



**South Liverpool
Domestic Abuse
Services**

**Trustee Recruitment
Pack**

Welcome

Thank you for your interest in volunteering to become a Trustee for South Liverpool Domestic Abuse Services (SLDAS). This pack contains more information about our organisation and how we help survivors of domestic abuse in South Liverpool. You can also find out what it will be like to become a Trustee for SLDAS and how you can apply to join us.

About Us

As an independent charity, SLDAS offer free and accessible support to women who experience domestic violence or abuse in South and South-Central Liverpool.

SLDAS is run by a group of volunteer Trustees, alongside staff and volunteers who deliver our services. These include women who live locally, as well as women who work for relevant voluntary or statutory organisations. As a community-based organisation, SLDAS is committed to recruiting local women onto the Board of Trustees. Our aim is to maintain an organisation run 'by local women for local women'.

Our charitable aims:

1. To enable and support women in the South Liverpool area to live their lives free from violence, abuse and fear.
2. To empower local communities to challenge violence against women and children whenever and wherever it occurs.
3. To participate in the regeneration of South Liverpool by taking a lead in tackling violence against women and raising awareness of this as a key approach in addressing issues of community safety, health and economic regeneration.

SLDAS is committed to taking a holistic approach in developing and delivering services and activities which:



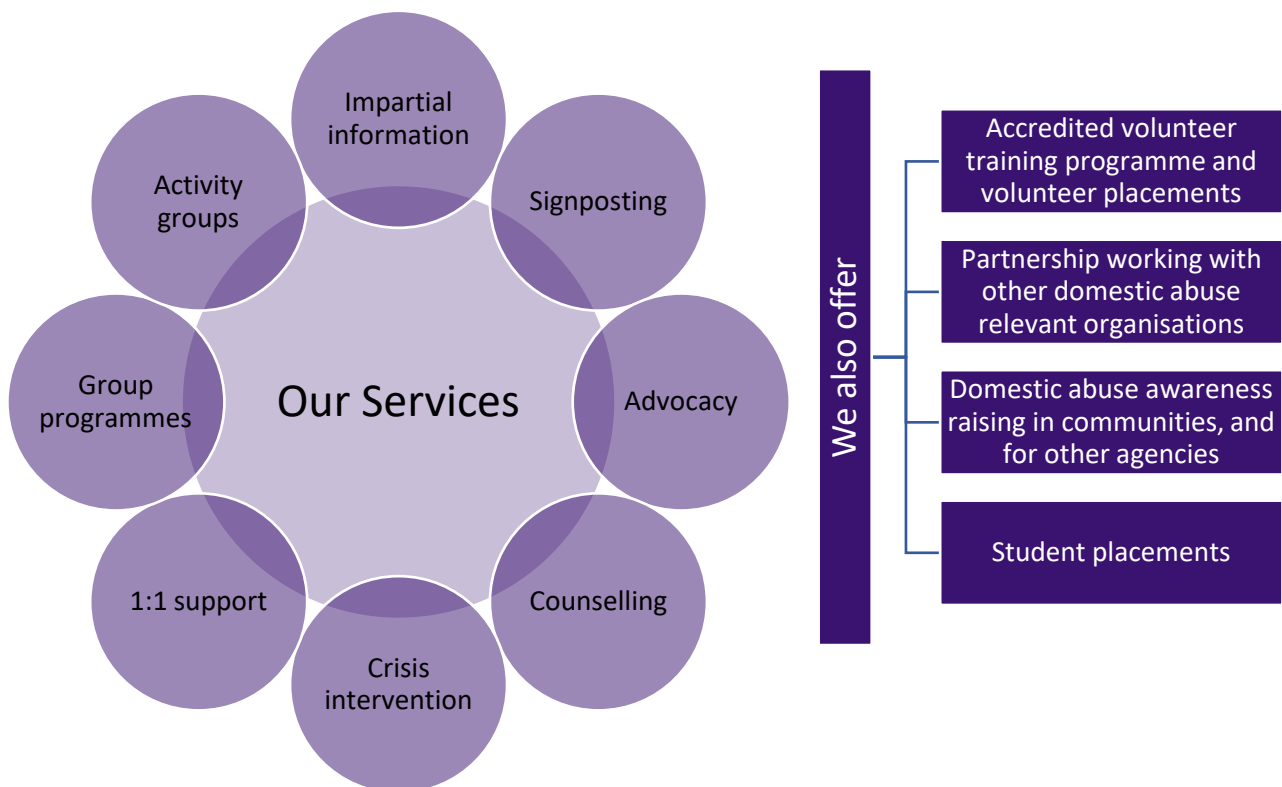
Origins

Speke Garston Domestic Violence Project was set up as a company in May 1998 and registered as a charity in September 1998. The need for a domestic abuse organisation was identified by residents and agencies working in the area who recognised this crime as one of their main concerns in the community. In January 2011, the charity legally 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 Liverpool. Since this time, SLDAS have supported around 10,000 women through our services and over 300 women through our accredited volunteer training programme.

What we do

SLDAS provides services and activities for women and young people who have experienced domestic abuse, as well as volunteering opportunities for women concerned about the issues of violence against women and girls. We seek to raise awareness in communities, the voluntary sector, with statutory providers and amongst professionals, about the nature and impact of domestic abuse.

SLDAS offers information, emotional and practical support, advocacy, counselling and self-development opportunities to women who are experiencing or have experienced violence or other forms of domestic abuse. We operate from a 'one stop' style venue in Garston where we have space to offer 1:1 support, counselling and group sessions. Group and 1:1 sessions are also available in a wide range of local venues across South and South Central Liverpool, run in partnership with agencies and community groups. Volunteers play a key role in making these services possible.



SLDAS recognises and appreciates the role that volunteers play within the organisation, as Trustees, support workers, counsellors and community advocates. SLDAS seeks to create rewarding opportunities for volunteers through training and work experience in a supportive environment.

Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees is responsible for setting the strategy for SLDAS and for ensuring the charity complies with all its legal and regulatory duties. Our Trustees play a vital role in, ensuring the charity is governed to the highest standard, setting and monitoring policies, agreeing budgets, reviewing impact, managing risk and helping the organisation to fundraise. Trustees bring with them a range of skills, knowledge and experience to support SLDAS and make sure we meet our charitable aims.

SLDAS recognise that the role of a Trustee is a responsible role and that individuals may require training and support to conduct their role to the best of their ability. SLDAS therefore offer Trustees:

- The opportunity to attend a Board meeting in an observation capacity before you put yourself forward to become a Trustee

- Welcome pack containing key information
- A Trustee induction and a ½ day domestic abuse awareness session
- Domestic abuse training, level 1 Open Awards
- Shadowing/mentoring from other Trustees
- CPD training as identified (subject to adequate funding)
- Safeguarding adults and children training

Trustee Role

All Trustees serve on the Board of Trustees and their main duties are:

- Ensuring that SLDAS complies with its governing document, charity law, company law and any other relevant legislation or regulations (see below for more information).
- Ensuring that SLDAS allocates its resources in the pursuit of its charitable aims.
- Maintaining financial stability, authorising general running costs, capital expenditure and grants where applicable.
- Forward planning and strategy development.
- Ensuring the effective coordination of SLDAS, including having appropriate policies and procedures in place.
- Monitoring and managing risk.
- Ensuring that work undertaken on behalf of SLDAS is completed to an acceptable standard.
- Undertaking appropriate training where necessary.
- Ensuring that the Board follows proper and formal arrangements for the appointment, supervision, support, appraisal and remuneration of the Manager (or staff if no Manager)
- Upholding SLDAS's Code of Conduct, protecting SLDAS's reputation and acting as an ambassador for its services.
- Participating in meetings and ensuring decisions taken at meetings are implemented.

In addition to the above statutory duties, each Trustee should use any specific skills, knowledge or experience they have to help the Board of Trustees reach sound decisions. This may involve supporting the work of sub-groups, scrutinising board papers, leading discussions, acting on feedback from Trustees, staff, volunteers and beneficiaries, providing advice and guidance on new initiatives, or other issues in which the Trustee has special expertise. Trustees will need to commit time to read papers in advance and should try to keep up to date with developments in the field of domestic abuse.

To find out more about your legal responsibilities as a Trustee read this guidance - [Charity Commission - The essential trustee: what you need to know, what you need to do](#)

Person Specification

SLDAS want to ensure that there's a strong mix on our Board of Trustees with women from varying backgrounds, experiences and skills. We believe that by having a diverse group of women we can collectively make better decisions and better serve our beneficiaries. With this in mind, we particularly encourage applications to become a Trustee from women from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds and people with lived experience of domestic abuse.

As a Trustee for SLDAS we are looking for women who meet the following essential criteria and are particularly interested in those who may also have some knowledge or experience as outlined below.

Essential

- Commitment to the charitable aims of SLDAS
- Ability to work as part of a team and be able to both build agreement and challenge constructively
- Willingness and ability to be an active member of the Board, committing the time and thought needed
- Strong understanding and acceptance of the legal duties, responsibilities and liabilities of being a Trustee (see [Charity Commission - The essential trustee: what you need to know, what you need to do](#)).

Desirable knowledge/experience:

- Understanding of domestic abuse and its impact
- Charity governance/legal experience or
- Finance/accounting/bid writing for small companies/charities/not-for-profit experience or
- HR and employment law expertise or
- Domestic Abuse service development experience or
- Marketing/communications/fundraising experience or
- Counselling/mental health practitioner experience or
- Training, volunteer management experience.

Time Commitment

Trustees are elected for a minimum two-year term that may be renewed. Board meetings are generally bi-monthly, usually on a Saturday or in the evenings and Trustees are required to attend a minimum of 50% each year. Each year there is also an Annual General Meeting. Trustees may want to join sub-committees and ad hoc working groups as required, but this is not essential.

The time commitment for Trustees is around 4-6 hours a month, you may want to commit more in the early stages, depending on your knowledge and understanding of SLDAS and training needs.

Remuneration

These positions are unremunerated, but reasonable travel, subsistence and childcare expenses will be reimbursed.

How to Apply

Please email manager@sldas.co.uk with your:

1. CV
2. Covering Letter (Please outline how you meet the criteria in the Person Specification)
3. Completed Equal Opportunities Form

If you have any questions about becoming a Trustee for SLDAS, please contact our Chair Nina Doran via manager@sldas.co.uk.

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