



Background Information for Applicants

SARSVL is the professionally recognised Rape Crisis centre for Leeds and 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.

SARSVL is run by women for women and girls. We are proud to be a feminist organisation because we recognise that sexual violence and abuse 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 all forms 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.

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 supports and enables our development and capacity-building.

SARSVL's current services are: a specialist Freephone helpline; text and e-mail based helpline support; an Independent Sexual Violence Advocacy service and a counselling service, including group work.

For more information about SARSVL visit www.supportafterrapeleeds.org.uk