

ANNUAL REPORT

2003/04

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Sheffield Domestic Abuse Forum is 10 years old . . .

Sheffield Domestic Abuse Forum has its 10th birthday this year, in the same year that we have joined with the specialist domestic abuse services in celebrating 30 years of activism by women's organisations in Sheffield, campaigning on issues of violence against women and developing support services (Sheffield Women's Aid was one of the first refuges in the country, back in 1974).

Our organisation started life as Sheffield Domestic Violence Forum, one of several emerging UK multi-agency partnerships of voluntary and statutory agencies, meeting to discuss domestic violence issues in the mid-nineties, with the encouragement of the Home Office.

In Sheffield the Forum quickly went down the route of charity registration, partly to assist fundraising, and itself became an **independent charitable organisation** located within the voluntary sector. Once funding was secured for paid workers in 1995, the Probation Service provided an office base as 'funding in kind'. This was very welcome but involved moving between West Bar and the basement at Eastern Avenue, which flooded on several occasions! Any staff, however, were clearly employed by the Forum's Management Committee and not associated with any particular agency. In some areas of the country 'Domestic Violence Co-ordinators' are employed within local authorities to undertake work on behalf of the partnership, as council officers.

Over time in Sheffield we also moved towards using the term **domestic abuse** rather than 'domestic violence', in order to more

accurately reflect the range of abusive and controlling behaviour ~ physical, emotional, sexual, financial ~ and to include the experiences of children and young people living in fear of that behaviour. The Forum eventually changed its name to reflect this.

Our definition takes in abuse within any family or personal relationship, including same sex relationships, but it also acknowledges that the vast majority of cases of systematic abuse will involve a male perpetrator abusing his female partner or ex-partner, which will always be affecting any children in her family.

Looking back over the 10 years it is heartening to see how far we have come, not only in Sheffield but also in working with organisations like Women's Aid to help to push domestic abuse up the national and political agenda. This year also sees a major overhaul of legislation related to domestic violence and a new emphasis on strengthening the response to perpetrators.

Our local Forum has grown from a small group of committed individuals to a well established and respected organisation, involved in the wide range of initiatives outlined in this report. It is important to note that in tackling this work in Sheffield, the Forum currently employs the equivalent of only 2 full-time posts that are not dedicated to the specific services of the DAFSS or the Group Work Programme.

The current Committee wish to pay tribute to all the staff and committee members who have contributed to the work of the Forum over the past 10 years.

SDAF Management Committee



Speakers at the launch of Sheffield's new Multi-agency Strategy for Domestic Abuse 1st October 2004, attended by over 100 people at St. Marys Community Centre.

LtoR: Christine Mann, National Domestic Violence Co-ordinator (Health & Mental Health) at the Dept. of Health; Judith Walker, Chief Crown Prosecutor, Crown Prosecution Service, S. Yorks; Maureen Storey, Co-ordinator, Sheffield Domestic Abuse Forum; Evelyn Milne, Head of Regeneration & Partnership, Sheffield City Council and Chair of Strategic Planning Group for Domestic Abuse; Superintendent Mick Maguire, Head of Community Safety, South Yorkshire Police; Clare Wiggitt, Co-ordinator, Sheffield Women's Aid representing the Domestic Abuse Specialist Projects in Sheffield.

PHOTO: Sheffield Star

Open here for your poster of
useful contact numbers ~
please display it in all
your workplaces

It is always slightly confusing writing an Annual Report focused on the previous financial year, and as usual I can't resist mentioning important developments since March, which reflect current issues and priorities.

Last year's report talked of work to create the new **Strategic Planning Group for Domestic Abuse**, to bring together lead people from the key agencies that should be responding well to domestic abuse, with reps from each of the Domestic Abuse Working Groups, and in particular the specialist domestic abuse projects. This has become the body responsible for developing the new *Multi-agency Strategy for Domestic Abuse 2004-7*, launched on 1st October, and is chaired by Evelyn Milne, Head of Regeneration & Partnership in the City Council. The Forum Management Committee is now able to focus on the Forum's own work programme, budget and staffing, and the Forum continues to be at the centre of strategic work to tackle domestic abuse, providing support and co-ordination to the rest of the structure of working groups.

Here is a quick summary of the work undertaken by the different Domestic Abuse Working Groups, in addition to their role in helping draft the new Multi-agency Strategy:

Children & Young People DAWG

The major achievement of the year was the use of Children's Fund monies to complete the pilot **Group Work Programme** for children affected by domestic abuse and their mothers ~ evaluation was very positive, and we have now secured a Local Authority CAMHS Grant to continue the development of this essential new service, including creation of a part-time post at the Forum. The DAWG is still seeking funding to resurrect the 'Respect Project' to deliver **primary prevention** work with all children and young people.

Health DAWG ~ is convened by Joan Macfarlane from the S.E. Primary Care Trust which has the lead for domestic abuse in the city. It has promoted the Health Services Policy on Domestic Abuse, and arranged distribution of info resources and training publicity. Maternity services have developed a protocol and 'care pathway' for **Routine Enquiry about Domestic Abuse** to be launched in November.

Civil & Criminal Justice DAWG ~ for this work I convene a South Yorkshire group, chaired by His Honour Judge Goldsack. It is attended by reps from all the key justice agencies, which operate county-wide, and by my Forum counterparts from Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham. Achievements in the year include: producing the folded contact card and injunction leaflet, with different contact details for each area; developing a new '*Domestic Abuse Training for Justice Agencies*' course; piloting and rolling out a protocol for the courts/police to notify 'victims' of bail outcomes; taking part in the 'Data Challenge' exercise and investigating IT systems to track outcomes and create baseline data for domestic abuse related cases.

Domestic Abuse Specialist Projects Working Group ~ the DASP brings together the 8 specialist projects for essential networking opportunities, to share good practice and discuss common issues to be raised by their reps sitting on the SPG. It also acts as an invaluable source of feedback from service users to inform the work of the Forum and the SPG.

Council Domestic Abuse Officers Group ~ the C-DAOs were convened in the year by Auriel Majumdar and now by Kate Flannery. They have played a crucial role in co-ordinating strategic work with the different council directorates, and developing new workplace policies and training strategies.

In addition to the detailed work undertaken with each of the working groups, here is a taste of some of the other work I have been involved with in the year:

- providing **consultancy and support** to frontline workers from different agencies, and from the specialist domestic abuse projects, including access to our Pools of Supervisors and Interpreters
- in particular supporting the 3 established **community based domestic abuse projects** with their funding strategies to avoid a serious reduction in their services
- disseminating key findings from the **Data Challenge** exercise with local agencies, to demonstrate service use in response to domestic abuse in Sheffield
- undertaking a **mapping exercise with the specialist domestic abuse services** using a very detailed questionnaire about service delivery and funding
- updating and distributing the English version of our green **A5 advice booklet**, and the 5 community languages most commonly spoken in Sheffield, plus the new folded **contact card** (reprints funded by the SY Criminal Justice Board)
- developing our **resource library** of useful publications and videos, for loan to projects and individuals
- enjoying opportunities for **delivering training**, and in particular piloting the new *Domestic Abuse Training for Justice Agencies* course, and delivering the *Domestic Abuse & Child Protection* course with Ruth Pearson, ACPC Training Manager, using our own training video '*Home Sweet Home*'
- reporting to the **Sheffield First for Safety** Partnership about the Data Challenge findings, and progress being made by the SPG in developing the new Multi-agency Strategy for 2004-7
- sitting on the Executive of **Sheffield Area Child Protection Committee**
- making presentations to the **Children & Young People Strategic Partnership Board, Social Inclusion Board** and the **Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board** to update them about work on domestic abuse and the funding needs of the specialist projects
- participating in **reference groups** linked to children & young people's service planning and Children's Fund
- providing overall management of the local authority contract for the **Domestic Abuse Floating Support Service** and for the **Group Work Programme**
- contributing to the development and launch of the new **Burngreave Domestic Abuse Project** and providing ongoing support as 'Acting Chair' of their committee
- attending networking events and domestic violence forums for South Yorkshire and the North of England
- responding to the many and varied requests we receive each week, often by email from around the country, for information, resources and so on ~ learning from other areas and helping some to avoid reinventing the wheel
- helping to plan an exciting programme of events to mark the International Day to End Violence Against Women, and to celebrate 30 years of women's refuges in Sheffield
- securing funding and consultancy to create the first properly designed website for the Forum ~ look out for this exciting development during 2005!

Maureen Storey, Forum Co-ordinator

Training Co-ordinator's Report

In the year to March 2004 the Forum co-ordinated the delivery of 24 different training courses or workshops, with a total of 374 participants (*see table for breakdown*).

Funding from the NHS enables us host a regular programme of multi-agency courses: Stage 1 *Domestic Abuse Awareness* and Stage 2 *Skills Workshops*. In addition, single agency events were arranged with Shelter, Surestart in Woodthorpe & Wybourn, Refugee Housing, the Advice Centres co-ordinating body (AC SIS) and with Sheffield City Council Managers ahead of the introduction of new guidance for supporting staff affected by domestic abuse.

The Forum Co-ordinator again co-trained with the Area Child Protection Committee Training Manager, Ruth Pearson, to deliver the *Domestic Abuse & Child Protection* course as part of their specialist programme. We also delivered regular modules at the University of Sheffield within the Social Work Diploma and ENB Child Protection courses.

New developments included piloting a two-day programme called *Domestic Abuse Training for Justice Agencies*. This involves collaboration with a county-wide Training Sub-group from the Civil & Criminal Justice Working Group on Domestic Abuse, and brings together professionals from the civil and criminal arenas to be trained together.

This year saw a change of staffing in relation to training at the Forum ~ Jane Flint moved on to focus on her freelance counselling work and her role of Training Co-ordinator was replaced with my new role as Training Support Worker.

The Forum has seen a steady increase in requests for multi-agency and single agency training. The pool of trainers that deliver our DAA courses and Skills Workshops ~ Sheffield Women Against Violence Trainers ~ have taken part in regular development events and a 'Training for Trainers' day to bring new members into the pool, and we are always on the look out for additional funding to enable us to meet the growing needs of frontline practitioners in Sheffield.

Jo Chambers, Training Support Worker

Type of training event	Number of Events	Participants
Stage 1 Domestic Abuse Awareness (single & multi-agency courses)	11 one-day courses	168
Stage 2 Skills Workshop: Working with Domestic Abuse Issues	6 one-day courses	64
Mental Health & Domestic Abuse (in VAS Mental Health Programme)	1 one-day course	17
Domestic Abuse for Justice Agencies (Sheffield)	1 two-day pilot	18
Domestic Abuse & Child Protection (delivered with ACPC)	3 two-day courses	61
Social Work Diploma: Crime, Abuse & Public Protection	1 Module ñ DAA Briefing	28
ENB Child Protection Course for health professionals	1 Module ñ DAA Briefing	18
Total numbers	24 events	374

FORUM MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2003/4

Directors & Observers elected at AGM December 2003

Auriel Majumdar, Chair Sheffield City Council (to March '04)

Clare Wigggett, Treasurer Sheffield Women's Aid

Sarah Cox, Parson Cross D.A. Project

Sue Shaw, S. E. Sheffield Domestic Abuse Project

Bev Purcey, Haven House Project

Sue Peckover, NHS & University of Sheffield

Lisa O'Connor, Taylor & Emmet, Solicitors

Co-opted during year:

Viv Wright, SCC Neighbourhoods (from May '04)

Services Report

Sheffield Domestic Abuse Forum holds the contracts for two important services in the city.

Domestic Abuse Floating Support Service

The DAFSS was established in 2002, through a 'Supporting People' (SP) contract, to provide longer term practical and emotional support to women, in their own homes, who have experienced domestic abuse. The service is delivered to 52 women at any time across the city, by sub-contract with 4 of the specialist domestic abuse projects.

DAFSS staff based at the Forum are Tracy Gill, our Admin, Finance & Monitoring Worker, Jane Knight, Money & Benefits Advice Worker and me, Stephanie Street, DAFSS Manager. We provide a central referral point for the service as well as financial, monitoring and management support to the 4 projects. The Money & Benefits Advice Service was launched in October 2003 and provides specialist advice and support for DAFSS clients and their Support Workers. Basic Benefits Awareness training has been provided to ensure Support Workers also have up to date knowledge and skills.

The service has been full throughout the year ~ generally we have a small number of women on our waiting list, and we try to signpost people to other services, to reduce the wait for support. Most referrals are by Sheffield City Council, usually the Homefinders Team who assist vulnerable people.

In the year to March 2004 a total of 105 women were directly supported ~ 97 were reliant on benefits, and 75 were identified as having mental health issues. There were 166 children in families we supported ~ 67 were under 5 and 68 were between 5 & 12. We receive no funding for direct work with children but it is not possible to separate women and children's needs, and issues such as child contact with abusive ex-partners, and understanding and dealing with children's behaviour, are critical in women's recovery and resettlement.

Like other services funded through SP, we are working hard to ensure our service meets the Quality Assessment Framework standards and that the Forum meets the Accreditation requirements of contract holders, within a fairly short timescale.

Feedback about the service through our service user consultation exercises has been very positive. We hope that the DAFSS, providing a vital second tier service will go from strength to strength. However, the uncertain future of the Government's Supporting People programme cannot be ignored. Potential short term savings on services such as ours will have a long term cost in pushing people further down the tiers of need into more expensive statutory services.

Stephanie Street, DAFSS Manager

Children's Group Work Programme

Sheffield Domestic Abuse Forum has long had a reputation for raising awareness of the impact of domestic abuse on children and young people. I have just taken up a newly created post at the Forum, to co-ordinate the Group Work Programme for children affected by domestic abuse and their mothers.

Aims of the service are:

- to support children aged 7-11 in their recovery from the effects of living with domestic abuse
- to support mothers in their own recovery, and in recognising their children's needs
- to help the children and their mothers to have open communication about their experiences, and repair the damage that living with domestic abuse has caused to their relationship
- to network with potential referral agencies and raise awareness of the impact of domestic abuse on children, and the ongoing support needs of families.

Evaluation of the first pilots, undertaken with Children's Fund support, was very positive and informative, and I look forward to working with local agencies to promote this exciting new service in Sheffield.

Jennifer Creaghan, Children's Group Work Co-ordinator

Sheffield Domestic Abuse Forum Limited

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2004

At our AGM in December 2003 Sheffield Domestic Abuse Forum reappointed the firm of Barber, Harrison & Platt to carry out the audit. A brief summary is shown alongside, but full financial statements are available for inspection at the Forum office. This year we have shown the income and expenditure for the DAFSS separately from the main account, to clarify the finances of the Forum.

The 'Supporting People' contract for the DAFSS amounted to almost £250,000 in the year, and allowed for the ongoing development of the service as well as the repayment of monies loaned by the Forum when it operated at a deficit last year.

The remainder of the 'restricted funds' shown is represented by:

- recurrent funding from the Forum's Service Level Agreement with the NHS in Sheffield, paid via each of the four PCTs (£42,600 in the year)
- new funding of £6,860 from the Home Office added to £15,500 allocated by Sheffield First for Safety ~ as contributions to the strategic work of the Forum with justice agencies, to help meet the targets on domestic abuse in the Crime Reduction Strategy. (In the current financial year Sheffield First for Safety have made an ongoing commitment of £20,000);
- a second year's funding from the Children's Fund for the development of the Children's Group Work Programme (£41,000).
- a contribution of £5,000 from the South Yorkshire Criminal Justice Board to the county-wide Civil & Criminal Justice Working Group, for the *Domestic Abuse Training for Justice Agencies* programme ~ held by the Sheffield Forum on behalf of the county.

Other income included payments for specially commissioned training events, publications, bank interest, and a donation from local Solicitors Taylor & Emmett, to sponsor the Forum's all important mailings.

The Forum's Community Fund (formerly Lottery) grant ended last year, and the loss of the Voluntary Sector Development Project grant made a large hole in the Forum's budget, which has only partly been covered from other sources. A further bid to the Community Fund is being planned, in particular to secure the pools of interpreters and external supervisors provided for the domestic abuse projects. At present we have committed to keeping these going through any unrestricted funds available to us.

In preparation for any further funding bids the Forum's staff and Management Committee are drafting a 3-year Business Plan to demonstrate to new and existing funders what resources are needed to build the capacity of the organisation to meet the challenges ahead of us.

Clare Wiggett, Treasurer

	<i>Unrestricted Funds</i>	<i>Restricted Funds Forum</i>	<i>DAFSS</i>	<i>Total</i>	2003 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Incoming resources					
Activities in furtherance of the charity's objects	20,918	116,580	246,888	384,386	203,563
Investment Income	42	-	18	60	124
Total incoming resources	<u>20,960</u>	<u>116,580</u>	<u>246,906</u>	<u>384,446</u>	<u>203,687</u>
Resources expended					
Project grants	-	9,000	136,500	145,500	92,721
Research	-	-	-	-	30,099
Consultant fees	180	933	-	1,113	29,183
Pool of supervisors	2,578	-	-	2,578	1,692
Pool of interpreters	853	-	608	1,461	1,500
Group Work	-	40,090	250	40,340	-
Salaries, NI and Pensions	716	60,277	40,414	101,407	73,404
Staff training	-	345	370	715	340
Travel and subsistence	112	383	1,154	1,649	594
Rent, rates and room hire	1,869	3,972	2,500	8,341	3,514
Insurance	-	499	499	998	1,199
Heat and light	210	454	-	664	545
Printing and stationery	41	929	421	1,391	3,155
Information resources	1,693	693	653	3,039	1,418
Publicity	264	126	153	543	683
Telephone and postage	132	1,037	3,261	4,430	3,054
Equipment	-	637	5,591	6,228	258
Depreciation	172	-	-	172	129
Repairs and renewals	-	-	733	733	455
Training and events	1,800	6,818	322	8,940	9,396
Accountancy	240	-	240	480	350
Audit	570	-	570	1,140	981
Management charge	-	-	10,000	10,000	-
Other expenditure	325	725	405	1,455	2,926
Total resources expended	<u>11,755</u>	<u>126,918</u>	<u>204,644</u>	<u>343,317</u>	<u>257,596</u>
Net incoming/outgoing resources	<u>9,205</u>	<u>(10,338)</u>	<u>42,262</u>	<u>41,129</u>	<u>(53,909)</u>
Funds brought forward	<u>9,128</u>	<u>20,872</u>	<u>(25,398)</u>	<u>4,602</u>	<u>58,511</u>
Total funds carried forward	<u>18,333</u>	<u>10,534</u>	<u>16,864</u>	<u>45,731</u>	<u>4,602</u>

All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities

- Summary of audited accounts prepared by Barber, Harrison & Platt.
- Sheffield Domestic Abuse Forum wishes to thank the following for financial support: the NHS in Sheffield, Sheffield First for Safety/the Home Office, the Children's Fund, Local Authority CAMHS Grant, South Yorkshire Criminal Justice Board and Taylor & Emmett Solicitors.