

RASASC

Rape & Sexual Abuse Support Centre



August 2017 Newsletter

Who we are: RASASC is a Guildford-based charity, working with the Surrey community since 1992. We provide support to male and female survivors of rape and sexual abuse, recent and non-recent.

We provide a confidential helpline, counselling, self-support groups, Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVA), family support, pre-trial support, survivor cycling, coffee mornings, presentations and awareness raising.

Welcome

For those of you who received the November 2016 issue of this newsletter, you will be aware that Caroline Holton joined us in November 2016 as our Fund-raising Manager.

Caroline has been working hard to diversify our funding streams so that we can expand the services we offer. Caroline has done fantastically well and we have funding for new services that we will be implementing in the next few months. Details of the vacancies that will support these services are in our vacancy section on page 2.

Caroline will shortly be going on maternity leave and we all wish her and her partner well with the forthcoming birth of their baby. Caroline will be returning to RASASC in early 2018.

On 11th July 2017, we held our annual meeting. Our meeting this year had a different format to previous years as we wanted to focus on reflecting on and celebrate our achievements for 2016 and provide an update about our progress and future plans for the services we offer.

We were very pleased to welcome around 40 staff, volunteers, dignitaries, supporters and partners to the meeting. Special thanks go to David Munro and Damian Markland from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey Police for their presentations. David is Surrey Police Crime Commissioner and he spoke about his role and the priorities for Surrey. Damian is the Victims Services Commissioner and he spoke about his work in funding services for victims of crime and also about his close working relationship with RASASC.

The presentations were well received and prompted discussions and questions by the audience.

The evening continued with the opportunity to network.

Lesley Devonport, Operations Manager

Funding news

The Screwfix Foundation

We are celebrating after being awarded £5,000 of funding from The Screwfix Foundation, a charity which supports projects to fix, repair, maintain and improve properties and facilities for those in need.

The money will be used to upgrade the kitchen and toilet facilities here at RASASC head office, with the aim of making the surroundings better for everyone who uses our service.

Andy Perry Store Manager of the Screwfix store in Guildford, said: "We're really pleased that one of our local charities has been awarded funding by The Screwfix Foundation. Staff from across the business have held a variety of fundraising events to raise vital funds for The Screwfix Foundation, so it's fantastic to see the money we have raised being invested back into such a worthwhile community project."



Andy Perry (left) presenting cheque to Matt Coates, RICS, RASASC volunteer who drew up the kitchen specification

Tesco Bags of Help

We also received £1000 of funding from the Tesco Bags of Help Scheme for money to improve facilities in our counselling room. In addition, the same scheme has just announced that we have been selected for further funding via in-store voting.

If you visit any of the TESCO stores below, please ask for a blue token at the checkout and vote for us:

- Brooklands Extra
- Chobham Station
- West Byfleet Express
- Knaphill Express
- Woking Guildford Road Express

7 Stars Foundation

We are delighted that the 7stars Foundation has awarded us a kind and generous grant of £10,000 which will be used towards the development of our work with vulnerable young people aged 13 and above who have been the victim of rape or sexual abuse. The Foundation has been very supportive of our achievements to date and felt that our charity is a good fit with their criteria for support.

Vacancies:

Community Engagement Officer: Full time

We have successfully applied for funding to create this new role of the Community Engagement Officer. The successful candidate will manage the recruitment, training, retention and support of volunteers who provide capacity support to RASASC and work with key organisations within Surrey such as community groups, schools and colleges to raise awareness of the impact and issues of rape and sexual abuse and the importance of work RASASC delivers to survivors.

If this sounds like an opportunity you would be interested in then we would love to hear from you. Please contact Liz on admin@rasasc-guildford.org to request an application pack with more details and an application form. Salary is £18,500 pa.

Deadline for applications is: **Midday on Friday 15th September 2017**

Youth Counsellor: Part time - sessional

We are currently advertising for a Youth Counsellor.

The role of the Youth Counsellor is to provide face to face counselling for young people aged 13-17, male or female, who are survivors of rape and sexual abuse. Clients will be able to access counselling for between 8-20 sessions, depending on client's individual need.

This role is based at the RASASC Guildford office and will work together with the Family Support Worker, who will provide counselling support through the provision of up to six sessions for family members of the young person being supported through the youth counselling programme.

If you feel this is a role for you, where you can make a difference to the lives of young people affected by rape and sexual assault, and you have a minimum of a Diploma in Counselling, then please contact Liz on admin@rasasc-guildford.org to request an application pack.

White Ribbon Campaign – 25th November

The White Ribbon campaign aims to educate and raise awareness of violence against women, and to engage men in these issues. Wearing a White Ribbon is a personal Pledge to never commit, condone or remain silent about violence against women. The 25th November is the chosen day as it coincides with the International day against women and girls.

You can find out more about the White Ribbon Campaign at www.whiteribboncampaign.co.uk

Premises required

We are looking for rooms in the East of the County, specifically Caterham, Epsom, Horley or Redhill areas of Surrey where our Independent Sexual Violence Advisors can meet confidentially with clients. If you know of any suitable venue can you please email admin@rasasc-guildford.org. Many thanks.

You Could Really Help – Start Volunteering Today

“Your support can really make a difference to the lives of those affected by rape and sexual abuse”

Do you want to make a positive change in your community? Have you got time to spare? We have a range of volunteering roles to suit different skill sets, time commitment and interest.

Our volunteers are passionate about supporting survivors of rape and sexual abuse and we would it if you would join us.

CALL FOR HELPLINE VOLUNTEERS

We are looking for enthusiastic and dedicated volunteers to join our team of Helpline Volunteers. The Helpline is a listening and support service, open from 7:30pm - 9:30pm currently weekdays only.

We have a new Helpline training programme starting on 22 October 2017. If you can commit to one shift every two weeks we would love to hear from you.

If this sounds like an opportunity you would like to be involved in, then please email Liz at admin@rasasc-guildford.org for an application pack and further details of our training programme.

Volunteer Qualified Counsellors

We are currently recruiting for qualified counsellors to work on a voluntary basis with survivors of rape and sexual abuse in our Guildford hub.

This is an opportunity for counsellors to provide long-term therapy for up to two years. If you can spare three hours on either a Monday or Wednesday evening from 6pm – 9pm or Thursday evening from 7pm – 10pm then please get in touch.

If you are interested in this opportunity please forward your CV to: admin@rasasc-guildford.org

We look forward to hearing from you.

Six volunteers complete their helpline training

Our congratulations go to six volunteers: Annet, Annie, Bev, Philippa, Sherrie and Trish on the successful completion of their helpline training. The 30-hour training programme provides our volunteers with the necessary skills to support callers. The volunteers are now putting their skills into practice and we send them our best wishes and warmest welcome to RASASC.

Thank you...

Although we hope all our volunteers will stay with us forever, we do understand that this is not always possible! A very big thank you to those we've said goodbye to in recent months:

Jane one of our Helpline Volunteers will shortly be going on maternity leave. We send Jane and her partner our best wishes for the forthcoming birth of their baby.