



# Survivors Against Domestic Abuse (SADA) Annual Report April 2025/26

Working in partnership with



## What is SADA?

Survivors Against Domestic Abuse (SADA) delivers a holistic, person-centred service to individuals impacted by domestic abuse, extending support to their families and wider networks. At the heart of our approach is a commitment to inclusivity and empowering survivors to lead their own journey, ensuring their voice remains central to all decision-making.

We recognise that every individual's experience of domestic abuse is unique. Our tailored support services are designed to meet diverse needs, helping survivors rebuild their lives with confidence, safety, and independence.

SADA works through a strong multi-agency model, collaborating closely with local authorities, partner organisations, and community groups. This coordinated approach enables us to provide comprehensive, wraparound support that addresses the full range of challenges survivors may face, ensuring they have access to the right help at the right time.

SADA received a  
total of  
**966**  
referrals

Females -  
**91%**  
of referrals were for  
females

**100%**  
of referrals contact  
was attempted in  
under 24hrs

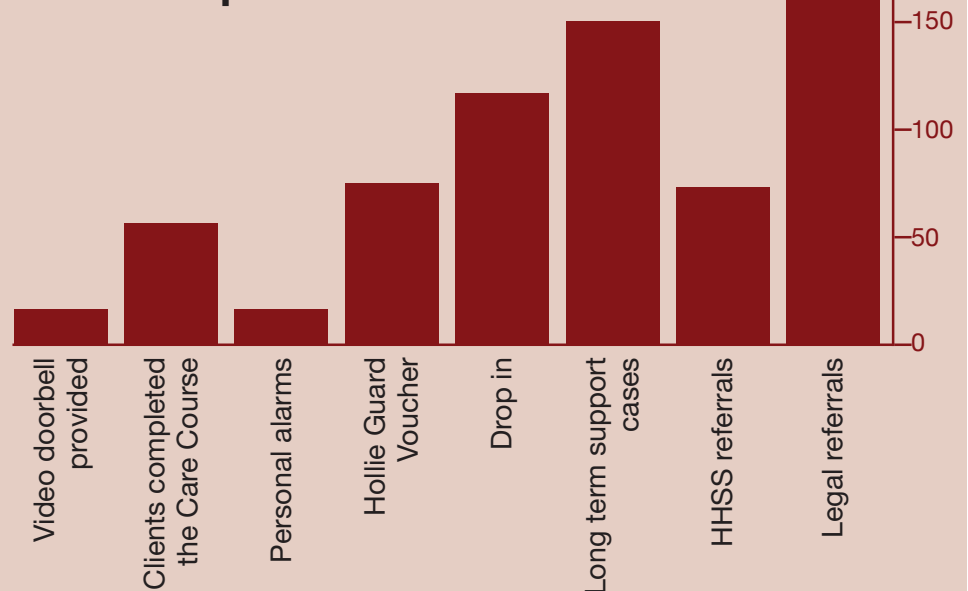
SADA supported  
**10**  
**clients**  
with NRPF

Men -  
**9%**  
of referrals  
were for men

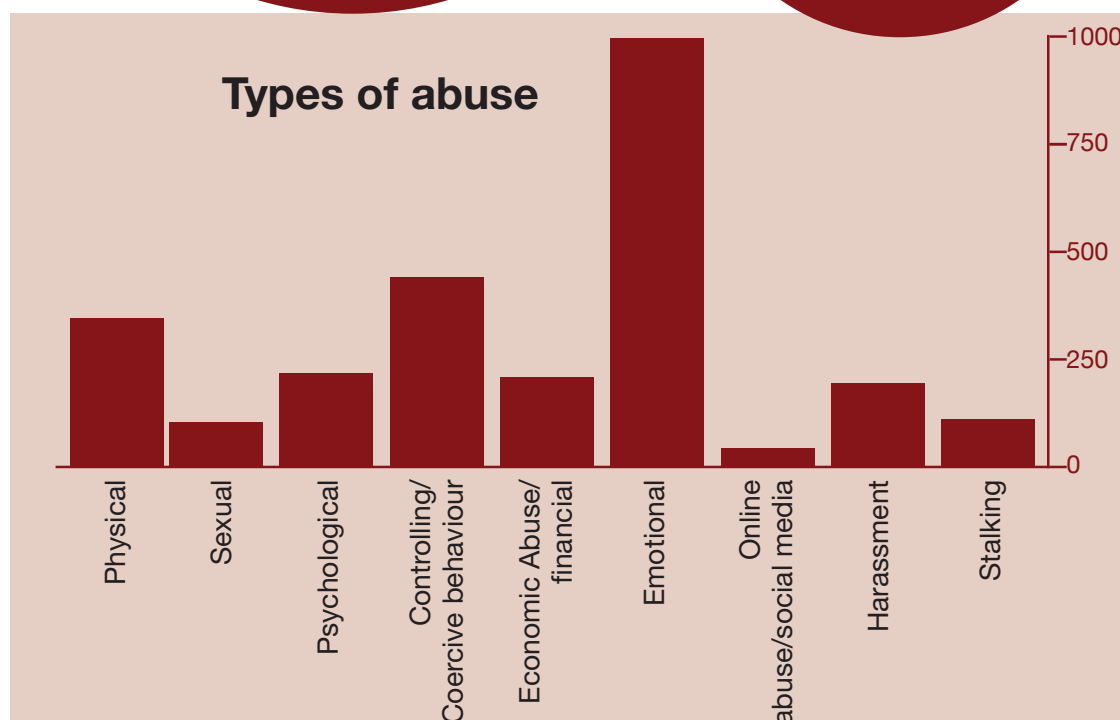
SADA supported  
**379**  
clients who had a  
MH need (53%)

SADA supported  
**163**  
clients with a  
Physical health  
need (28%)

### We have provided:



## Ethnic origins for all areas:

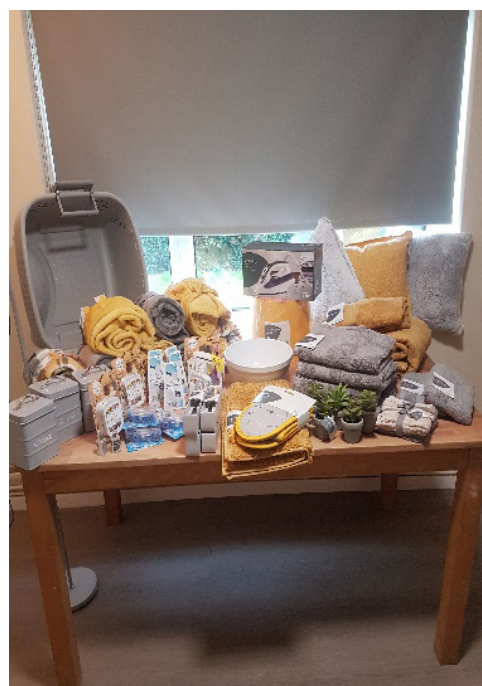
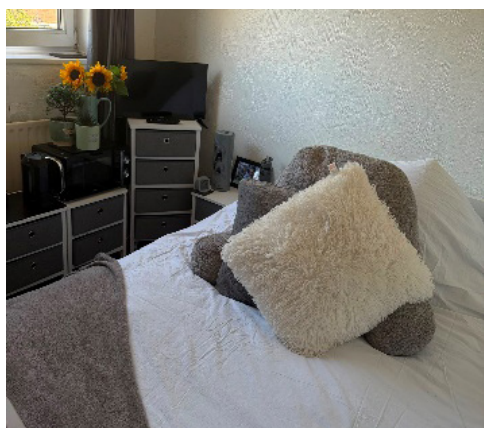


## Safe Space Accommodation

SADA continues to provide Safe Space accommodation for individuals experiencing domestic abuse, offering fully furnished properties equipped with essential food items and toiletries to ensure a safe, stable, and comfortable environment. SADA now manages a portfolio of 28 properties. Residents are supported by our specialist domestic abuse support workers, who provide tailored guidance and practical assistance to help individuals rebuild their lives and move towards independence.

**SADA remains committed to expanding this provision, strengthening our capacity to meet increasing demand and ensure that more survivors can access safe, supportive accommodation when they need it most.**

**SADA has supported a total of 79 families/clients in our Safe Space provision from April 2025 to March 2026 and 86 children.**



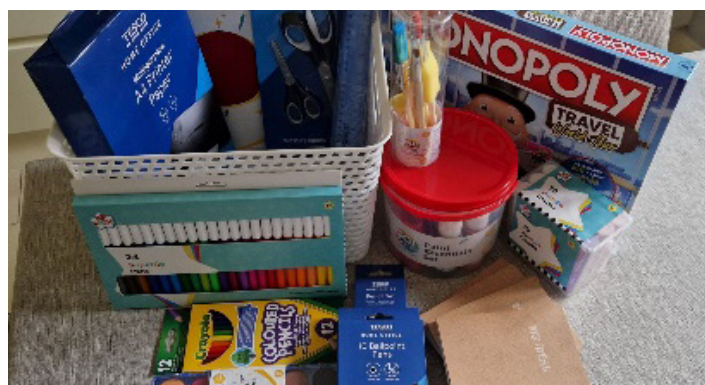
## SADA House 2025-2026

SADA House provides a safe, welcoming, and supportive environment for families fleeing domestic abuse. The accommodation includes shared living spaces—a kitchen, dining room, lounge, and large private garden—as well as two bathrooms, two toilets, two family bedrooms, and two smaller bedrooms. This allows us to accommodate up to two families alongside two additional mothers with young children, offering flexibility to meet a range of needs. We have strengthened partnership working to enhance support for residents, with regular visits from health visitors and the Family Centre. These partnerships ensure new mothers receive consistent guidance and can access essential services, including healthcare, early years support, and assistance with children's education.

Our refuge team plays a key role in helping residents feel safe, settled, and supported. We have expanded our wellbeing programme to include creative and therapeutic activities such as cooking, healthy eating, arts and crafts, outdoor play, and community outings, all aimed at promoting confidence, independence, and emotional wellbeing. Individual resources, including art packs and structured group activities, further support relaxation and self-expression.

These initiatives are strengthened by the generous support of local businesses and community partners, including GRATTE Brothers, The Hill Group, Sainsbury's, Warburtons, and Letchworth Food Bank, whose contributions enhance the experience of residents and foster a strong sense of community within SADA House.

SADA have supported 20 individuals and families within the refuge from April 2025 – March 2026, alongside 11 children. Each stay within the refuge is tailored to individual needs, with a focus on providing stability, promoting emotional wellbeing, and supporting residents to achieve safe and sustainable outcomes.



## Refuge Activity Sessions

Activities such as arts and crafts, festive drawing and making cornflake cakes support recovery by promoting creativity, reducing stress and improving emotional wellbeing. They provide the opportunity for families to spend positive time together, build confidence and develop supportive relationships with others. These activities reduce isolation, create a sense of normality, and enable survivors and their children to build positive memories whilst rebuilding their lives in a safe environment.

### OOH – Service Provision

SADA provides an Out of Hours Service for Safe Space clients, ensuring support is available beyond standard working hours. This includes reassurance, guidance, and immediate assistance during periods of heightened vulnerability, with emergency repairs or concerns addressed promptly. The service maintains continuity of support outside core hours, helping to reduce risk, promote safety, and provide reassurance when it is needed most. For survivors of domestic abuse, access to responsive support at any time is essential, as risk does not follow a set schedule. This provision helps prevent crisis escalation, reduce isolation, and strengthen overall safety and recovery outcomes.

## Events

### Christmas party

The SADA Christmas Party brought together families from our Refuge, Safe Spaces, and wider network for a joyful and inclusive evening. Thanks to the generosity of supporters—Gratte Brothers, The Mayor's Charity, and The Hill Group—adults and children received thoughtful gifts and hampers. The team embraced the festive spirit, with costumed characters and a special visit from Santa creating magical moments. The evening of games, music, food, and gifts was especially meaningful for many children, some experiencing their first ever party. Feedback from families was overwhelmingly positive, highlighting the event's warmth, impact, and importance.



## 16 days of Action – Domestic Abuse Awareness Walk

As part of the 16 Days of Action 2025, partners in Stevenage came together for a community walk from Fairlands Park to Stevenage Football Club. The event, coordinated by SADA, aimed to raise awareness of domestic abuse and highlight the support available locally. The walk was attended by the Stevenage Mayor and Hertfordshire Police, demonstrating a strong partnership commitment to tackling domestic abuse.

At the end of the walk, SADA hosted an information stall at Stevenage Football Club, engaging with members of the public and sharing key information about local support services. Information was also shared with residents along the route.

Events like this are vital in making domestic abuse visible within the community, challenging stigma and encouraging individuals to seek help. They also promote awareness of local services and pathways to support, while demonstrating the strength of multi-agency partnership working across Stevenage. Together, this reinforces the message that help is available and that domestic abuse will not be tolerated in our communities.





## ART Therapy

Through the SADA North Herts Project, four children affected by domestic abuse received 14 weeks of individual art therapy in school. The sessions provided a safe, creative environment for children to explore difficult emotions, build resilience, and develop healthy coping strategies.

All children began the programme with multiple Borderline or High/Abnormal wellbeing scores. By completion, no child recorded any High/Abnormal scores, demonstrating significant emotional and behavioural improvements.

All four children moved from clinical distress into the range indicating significant psychological and emotional improvement.

Every child reported high levels of trust and engagement with the therapist, with all achieving the maximum therapist satisfaction score by the end of the programme.

***“I feel lighter  
after my session  
- like a balloon”***

***“My sessions  
help me feel  
calmer with  
everything else”***

***“It’s nice having  
someone kind  
and who listens”***

## Survivors Against Domestic Abuse Panel SADAP

SADA heard a total of 214 cases at the panel from April 2025 to March 2026

Our Specialist Domestic Abuse Panel (SADAP) is a bespoke, multi-agency forum central to our service’s safeguarding approach and commitment to victim safety. The panel meets every six weeks, bringing together a range of internal and external partners to collaboratively manage and monitor cases assessed as standard to medium risk. It ensures structured information sharing, robust risk assessment, and coordinated intervention planning.

The primary function of SADAP is to identify emerging risks, strengthen multi-agency responses, and ensure that all individuals experiencing domestic abuse—regardless of assessed risk level—receive timely, appropriate, and proportionate support. Through this process, we maintain a proactive approach to risk management while promoting consistent, survivor-centred safeguarding practices.



## Long Term Support

SADA offers a dedicated Long-Term Support Service designed to provide ongoing assistance to individuals accessing our services. This provision includes regular telephone support, tailored signposting, facilitated drop-in sessions, and structured courses. These opportunities enable service users to engage in peer support, fostering connection and shared understanding, while also accessing input from a range of partner agencies.

Through this holistic approach, clients are able to receive specialist advice in key areas such as legal support, debt and benefits guidance, and housing assistance, delivered in partnership with expert agencies. Between April 2025 and March 2026, 144 clients benefitted from this service, demonstrating its reach and impact. Regular and consistent support is critical for survivors of domestic abuse, as it helps to build trust, promote stability, and reduce isolation. Ongoing engagement enables individuals to recover at their own pace, strengthens resilience, and ensures that emerging risks or changing needs are identified early. By maintaining consistent contact and access to support networks, the service plays a vital role in supporting long-term safety, independence, and recovery.

## Projects SADA supports or facilitates

- 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



## Drop in

SADA offers both virtual and face-to-face Drop-In sessions, providing flexible and accessible support for individuals affected by domestic abuse. These sessions create a safe and welcoming environment where clients can connect with others, reducing isolation and building a sense of community.

The Drop-In includes a range of activities such as courses, informative talks, and wellbeing-focused sessions, alongside opportunities for peer support. This approach enables individuals to share experiences, gain knowledge, and access support in a way that feels comfortable and empowering.

By offering both online and in-person options, the service ensures inclusivity and accessibility, supporting individuals to engage at their own pace while promoting safety, confidence, and recovery.

SADA is excited to be expanding and developing the North Herts drop in over the coming year.

### Sessions covered:

- Self-esteem,
- Practising self-care
- Setting boundaries
- Learning to say no

"Session is uplifting  
- so empowering"

**112 People  
attended the drop  
in across Stevenage  
and North Herts.**

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

"My level of  
understanding towards  
DA is amazing now"

# Police and Crime Commissioner Priorities and Progress

Jonathan Ash-Edwards, Police and Crime Commissioner for Hertfordshire, reported significant improvements in local policing and victim protection during 2025/26, including:

- The recruitment of over 50 additional neighbourhood policing officers, strengthening local police visibility and community engagement.
- Faster response times for both 999 and 101 calls, with the proportion of 101 calls abandoned due to delays reducing by more than half.
- Enhanced protection for victims of domestic abuse, with Hertfordshire now ranked 5th best nationally for the use of Clare's Law (the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme). This represents a substantial improvement from being ranked at the bottom nationally when the Commissioner took office.

These developments demonstrate continued investment in community safety, improved police accessibility, and a stronger response to domestic abuse across Hertfordshire.

## SADA Income 2025/2026

The total income for SADA in 25/26

**£210,532.71**

# SADA clients' feedback

"So much support, I feel safe. Last week I was struggling with mental health, spoke to Maddie and she really supported me, I couldn't fault her, she is always at the end of the phone which is nice when you are not in a good headspace and need to talk to someone"

"I have been lucky to be supported well"

"I'm just so pleased and grateful for the support I've received. I don't know what I would have done without it."

"Everything's really good. If I wasn't getting this support I'd probably go back to my ex."

