



Background Information for ISVA Service Manager Applicants

Support After Rape and Sexual Violence Leeds (SARSVL) is a specialist voluntary sector organisation offering a range of services to women, girls and nonbinary people (who feel our women-centred approach is right for them) who've been through child sexual abuse (CSA), including child sexual exploitation (CSE), rape or any kind of sexual violence at any time in their lives.

We're specialists because we have in-depth knowledge and understanding of sexual violence and abuse, the trauma it can cause, and the impacts it can have, and working with these topics is our sole focus and purpose.

As a professionally approved Rape Crisis Centre, we take an intersectional feminist approach to our work, and we're committed to social justice, anti-racism, equity and inclusion.

We're run by women* and nonbinary people for all women and girls, and nonbinary people who feel this approach is the right one for them, with some age restrictions (see below). We offer our services in women-centred safe spaces, whether that's in person, online or by phone or text.

**By women, we mean all women, including both cis and trans.*

As well as our specialist Rape Crisis accreditation, we are members of the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP) and the Helplines Partnership, we're Mindful Employers and we're signatories to the Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG) sector Anti-Racism Charter.

We're also proud members of the Women and Girls Alliance – Leeds (formerly Women's Lives Leeds) with 11 other local women's and girls' organisations.

We're committed to working in partnership with others so we can support and promote the needs and rights of anyone who's been through sexual violence and abuse. At the same time our services are independent, for example of the police or social services.

Our services are also free. We can provide our face-to-face services through interpreters into other languages, and we offer travel and childcare expenses for survivors who need them.

Raising awareness and understanding of sexual violence and abuse, and dispelling harmful myths and stereotypes, for the benefit of all survivors and society as a whole, is also an important part of the work we do.

Ultimately, we want to see a world where everyone is free from the fear and experience of sexual violence and abuse.



Our story so far and plans for the future

SARSVL was started by a diverse group of local women activists during the 16 Days of Action to End Violence Against Women & Girls in 2008. We registered as a charity and a Company Limited by Guarantee, and launched our first direct service, in 2010.

In 2012, we secured our first major grant, moved into our own rented premises in Leeds city centre for the first time, and recruited our first paid staff.

We now have 21 paid members of staff and 25 active volunteers, as well as a dedicated Board of seven charity trustees.

SARSVL's current specialist services include:

- Our emotional support helpline for women, girls and nonbinary people aged 13+, via email, text and Freephone
- Our Independent Sexual Violence Advocacy (ISVA) service for women, girls and nonbinary people aged 13+ who have reported (or are thinking about reporting) to the police
- Our counselling services for women, girls and nonbinary people aged 18+, including shorter and longer-term one-to-one therapy, dedicated pre-trial therapy (for those who've reported to the police) and a range of group work.
- New outreach services, currently focussing on better meeting the needs of sex workers, homeless survivors and those with the most complex mental health needs following sexual violence trauma.

Because of our limited resourcing and the huge demand we already receive for our counselling service, it and our outreach services are currently only available for adults (aged 18+). For the same reasons, we have to operate a waiting list for counselling and therapeutic work.

Our current ISVA Service Manager is moving on after seven and a half years with SARSVL. We're now looking for a new colleague to join our vibrant organisation and senior team in this important role, and to lead our highly skilled and experienced ISVAs in delivery of this vital, specialist service.

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