# Newsletter



Working together to end domestic violence and abuse Established 1975

## Keep Children SAFE Campaign



"We urgently need your support, to help children and their families to be safe, stay safe and to live their lives free from violence."

Forty children and their families are currently on our waiting list for SAFE's Children and Families programme. This is forty too many and that's just the tip of the iceberg. We know, all too well that children's and young people's exposure to domestic violence can have devastating and lifelong implications on mental and physical health and lead to later substance misuse, unemployment, and difficulty forming healthy adult relationships. Children might hear or see the violence; they might try and stop it, or be the one to call the police or ambulance. Children are also often the direct victims of violence in the home. These are not conditions for children to thrive.

We urgently need your support, to help children and their families to be safe, stay safe and to live their lives free from violence. After receiving support from our Children and Families workers children and young people tell us they feel safer, have better family relationships, feel better about themselves, feel more positive, have achieved goals, are better able to cope and know where to get help in the future.

"Thank you so much for all you have done for Sean, it has made a significant difference to him. ...he will talk positively about what you do and that he feels less angry. In school he is making good progress and is working hard to compromise when difficulties arise."

Safeguarding / Parent Family Support Advisor, Feb 2016 Child's name changed

If this issue is something close to your heart you can help us raise money so that no child has to wait and the many hundreds of other children and their families in Devon can also get help. Your help really will make a difference. To make a donation please go to our campaign page on Just Giving.

https://campaign.justgiving.com/charity/stopabuseforeveryone/keepchildrensafe

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### Volunteering at SAFE



"Our volunteers are our true champions giving the precious gift of their time."

Our most recent volunteer graduates with SAFE's Volunteer Coordinator, Sarah Richards.

These are the fabulous smiles of some of our volunteers above who have just completed our 10 week course in 'Understanding the Causes and Effects of Domestic Abuse'. This training is offered by SAFE and North Devon Against Domestic Abuse in partnership for our volunteers. The course is accredited with the National Open College Network and our next course will start in June for another 14 volunteers. SAFE's volunteer programme began 1 year ago and already I wonder how we ever managed without them. Our volunteers work with adults and children who have experienced domestic violence and abuse, help with administration, fundraising and social media. Our volunteers are our true champions giving the precious gift of their time.

"Finding SAFE and being offered the opportunity to work and train with such dedicated and passionate professionals has given me a new beginning, a place with people that value me and put my knowledge to very good use. I am proud to be one of their volunteers and will be so for many years to come".

Sue April 2016



### Look what's coming up!

A fun night out with Celia Delaney & you get to support SAFE at the same time. It can't get any better than that!

Get your tickets from http://manfound.eventbrite.co.uk

## A farewell message from our Chair



"I will be stepping down at the end of June, confident that the Board is a really super group".

CEO Jacinta Wainwright & outgoing Chair Chris Collier at SAFE's 40th celebration

In November SAFE held its 40th anniversary and it was good to set other matters aside at our AGM to celebrate the achievements and the impact that the work of our charity has made to so many lives. Staff, volunteers and trustees both past and present, stakeholders, partners and our supporters joined in this happy occasion. A display of our history from humble beginnings - through peaks and tougher times - was illustrated by some evocative old photographs, newspaper cuttings, documents and affecting and empowering stories from service users.







Old photographs from the Exeter Refuge

Despite raising much needed funding from grants and trusts, financial challenges continue. At the end of the year, the Board resolved that we would only continue with funded roles and that we could not continue funding posts through reserves. Sadly hours have been cut in several posts and at the end of his contract, the post of Boy and Young Men's worker ended. These most regrettable changes will allow the charity to continue its work through this period. The Board is resolute in gaining funding and as soon as the financial situation improves affected staff will be invited to increase hours and/or submit expressions of interest in new posts as part of this process.

A programme of fund-raising events has already raised much needed funds in the last few months from some generous initiatives: a theatre production by the Lympstone Players, a charity ball arranged by a past service user: Family Law's series of Cream Teas: South West Angels of Terror Women's Roller Derby Team's collections: a staff member completing a sponsored walk. If you wish to put on an event for our benefit, do get in touch as we can provide materials and would be very glad to support you.

I will be stepping down at the end of June, confident that the Board is a really super group with a wide diversity of skills and experience and that the leadership of our CEO is skilled and strong and that they work and contribute well together.

Chris Collier

#### We are on



Yes that right, SAFE is soon to launch our Ebay page and we are looking for donations of small quality goods to sell and raise money to keep our services going and reach the many more women and children who would like our help.

We have no store and limited storage so we cannot accept furniture items. Quality clothes, bric a brac and other small quality items is what we need. If you would like to make a donation or to find out more about what goods we can sell please pop into the office or contact Sue Hobbs on 030 3030 0112. Sue is in the office on Wednesdays.

### And it doesn't end there...



We have joined TheGivingMachine which will allow you to generate cash donations without it costing you a penny. There are over 8000 schools & charities taking part in this program, with the successful causes raising £1,000's every year at no extra cost to their supporters!

TheGivingMachine is a UK registered charity, whose sole aim is to facilitate raising money for UK charitable causes and schools. By shopping online via TheGivingMachine at your favourite shops will generate a free cash donation with every single purchase. With stores like Amazon, Ebay, M&S, NEXT, Tesco, Sainsbury and John Lewis taking part with hundreds more, you are bound to find what you want from your favourite shops at TheGivingMachine.

Please join our new giving community by visiting www.TheGivingMachine.co.uk and join to support Stop Abuse For Everyone; it's quick and simple to sign up and start giving for free.

It really is as simple as that. Please ensure you don't miss this opportunity to give while you are shopping and help spread the word to raise as much as we can from this amazing program. Your help will make a difference.

Many thanks for your support. <a href="https://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk/beneficiary-portal/view/stop-abuse-for-everyone/">https://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk/beneficiary-portal/view/stop-abuse-for-everyone/</a>



Or there... You can now find us on Facebook & keep up to date with news, events & campaigns

Find out more about SAFE at www.safe-services.org.uk

Call us on 030 3030 0112

Our mailing address is 1 Queens Road Exeter EX29ER