

**Southwark VAWG  
services  
January 2015**



# Overview of council VAWG services

- Southwark Advocacy and Support Service (SASS)
- Refuge provision
- Independent Sexual Violence Advocate
- YUVA
- Southwark Intensive Support (SIS)
- Redthread King's College A&E (KYSS)

# Overview of council VAWG services contd.

- Safety App
- Safe Equal and Healthy Relationships (SHER) Programme
- Multiagency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC)
- Multiagency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)
- Troubled families programme

# Overview of council VAWG services

## **Southwark Advocacy and Support Service (SASS) delivered by Solace Women's Aid**

- A borough wide flagship service, with a new centre for domestic violence and a single point of entry – one phone number, one email
- 24/7 access to the service, with an advocate response time to high risk victims of four hours
- Services for all male and female victims of domestic abuse over 16
- Specialist support programmes for children and young people, with parallel workshops for mothers
- Training days for external agencies
- A domestic abuse champions training programme for up to 60 nominated council staff per year
- Domestic abuse awareness workshops for up to 48 survivors a year and survivor peer support groups
- A perpetrator programme
- A service user forum and a volunteer programme, open to local residents
- Added value in terms of access to an advice service and peer support programmes
- A sanctuary scheme to prevent victims becoming homeless
- Specialist Counselling for victims of sexual and domestic abuse

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## **Refuge provision**

The council commissions an accommodation based service for women at risk of domestic abuse provided by Refuge. The service provides short term accommodation and assists in the prevention of instances of repeated domestic abuse. The service also works with women in the transition from moving to alternative accommodation suitable to their needs.

## **Independent Sexual Violence Advocate (ISVA)**

The ISVA service, delivered by Victim Support, offers one to one emotional and practical support to the victims of sexual crime. It also provides advice and information on all elements of the criminal justice system including support at court where requested. The service is delivered by suitably qualified personnel specialising in the support of victims of sexual crime.

The ISVA service focuses on support for all victims of sexual crime addressing all negative issues linked to the crime including, safety, emotional health, physical health, housing, criminal injuries compensation, court processes, police processes.

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**YUVA:** Adolescent perpetrator programme for 11 to 25 years old who have been abusive to their parents/carers and/or in their close relationships. YUVA help young people to look at their abusive behaviour and find safe, non-abusive alternatives. The team also work with the parents/carers of the young people who are involved with their service.

**Southwark Intensive Support (SIS):** Mentoring and advocacy support to young women who are at risk or associated with gangs. SIS work specifically with referrals received from the Southwark Anti-Violence Unit (SAVU). The support offered is an intensive and on a one to one basis with clear objectives and outcomes to enable the young adult to make positive and healthy decisions about the future.

**Redthread A&E pilot:** This pilot at King's College Hospital provides support and where appropriate follow agreed referral pathways to statutory services to improve girls' sexual health. The service will work with young vulnerable females to enable them to improve their sexual health, mental health and engagement with statutory services including education.

**Safety App:** Safety smart phone app designed to work smarter and more effectively through the use of phone, web and IT interventions to create a network of safety mechanisms for Southwark residents to keep themselves safe and connected to their friends and family. The app users will be enabled to set up networks of 'best friends' to stay connected with family and friends and allow them to ask for assistance when they are feeling vulnerable.

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**Safe Equal and Healthy Relationships (SHER) Programme:** Focused on prevention work, SHER started as an international project which saw over 300 young people in Southwark taking part in sessions to increase awareness of what is and isn't a healthy relationship and prevent them from becoming victims or perpetrators of domestic abuse in the future. In 2013/14 SHER programme will be delivered in 3 secondary schools to promote awareness of healthy relationships and combat domestic and dating abuse.

**MARAC:** Monthly multi agency conference to ensure the safety of women at high risk of domestic abuse. Information about the risks faced by those victims is shared in detail and decisions are made to increase the safety, health and wellbeing of domestic abuse victims, both adults and for their children. It also gives consideration to the perpetrator and what intervention are available.

**MASH:** It went live in September 2013 bringing together key agencies to share information to support more informed decision making around families. All referrals to the MASH are reviewed by each agency including health, the police, education and social care to provide a single view of a family. The collated information supports more robust identification of specific risk factors including child sexual exploitation, Female Genital Mutilation and levels/risk of domestic abuse.

**Troubled families programme:** Southwark has committed to work with 1,085 'troubled families' who are facing problems including parents not working, children not in school, crime and anti-social behaviour and domestic abuse. It also focuses on a range of additional risk factors which support identification of potential and incidents of violence against women and girls.