

# J9 “Building a network of Safe Spaces across Rushcliffe”

## Introduction

The J9 initiative is a domestic abuse awareness and support campaign active across the country. J9 training is intended to raise awareness and increase knowledge and understanding of domestic abuse for staff in public and voluntary sector organisations and local businesses like shops, salons and pubs. Participating organisations are asked to offer a safe space to domestic abuse survivors for them to use a telephone to contact support services.

## The J9 initiative

Bingham Town Council was invited to attend the J9 training by email circulated to all Councillors on 18<sup>th</sup> November for training on the 25<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

The J9 training was led by Nick Brindley MBE, who is part of Tara’s Angels and also the Domestic Abuse Specialist at the DWP. The invitation to organisations to attend the training is signed by the J9 lead in Nottinghamshire, Nicola Brindley MBE, Rushcliffe’s MP Ruth Edwards, Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner Paddy Tipping and the Leader of Rushcliffe Borough Council, Cllr Simon Robinson.

The J9 initiative is a campaign to support victims of domestic abuse. The symbol J9 is in memory of Janine Mundy, a mother of two who was killed by her estranged husband whilst he was on police bail. Janine used to sign her text messages J9, hence the initiative’s name.

The J9 initiative seeks to create a network of safe spaces. Each space is identified by a sign showing the J9 logo of a pink heart with J9 in the centre.

## J9 Training

Cllr. Stockwood volunteered to attend the free 2-hour training session and report to the next Community and Environment committee.

The training session introduced a definition of domestic abuse, statistics regarding the prevalence of domestic abuse across all communities and the differences between healthy and unhealthy relationships. Case studies provided examples of actual abuse cases.

Local organisations are asked to provide a safe space where domestic abuse survivors can access support. When approached by a person requesting help, organisations are asked to listen attentively, provide assurance that the survivor is not to blame and offer relevant assistance by signposting the survivor to local support services.

By displaying a J9 logo in a building, survivors are alerted that they can access a safe place where they can seek support information and use a telephone to access that information.

Examples of local support information provides include for women, Juno Women’s Aid 24-hour helpline 0808 800 0340 and for men, Equation 0115 960 5556.

Bingham Town Council received an attendance certificate for completing the training and an information pack containing a J9 sign. Details of other dates when the training session is available can be obtained from [ruth.edwards.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:ruth.edwards.mp@parliament.uk)

## Conclusion

The Council is asked to agree

- a) To display the j9 sign at the Old Court House and to provide telephone access to domestic abuse survivors seeking to access support information from local service providers.
- b) To post a picture on the Town Council's website showing the sign in place and using the hashtag #J9Rushcliffe. Website news items are automatically republished on Twitter and this will share the message that domestic abuse survivors are not alone.
- c) To encourage Council employees to take the training.
- d) To use the Town Council's website and other publications to encourage Bingham businesses and organisations to take the training and further expand the network of safe spaces across Rushcliffe.