**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:\Users\Justyna\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\QMN27LW6\www.supportafterrapeleeds.org.uk)

**Helpline Co-ordinator**

This post at SARSVL will join our senior team and lead the Helpline services.

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 SARSVL’s Helpline services.

**Our Helpline Service**

* The Helpline Service is delivered entirely by women volunteers who commit to regular weekly shifts (including public holidays)
* The Helpline is open for some hours (afternoon or evening) each day except Saturday (However this is currently reduced during COVID 19).
* We offer free and confidential emotional support via Freephone telephone, text, and email to women and girls of all ages, no matter how they have been affected by rape and sexual violence
* Accessibility of the service is important to us. We have no age limits or eligibility criteria for the women and girls we support