

# SWA NEWSLETTER

SPRING 13  
ISSUE 03



## MP Ann Coffey's visit to SWA

Ann Coffey, MP for Stockport visited our refuge and spent some time chatting with residents. She took time out of her schedule to discuss the increasing concerns about child sexual exploitation and the work we are undertaking in our young people's workshops in schools and colleges. Ann recently spoke in the House of Commons and called for Sex and Relationship Education to be made compulsory in schools.



Lex Autolease

For the past 3 years *Lex Autolease*, the UK's leading fleet management and fleet funding specialist has donated a generous amount of gifts, toys for all of our service users at Christmas. As well as donating gifts, *Lex Autolease* also donated household supplies such as bedding, bedside lamps, canvases and starter packs for the women that come into our refuge including tea, coffee, sugar etc.



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# New Appointments at SWA



## Marie

My name is Marie and I have joined SWA as an IDVA (domestic violence advisor). I am really happy to have been invited onto the team and will hopefully contribute to the amazing work SWA already do! I have worked with victims of domestic violence for many years and as I really enjoy returning autonomy to victims that have been taken away from them for so long. I also enjoy supporting people to make positive changes in their lives and helping them to build a happy and safe future!

My role as IDVA is to support the most high risk victims with the main focus on safety of themselves and their families.



## Nadia

My role is a part time Project Worker at the refuge, which involves in-house support for vulnerable women and children fleeing domestic abuse.

I assist women in becoming independent and obtain settled accommodation, by developing the skills and knowledge to make informed choices. Together we can create a support plan based on self-assessed needs, covering areas such as housing, finances, meaningful use of time and well-being.

We also have connections to other agencies across Stockport and surrounding areas, allowing us to support residents at the refuge better by accessing a variation of expertise. Where needed we can also attend appointments together.

As a new member of the team I hope to get to know everyone and make residents feel welcome and at ease!

Follow us on Twitter



@StockportSWA

# Definition Change

The definition of domestic violence will be amended from March with two important changes: the inclusion of coercive behaviour and the recognition of 16 and 17 year olds as victims of abuse.

These amendments, although they are not a change in criminal law are broadly welcomed. By highlighting coercive control, there is now a clearer focus on patterns of controlling behaviour rather than individual incidents.

Sue Martin, SWA's Chief Executive said 'At SWA, we do not differentiate between age groups and offer preventative and supportive services for all ages who have been affected by domestic abuse but this is a real step forward in society to recognise that teenagers are particularly vulnerable to abusive and controlling relationships'

## John Lewis

We are delighted John Lewis Cheadle has selected SWA as their Community Matters Charity between February and April. Please remember that when you purchase anything from the store, drop your green token into the SWA box located near the café.



We are thrilled to have formed a positive relationship with Simpson Millar LLP Solicitors, a nationwide, ambitious, forward-thinking provider of legal services. We are grateful for all their donations at Christmas and look forward to continuing to develop this partnership.

## The Circus is coming to town!

SWA have some family tickets to give away to nominated individuals/families that have shown determination and progress in the last 6 months.



On 27th March, a panel made up of SWA staff and volunteers will review all the nominations and award the free tickets to as many service users as possible.

Staff will be submitting nominations before 26th March for any current/recent (last 6 months) service users who would like to attend the show, stating what they have achieved, however big or small and therefore, why they should be selected to receive tickets.

**Please ask a member of staff for more details.**

## Forthcoming Events

### Cyclability

Have you ever used our services?

Would you like to re-ignite  
your interest in cycling?

Would you like to learn to ride a bike?

SNA have been invited to join a Community Initiative whereby you may be able to borrow a bike and join in some group cycling adventures in May and June.

If you are interested, please let your worker know or phone Jessica on 0161 477 4271

## Volunteers Wanted

We are looking for two volunteers to help us co-ordinate donations in our storage facility in Reddish.

You would need to have use of a car and spare a few hours each week.

Contact Jessica Mills on 0161 477 4271 or email [jessicamills@stockportwithoutabuse.org.uk](mailto:jessicamills@stockportwithoutabuse.org.uk)

## Contacting Stockport Without Abuse



Don't suffer alone, **we can help you**

You can telephone our helpline in the strictest confidence on:

**0161 477 4271**

Lines are staffed Monday to Friday from 08:30am to 6:00pm and there is an answerphone outside of these hours.

You can **email** us (from a safe place) at [info@stockportwithoutabuse.org.uk](mailto:info@stockportwithoutabuse.org.uk)

Or **fax** us on:  
0161 429 8756

[www.stockportwithoutabuse.org.uk](http://www.stockportwithoutabuse.org.uk)

