



Annual Impact Report



Year 2022/2023

Survivor Liaison Service

City of Doncaster Council

Written by Laura Bunting – Senior Survivor Liaison Worker.

Everyone deserves a place to *feel safe*

“

You have made me feel like I can be a person again. From leaving my abuser to becoming a single parent and fighting still you've made me feel like I can do it and I can do it alone. The support is always there if I need it and you listen to me and help me reflect on my reactions and my behaviours to ensure that I am not only safe and happy but I am getting across what I want to say. I met you at a time in my life when I didn't have anyone and I was alone and you made me feel like there was so many other people out there that have gone through what I have and come out the other side a bigger, better and brighter person so all I can say and it's definitely not enough is thank you... thank you for believing in me and making me believe in myself! ❤️



"Fleeing abusive people doesn't always mean fleeing abuse, it often takes on a new form in post separation abuse.

City of Doncaster Council
Independent Domestic Abuse
Advocates and Domestic Abuse
Caseworkers provide vital safety
advice and advocacy in
navigating a statistically
dangerous time.

Once referred into this service we
then help with the transition from
victim to survivor and then onto
thriving.

It's only when people don't need
us anymore do we step away - no
time limits.

Recovery from abuse doesn't
follow a timeline so neither do we.

It's a rollercoaster of a journey
and we support through all the
twists and turns along the way "

Laura - Senior Survivor Liaison Worker



31


Survivor new referrals

52

Survivors being
supported

5

New Experts by Experience
members



Truly thank you for
everything you do, since you
started to help I feel a lot
more confident in certain
aspects of life and feel valid
and heard.

"It's in your hands to make a better world for all who live in it"

Nelson Mandela



Local need

Details

Outcome

- Local accessible face to face safe support spaces for women

- 5 new face to face support groups running in the community. At least one in each locality

- Increase in local support in the community
- Decrease in isolation
- Increased domestic abuse awareness in communities

- Safe trauma informed specialist support spaces for women exploited through sex work

- A joint collaboration with Changing Lives and their Amber Project to provide next steps in support for women after the Amber Project's intense intervention, and for our service to facilitate a safe trauma informed space with a specialist lens on sex work and exploitation

- Regular group support in a place where the woman feel safe and supported
- Breaking down the barriers sex work survivors sometimes come up against
- Non-judgemental advice and support from a peer survivor
- Building up a trusting relationship with sex work survivors, hopefully leading to better tailored support.
- Increased knowledge on community support for survivors for long term freedom from abuse
- Increased confidence to report offences to the police if needed



Local need

Details

Outcome

- Intersectionality barriers as highlighted by survivors

- Meetings with survivors led to additional face to face support spaces being designed. These include neuro diverse safe spaces co-run with neuro diverse survivors

- More accessible spaces for survivors who may struggle with verbal communication
- By and for services run by survivors with intersecting needs supported by the Survivor Liaison Service
- Increase in survivor voice of barriers survivors face to access support
- Increase in survivor voice on intersecting needs being elevated through Laura at multi agency meetings

- Increase support for LGBT+ community

- Meetings took place within the LGBT+ community and a safe space for LGBT+ survivors is being co-produced with the community and held in the community to be launched in May of 2023

- Safe spaces for LGBT+ clients to access specialist lens support
- Increase in referrals to the Doncaster Domestic Abuse Hub with domestic abuse awareness embedded in the community
- Increase trust and confidence with LGBT+ community
- Increase in LGBT+ survivor voice

- More male support spaces

- Networking meeting took place with Andy Mans Club, Doncaster's largest male support space
- Doncaster Domestic Abuse Hub information shared and links established with Andy Mans Club
- Male online support space started and now transitioning into face to face support to be launched in 2023. Run by a male survivor

- Specialist lens support on domestic abuse for male survivors
- Increase awareness of male domestic abuse victims
- Increased visibly of support for male survivors
- Increase in referrals for support
- Increase in trust and confidence with male victims
- Increase in male survivor voice



Survivors Say

The survivor mission workers do a fantastic job thanks for making me feel I am making a difference to other victims

The experts by experience group I feel is a great space to have you voice heard. The different people that attend make survivors voices heard and helps to change how the different levels of support are given to survivors and how things can improve based off past experiences.

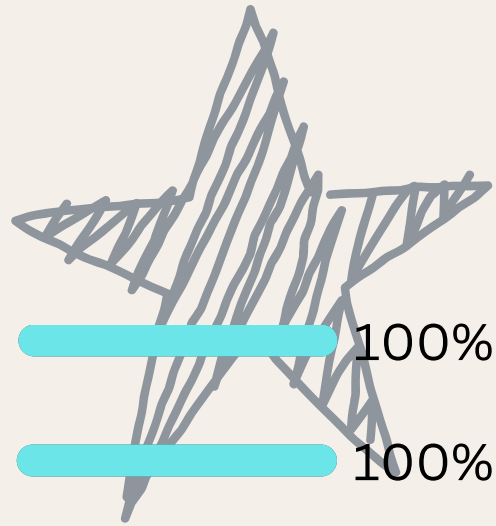
I can talk like i would a good friend. I feel more confident going out with Kirsty than i do on my own.



Laura and the service she provides is totally excellent! She has supported me in tackling the trauma I went through with my abusive perpetrator. Also she is never ever shocked by what I went through, and what my children went through. Laura has been ¹⁰⁰ there for me. Like a safety net when I falter. My son has mental health problems due to the abuse, Laura had been a constant support in my dealing with my sons problems. She has been encouraging and has made me feel like I am worthy of a good life! She also reinforces to me it was not my fault, and I am a good person! I feel tearful in a good way, telling you how much Laura has helped me! She has changed my life!

I have found the support that I have received from my Survivor Liaison Worker – Laura, invaluable and I don't think I could have got through this without her. She has being there through my most challenging moments and has giving me the strength and support that I have needed to enable me to stay strong. She has supported me with information and let me know my rights as a victim. She is always available when ever I have needed her as well as having booked in sessions. Laura has also being able to helped me give advice to those around me that have also being effected by my abuser. I have being able to share information and concerns with Laura and she is always proactive in her approach. I feel with out this service and her support I wouldn't have got through the last few months. I am building myself up to feel confident to be able to join one of the group session and hopefully soon I will access these as well.

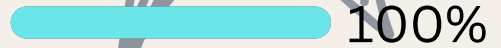
Survey results



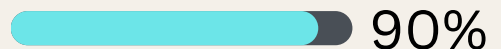
I felt safe to speak with the worker
(Strongly agree)



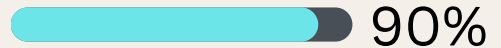
The worker listened to how i wanted to be supported
(Strongly agree/agree)



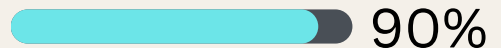
I know i have someone to come to if i need it
(Strongly agree/agree)



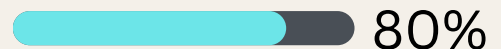
I feel more empowered and positive
(Strongly agree/agree)



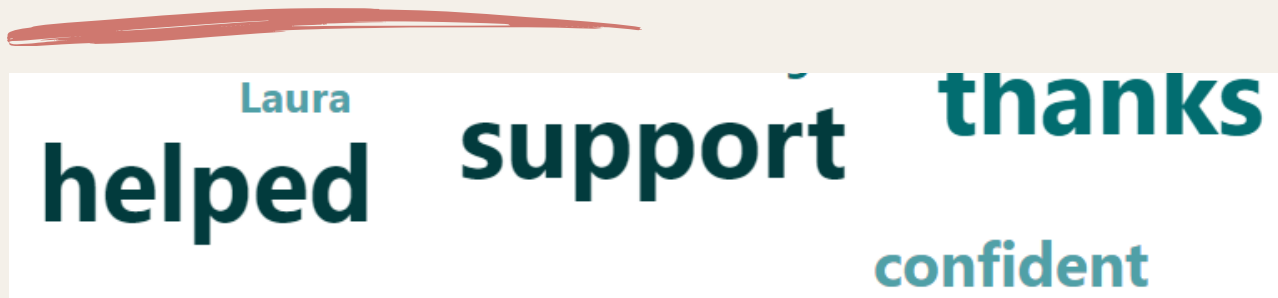
I feel less isolated and alone
(Strongly agree/agree)



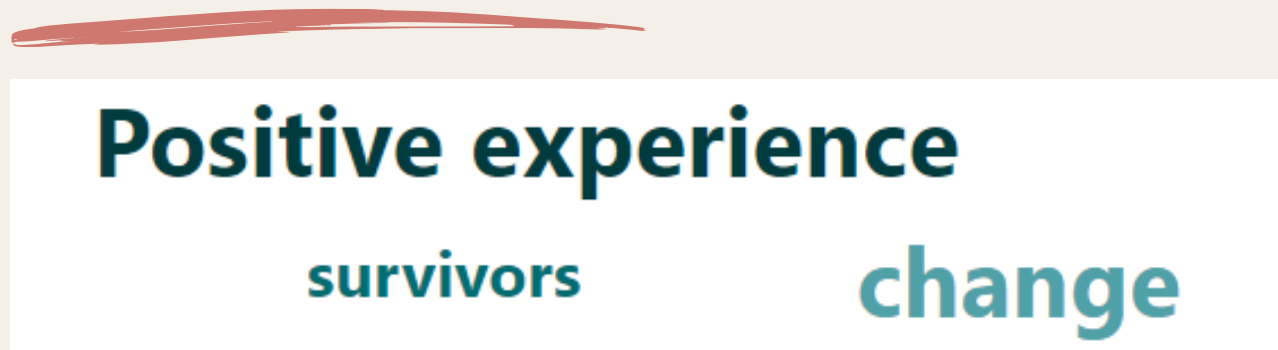
My mental health has improved
(Strongly agree/agree)



Most frequented words used in the survey on support received



Most frequented words used in the survey on Experts by Experience work



Experts by Experience

Experts by Experience meet every month.

The issues important to them and raised at EEG this year are:

- **Mental Health**

The EEG has asked Laura to advocate for more trauma informed mental health services. Laura is now part of a Doncaster Health Task and Finish Group where she advocates their experiences with mental health services.

Laura also met with a Mental Health commissioning manager and advocated for more Domestic Abuse mental health specialist support when thinking of services needed in the city.

- **Children's Trauma support**

Laura works closely with the Domestic Abuse Navigators (DANs) lead Alicia Lee, and her colleague Angela Emmerton, where she can feedback this information. Children are now victims in their own right. Sadly, this has not been matched with funding on a national level. We recognise this as a gap in children's therapeutic services and in Doncaster we are looking at this extremely hard to see where we can meet the needs of child victims. Laura also sits on the Education subgroup where she can raise experiences shared with her from EEG members, both mothers and fathers, on how the education system can help in the support of children that are/have experienced domestic and sexual abuse. An EEG member has also written a survivor foreword for the new education toolkit due to be launched in 2023.

- **Conviction rates of Perpetrator's**

With the national coverage of the rates in prosecution the Experts by Experience wanted Laura to challenge this locally. As Laura sits on various boards this is a point that is regularly raised. Laura is also the co-chair of the South Yorkshire Police Violence Against Women and Girls Independent Advisory board where she works with South Yorkshire Police and multi-agency partners to drive up better outcomes for victims.

She also helps train specialist officers in South Yorkshire Police from a victim's perspective.

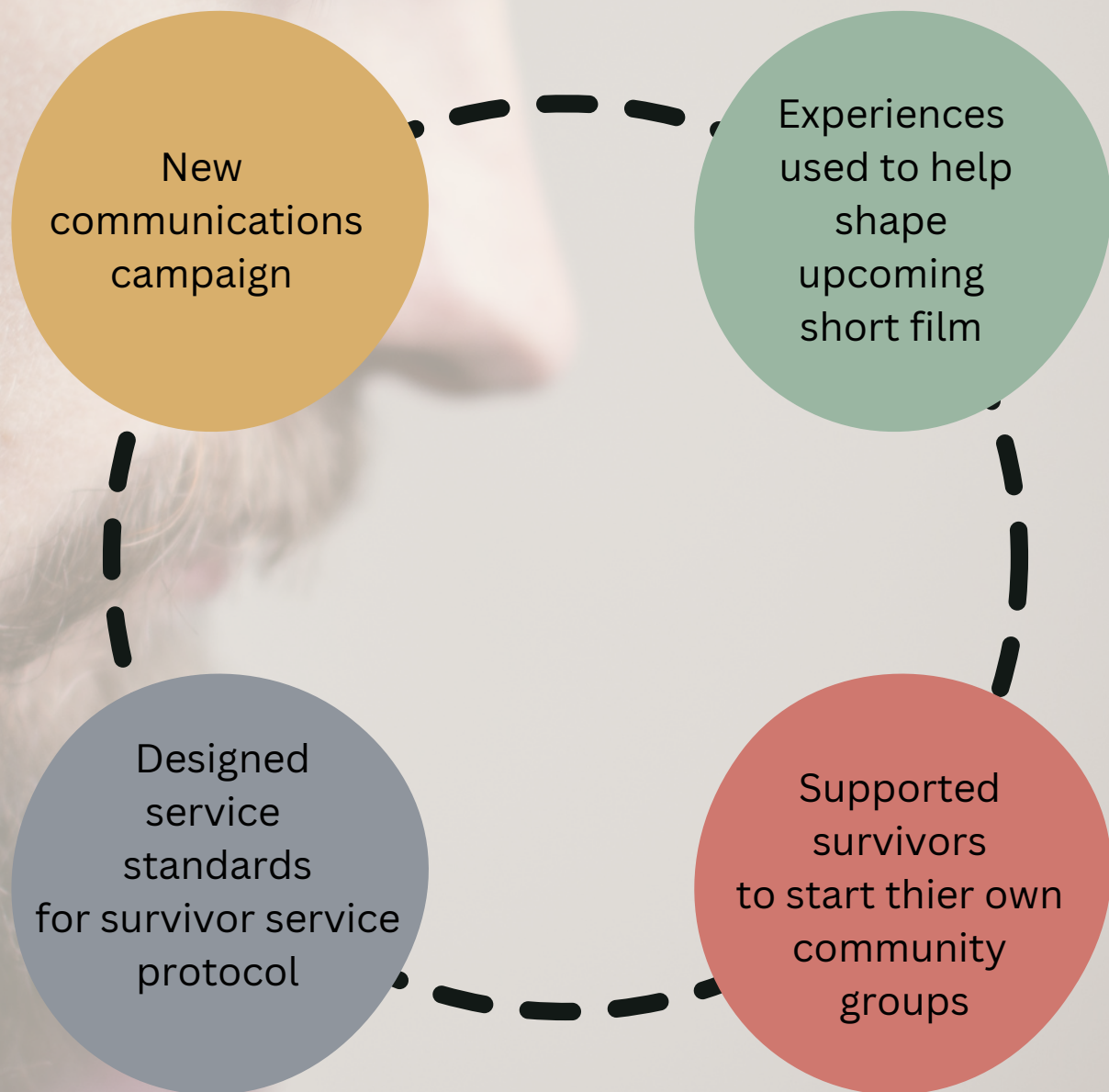
- **Communication awareness campaign**

EEG highlighted they would like to see a new awareness campaign that reflected more on Coercive and Controlling behaviour and Economic abuse. They asked for a more inclusive and locally reflected campaign. EEG members worked with Nicola Smith and a new campaign was co-produced with survivors.

- **Employment opportunities for women with convictions**

Women at EEG who have criminal justice system allegations/convictions against their name have asked how the Service can challenge this point locally with employers. They see the Survivor Liaison Peer led service and would like to be employed in the sector also. The barriers faced after women have reacted to abuse can have lifelong consequences. They would like to see the barriers removed for them to be able to work and be free.

What we achieved as *Experts by Experience*



Communications Strategy



Have you left an abusive relationship?

The Doncaster Survivor Liaison Service runs weekly groups in the community and online for survivors of domestic abuse.

The Survivor Liaison Service is a service for survivors who are no longer with the person who harmed them or has any ongoing criminal justice system action and those who are not working with another domestic abuse professional. We can provide ongoing emotion support after abuse and support for those who may be navigating the Family Courts.

The peer-led support groups aim to bring survivors with lived experience of domestic abuse together to help inspire and empower each other in living a safe life free from abuse. Groups are available for women only, men only and members of the LGBTQ+ community. Peer one-to-one support is also available through the Survivor Liaison Service.



In conjunction with survivors and our communications lead Nicola Smith, the Experts by Experience held a focus session on communication and what themes and language they would like to see going forward. A huge thanks to Nicola who turned their vision into a reality. A new suite of posters has been designed to reach out to all victims which are soon to be used.

Cost of Living booklet

With the current cost of living crisis, we wanted to ensure domestic abuse was heavily embedded in awareness. A fact highlighted by Surviving Economic Abuse, the UK's only charity focusing on solely on economic abuse. They said '*Victim-survivors of domestic abuse are likely to be among the worst affected by the cost-of-living crisis. SEA is urging the Government to provide vital support.*'

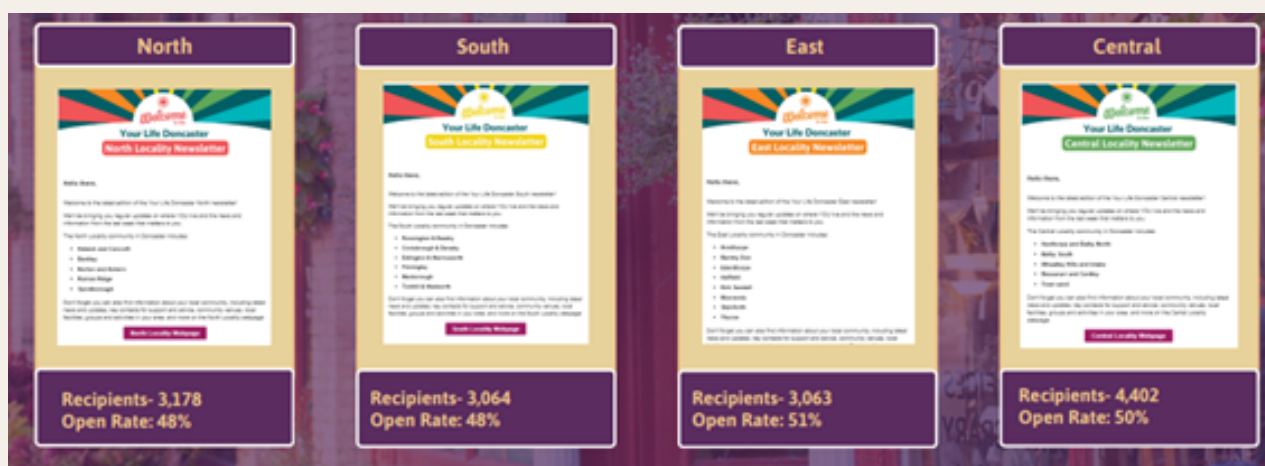
The booklet was distributed to 140,050 homes in Doncaster.

1,000 easy read booklets were printed and distributed by communities' teams for families whose first language is not English, or they struggle with literacy.



Cost of Living E-Newsletter

The information about economic abuse also went out in all four locality E-newsletters.



The information was included in the main E-newsletter twice, sent to 12,062 residents and 11,330 residents. Both E-newsletters had an open rate of 53% which is high for a council E-newsletter compared to other authorities. This means that at least 6,000 residents engaged with the information.

The year in review



Not only do we support survivors but part of the Survivor Liaison Service is to elevate and ensure survivor voice is heard across the partnership. This section highlights how we did that.

After the successful uptake of the service, Kirsty Gleadon was employed after Laura Bunting was promoted into a senior role. Kirsty brings with her a wealth of professional experience in working with people with learning disabilities and supporting families with young children.

Alongside her professional ability she is also a survivor herself and like Laura uses her lived experience to springboard victim voice. Laura and Kirsty's experiences whilst similar also have key differences and Laura and Kirsty between them have expansive knowledge of systems and processes that victims and survivors face. The key differences between their experiences compliments the team's knowledge and Kirsty has been instrumental behind the growth of the service this year.

Kirsty is also trained in risk assessment to ensure all survivors are safe when in venues organised by City of Doncaster Council for support.

With the increase in demand the team has also grown. In the summer of 2022 Business and Admin support Worker Sophie Bishop joined the team. Sophie is an integral part of the smooth running of the service providing critical admin support to ensure the Survivor Liaison Workers can concentrate on survivors. Whilst Sophie is not out working in the community the team is reliant on her ability in keeping them organised.

After Laura was moved into a more strategic role, she is now more involved in wider multi-agency meetings. These include:

- Sexual Abuse Strategy Group
- Domestic Abuse and Sexual Abuse Theme group
- Domestic Abuse Strategy Group
- Health Task and Finish Group
- South Yorkshire Police Independent Advisory Group
- Education Subgroup

Alongside this Laura now sits on City of Doncaster's Domestic Homicide Review panel ensuring not only is the victim voice heard but any identified missed opportunities can be mapped with survivor voice work. Laura can ensure any identified areas can be continuously reflected upon through Experts by Experience work and survivor feedback.

Kirsty Gleadon & Laura Bunting

*Survivor Liaison
Workers*

Really enjoy attending monthly meetings with other survivors and working with Laura to give our opinion on the way forward for the DA service in Doncaster

Since joining the team in 2022 Kirsty has embedded herself into the many communities of Doncaster.

She frequently attends:

- Citizen advice drop ins
- Foodbank sessions
- Event stalls based in schools

She has also reached out to get the Survivor Liaison Service promoted into GP practices across Doncaster.

She works closely with:

- Well-being teams
- Library teams
- Your place teams
- Family hubs
- Community teams

She has found gaps where members of the public may not know what domestic abuse services are available and she is working to get into places people wouldn't usually think of.

She has attended various team meetings across City of Doncaster Council and introduced herself to many frontline practitioner's ensuring they know the referral pathway to the service and has provided support to staff members of City of Doncaster Council, ensuring that no matter where you work client confidentiality is of the utmost importance.

South Yorkshire Police have a new designated specialist officer unit. Laura was invited to share her own lived experiences so officers could reflect and learn from a survivor and hear first-hand how critically important it is to Police domestic abuse with a trauma informed lens.

Emma Greaves, investigations trainer said "**thank you so much for your help and support with the SSAIDP course, your words and support have given the course so much meaning and context**"

Laura is also now co-chair of the South Yorkshire Police Independent Advisory Group as part of the national work on Violence Against Women and Girls and it's three pillars of building trust and confidence in Policing, it's pursuit of perpetrators and creating safer spaces for women. This gives Doncaster a fantastic insight into the Policing and legislation on VAWG crimes. Its another avenue to highlight survivor voice through EEG and have an opportunity for Doncaster and survivor voice to feed in at a national level.

Kirsty has attended over 20 training sessions and courses since she started late last year, including working with sex workers, risk assessment and trauma informed working, all adding to her knowledge of policies and procedures as well as using her lived experience to gain trust and build good relationships with survivors.

Laura held a focus session on the importance of survivor voice at a national DA Matters Champions meeting sharing with Police officers across the country on how vital it is to provide safe spaces to facilitate the sharing of survivor voice and to centre the reflection given by survivors of their lived experience to improve outcomes for victims.

Laura set up a South Yorkshire wide survivor voice networking quarterly meeting where survivor voice from all 4 local authorities can be heard. It's a fantastic space to map survivor voice themes, share good practice, notice regional trends. Being able to network with others offers a fantastic safe space for reflection on survivor voice work as a sole agenda item.

Kirsty attended a team meeting with the Doncaster Translation Unit (known as DITU). With the team, she talked about how we would like to include as many language options with our support forms as possible on our survivor zone website.

Following this Kirsty set up a piece of work and worked alongside the translation team who put together our survivor forms and leaflets into numerous languages such as Dari, Pashto, Arabic and Ukrainian translations of the information sheet, referral form and the survivor Liaison poster. This now means that survivors can reach out to us in their preferred language with confidence and full understanding that we are here to help. This in turn breaks down the language barrier that so many survivors struggle with. The forms have been embedded onto our website and can be easily accessed 24/7.

Laura joined Doncaster NHS safeguarding team to talk about the Survivor Liaison Service and also used her experience to highlight how critical health partners are in domestic abuse work.

Sarah Weir, head Safeguarding nurse said "**I think we got across how health are in a perfect position to gain the confidence of potential victims and support them. I also think that we worked well to state how we all work collaboratively as a partnership with the common goal of helping victims get the support that they need. I think it went really well and wanted to say a massive thank you to you!**

You're a star! "

Survivors now thriving

I have a very strong support from Laura and Kirsty to start up my support group

One Experts by Experience member has gone on to set up her own support group. The group has been inspiring to watch develop as she supports domestic abuse survivors in her own community turning her story into someone else's survival guide after domestic abuse. A huge well done and many thanks for giving back to Doncaster residents.

After successfully completing our Online Freedom Programme one survivor we support has gone on to train with Deane Valley College and received her level 2 qualification in Understanding Domestic Abuse. A huge congratulations to her!

As part of the services drive to ensure survivor voice is heard not only locally but nationally one survivor had a meeting with the organisation Safelives. Safelives interviewed the survivor on our survivor voice work and being involved in our Expert by Experience group. Doncaster is being used as national good practice in a toolkit they are designing for all areas highlighting how vital it is all Local Authorities include survivor voice as a priority. They also interviewed Karen Shooter and Laura Bunting and we look forward to seeing the toolkit on its Launch.

Paying our Experts back



The Experts by Experience were taken out for afternoon tea to a local small Doncaster business. We are passionate about supporting our Experts but also our communities. One EEG told us

"I just wanted to thank you for funding the meal, for the Experts by Experience group. I cannot begin to tell you how much I enjoyed this experience. It was lovely to meet up with fellow group members face to face, and lovely to meet Kirsty, the new domestic abuse survivor worker. I also met another group member who attended the Freedom Programme with me.

I feel this lunch really made me feel valued, and part of a wider group! It helps to feel that there is support there for women who have experienced domestic abuse. I cannot begin to tell you just how much this group has helped me, and the strength I get from accessing the drop in group with Laura Bunting has totally changed me as a person! I just want to say thank you, Laura Bunting, Karen Shooter and Doncaster Council for the chance to meet fellow survivors in a relaxed environment"

Upskilling staff

Because we always love learning more

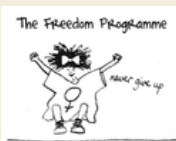


Laura Bunting has been training to be a qualified IDVA with the organisation Safelives. The IDVA course is a Level 3 OCN accredited qualification. Laura will be qualified by the summer of 2023.

The course enhances practical knowledge, helping to provide the best possible support for domestic abuse victims, survivors, and their children.

The training is supported by relevant specialists from many different fields, including the criminal justice system, family law, child protection, sexual assault referral centres (SARCS) and housing services. The training also includes modules on multi-agency risk assessment conferences (MARAC), Anti-racist practice, and working with minoritised groups experiencing domestic abuse or harmful practices. The content is designed to give practitioners in depth and breadth knowledge needed to support domestic abuse victims, survivors and their children in a multi-agency context from a whole family perspective.

Laura Bunting being qualified as an IDVA provides the service with an extra layer of knowledge on risk management at our practitioner level. The service is a peer led service and we believe this is the best qualification off all to support survivors, but the service still must be mindful of risk posed by perpetrators and Laura being upskilled in this area covers for this.



Freedom Programme is a domestic violence programme which was created by Pat Craven from her work with perpetrators of domestic violence. The Freedom Programme examines the roles played by

attitudes and beliefs on the actions of abusive men and the responses of victims and survivors. The aim is to help them to make sense of and understand what has happened to them, instead of the whole experience just feeling like a horrible mess. The Freedom Programme also describes in detail how children are affected by being exposed to this kind of abuse and very importantly how their lives are improved when the abuse is removed.

Kirsty attended an intense 3-day course to become a facilitator of the programme to support victims and survivors in Doncaster.

Both Laura and Kirsty are now trained Freedom Programme facilitators and are launching a new series of programmes delivered online through the year.



→ **How can banks support victim-survivors of economic abuse.
Surviving Economic Abuse & The Labyrinth Project**

This training aims to raise awareness and knowledge on how banks and building societies can support victim-survivors who have experienced economic abuse.

- Increased knowledge of economic abuse and financial abuse
- Increased knowledge on the role of banks and building societies
- Increased knowledge on how to report economic abuse to your bank or building society
- Awareness of the Financial Abuse Code of Practice

→ **Supporting women with criminal convictions to disclose to employers.
Labyrinth Project - Working Chance**

The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act and the law around disclosing, pros and cons of disclosing when not required to, DBS check types and what shows up, tick boxes and questions employers ask, and a structure for preparing disclosures.

Learning outcomes:

1. Understand the law around the disclosure of criminal convictions
2. Know about the different types of DBS checks, which jobs they are for and what shows up.
3. Be able to support women with conviction to disclose these effectively to employers.

→ **Domestic Abuse & LGBTQ+ People .
IDAS**

IDAS shared their expertise in supporting LGBTQ+ people who have been subjected to domestic abuse and how domestic abuse can present differently in LGB relationships and towards trans, non-binary and gender queer people.



Recognising and Responding to Economic Abuse for Professionals Surviving Economic Abuse & The Labyrinth Project

To raise awareness of economic abuse and provide an opportunity for learners to consider how they can contribute to the economic safety of victim-survivors.

- Increased knowledge of economic abuse
- Increased skills to respond to economic abuse



Trauma webinar series: Trauma-informed care and the legal system Bild and Respond

This webinar is part of Bild's mission to deepen the health and social care sector's understanding of trauma, and its impact on people with learning disabilities and autistic people.



Money, debt advice and economic abuse Surviving Economic Abuse & Labyrinth Project

This training enables attendees to recognise economic abuse and integrate safety measures into their practice as they work with victim-survivors. It will support staff to develop the necessary skills and knowledge so they can be confident that they are providing safe and appropriate support.



Gypsy Roma Traveller training

The whole team, including Laura and Kirsty joined The traveller Movement training. They describe their training as **'Our highly acclaimed online domestic abuse awareness training includes the viewing our film 'Never Going To Beat You' followed by a Zoom webinar training delivered by Traveller survivors. The training has received overwhelmingly positive feedback from service providers and professionals working across the women's sector'**



The year 2023 - 2024

What we have planned



As part of our efforts to ensure all survivors with intersecting needs receive support Kirsty has planned this year to launch added support spaces with a specialist lens.

These include:

LGBT spaces

Neuro-diverse spaces

Amber Project collaboration

In addition to this we want to ensure we hold a focus on intersectionality barriers as part of our wider domestic abuse work and as reported in our annual report of 2022/2023.

We also want to provide all survivors through Laura and Kirsty a way to feed into survivor voice work in Doncaster and build upon the amazing female Experts by Experience group already proven. We will look at developing more Experts by Experience groups demand led. This ensures all survivors have a safe space to feed into the Doncaster Domestic Abuse Partnership and wider multi agency.

Kirsty along with Karen Shooter has been leading on our learning disabilities work and some outcomes of this work will be a new easy read domestic abuse booklet being produced and training will be given to domestic abuse workers to ensure that they are more aware of the barriers for people with learning disabilities and to help them ensure they have the knowledge, skills and tools they need to improve how they work with people with learning disabilities. This work is in constant development in conjunction with learning from our intersecting needs focus.

Our collaboration and conversations this last year with Changing lives who lead on this area of work has led to women exploited via sex work having a direct referral pathway set up to the Survivor Liaison Team. This ensures a seamless transition between services and keyworkers developing a strong working relationship for information sharing to prevent re-traumatisation. The complexities and intricacies exploitation creates needs a sensitive and coordinated response and by the teams working closely together can create the safety and trust needed to protect and support women who have endured trauma on the streets and in their homes. This work is now coming out of its infancy and support spaces and support will be embedded this coming year as part of the support the Survivor Liaison Service offers.



**THE DEAF
HEALTH
CHARITY
SIGNHEALTH**

Another focus area we are looking at is disability. We have been having conversations with Sign Health, the Deaf specialist IDVA service who are coming to train Doncaster practitioners so that our deaf victims and survivors receive the care, understanding and support they require not only as domestic abuse victims but as deaf clients who need additional support and that we, as a city understanding the additional risks and barriers a deaf victim or survivor may face.

We will hopefully have a first workshop delivered in June with an added wider audience workshop delivered during October in domestic abuse awareness month.

Whilst an online support space for men has been established and used on demand the men attending have asked to now transition that into a face-to-face group.

During this year we are hoping to move our male support spaces into the community and raise awareness through the incredible male support spaces running already in Doncaster that we are also available. This is about collaborating with the community groups well established for men and adding to the support network. We will have the specialist focus around domestic abuse and the trauma and stigma domestic abuse leaves survivors with.



In conjunction with multi-agency partners our ambition is to create additional safe spaces for women who have been through the criminal justice system factoring in the trauma of being incarcerated or having or serving a community sentence. Statistically 53% of women have been subjected to domestic and sexual abuse (Prison reform trust) and 64% of female offenders at HMP/YOI Drake Hall reported a history indicative of brain injury (The Disabilities Trust, 2019)

After reading extensive research done by the wider domestic abuse sector and coupled with survivor voice through Experts by Experience Laura has now joined a subgroup chaired by the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner on women and girls in or at risk of entering the criminal justice system. In the last year, the Survivor Liaison Service has established links with our probation partners and met with probation women's team to offer our support and highlight we want to offer a direct referral route to the survivor liaison support service. Also, we want to ensure we offer a safe space for survivors to bring their lived experience to help develop work in this area to be true to the values of centring work around survivor voice.

Victim attrition is a project led by Sharon Baldwin in the Police and Crime Commissioners Office and the task and finish group has a particular aim of ensuring we as agencies and services are doing all we can to ensure that all victims of crime navigating the criminal justice system are fully supported. This work is particularly focused from the point of charging a suspect.

Included in this work is:

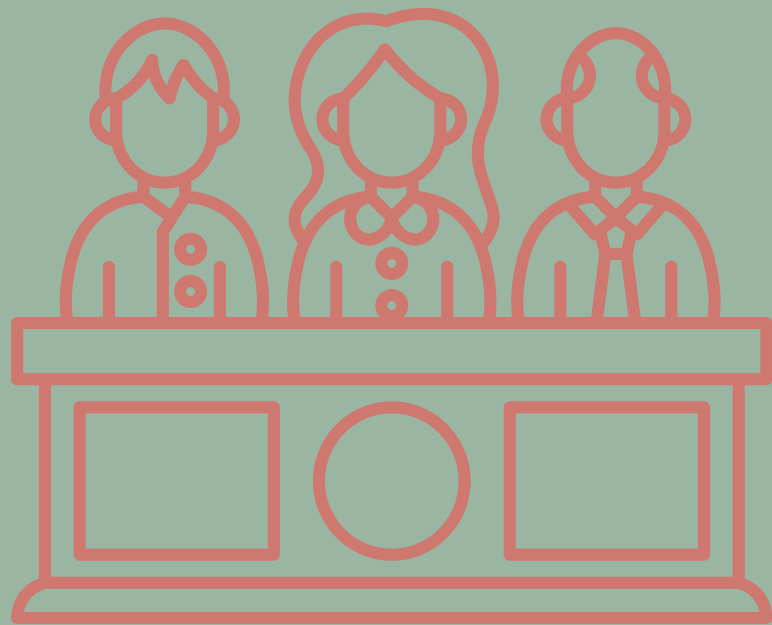
Aim 1 - Communication and knowledge sharing

Aim 2 - Recognising signs of disengagement at the earliest opportunity

Aim 3 - Trauma awareness and the importance of victim empathy

Aim 4 - Special Measures

Experts by Experience in Doncaster have input on this work already and Sharon Baldwin has kindly offered to come and present the final guidance to the Experts by Experience group and thank the survivors for sharing their lived experience and for being a critical friend to services across South Yorkshire in helping to shape this work and the conversations within the group



A sensitive area we are linking in with as a service is suicide prevention. Working with our public health partners in particular Sarah Smith, Health Improvement Coordinator and Laura have been having conversation on how they can link in more closely and using their individual expertise on each subject matter work in collaboration on raising suicide from a victim/survivor perspective and also that of the alleged perpetrator, from a loss of control through to it being used as a coercive and controlling behaviour tactic. Karen Shooter produced a report after completing a deep dive into domestic abuse and suicide and Laura would like to use that document as a springboard to create more conversation after its findings. Sarah has kindly invited Laura to work with the suicide prevention group chaired by Helen Conroy, public health specialist. As a trauma informed service, we want to look holistically at whole families as part of the prevention work. We look forward to working with public health on this.

Laura has been writing the Survivor Liaison Service protocol and a new case management system and in conjunction with the Experts by Experience shaping the service standards under the expertise and guidance of Karen Shooter, the strategic lead for domestic and sexual abuse and violence against women and girls lead, Karen is also the manager of the Survivor Liaison team. We are hoping to launch its first draft in May 2023. The document and its contents are a rolling document as we continue to grow and learn more about the fantastic services within the Doncaster area this learning will be further embedded. The document gives the service a solid foundation to be built upon and a set of standards survivors expect and need from us, also holding us accountable through auditing but also offer transparency so services can see how we work.

Found it interesting and amazing! Women coming together! Supporting each other and supporting change!



We'd like to thank all the Survivors for your *generous support*



As a service our main priority is the survivors we work alongside, we want to acknowledge and thank them immensely for the dedication and time they give to other Doncaster Victims and survivors to ensure they hold services to account, inspire us with fresh ideas and work with us always ensuring survivor voice is central to everything we do.

We don't facilitate a service, we are part of the service.

We are as one, we are strong, we are brave.

We are survivors.

Laura and Kirsty x

