

April 2016

RASAC Perth & Kinross Support and Advocacy Service Launch 24th March 2016

We launched our Support and Advocacy Service providing practical and emotional support to women and young people who are engaging or considering engaging with the criminal justice system. The event took place at the AK Bell Library, with over 30 individuals in attendance.

The launch was followed by a talk and panel discussion with John Malpass from the Procurator Fiscals and a wonderful and inspiring one woman performance by Naomi Breeze, 'One Lonely Word'.

Funded by the Scottish Government and in partnership with Rape Crisis Scotland and local Rape Crisis Centres across Scotland, a new Support and Advocacy Service has recently been developed at RASAC Perth & Kinross and will be delivered as part of a wider National Advocacy Project. The overall aim of the service is to provide support and advocacy to survivors who have engaged, or are considering engaging with the criminal justice system following an experience of sexual violence. Survivors of sexual violence whose cases do not proceed to court will be offered emotional and practical support, including access to follow on services.

The National Advocacy Project has been developed taking into account the learnings from the Support to Report Scheme which was launched in December 2013 and piloted over a 12 month period in the Greater Glasgow area with three broad objectives:

- An improvement in the support available to victims of rape and serious sexual crime;
- An improvement in the experience of the criminal justice process for victims of rape and serious sexual crime; and
- The development of a better understanding of motivations to proceed or not to proceed within the criminal justice process and what difference advocacy support makes to this decision.

The first of its kind in Scotland, the project is funded through the Scottish Government until 31st March 2018 and will be externally evaluated to determine the extent to which these objectives are met.

Liaising between survivors and other agencies is crucial to the service in order to meet the needs and promote the rights of survivors. A woman led process, the Support & Advocacy Service will assist and empower survivors to become active participants in accessing their rights, to recover, seek justice and move forward from sexual violence.



Support and Advocacy Service Launch Attendee feedback

“A good introduction to the advocacy project”

“RASAC events are always good and I always learn”

“Speakers (were) very informative and though provoking”

“(What I liked most about the launch) was the combo of the information, the presentation and the message of the one woman play”

We would like to thank everyone who attended and contributed to the discussions at the launch. Thanks to John Malpass from the Procurator Fiscal who gave a wonderful talk on the criminal justice system and Naomi Breeze who performed the one woman performance about a survivor's experience of sexual assault, reporting and the courts. If you would like to know more about the Support and Advocacy Service please contact Carolyn on 01738 626290

RASAC Training

SUPPORTING PROFESSIONALS TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THE IMPACT OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE

As part of our values we believe that if we are ever going to reach our goal of living in a society free from rape and sexual abuse, prevention and training is key. We deliver a wide range of prevention activities and learning opportunities in school and in youth settings for young people through our RASAC Youth Initiative. Our training programme aims to support professional and volunteers working with communities to better understand the impact of sexual violence and how to better support survivors in everyday services.

In the past year we have developed training and delivered training to a wide range of statutory and non-statutory organisations and professionals including; Police Scotland, prison staff, NHS, teaching staff, youth workers, family support organisations, social workers and foster carers. Our training is tailored to each group according to identified training needs of the participants.

In addition we have delivered 3 rounds of our robust 60 hour internal training programme to all our volunteers and staff.

Our training programme covers a wide range of subjects and issues including (just a few);

- The Effects of Sexual Violence on Survivors
- The Effects of Sexual Violence on Young People
- Gender Based Violence
- Suicide and Self Harm
- The Effects of Pornography on Society and Young People
- Commercial Sexual Exploitation
- Honour Based Violence – Forced Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation
- Dealing with Disclosure

In the last 3 months we have delivered:

16 Training Sessions

74 Participant Attended

292 Hours of Training Delivered to Participants

Feedback from participants:

“(The training will change my practice as I will be more able to better support the families I work with using my new knowledge” – Suicide and Self Harm Session

“Thank you for the training, this will really benefit the women I support at the moment” – Suicide and Self Harm Session

“(I feel I am) more knowledgeable about resources...and more alert to society's attitudes and myths about sexual violence” – Effects of Sexual Violence on Young People Session

“I feel more confident about working with abused children than I have for a very long time, Thank you” – Effects of Sexual Violence on Young People Session

Training tailored to your needs

If you would like to know more about our training or are interested in discussing training options for your team then please contact Gwendoline our Training and Impact Worker on 01738 626290.



Training Feedback from Organisations:

Feedback from Circles – Supporting Families in Scotland

"The half day training...was extremely beneficial. The information provided was facilitated in a way that encouraged discussion about practice and the experiences the team had in working with some of the most vulnerable children, young people, parents and families...This creates learning that promotes confidence in the team in managing situations that they encounter on a day to day basis with the families they work alongside. Many Thanks again for a great training session"

Feedback from P&K Social Work – Family Placement Team

"The trainers delivered (the) training events in a knowledgeable, friendly, open manner, encouraging foster carers to participate and engage in discussion. Carers felt comfortable in doing so within the group and were animated in relating young people they care for with the behaviours related to the subjects. The uptake from foster carers for this type of training has been very positive and I have been requested to enquire about further events."

NEW RASAC PROJECT YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICE

WHAT'S THE NEED?

In April 2015 we reported that 67% of the women we worked with the previous year were first abused before the age of 20, with more than half of those being under the age of 13 years of age. In the last 12 months these number have once again increased as they have over the last few years.

We do realise that there are a number of reason for this increase including: the 'Operation Yewtree' effect where survivors feel more able and empowered to disclose due to feeling society is more open to listening; in addition our proactive work in schools and with young people (having worked with 4193 young people in schools and youth settings in 2015-2016) has also increased our referrals from young people substantially. Due to these circumstances, the last 12 months has seen referrals by young people continue to increase with 40% of all our referrals coming from young people. These significant increases in numbers supported us to secure the funding for a Young People and Family Worker to enable us to better support the substantial number of young people walking through our doors.

The new project will enable us to support young people and their families in the aftermath of abuse through one to one or group sessions. It will strengthen our existing prevention and support services through the provision of tailored family support as required. We have seen the devastating impact that abuse has on young people, their families and communities and we very much look forward to establishing a holistic and robust service for young people and families affected by rape, sexual abuse or exploitation across Perth & Kinross. To find out more please call Rachel on 01738 626290.

2015-2016

76% of the women we worked with in the last 12 months were first abused under the age of 20

40% of our referrals were from young people under the age of 24

33% of all our survivors are under the age of 24

"As her Dad I should have been able to protect her. I should have been able to do something. I think about that every day. I feel like I've failed her. But now I need to focus on helping her"

Quote from a dad whose daughter was assaulted



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