



# Survivors Against Domestic Abuse (SADA) Annual Report April 2024/25

Working in partnership with



# What is SADA?

Survivors Against Domestic Abuse (SADA) takes a holistic, person-centred approach to supporting individuals affected by domestic abuse, extending that support to their families as well. The service is inclusive and focuses on placing the client first, ensuring they are at the forefront of all decision-making. We understand that each survivor of domestic abuse has unique needs and circumstances. Our support services are designed to empower individuals and provide them with the resources they need to rebuild their lives. Our multi-agency approach ensures that survivors receive support tailored to their individual needs. By working closely with local authorities, partner agencies and community organisations, we have created a network of resources that addresses every aspect of a survivor's journey.



SADA Received a total of

**1607**  
referrals for  
intensive support.

Clients who  
confirmed they  
have a physical  
health need:

**86**

Clients who  
confirmed they  
have a mental  
health need:

**202**

Total number of video  
doorbells given to  
high-risk victims:

**21**

Total number of  
referrals for men:

**158**  
That is an increase  
of 62.8% since the  
previous review.

Total number of  
referrals for the  
Hybrid You and Me,  
Mum course:

**190**

The SADA service has  
supported

**7 clients**  
with no recourse to  
public funds.

Ethnic origins for all areas:



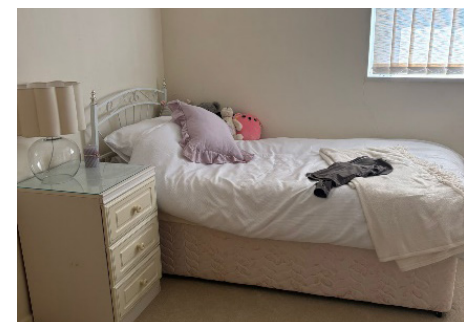
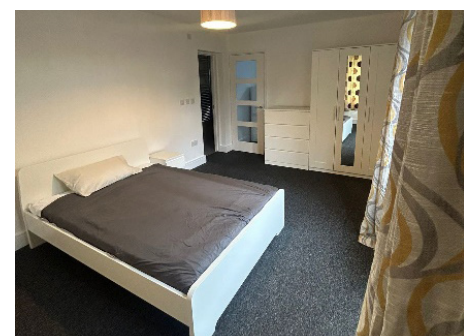
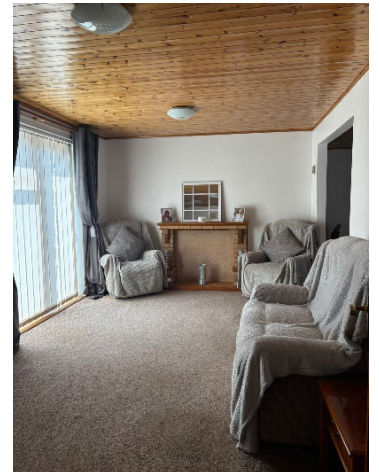


# SADA Safe Spaces

SADA has the capacity to provide clients with Safe Space accommodation in fully furnished properties, complete with essential food items and toiletries to ensure a safe and comfortable stay. This provision continues to expand, with a current portfolio of 41 properties. 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 76 families/clients in our safe space provision. This provided a safe space and support to 87 children.**

**At any one-time SADA can support a total of 82 individuals or 20 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 actively supporting clients to feel more at ease and at home during their stay. As part of our wellbeing initiative, we've introduced a range of creative and therapeutic activities, including painting, cooking, healthy eating, outdoor play, and community outings. To encourage relaxation and self-expression, we've also provided adult art baskets filled with supplies and colouring pages, alongside regular painting and colouring sessions. A lot of the activities have been supported by local businesses that support the work of SADA, these include GRATTE Brothers, Sainsbury's, Warburton, Glaze Creations and the Letchworth food bank.

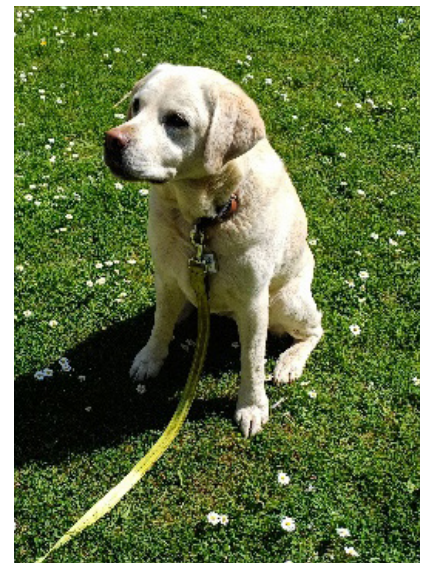
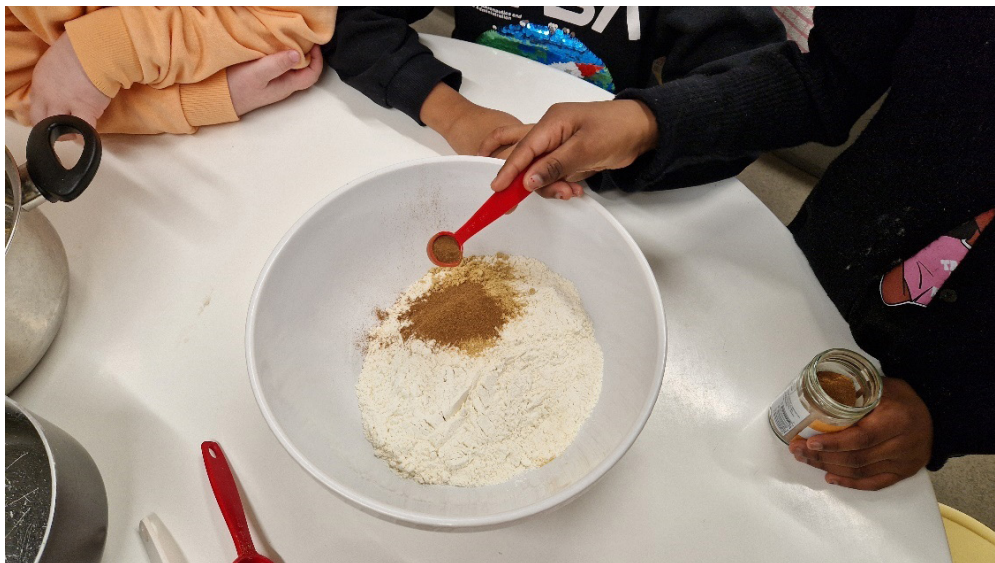
**We have had 20 people/families at refuge, including the placement of 14 children. On average we have families stay at the Refuge for 6 months to a year before they move out and secure suitable long-term housing.**





# Refuge Activity Sessions

- Baking cinnamon rolls and gingerbread
- Baking cupcakes
- Therapy Dog sessions
- Football game
- Unicorn drawing
- Christmas tree decorating
- Visit from Santa
- Mindful colouring
- Baking Gingerbread Biscuits
- Christmas Colouring/Craft
- Maths & Activity Sheets
- Design your own Chocolate Bar Activity
- Decorating Valentines Biscuits
- Outdoor activities
- Painting Tiles



## Out of hours service provision

The SADA out of hours service allows 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 are 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.

**SADA has heard a total of 344 at the panel from April 24/25.**

## Long Term Support

SADA has Long-Term support service available from the SADA services. This service provides support through phone calls signposting and our drop-in sessions and courses where the client can access peer support from other clients as well as other partner agencies. Examples of the type of support service users can expect includes legal advice, debt and benefit advice and housing from one of our partnership agencies. From April 2024 to March 2025, 224 clients have benefited from this type of support.

## Projects SADA supports or facilitates

- 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

## **SADA Events 24/25**

The team looks to offer advice and raise awareness of the services we provide and those of our partner agencies. Since April 2024 we have attended events including;

**Stevenage Day**

**Council  
Partnerships  
MDS (Modern  
Day Slavery)  
Meeting**

**Watford & Three  
Rivers DA and  
VAWG (Violence  
Against Women  
and Girls) Forum**

**Christopher  
Hall Echoes'  
Exhibition  
St Albans**

**SADA Echoes'  
Exhibition**

**Herts Drug  
and Alcohol  
Symposium**

**Stevenage  
Equalities  
Commission**

**Opals Event**





# SADA Echoes' Exhibition

Our SADA Echoes Exhibition was held in support of the national '16 Days of Action Against Domestic Abuse' campaign, providing a powerful platform to raise awareness and amplify the voices of survivors, as well as sharing some of our information and survivor stories. This supported a lot of professionals to better understand the effects of Domestic Abuse and was extremely impactful.







## **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 our accommodations with Christmas gifts. Santa and his elves took a little trip to visit the SADA House Refuge and Safe Space homes this year, as our families must have been on his good list!

We were also lucky enough to be able to supply all our homes with a Christmas dinner parcel and support families with a trip out to the pantomime or cinema. This really helped our families to feel at home during such difficult times.

## **SADA Training**

SADA has continued to raise awareness and support partner agencies across Hertfordshire and is now regularly offering domestic abuse awareness training to partners and can be tailored to the needs of the partner agencies.

All the training packages offered include training around how to use the Dash Risk Assessment, Safety Planning and guidance around the Domestic Abuse Bill. We have completed several sessions in the last quarter.

**White Ribbon Presentations – 5 sessions completed with 50 attendees signing up to become champions and ambassadors.**





## Stevenage and North Herts Women's Centre

SADA have access to the centre 3 times per week. This space is for women only to attend specialised courses. The centre offers a safe and comfortable environment including a large activity area, kitchen facilities and free WIFI.

The Womens Centre supports the work of other partner agencies including Red Kite, For Baby's Sake, Probation, Crossroads and the Advance Charity.

## SADA Virtual Drop In services

We have been running a Virtual Drop-in for a few years now and it has become well established and easy for people to attend. The drop in provides peer support for clients around the recovery of domestic abuse. The drop in also runs bite size courses around Anxiety, Depression, Control, Healthy Relationships. We meet every Friday from 10.30 to 11.30am

**We had a total of 57 attendees to our virtual drop in.**

### 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 roundmead, [centre@stevenage.gov.uk](mailto:centre@stevenage.gov.uk) or give us a call on 01438 242666 and ask for SADA.

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL



Stevenage BOROUGH COUNCIL



# SADA Face To Face Drop in Services

The Face-to-Face drop-in sessions take place at the Stevenage and North Herts Women's Centre every other Thursday and in North Herts every other Monday. They provide a safe space for clients to meet in person, rather than virtually.

During the sessions we cover various topics around Domestic Abuse which is client led. This includes understanding control, understanding anxiety/depression, healthy relationships, finances and budgeting and many more.

**Our Stevenage face to face drop in has had a total of 100 attendees attend the 22 drop-in sessions.**

**Our North Herts drop in has had a total of 44 attendees attend the 16 drop-in sessions.**



## Virtual domestic abuse drop-in service

Every Friday morning from 10.30 - 11.30am

**To provide support and advice to victims and survivors, and children living with domestic abuse**



For more information, please call 01438 242666 and ask for our Community Safety Team



## SADA Drop-In Evaluation 24/25



**144**

**Attendees to the face to face drop in sessions**

**57**

**Attendees to the virtual drop in sessions**

**UNDERSTANDING OF DOMESTIC ABUSE**

**100%**

Of clients agreed their level of understanding around Domestic Abuse has improved following the SADA drop in.

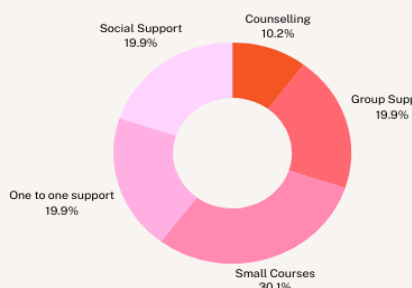
**ATTENDING FUTURE SESSIONS**

**100%**

Of clients would like to continue to access the drop in services and would recommend to other domestic abuse survivors.

### SUGGESTIONS OF TOPICS FOR FUTURE SESSIONS

Finances and small budget management  
Housing support  
Healing through roots of nature



### BREAKDOWN OF SUPPORT

Our drop in clients all come to group for various reasons and all get something different from the sessions.

### CLIENTS COMMENTS

These sessions are confidential and uplifting.

A superb service - Life saving!

I LOVE drop in, I look forward to it and have made some amazing connections.

I actually depend on this group and I know I would be lost without it.

# CARE Workshops

In 2024 we launched the new CARE Workshops. This is a three-part course designed to cover all aspects of domestic abuse. This was put together by survivors for survivors. This course is gender neutral and the aim is to be able to offer support to all 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



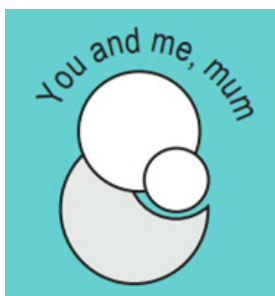
**SADA**  
**Income 24/25**  
The total income for  
SADA 24/25 was  
**£415,433.79**



# North Herts Deprivation Project

Deprivation and poverty may be associated with domestic abuse. That is not to say that it directly causes domestic abuse but may exacerbate it.

The project is enabling SADA to work in those areas of North Herts where we know there is under reporting of domestic abuse. We are working collaboratively with partners to support victims, survivors and those closest to them. The project aims to bring people together and build stronger relationships between services and service users across the community.



SADA believes that Food Poverty and the cost-of-living crisis may be causing strains on relationships which in some cases can incite domestic abuse. By working with local schools, we've been able to set up a number of foodbanks "inhouse" for victims to access and provide vouchers to clients to enable them to purchase essential items such as groceries, nappies or clothing to enriching a sense of independence and help families remain safe.

As part of the project, SADA supported four children to access holistic and creative support through the use of an independent Art Therapist to help those children heal, grow, and thrive emotionally and developmentally.





# SADA clients' feedback

Me and my three children resided in two refuges over a period of time last year. We moved into our last safe house and we as a team managed to obtain a tenancy out of the last safe house. Me and my three children are so so thankful and happy where we are now, with the amazing hard work and support from SADA! Thank you to every single one of you that had supported us through a hard and stressful time of our lives. We have somewhere safe and secure now we can live happily and freely thank you SADA x

"I was living in a very abusive marriage, it felt like a nightmare that would never end. I never thought I would be able to escape, but the day I came to the refuge my life changed. I started taking courses, eating well, and sleeping peacefully, things I hadn't been able to do for a long time. Most importantly, I found hope again, and I am so much happier now and looking forward to my future.

The team at Sada, especially India, have helped me so much, not just with emotional support, but also with everyday life. I feel stronger and more confident about my future. I am very grateful to be in a place where I feel safe, supported, and hopeful again. Thank you"



I have currently been residing in a SADA accommodation for roughly 13 months now, after fleeing domestic abuse what was very traumatic for me given the fact i have children to protect as well as myself, and since contacting SADA and since being accommodated for the safety of my family they definitely have met the needs of me and my children and all the correct safety measures we have never felt so much security and support and relief! the safe spaces offered have been furnished and and clean! and homely ! so makes the process for us a lot easier. We have regular visits so we can get out anything that needs speaking upon or even so much as a friendly chat ! this has meant me and my children are safe supported and accommodated and minimal risks! this has meant we can start our life over again away from all kids of subjected abuse and be happy and the children safe in education and how we should be able to live freely ! our hopes for the furture will include us a forever home surrounded by family and new friends and we wouldn't be able to do this with our this support it felt like we had a grey cloud over us but now we have seen light at the end of the tunnel so we couldn't thank all the staff who has been apart of our journey any more. my children and myself can have the life we always wanted and needed.