

# SWA NEWSLETTER

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ISSUE 01



**Hello and welcome to the first edition of the Stockport Without Abuse newsletter!**



Above: SWA Chief Executive, Sue Martin; The Mayor, Cllr Wendy Meikle and SWA Trustee, Carol Morrison.

## The Mayors visit to Stockport Without Abuse!

Here at SWA we are very pleased to announce that the Mayor of Stockport, Cllr Wendy Meikle, has chosen us as one of her Charities of the Year! Cllr Meikle has been a champion for domestic abuse services in Stockport for many years and is delighted that she can now use her Mayoral role to contribute to such a valuable cause.

The Mayor took time out of her busy schedule to meet the staff and service users at our community office on Norbury Street, Stockport and at our refuge. She enjoyed learning about our work and future plans and she hopes to raise over £10,000 for us over the next 9 months! Watch out for planned events and activities on our website.

## Safer Stockport Partnership annual conference 2012

The Safer Stockport Partnership (SSP) joins together many public and voluntary organisations and works with the community to develop new ways of protecting Stockport residents and their property from becoming targets of crime. They held their annual conference at Edgely Park in June and it was a fantastic turn out! One of the highlights of the conference was the Awards Ceremony where members of the community received a certificate of commendation for their contributions towards community safety. Among those who received an award was Wendi one of our SWA volunteers and Peer Support Group leader who received an award for securing funding from the You Say, We Pay Community grants in order to hold a domestic abuse awareness conference.

Below: Wendi receiving her award at the Safer Stockport Partnership annual conference 2012 by Chief Superintendent Chris Sykes of Greater Manchester Police!



# Girls are strong

In September 2011 Nicola Fone (SWA), Donna Higgins (BEAP project) and Gill Corlett (Offerton High school) received some funding from Feminist Webs. With the funding, they set up a project to help 8 young women (ages 13-16) understand what it means to be a strong woman.

The girls had discussions about what an unhealthy and abusive relationship is. They decided to create masks, that on the surface looked glamorous and happy but on the inside the masks revealed abuse to represent that we all hide behind a mask - especially when there is domestic abuse.

A massive event was held in Brinnington in November 2011 where 400 people from the general public helped design their own masks, had henna tattoos, wrote accounts of their own reasons for being strong, had face paintings and ate lots of cake and danced to the music from the brilliant DJ! Also five brave women came forward and spoke about their own experiences and were set up with support from ourselves, Stockport Without Abuse.

After the event there was an exhibition at the People's Museum in March whereby all the masks that the girls from the group had created and the masks that the public designed went on display for two months. Also in May, there was a book launch for the book "The exciting life of being a woman" which contained 6 pages of the work that was completed throughout the entire process!

**The exciting life of being a woman book can be purchased from amazon at a bargain price of £10!**



Above: The wonderful masks that the girls created on display at the People's Museum!



Above and top right: The Girls Are Strong ladies receiving their awards at the Safer Stockport Partnership annual conference 2012 by Chief Superintendent Chris Sykes of Greater Manchester Police!

# Peer Support Group

The peer support group was originally set up for women to have a place to meet with other women who have had similar experiences. It's a welcoming and friendly space for people to have a coffee, boost confidence and reduce isolation within the community by meeting with other people. It offers opportunities to learn new skills through therapeutic crafts and come up with ideas for future activities and events... Or just the chance to just drop in for a brew and a chat!

Anyone who has received support from us in the past or is currently accessing any of our services is welcome to join us. We'd love to see you!

In June, service users from our outreach support project, joined us at a consultation event. The aim of the session was to identify the priorities of the women and what type of support was most valuable to them. The women talked about future goals that they want to reach and action plans for positive futures and keeping safe.

It was a really fantastic turn out and a lot of women came together to discuss ideas.



*Above: Beautiful crafts made by the Peer Support Group!*



*Above: Jessica Mills, SWA's Development Assistant on the stand*

## The Community Information Fayre

SWA attended Community Information Fayre hosted by MaD at Home at St Andrews Church, Stockport in July.

A lot of organisations also attended including the Police and Fire Service, Stockport College, Flag and many more so it was really nice to be involved and was a good way for a lot of services to come together and share information and offer advice to the community.



## Forthcoming Events

### © Valuable Me!

Starts 11th October

Thursdays 2:30pm - 4:30pm

Brinnington Children's Centre

Creche Facilities Provided

Call Rachael Walker on  
0161 474 3271 to book

All are welcome.

Stockport Without Abuse  
Annual General Meeting

Thursday 11th October

12:15 for 12:30 start

Masonic Hall, Wellington Road South

Includes free lunch.

Come and learn about our achievements  
over the last year and our plans and  
aims for the next 12 months.

All are welcome.

## 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)

