

ANNUAL REPORT & CONTACT LIST 2004-05



100 London Road, Sheffield S2 4LR
Tel: (0114) 275 0101 Fax: (0114) 249 0999

Email: admin@sdaf.org.uk

Website: www.sdaf.org.uk

Registered Charity No: 1092661
Company Registration No: 4405173

Sheffield Domestic Abuse Forum ~ looking to the future

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

Our definition takes in abuse within any family or personal relationship, including same sex relationships, while also acknowledging 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.



Drawing by a child on the Step by Step group work programme for children affected by domestic abuse and their mothers

The issue of domestic abuse is now on the national and political agenda as never before. The Home Office has drafted a *National Delivery Plan for Domestic Violence* and new legislation is being introduced through the *Domestic Violence, Crime & Victims Act 2004*, and an amendment to the *Children Act 1989* to extend the definition of 'harm' to children, to include witnessing the abuse of

another person. The new *Best Value Performance Indicator 225* for all local authorities has replaced the one existing BVPI with a basket of 11 comprehensive indicators for 2005/6.

There is finally a clear message from government that domestic abuse is being taken seriously, and a mandate to agencies to work with their local Domestic Violence / Abuse Forum to tackle the issue. This must involve strengthening the response to perpetrators to hold them accountable for their behaviour, as well as ensuring the safety and meeting the needs of those affected.

In Sheffield, the Domestic Abuse Forum was already well positioned to convene and support a new Strategic Planning Group for Domestic Abuse (SPG) and work with them to develop and promote the local Multi-agency Strategy for Domestic Abuse 2004-7.

The SPG brings together reps from a range of Domestic Abuse Working Groups, with the agencies that should be responding well to domestic abuse, and is chaired by the Head of Regeneration & Partnership in the City Council. 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, but is trying to step back from undertaking work that agencies should be doing for themselves.

During this year the Forum's Management Committee and staff team embarked on a valuable business planning process to identify priorities for the Forum's own work programme and organisational development, and to highlight the human and financial resources needed to meet the growing expectations placed on the organisation, and the wide range of initiatives outlined in this report.

The Forum's development priorities are:

- to create a rolling 3 year Business Plan for our organisation
- to review the services and training programmes delivered by the Forum
- to support agencies to implement their action plans in the Multi-agency Strategy for Domestic Abuse and assist the SPG to monitor progress
- to contribute to new multi-agency Task Groups for:
 - a Protocol for Safeguarding Children Involved in Domestic Abuse, and SafetyNET system improvements to protect those children
 - fast tracking the prosecution of cases related to domestic abuse.

The Committee has been very pleased to welcome a number of new members during the year, and is proud to continue to oversee the work of our well respected organisation. It only remains to thank the staff team for their untiring commitment, and our partners and funders for their co-operation and support.

SDAF Management Committee

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

Co-ordinator's Report

As ever, writing an Annual Report for the previous financial year will be impossible without mentioning a few of my current work priorities, as the person responsible for the strategic work of the Forum.

A major task for the early part of 2004-5 was to work with the **Strategic Planning Group for Domestic Abuse (SPG)** to develop and consult on Sheffield's new **Multi-agency Strategy for Domestic Abuse 2004-7**. This involved agreeing a set of key themes, then assisting agency reps to develop their Action Plans to address those themes. The resulting document was launched 1st October 2004, and we are already working up to the first Review Event, to monitor progress and identify obstacles to implementing their action plans.

I also convene a number of Domestic Abuse Working Groups with specific themes, which send reps to the SPG, and the following is a brief summary of their priorities in the year, in addition to the Strategy:

Children & Young People DAWG ~ has overseen the development of the **Step by Step children's group work programme** (see p.3); raised concerns through the SPG about children who fall through the gap between adult and children's services; attended national events related to children affected by domestic abuse; gathered resources to support the development of **primary prevention** work with all children and young people, once the Education Service identifies someone to champion this work.

Health DAWG ~ continued to promote the Health Services Policy on Domestic Abuse; arranged distribution of info resources and training publicity; members from maternity services created a protocol and guidance for **Routine Enquiry about Domestic Abuse** launched in November 2004 following training for lead midwives.

Civil & Criminal Justice DAWG ~ for strategic purposes this is a South Yorkshire group, chaired by His Honour Judge Goldsack and attended by reps from all the key justice agencies: Police, Probation, CPS, the Courts and CAFCASS, along with my counterparts from Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham. Achievements include: rolling out the *Domestic Abuse Training for Justice Agencies* and contributing to delivery of training for Magistrates; a protocol for notifying victims of case outcomes and bail conditions; producing the folded contact cards for each area of S. Yorks; and continuing to investigate IT systems to track outcomes and create data for domestic abuse related cases. We organised a high profile briefing event: *Tackling Domestic Abuse in South Yorkshire* for 20th May 2005 with national speakers, to inspire people with initiatives piloted in other areas, like specialist domestic violence courts and women's legal advocacy services.

Domestic Abuse Specialist Projects Working Group ~ the DASP brings together the 8 specialist projects to network, share good practice and discuss common issues, which can be raised by their reps at the SPG. We are working to create a single data recording system to provide anonymous data on service use. The DASP acts as an invaluable source of feedback from service users to inform the work of the Forum and the SPG, and has raised serious concerns about potential risks posed by the SafetyNET IT system to children whose mothers have moved to escape domestic abuse.

In addition to the DAWGs and SPG, other work that has kept me busy in the year includes:

- providing **consultancy and support** to frontline practitioners, and the specialist domestic abuse projects, including access to our Pools of Supervisors and Interpreters
- in particular providing ongoing support to the **community based domestic abuse projects** with their funding strategies to avoid a serious reduction in their services, and acting as Chair of the newest Burngreave Domestic Abuse Project
- undertaking a **mapping exercise with the specialist services** using a very detailed questionnaire about service delivery and funding, to present in summary at the Strategy launch



Practitioners at a 'Full Forum' meeting discussing changes to services for children and young people in the city, and developments in services for children affected by domestic abuse, June 2005.

- updating and distributing information resources: the **wall poster** in this report, **A5 advice booklet**, and folded **contact cards**
- enjoying opportunities for direct **training delivery**, in particular the new *Domestic Abuse Training for Justice Agencies* course and Magistrates programme, 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 progress made on their behalf by the SPG with the Multi-agency Strategy for Domestic Abuse
- sitting on the Executive of **Sheffield Area Child Protection Committee** and representing domestic abuse issues on the **SafetyNET Steering Group**
- contributing to **Voluntary Sector Children & Young People Partnership Network** and the multi-agency **Parenting Strategy Group**
- making presentations to the **0-19+ Partnership, Social Inclusion Board** and the **Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board** to update them on domestic abuse work and the funding needs of the specialist projects
- providing overall management of the local authority contracts for the **Domestic Abuse Floating Support Service** and **Step by Step**
- attending networking events and domestic violence forums for Yorkshire and the North of England
- responding to the varied requests we receive for information and resources ~ learning from other areas and helping some to avoid reinventing the wheel!
- creating the first properly designed **website** for the Forum ~ see the results at: www.sdaf.org.uk !

Maureen Storey, Forum Co-ordinator

Trustees/Directors elected at AGM December 2004

Sue Peckover, NHS
Lisa O'Connor, Taylor & Emmet, Solicitors
Viv Wright, SCC Neighbourhoods
Clare Wiggett, Sheffield Women's Aid
Sarah Cox, Parson Cross D.A. Project
Theresa Ferraro, S.E. Sheffield D.A. Project
Jo Aitken, Individual

Co-opted during year:
Barbara Hyman, Burngreave D.A. Project

Services Report

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

Domestic Abuse Floating Support Service

The DAFSS is now in its third year, established in 2002 through a Supporting People 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: Women's Aid, Haven House, Young Women's Housing Project and Parson Cross Domestic Abuse Project.

DAFSS staff based at the Forum are Tracy Gill, Finance & Monitoring Worker, Jane Knight, Money & Benefits Advice Worker and me, Heather Knight, 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 provides specialist advice and training for DAFSS clients and their Support Workers.

The service has been full throughout the year ~ generally we have a small number of women on our waiting list, and we try where appropriate to signpost people to other services, to reduce the wait for support.

Most referrals are made by Sheffield City Council (usually the Homefinders team who assist vulnerable people), and by the specialist domestic abuse services. Midwives, social workers and health visitors also make referrals as do others from a range of agencies and services across the statutory and voluntary sectors.

Summary of DAFSS Service Use 2004-5	
Total number of women supported	110
Total number of children in their families	160
Percentage breakdowns:	
Aged 26 – 49	64%
White British Ethnicity	60%
With Mental Health Issues	30%
Reliant on Benefits	90%

We receive no funding for direct work with children, although it is not always possible to separate women and children's needs, and understanding and dealing with children's behaviour is critical to women's own recovery and resettlement.

During the year we have worked hard to ensure that the service meets the Quality Assessment Framework standards required by the SP contract. Training sessions have enabled staff to meet the QAF and Risk Assessment requirements, and the DAFSS has undertaken an internal review and developed all the policies and paperwork systems required ahead of the SP external review due later this year.

At the time of writing we are awaiting our initial review visit from the SP team, but while there is some uncertainty about future contracting arrangements, we are confident that the DAFSS will continue to be seen as an essential new support service for vulnerable women and their families, preventing future homelessness and reducing the need for more expensive statutory services.

Heather Knight, DAFSS Manager

Step by Step Group Work Programme

Sheffield Domestic Abuse Forum has consistently raised awareness of the impact of domestic abuse on children and young people. In November 2004 I took up a newly created post, funded by the CAMHS Local Authority Grant, to co-ordinate the Step by Step 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 address the effects of living with domestic abuse on 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.

I have been able to build on the learning from the first pilots (developed with Children's Fund support), and spent time promoting and developing the programme and putting all the practical arrangements in place. The first programme ran from April to July 2005 and was extremely well evaluated by all the participants ~ children, mothers, referrers and facilitators. It is very challenging work for all involved, but the benefits speak for themselves in the voices of the women and children who have completed the programme.

Jennifer Creaghan, Children's Group Work Co-ordinator

Training & Information Report

In the year to March 2005 the Forum delivered 23 different training courses or workshops, with a total of 363 participants, in conjunction with Sheffield Women Against Violence Trainers (see table for breakdown).

I feel more informed of the effects of abuse, and it's made me reflect on my approach

NHS funding enables us to provide free multi-agency courses: Stage 1 *Domestic Abuse Awareness* and Stage 2 *Skills Workshop*, and we also delivered tailored courses for the North and West Primary Care Trusts and Creswick Street Children's Centre.

The Forum Co-ordinator co-trained with the Area Child Protection Committee on their *Domestic Abuse & Child Protection* course, rolled out the *Domestic Abuse Training for Justice Agencies* and contributed to new national training for Magistrates. We also provided regular modules at the University of Sheffield within the Social Work Diploma and ENB Child Protection courses.

The Training... reassured me that we can make a difference

Rebecca Mountain, Training & Information Worker

Type of training event	Number of Events	Participants
Stage 1 Domestic Abuse Awareness (single & multi-agency courses)	12 one-day courses	174
Stage 2 Skills Workshop: Working with Domestic Abuse Issues	3 one-day courses	34
Mental Health & Domestic Abuse (in VAS Mental Health Programme)	1 one-day course	15
Domestic Abuse for Justice Agencies (Rotherham & Barnsley)	2 one-day courses	33
Domestic Abuse & Child Protection (delivered with ACPC)	3 two-day courses	59
University: Social Work Diploma & ENB Child Protection	1 Module on 2 courses	48
Total numbers	23 events	363

Financial Report

At our AGM in December 2004 Sheffield Domestic Abuse Forum reappointed the firm of Barber, Harrison & Platt to carry out the audit. A brief summary is shown alongside, with expenditure summarised under a smaller number of headings than previously, but full financial statements are available for inspection at the Forum office. We have shown the income and expenditure for the DAFSS separately from the main account under restricted funds, to clarify the Forum's financial position without this significant contract.

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 contributing to central office costs, and a small management fee to the Forum.

The remainder of the 'restricted funds' shown is:

- recurrent funding from the Forum's Service Level Agreement with the NHS in Sheffield, paid via each of the four PCTs (£43,900 in the year)
- funding of £14,300 from the Home Office, made up to £23,500 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;
- new funding from the Local Authority CAMHS Grant to develop the Step by Step children's group work programme (£35,000, of which £17,000 was unspent due to recruitment and lead in time, and clawed back in Year 2).
- a small grant of £1,500 from the Housing Associations Charitable Trust (HACT) to support the DAFSS and the specialist projects in developing Service User Involvement.

Other income included payments for specially commissioned training events, sales of information resources or publications, donations and bank interest.

The current Business Planning process has helped to identify the additional resources required to enable the Forum to continue to develop, and to meet the growing expectations placed on the organisation and the challenges ahead.

Clare Wiggett, Treasurer
Tracy Gill, Finance & Monitoring Worker

Sheffield Domestic Abuse Forum Limited

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2005

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds Forum	DAFSS	Total 2005	2004 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
INCOME & EXPENDITURE ANALYSIS					
DAFSS Supporting People	-	-	241,597	241,597	246,888
HACT	-	-	1,500	1,500	-
CAMHS	-	35,000	-	35,000	5,620
NHS	-	43,900	-	43,900	43,600
Sheffield First for Safety	-	23,500	-	23,500	22,360
Childrens Fund	-	-	-	-	41,000
Criminal Justice Board	-	-	-	-	5,000
Donations	337	-	-	337	150
Training Fees	1,100	-	-	1,100	6,125
Sales	70	-	-	70	-
Management Fee	10,296	-	-	10,296	10,000
Other Income	2,717	-	-	2,717	3,643
Bank Interest	47	-	34	81	60
Total incoming resources	14,567	102,400	243,131	360,098	384,446
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Charitable expenditure					
Cost of activities in furtherance of the charity's objects					
Staff and volunteer costs	1,848	57,287	71,571	130,706	103,771
Professional fees and expenses	-	-	397	397	-
Premises and equipment costs	2,155	8,656	13,051	23,862	21,566
Other costs	12,632	18,789	11,551	42,972	55,887
DAFSS Project Staffing	-	-	105,972	105,972	145,500
Management and administration	2,610	4,530	13,615	20,755	16,593
Total resources expended	19,245	89,262	216,157	324,664	343,317
Net income/expenditure for the year	(4,678)	13,138	26,974	35,434	41,129
Funds brought forward as at 1 April 2004	18,333	10,534	16,864	45,731	4,602
Funds carried forward	13,655	23,672	43,838	81,165	45,731

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/Home Office, Sheffield City Council / Supporting People, the Local Authority CAMHS Grant and the Housing Associations Charitable Trust.