**SARSVL Volunteer Counsellor Role Description**

Support After Rape and Sexual Violence Leeds (SARSVL) is a feminist organisation that exists to support women and girls whose lives have been affected by sexual violence of any kind, at any time. SARSVL’s support services are free, confidential, independent, and delivered for women and girls, by women, within a women-only safe space.

SARSVL is currently in the process of setting up a new counselling service, to complement our existing range of support services, which currently includes helpline and advocacy.

Applications are invited from any/all of the following:

* Qualified counsellors/psychotherapists who are working towards their accreditation
* Qualified and accredited counsellors/psychotherapists
* Individuals who have recently completed, or are close to completing, recognised group psychotherapy training
* In addition, we would particularly welcome applications from any of the above who could also offer counselling/psychotherapy in another language relevant to Leeds.

*SARSVL offers services to women and girls who’ve experienced sexual violence within a women-only safe space. Under the Equality Act 2010 (Schedule 9, part 1), this volunteering opportunity is open to women only.*

**Purpose of role**

To provide specialist counselling to women (aged 18 and over).

**Selection and Training**

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to attend an interview in the first instance, with a range of in-house training to follow. As SARSVL provides a specialist service, training and internal resources on working with female survivors of sexual violence will be sought for Volunteers to promote ongoing professional development.

**Commitment**

Volunteer Counsellors are expected to:

* Commit to volunteering weekly, for between 5 and 7 hours, for a minimum of 18 months
* Work with between 2 and 4 clients per week (to be agreed with the Counselling Co-ordinator)
* Complete administrative procedures required of them to ensure the efficient running of the counselling service
* Attend line management meetings with the Counselling Co-Ordinator – 1.5 hours per month on a Thursday at 3pm
* See an external Supervisor who is approved by SARSVL (costs are covered by SARSVL)
* Abide by the BACP Ethical Framework for the Counselling Professions (2016)
* Abide by SARSVL’s policies and procedures and familiarise themselves with all relevant documents
* Take up training opportunities offered to them by SARSVL on an ongoing basis – please note that training may take place during evenings and weekends
* Avail themselves of other external opportunities for personal and professional development
* Collect and record data in line with monitoring and evaluation requirements

*The role of Volunteer Counsellor with SARSVL is unpaid but travel expenses will be reimbursed in accordance with our policies on submission of expenses claims.*