



(SADA) Annual Report

April 2023/24

Working in partnership with



What is SADA?

Survivors Against Domestic Abuse (SADA) is a holistic approach to working alongside survivors of domestic abuse, with support also extending to families. The service offers crisis intervention, together with client-led support and signposting to other agencies suited to the individual and their own situation. We offer a range of unique service provisions including offering safe accommodation consisting of 35 self-contained properties which are available to men and women and we are a recognised national refuge provider with our own women's refuge. We run various drop-in services, courses and events to give ongoing support to our survivors. The SADA service is county-wide and supports survivors from all areas of Hertfordshire, and beyond.



Stevenage and North Herts Women's Centre

We have access to use the centre up to three times per week. This space will be just for women, to complete courses and to meet in a safe and comfortable environment. This space includes a large activity area, kitchen facilities, office space, toilets and free WIFI.

SADA looks forward to being able to offer the space to various partner agencies such as the Red Kite support service, For Baby's Sake and Safer Places.

Stevenage and North Herts Women's Centre



This space will be just for women, to complete courses, join drop in services and to meet in a safe and comfortable environment. This space includes a large activity area, kitchen facilities, office space, toilets and free WIFI.

The building has recently been refurbished and is ready to use for all kinds of groups and services. SADA look forward to being able to offer the space to various partner agencies.



For more information or to book the use of the centre please contact the team at roundwood, centre@stevenage.gov.uk or give us a call on 01438 242666 and ask for SADA.

STEVENAGE AND NORTH HERTS DISTRICT COUNCIL

Stevenage
Borough Council

Out of hours service provision

The SADA out of hours services allow us to continue our support out of office hours, enabling survivors to be able to contact the team at any time, including the weekends. This is available to all professionals and clients, 24 hours a day, seven days per week.



Survivors Against Domestic Abuse Panel SADAP

Our SADAP panel is unique to our service and is key to keeping people safe and sharing vital information.

Every six weeks we hold a multi-agency panel meeting (SADAP) and this is attended by external and internal partners. The purposes of this panel is to report and record low to medium risk cases of domestic abuse and ensure that we fully support all survivors of domestic abuse regardless of their risk rating.

Conclusion of the SADA Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Feedback Project.

Between September 2021 and March 2024, The SADA service were commissioned by Cambridgeshire County Council to work on a project that allowed us to collate and share feedback from young people and adults who had experienced domestic abuse within Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

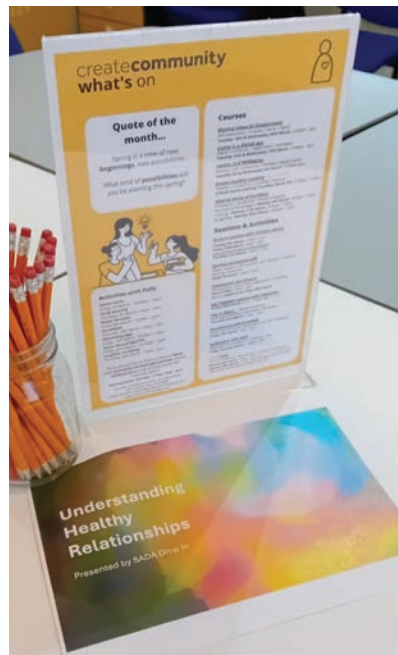
The project was an opportunity for both survivors of domestic abuse and young people to highlight the positive and potentially negative experiences during their victim journey.

Although the project has come to an end it provided a great forum for victims/survivors and young people to have a voice and talk about their experiences, provided learning opportunities for all services that they can use to assess their processes and ways of working and highlighted Best Practice.

Between 1 September 2021 and 31 March 2024, we have collected 416 samples of feedback from victims/survivors and children and young people. 34 YP 186 interviews and 196 through an online survey.

Projects SADA supports or runs

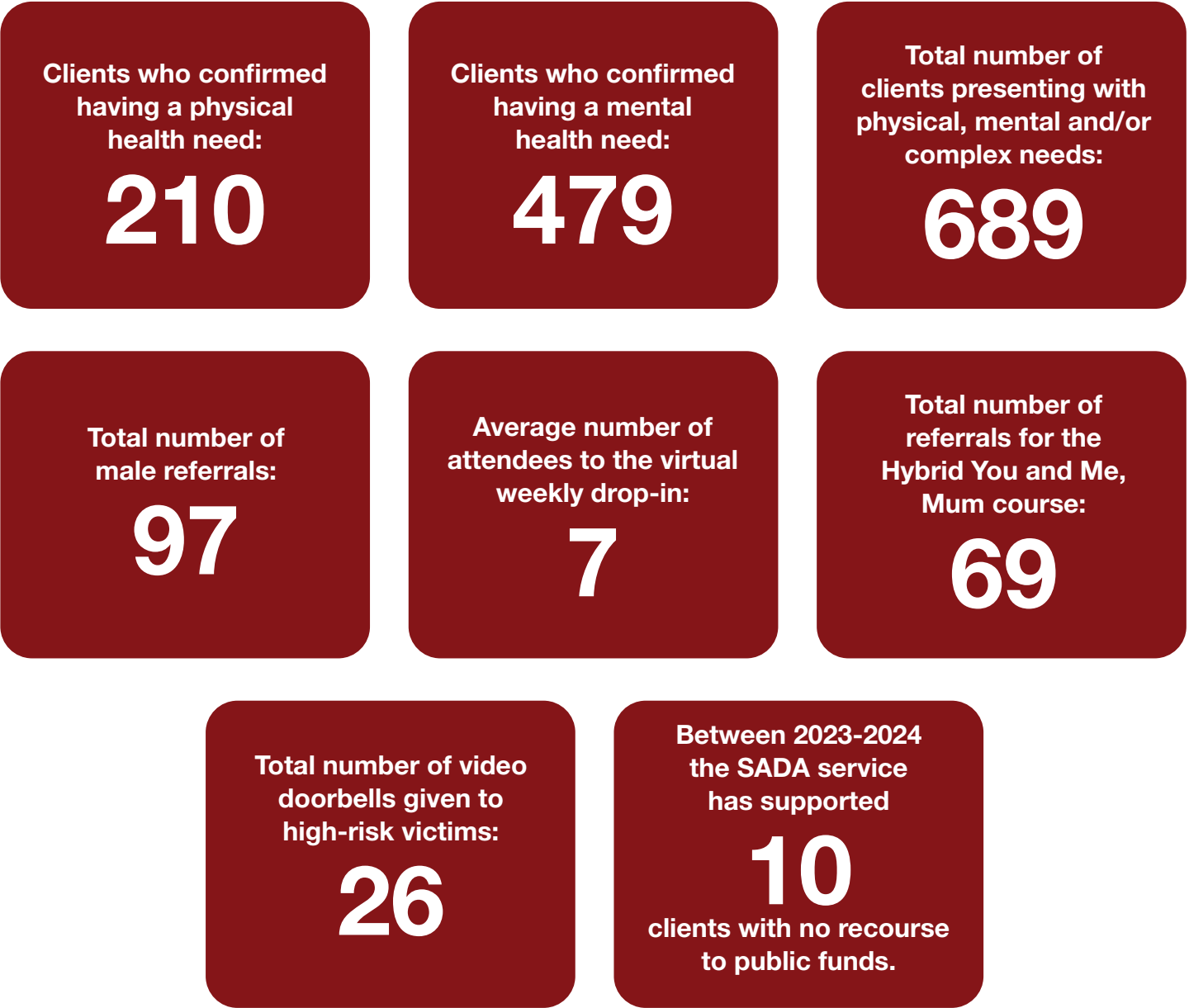
- You, Me, and Mum hybrid course
- White Ribbon Ambassadors
- My Bear book, bear and bags
- Modern Slavery Service
- Food and Essentials support
- Virtual drop-in
- SADA Forum
- Face to Face drop in services
- CARE Workshops
- Perpetrator Programme – Evolve



North Herts and St Nicholas (Stevenage) Deprivation Project

After a successful pilot project in North Herts that saw us provide clients with support, supermarket vouchers, mobile phones, safety app access, food banks in local school and safe accommodation and more we have decided to pilot the project with Stevenage focussing on the St Nicholas area. We continue to work with all partners in these areas to further develop and expand the project and ensure the provision is right for victims and survivors and partner agencies.

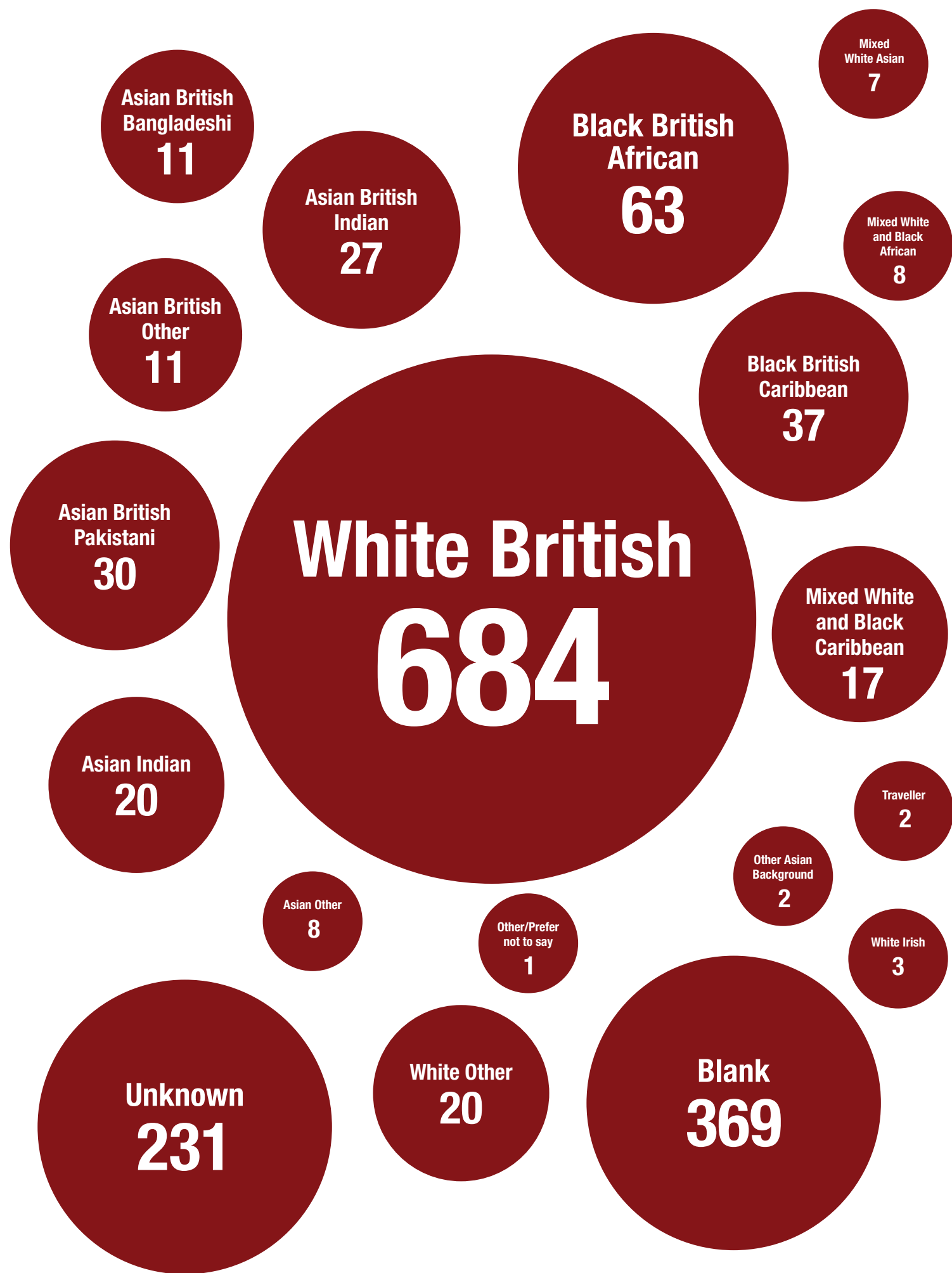
The total number referred to SADA for intensive support was 1551



SADA Income 23/24

The total income for SADA 23/24 was £574,597.76

Ethnic origins for all areas:



SADA Safe Spaces

The SADA Safe Space provision has increased, and we now have 35 properties. SADA can offer a stay of up to three months in our move on properties, supplying all household items, furniture, food and toiletries. These clients are supported by our specialist domestic abuse support workers to move forward with their lives. SADA will continue to expand on this provision.

SADA has supported a total of 77 families/clients in safe space provision. This provided a safe space and support to 77 children.

At any one-time SADA are able to support a total of 39 individuals or families in Safe Space accommodation.



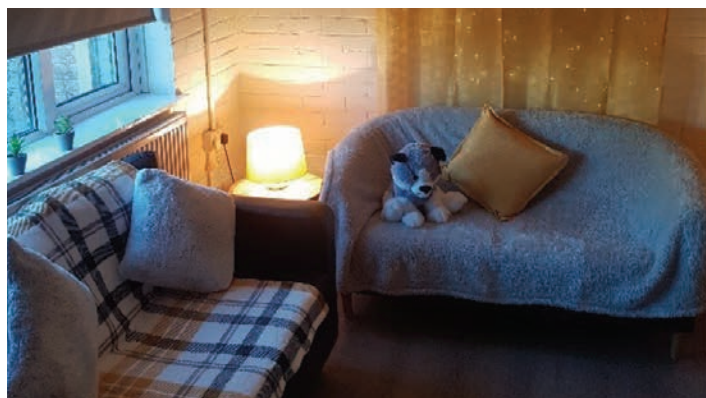
Stevenage Refuge

SADA House has a shared kitchen, dining room, lounge, and large private garden, two toilets and two bathrooms along with two family bedrooms and two smaller bedrooms. SADA House has the capacity to house two families which, as a maximum, could consist of a mum, two children and a baby up to two years of age in the two-family rooms and mum with a child under the age of two for the two smaller rooms.

Meetings with health visitors and the Family Centre have been arranged and we are pleased to say that they will be regular visitors to SADA House to support new mums and ensure they are engaging with the necessary support services, assisting in getting children into school and accessing the relevant health care.

Our refuge staff have been working with our refuge clients to help them to feel more comfortable during their stay. They have had painting and colouring sessions. Refuge have put together a little basket for the adults with art supplies and colouring pages. This has proved to be successful and kept residents occupied throughout the day. We have also had a couple of cooking sessions which the residents have enjoyed and we are looking to do some more going forward.

We have accepted 19 people/families into refuge this year. This included support to 13 Children in our SADA House Refuge.



SADA House Refuge Garden Party

We had the honour of hosting a garden party at our SADA house refuge, to share our beautiful safe home with many of our partner professionals. It was a fantastic opportunity to see the support available to survivors at SADA House and to have a moment to speak with our survivors. Joining us for the occasion was our Mayor Myla Arceno, Leader Richard Henry and Cllr Jackie Hollywell of Stevenage Borough Council.



SADA Dog Therapy Project

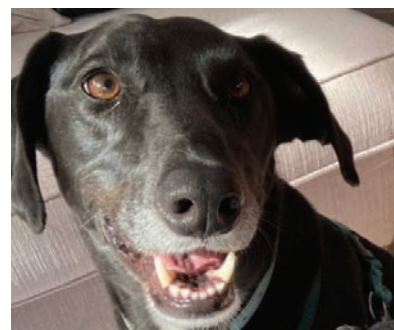
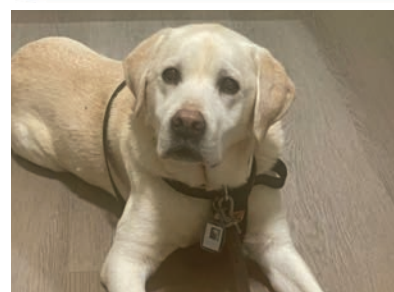
Our SADA refuge and drop-in services have been working in partnership with the fantastic Pets As Therapy, to provide a therapy dog for our refuge and drop in service users. The beautiful Molly and Abbie and their handlers have had such a positive impact on the adults and children at our refuge and drop in, that they are now regular visitors. We collected some feedback from our residents to see what they think of our furry friends.

‘I find the dog really relaxing especially after I have had a tough and stressful day.’

‘My little boy with autism absolutely adores the dog. He loves feeding her treats and he is so relaxed around her which is lovely to see.’

‘It prompts my children to leave their room and get some breathing space for the afternoon. They get so excited knowing the dog is coming.’

‘The dog is adorable and its always nice having the dog as it brings us all together for a bit and it’s a nice environment to be around.’



SADA Events 23/24

The team looks to raise awareness of the services wherever possible. Since April 2023 we have attended events including;

- Stevenage Day
- Council Partnerships MDS Meeting
- Substance Misuse Symposium
- Welwyn Community Open Day
- Welwyn Community Open Day
- Watford & Three Rivers DA and VAWG Forum
- Annual Partners' Celebration Event
- SADA House Refuge Garden Party
- SADA Café Exhibition
- Herts Drug and Alcohol Symposium
- International Women's Day
- Hertfordshire Law School Criminology and Criminal Justice (CJC) Careers Fair



SADA Exhibition Café

Our SADA Café Exhibition was to support the national campaign 16 Days of Action Against Domestic Abuse. We exhibited everyday items from our survivors that act as a trigger, as well as sharing some of our information and survivor stories. We shared items alongside the survivors' explanations, which also included items from our own SADA staff. This supported a lot of professionals to better understand the effects of Domestic Abuse and was extremely impactful. Some of our survivors even visited their items on show and spent time with staff during their lunch.



PLEASE JOIN US FOR LUNCH AND TO ENJOY OUR UNIQUE EXHIBITION

This exhibition will feature everyday triggers from survivors.

Lunch is available for a small donation from 12pm

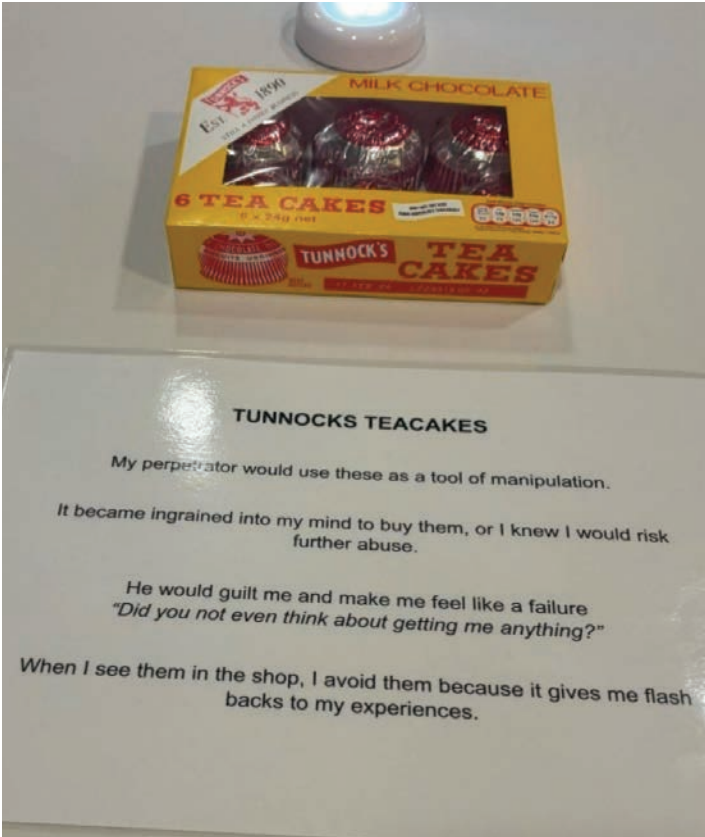
The exhibition will be available to view from 2pm onwards

RSVP by Friday 3 November

22 November 2023 12–2pm
Ingelheim Lounge,
Daneshill House SG1 1HN

STEVENAGE AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE

Don't suffer in silence
Put a stop to domestic abuse



Christmas Support from SADA and raising awareness.

SADA was able to continue its support to our community and worked hard at Christmas to supply families with festive food parcels and goodies. We supplied all the children with Christmas gifts. We sent personalised Christmas videos from the SADA Santa and elves, to all the families keeping safe in refuge and safe spaces. Santa and his elves took a little trip to visit the SADA House Refuge this year, as our families must have been on his good list!



SADA Training

SADA has continued to spread its awareness and support services across Hertfordshire. It is now regularly offering domestic abuse awareness training to partners and local services and can serve the training to the needs of the recipients.

All these sessions include training around The DASH risk assessment tool, Safety planning and guidance around the new Domestic Abuse Bill. We have run several successful sessions in the last quarter.

Total number of completed domestic abuse awareness and champions training sessions -

32 training sessions – 480 attendees

White Ribbon Presentations -

**5 sessions run – 50 attendees roughly –
6 female and 11 male champions/ambassadors.**

SADA also offers Modern Slavery Introduction and Awareness training alongside our Modern Slavery Services. We have provided 14 training sessions to internal and external professionals across Hertfordshire, including all of Stevenage Borough Council, Communities Advice and Support Teams.



SADA Virtual Drop In services

We have been running our Virtual Drop-in service for a few years now and it is very well established. We meet every Friday from 10.30 to 11.30am in a very informal meeting. We discuss various things, and we share various lite bite courses around anxiety, depression, control, healthy relationships, and various other aspects of life potentially effecting a survivor.



SADA Face To Face Drop in Services

Our face-to-face drop-in sessions held at our Stevenage and North Herts Women's Centre every other Thursday and in North Herts every other Monday. These have become extremely popular recently with clients in the Stevenage area and we will hopefully see this in North Herts too.

As part of our drop in we obtained funding to have a warm space which enables us to have a small food bank (Stevenage Drop In).



CARE Workshops

For 2024 we are launching our new CARE workshops. This is a three-part workshop designed to look at all aspects of domestic abuse in a three-part intensive course. It is a workshop put together by survivors for survivors. This is completely gender neutral and the aim is to have an offer of support to all our survivors either in person or virtually. Each workshop is between 2/3 hours in duration and covers the following.

- **Workshop 1**
Understanding Domestic Abuse
- **Workshop 2**
Stalking Harassment and Technology Abuse
- **Workshop 3**
Resilience and moving forward



Examples of Donators and supporters

- Sainsbury's
- Letchworth Food Bank
- Tesco Theobald's Park express
- Wates
- Mayor's Charity / GSK
- Fawcett Society
- SADA Survivors
- Argos
- Friends Of SADA Charity
- Rapid Relief Team
- Brambles Childminding
- Balance Your Being UK
- Settle
- Herts Vintage Hire
- PSW Building Consultancy
- Kyle Smart Associates Limited
- HR Initiatives Ltd
- High Sheriff Sally Burton
- Councillors



A SADA Survivors Story

I'm a victim of Domestic Abuse and Human Trafficking, and after all the trauma in my life I was diagnosed with Depression, Anxiety and PTSD. I was lost and scared for my life, and I thought there was no way out, until I met SADA. I was supported and placed into a Safe Space, with everything I needed. The Safe Space Home was a very nice place to live, and the lovely support workers helped me through my journey. I am now on my way to recovery after everything that has happened.

They provided me with support that gave me the strength I needed. SADA helped to reunite me with my children after not seeing them for nearly 8 months straight. They also supported me with my housing process. I still get their support even after moving out from the Sada Safe space.

I can't thank them enough for everything they've done for me and my kids and the support I'm still getting.

Thank You SADA and all the caring workers.

SADA clients' feedback

Thank you so much for saving my life. You have pulled me out to the safe and warm shelter right on time considering how unbearable cold the weather is now. I'm very happy where I'm now and SADA are absolute Angels and helping me to stand up on my feet again and bounce back.

Speaking to you was more helpful than I thought it would be.

Although the outcome of speaking to the police was not what I wanted, I would like to thank you for your support and feel that without your intervention, I would probably never have left him until my life was in danger.

I wish you all the best in what you continue to do and thank you for helping realize that life isn't as bad as it needs to be.

I'm so glad I met you, you have been wonderful I couldn't have done any of this without you.

You saved my life this morning, I felt like nobody cared and then you called me, I appreciate everything you've done so much.

Can't thank you enough for helping us when we really needed it, you made such a difference to our lives, we're stronger together now, more than ever.

Thank you so much for everything, I cannot wait to start my life and see my kids.

I just wanted to say a huge thank you to you and your team for helping me with this client. I was struggling to safeguard her and the children due to barriers that came about when local statutory agencies were looking at this case as someone who is involved rather than a victim. I would love to see this model being mirrored in each county across Great Britain as it really does give a victim/child all the tools to move forward with their lives.

I would like to thank you for all your help you have given. I will never forget the day I met you in front of the safe house that you were there to help me from this darkness. Thank you so much.

I'm so thankful for everything you have done and for the whole SADA team, this help is something I will cherish.

