**Background Information**

Support After Rape and Sexual Violence Leeds (SARSVL) is the professionally recognised Rape Crisis Centre for Leeds. SARSVL exists to support women and girls whose lives have been affected by child sexual abuse, rape and all forms of sexual violence, to promote their needs and rights, and to work towards the elimination of sexual violence and abuse.

SARSVL is run by women for women and girls. We are proud to be a feminist organisation because we recognise that sexual violence is both a cause and a consequence of gender inequality. Our vision is of a world where all women and girls can live free from the fear and experience of sexual violence and abuse. We share this vision with Rape Crisis England & Wales, of which we are proud to be a member.

Our main aims are:

1. To provide free, confidential support to women and girls whose lives have been affected by sexual violence of any kind, at any time;
2. To reflect the community we serve, working actively to encompass the diversity of needs amongst women and girls who may wish to access our services;
3. To contribute to the development of local sexual violence-related services, aiming towards comprehensive support for women and girls in Leeds and surrounding areas;
4. To raise awareness and understanding of sexual violence;
5. To challenge and change public attitudes about sexual violence against women and girls.

**Development so far**

SARSVL was started by a group of women activists in 2009 and registered as a charity and a Company Limited by Guarantee in 2010, launching its first service (a specialist telephone helpline) in 2010.

In 2012, SARSVL secured its first Government grant, moved into its own rented premises for the first time and began recruiting to its small, valued staff team, which continues to support and enables our service delivery, development and capacity-building.

SARSVL's current specialist services are: a Freephone helpline, open some hours six days a week; helpline support via SMS text and email; face-to-face emotional support (delivered by helpline volunteers); an Independent Sexual Violence Advocacy (ISVA) service and a Counselling service, including short and longer term therapeutic options and group work.

**For more information about SARSVL visit** [**www.supportafterrapeleeds.org.uk**](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CJustyna%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CINetCache%5CContent.Outlook%5CQMN27LW6%5Cwww.supportafterrapeleeds.org.uk)

**Senior Sustainability and Partnerships**

This new post at SARSVL will join our three other senior staff members.

This is a varied and exciting role for the right candidate to bring along their own experience and ideas to help shape the future of fundraising and income-generation at SARSVL, as well as develop SARSVL’s external partnership working and communications, holding a strategic overview.

The post holder will take a strong, positive and proactive approach to grow and develop SARSVL's contacts and relationships with other organisations and professionals, actively involving themselves in external partnership work through sitting on Boards/Committees, attending relevant external group meetings and networking. The post holder will oversee, co-ordinate and manage all external communications in all forms including social media, press statements, website content and publicity.

The main source of fundraising at SARSVL is still through a variety of grant applications which would be a priority focus for this post to ensure sustainability and growth of services moving forward. However community-based fundraising has increased over the last year. This has included the co-ordination of race places (recruiting volunteers to run a variety of races and fundraise for SARSVL), bucket collections (in supermarkets and at events) and developing other ways of fundraising like an Amazon wish list and PayPal giving. Building upon the ground-work we have already put in place and using the newly developed Fundraising strategy and action plan the post-holder will help us to further develop these and generate income in other ways.

In addition to this SARSVL is delighted to be chosen as the Lord Mayor’s charity for 2019-2020. We have a busy year ahead of us with a variety of events in the planning to both support this fundraising campaign and celebrate SARSVL’s 10 year anniversary. The post holder will play a key role in supporting the co-ordination of these activities and events in their final few months.

Overall we hope the post-holder will bring enthusiasm and experience to join our senior team.