

## **Safer Sefton Together Meeting - 17 March 2022 Sharon Cotterall**

Sefton CVS's role is to support the sector in this capacity and ensure that voluntary sector groups and organisations remain aware of the impact of violence against women and girls through our regular Safeguarding training. We hold monthly safeguarding briefings from CVS staff where we share reflective practice. The SMBC Locality Team Manager gave a presentation on Domestic Abuse Awareness to Sefton CVS staff as part of the Safeguarding Reflective Practice session in September 2021, having previously delivered a Domestic Abuse Awareness Session to the Health and Social Care Forum member as part of Safeguarding Awareness week in November 2020. In February 2022 information was shared with the Forum on the Domestic Abuse Survey and members were encouraged to respond. In February 2022 the Health and Social Care Forum Facilitator attended training on the lessons learned from a SARS review of a case involving coercive control in her capacity of advising the sector. Our Every Child Matters Forum met in December 2021 to discuss violence against women and girls which included presentations from the sector coupled with discussions of how Forum member organisations could address the issues in day to day practice. Sefton CVS, through the funding received from the Violence Reduction Partnership in 20/21 co-ordinated ACES training for the sector with 129 people participating. Violence against women and girls was highlighted within this course and the impact ACEs have on outcomes for children and young people. In supporting the sector at a strategic level our Deputy Chief Executive sits on the Sefton Domestic Abuse Partnership and the Sefton Safeguarding Children's Partnership (SSCP) Safeguarding Forum.

### **Their experiences of Violence against Women and Girls**

- RASA – incidents of assault in Southport area are high and not necessarily reported to the Police.
- RASA – issues with drink spiking in Southport Area
- Parenting 2000 (Alchemy) - an incident in Southport where some of our young women were getting chased around Southport Town Centre, Lord street gardens area by a gang of male youths.
- Parenting 2000 (Alchemy) - young females on line encouraging violence against other young females successfully and a young woman being coerced to assist in grooming other young women into drug dealing.

### **The actions they put in place to deal with Violence against Women and Girls**

- Parenting 2000 have a new project 'The Girls Imperium'. A 4-week programme aimed at young women aged 9 – 18. Aims to help them to gain confidence, develop new skills in self-defence and access support and guidance. This is taking place in Crosby.
- RASA – Be an active bystander campaign being launched in Liverpool. Delivering training funded through safer streets.
- RASA – It's not me it's you campaign. Campaign against victim blaming. RASA spoke at Every Child Matter's Forum in December about this.
- RASA – Have offered training to first response workers in Liverpool and Southport. This includes bar staff and bus drivers.
- RASA – following Ofsted inspection a number of schools got in touch for support with this RASA sign post to the government toolkit which they say is very good.
- RASA – in response to drink spiking in Southport Area – Punch Tarmey Group worked with RASA to put staff training in place.

### **Any barriers to achieving success**

- RASA – have contacted Sefton on many occasions including work around being an active bystander campaign, but have not been able to gain support/engagement in the way they have with Liverpool.
- RASA – conviction rates being so low creates a huge barrier for people coming forward.

- RASA – rape review last year gave lots of recommendations but this doesn't seem to have been transferred into action