

## **About South Liverpool Domestic Abuse Services**

South Liverpool Domestic Abuse Services is an independent charity offering free and accessible support to women who are experiencing, or have experienced, domestic abuse in South and South-Central Liverpool.

### **Background**

Speke Garston Domestic Violence Project was established in May 1998 and registered as a charity in September 1998 funded by Speke Garston Partnership. The need for a domestic abuse organisation was identified by residents and agencies who recognised this crime as one of their main concerns in the community and that there was a high level of need for domestic violence support services.

In January 2011, the charity changed its name to South Liverpool Domestic Abuse Services (SLDAS) and widened its area of work across South Liverpool and the wider South-Central areas of the city. In 2011 SLDAS moved to the Women's Advice Centre, from where we now deliver 1:1, drop-in services, group programmes and volunteer training. Our administration, services staff and volunteers are based in the Women's Centre.

The organisation is governed by a Board of Trustees that meet bi-monthly, made up of local women, and women with expertise in health, community development, adult education, and domestic violence.

SLDAS has three interrelated strands of activity—a range of frontline services; a programme of volunteering that includes bespoke accredited training plus work experience; and delivery of domestic abuse awareness to a range of professional, voluntary and community organisations, groups and individuals whose understanding impacts on the quality of life for survivors of abuse.

### **Volunteering and Accredited Training**

Our volunteers make a real difference to people's lives and are key to all aspects of the organisation, from support workers to trustees, counsellors to community advocates. SLDAS offers accredited training and work experience in a supportive environment, giving women opportunities to share their valuable skills to support and empower local women to overcome their experience of domestic abuse. We welcome and encourage previous beneficiaries of SLDAS to become volunteers after time away from their abusive experiences. Volunteers are encouraged and supported to access external training, volunteering and job opportunities.

### **Raising Awareness**

SLDAS delivers sessions of domestic abuse awareness training to frontline service providers, community and voluntary organisations, public sector bodies,

and interested private sector organisations in order to increase knowledge of domestic abuse and its impacts.

SLDAS participates in local, citywide, and regional strategic planning groups and aims to bring issues of abuse against women & girls in all its forms to the forefront of policy development.