**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’s Counselling Service was added to our existing range of support services (Helpline and Advocacy) in August 2016 and has grown rapidly into the thriving and busy service. The Counselling Service offers holistic, feminist, trauma informed women-centred Counselling to adult women who have experienced sexual violence. The Counselling Service provides different strands of therapy and pathways to support women affected by sexual abuse, both face to face and remotely. The Counselling service offers 20 sessions of weekly Counselling, 8 weekly Self- Care Sessions, Pre-Trial Therapy and Self-Care group, Psycho Educational group and Complementary Therapy. The Counselling Team includes Senior Counsellor, who is responsible for service delivery and provides supervisions, Staff Counsellors, Volunteer Counsellors and Trainee Counsellors. All Counsellors work from different therapeutic approaches whilst providing holistic, trauma informed women-centred Counselling creating reach and diverse support.

The demand for the specialised women- centred Counselling service is high and we receive self –referrals and referrals from other organisations.

Applications are invited from any/all of the following:

* Qualified counsellors/psychotherapists, who have a minimum of 100 hours supervised counselling sessions with a minimum of 4 different clients.
* Qualified counsellors/psychotherapists who are working towards accreditation.
* 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.

*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 deliver a counselling to adult women who have experienced sexual violence.

**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 if accepted. 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:

1. Commit to provide weekly counselling sessions to 3 or 4 service users.
2. Commit to volunteer as a counsellor at SARSVL for a minimum of 12 months.
3. Attend once a month 1.5 hour group and one hour a month of individual clinical supervision with an internal supervisor. Where supervision is required during training this must be in addition to SARSVL supervision.
4. Complete administrative procedures required to ensure the efficient running of the counselling service.
5. Collect and record data in line with monitoring and evaluation requirements.
6. To have or a willingness to develop a knowledge and understanding of working with women who are at risk and to be committed to follow safeguarding policies and procedures.
7. To be fully aware of the myths and facts around sexual violence and of its short- and long-term effects upon survivors
8. To have knowledge and understanding of sexual violence against women and girls and of the wider political and economic context.
9. To promote values of Rape Crisis movement as a whole and of women and girls who have experienced sexual violence.
10. Abide by the BACP Ethical Framework for the Counselling Professions in addition to own professional framework.
11. Abide by SARSVL’s policies and procedures and familiarise themselves with all relevant documents.
12. Take up training opportunities offered to them by SARSVL on an ongoing basis – please note that training may take place during evenings and weekends.