participant or audience member may reveal that they are suffering abuse. The training aims to ensure that staff are equipped to respond appropriately and effectively. Staff are not expected to provide victims with direct support, but to provide them with the information pack which will signpost them on to the appropriate support providers.

### *How long in the training? And when does it take place?*

The J9 training session is 3 hours long and can take place any time before the performance of Smack That (a conversation).

### *Who should attend the training?*

The training is of benefit to all staff regardless of position within the organisation, and we would strongly encourage all staff members to attend. However we understand it is not always possible for all staff members to be present at the same time. In order to be able to provide a safe space, there must be one member of staff with J9 training on site at all times, with all other staff aware of who the J9 Champion is. For many venues it is useful to think about the J9 scheme similarly to your safeguarding policy or first aid policy.

To discuss how this could work for your venue, please contact Maddy Morgan, [maddy@rhiannonfaith.com](mailto:maddy@rhiannonfaith.com)

### *What we provide*

- Safer Places consultant to deliver the J9 training
- J9 Information packs, designed specifically for your location
- Travel and accommodation for trainer as required
- J9 Equipment - folders, stickers, lanyards, pin badges

### *What we ask you to provide*

- A space for the training to take place, with capacity for all your staff members plus 20 extra for local service providers\*.
- A projector in the training venue
- Print - J9 Information Packs for all course attendees, signing in sheet and evaluation forms
- Stationary - A3 paper and pens

*\*These attendees will be invited by the company, please see the funding section for more information*

## J9 INFORMATION PACK

There is an information pack which compliments the J9 training session. All staff who attend the training are provided with J9 information packs, and a copy of the information pack should also be in the venue's designated safe space.

The information pack has a lot of information to aid victims in understanding their rights and accessing help and support. It is intended to be used to 'signpost' victims of domestic abuse to the support services they need. The pack can be photocopied and additional copies made from the master copy held by the venue's J9 coordinator.

### **Contents of the information pack:**

1. What is Domestic Abuse?
2. Common Myths about Domestic Abuse
3. Your Legal Rights
4. Crisis Planning
5. Housing Options
6. Your local Domestic Abuse Service\*
7. Benefits
8. Impact of Domestic Abuse on Children
9. Teenage Healthy Relationships
10. Staying Safe on the Internet
11. Getting Help and Advice
12. Supporting Friends and Family
13. Crimestoppers
14. Advice for Employers
15. Further Information and Resources
16. Useful Numbers – Quick Reference

\*This section is updated to be specific to each location.

## MAKING YOUR VENUE A SAFE SPACE

All organisations which have staff who have attended a J9 training session are asked to display a J9 window sticker in the premises so that victims know where they can obtain information which will help them to access the support they need. Staff can also wear lanyards and badges which are white and have the J9 logo on which helps to raise awareness of the J9 logo.

Venues must provide a specific designated 'safe space'; a private room with a phone where victims can read the J9 information pack in their own time and use a phone to call for further help if required. Additional copies of the J9 Information Pack should be made available for the victim to take away, if safe to do so.

To further raise awareness of the J9 initiative at your venue, we suggest publicising it in your newsletters, season brochures and website. For a high res version of the J9 logo please contact Maddy Morgan, [maddy@rhiannonfaith.com](mailto:maddy@rhiannonfaith.com).

## FUNDING

As part of the Smack That (a conversation) UK tour, Rhiannon Faith and Safer Places are delivering J9 training to theatres nationwide.

The J9 initiative is currently only funded within Essex County Council; the national roll out led by Rhiannon Faith is self funded by the company with in kind support from Safer Places.

The J9 training is offered for free to venue staff. Additional spaces will be sold to local service providers. Alongside Safer Places we will work with Local Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) to identify and target local service providers who will benefit from the training and are required to do such training as part of their continuing professional development. This model is used by Safer Places as part of their J9 training in Essex and has proved a successful way of generating additional income for the charity.

The J9 training will continue to be free to the venue and their staff, however we ask that the venue provides in kind a space large enough for their staff plus 20 people for the training to take place.

This model will allow the company to generate additional income and therefore continue to offer the J9 training for free to venues. Additionally, opening up the J9 training to local service providers introduces theatre staff to the service providers in their local community who they will potentially be referring victims on to.

Please contact Maddy Morgan, [maddy@rhiannonfaith.com](mailto:maddy@rhiannonfaith.com) to discuss this further.

## J9 NETWORK

Following the training, J9 Champions become part of a network which gives them access to resources. They also receive a monthly newsletter with up to date information on the development of the J9 initiative, services, further training and events, and other useful information.

The website, supporting literature and the central mailing list of people who have been through the training are currently maintained by Epping Forest Community Safety Partnership.

There is specific mailing list for staff from J9 schemes at theatre venues, which staff who have attended the training will be added to. This is currently also maintained by Epping Forest Community Safety Partnership.

The master copy of the J9 information pack (Essex County Council specific) can be found here: [www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/J9](http://www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/J9)

Contact:

Caroline Wiggins (Safer Communities Manager at Epping Forest District Council)

01992 564608

[j9@eppingforestdc.gov.uk](mailto:j9@eppingforestdc.gov.uk)

## NATIONAL NUMBERS

**In the event of an emergency always dial 999**

**National Centre for Domestic Violence** T: 0800 970 2070 or 0207 186 8270

**National Stalking Helpline** T: 0808 802 0300

**National Crime Stoppers** T: 0800 555 111