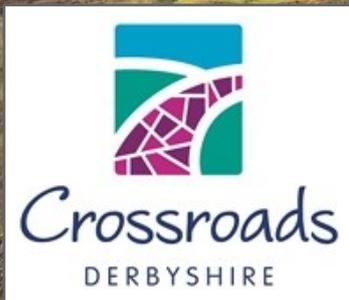


Annual Review 2021-2022



Message from the Chair



Welcome to our 2021-22 Annual Review. After an unprecedented year of change, this year has been an opportunity to consolidate and respond to the recent considerable growth within the charity.

I was extremely proud that the charity was a recipient of the Weston Charity Awards this year in recognition of the impact of our services and our future ambitions. I collected our award along with our Business Development Lead at an awards ceremony in Birmingham.

Our staff team has been incredibly successful in their training and development. We were able to fund specialist professional training for the IDVA, ISVA, YPVA and more, which will equip our staff to support high-risk victims and will benefit our clients.

This year we have been active in campaigning both locally and nationally. We have taken part in consultations and events through Women's Aid nationally, and advocated for victims of abuse in Derbyshire through media and events. This year has seen the development of our new website, keeping our supporters and those seeking help up to date with what is happening at the charity.

I would like to thank my fellow trustees, and all the staff and volunteers who work so tirelessly to support victims of abuse in Derbyshire. You all make such a difference!

Elaine McDonald - Chair of Trustees

Chief Executive's Report



A warm welcome to our 2021-22 Annual Review. Following the difficulties of the Covid-19 pandemic, it has been a year of recovery as we responded to the ever-changing needs of survivors. We are proud to have resumed our face-to-face work and developed our work in the community.

Our outreach services continued to grow, and we further developed specialist work to respond to new threats and challenges. We established a new Befriending Service, supporting isolated survivors in the community.

Having identified the need for greater support for victims of stalking and harassment, we successfully secured funding for a Stalking Advocate. We are proud to have been chosen to pilot this new scheme. It will be a brand new service in Derbyshire.

I am so proud of our staff, trustees and volunteers for their dedication, resilience and passion to support victims of abuse this year. We are very fortunate to have such a committed group of people working for the charity.

Thank you to everyone who has supported us this year, especially those who have fundraised and donated money and essential items. Mostly, I would like to thank our service users for their continued bravery. You inspire us every day to keep going.

Vicky Bunnage - Chief Executive

At a glance...

20 young women used the Harmony Project and follow-on support

13 children were supported at the Harmony Project

225 children were helped to recover from domestic abuse

140 women were helped in their recovery by our counselling and Freedom Programme

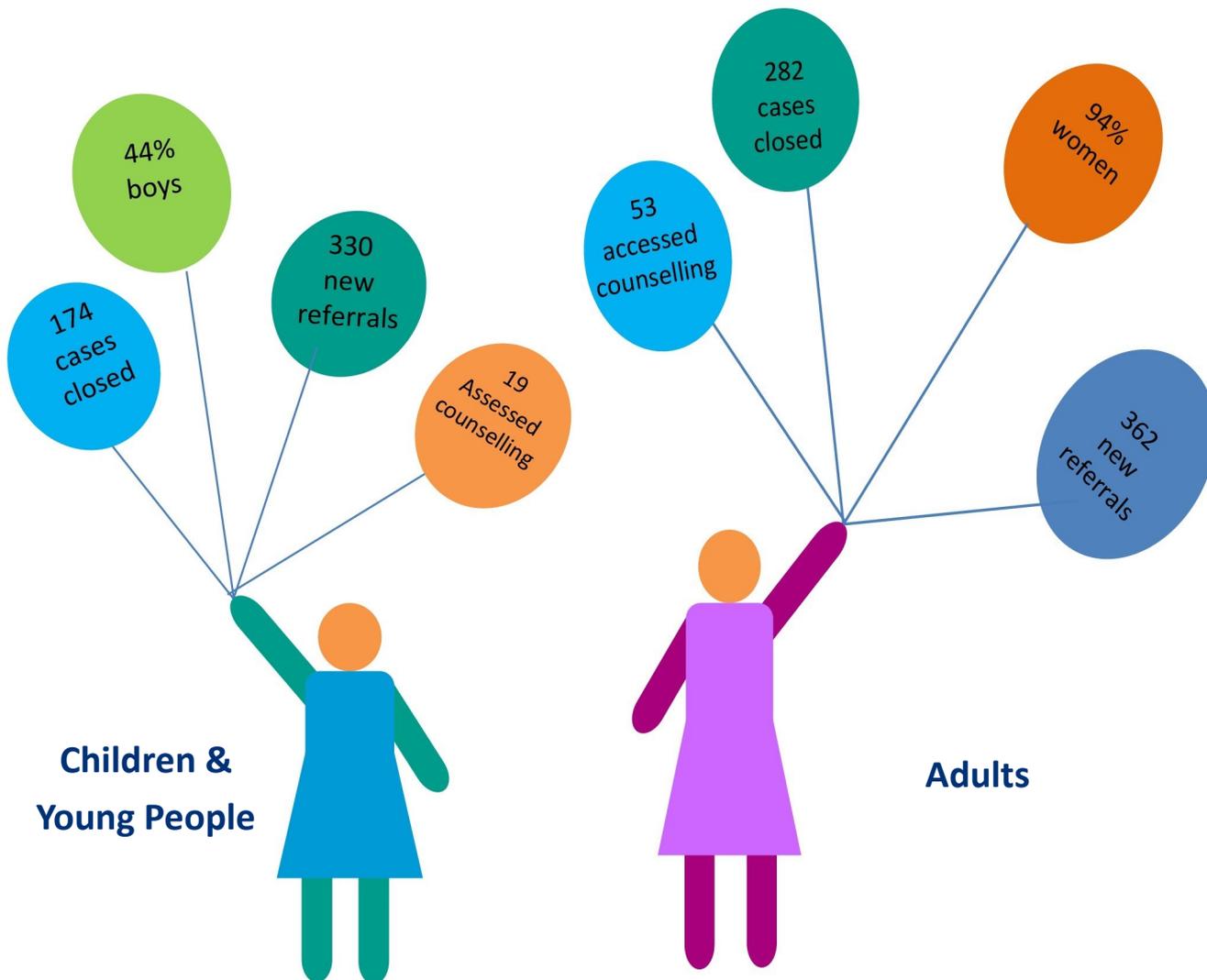
110 young people accessed the Making Positive Choices project

347 adults were supported in the community

820 people directly benefited from our work

...21% more than last year

Over 5,735 hours were spent on direct support for adult service users



For every £1 we raised, 3p was spent on generating further income

Adult Services

We provide domestic abuse outreach support for adults living in the High Peak and Derbyshire Dales, including some very isolated rural communities.



As well as focusing on safety, we also support our clients to access legal remedies and address housing needs, support them with criminal and family law issues and provide emotional and practical support.

"I was shown understanding and empathy. Most of all, I was believed."

This year we have seen a rise in the need for court support following delays due to the pandemic. We have also seen a rise in the need for food bank referrals and financial support as a result of the increase in the cost of living.

Our Freedom Programme group recovery work has resumed in person this year, and has been very well attended.

COUNSELLING SERVICE

We have a team of counsellors working across the High Peak and the Derbyshire Dales. The counselling service resumed face-to-face counselling this year but continued to offer telephone counselling as an option for clients who work or who live in isolated rural communities. The number of clients receiving counselling this year has more than doubled.

Accommodation Services

Our Harmony Project and move on properties provide families and young people with a safe place to live and an opportunity to recover from abuse.

THE HARMONY PROJECT

Our shared refuge, The Harmony Project, is a specialist domestic abuse refuge and targeted support service for young women aged 16-24 and their children. This UK-wide project works with young women who are escaping abuse, and supports them to build a safe future for themselves and their children. This year we have supported more women fleeing family violence, and in particular the risk of forced marriage. This year 94% of women reported an improvement in their mental health, and 89% felt safer as a result of our interventions.

HARMONY FLOATING SUPPORT

We also have four stand-alone properties for young women who are moving on from the Harmony Project, but who are struggling to secure social housing or who need to retain some support from our service. This project also works with young women who resettle in their own tenancies in the local area.

"The staff are really friendly and make you feel comfortable, as soon as you come. It's an absolutely lovely place."

Children & Young People

We operate two well-respected services for children: Me2 groupwork operates alongside our services for individual children in refuge and the community.

We were able to resume face-to-face work with children this year following a very disrupted year in 2020-21. Staff were visiting children in school throughout the lockdown period, and were able to resume a full programme of support once schools fully reopened in April 2021. We also saw an increase in referrals as schools and other agencies resumed face-to-face work.

“The impact has been immeasurable in supporting the children cope both academically and socially.”

In May 2021 we resumed our group work in secondary schools and in September we returned to group work in primary schools. As a result we saw a 67% rise in the number of children supported compared to the previous year, and this brought us back in line with the numbers supported in 2019-2020.



We work with children in the community and also those living in refuge properties, including those living in our accommodation and also in properties managed by Derbyshire WISH, one of our consortium partners.

Our Me2 Group Work for children has been reviewed during the year and is now operating at schools in the High Peak and Derbyshire Dales.

Making Positive Choices

This project works with young people who are at risk of entering unhealthy relationships. This includes specialist work with young people who are showing signs of abuse towards a parent or sibling.

MAKING POSITIVE CHOICES

Supporting children and young people in making positive choices



We use a variety of resources including books, films and games to help young people to understand what a healthy relationship looks like. Young people learn strategies for managing anger as well as looking at the potential consequences of

their actions. This year we were also able to secure further funding to expand this project to work one-to-one with young people.

Thanks to funding from the Police and Crime Commissioner, National Lottery and other donors, we now offer group work, one-to-one work and specialist family work.

We supported 110 young people over the last year with some very positive outcomes.

"It's been a really nice end to a bad few months. It's also been nice to have someone to talk about my problems without getting judged."



New Projects

STALKING ADVOCACY PROJECT

Crossroads Derbyshire has recently been awarded funding through the Police and Crime Commissioner to establish a new Stalking Advocate role. This new role will work with any victim of stalking, including where it is not traditionally viewed as a domestic abuse situation. This will be the first post of its kind in Derbyshire and will be piloted in High Peak and Dales initially.



VOLUNTEER BEFRIENDING

Volunteers play an important role in helping us to support our clients. We have recruited women volunteers to support others who have experienced domestic abuse. The befriending service will help reduce social isolation and loneliness and support clients to continue to heal, improve their mental wellbeing and widen their support network.

WEBSITE

With funding and support from Lloyds Foundation, we have invested in the development of our new website, keeping everyone up to date in a way that reflects the changing landscape of the charity.



Celebrations

This year has seen so much to celebrate for our charity and our staff team. As well as awards and accreditations, our team have been celebrating new qualifications and awards. Well done everyone!



Our Supporters

We are so grateful to everyone who has supported us this year through raising funds, donating items to support families and giving us their time. We couldn't do it without you!



PC Refurb



League of Ladies WI



Donations



Fundraisers



Flair Rugs



Lidl



Argos



Pist'N'Nuts MCC

Hope's Story

Hope arrived at the Harmony Project with 2-year-old Pax, having fled her violent and controlling partner, who she'd been living with for 3 years. Initially, she was very anxious and over-vigilant. She felt unsure whether she would stay because she was terrified of threats made by her ex-partner.

Hope was very young when she met her ex, who became increasingly violent and controlling during their relationship. Following the birth of Pax the abuse worsened and would include threats to harm and kill them both.

While at the Harmony Project Hope was given a lot of support. She accessed our counselling service and was able to arrange suitable childcare. Our staff supported Hope throughout the court case and her ex is now serving time in prison. Hope and Pax stayed for around 6 months and then moved to one of our dispersed properties. Hope was ready for a higher level of independence while retaining some support. Although she lived independently with her ex, she had no responsibility for budgeting or running the household.

The Harmony Project was the steppingstone Hope and Pax needed. Hope worked incredibly hard and was determined to protect her child and to build them a safer future. She has improved her understanding of domestic abuse, made strides with her emotional and mental health and can take care of her own home.



Treasurer's Report

I am pleased that the charity has maintained its high level of income following a sharp increase in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. For the second year in a row we secured over £1 million to support survivors of abuse. This was due to existing funding contracts and further funding to help us with increased demand due to the pandemic.

We are grateful for our ongoing relationships with key funders, including the National Lottery, the Henry Smith Charity, Lloyds Foundation, The Police and Crime Commissioner, Derbyshire County Council and High Peak Borough Council.

Thank you to our local supporters who have raised money, donated toiletries, rugs, food and much more.

Fundraising was affected by the ongoing pandemic, and community events, sadly, could not go ahead as planned. We look forward to resuming our in-person events in the coming year.

I would like to extend my thanks to Godfrey Wilson for their support in carrying out our audit this year, and thank you to the staff team for their hard work

Karen Mitchell - Treasurer



Feedback

Service User

Thank you so much for everything you has done for me and what you are still doing. I am so grateful and I love you all. God bless you all xxx

14:11

I like this group as I
😊 can discuss things
with the young person's
worker that I can't
with other people.
I find it very helpful.

This work has helped me understand more about different types of abuse and how to identify them. I also feel like I've been able to open up and be myself. I appreciate all of the help and support offered. Thank you so much for everything.

17:18

I just wanted to say a huge thank you to you for running the Freedom Programme over the last 12 weeks, and for the opportunity for me to be on it! It has been one of the best things I have ever done, and I have really enjoyed it. I have learnt such a lot, and the support received from the group has been fantastic. I think you can tell by the way that we all never seem to want to leave, just how much this has meant to us in terms of emotional and practical support, and a safe space where we are believed without judgement or prejudice. I hope we will all stay in touch afterwards, so that we have our WhatsApp group!

Thank you so much again. I am very, very grateful. All my very best wishes,



Crossroads
DERBYSHIRE

'With you through domestic abuse'

Telephone: 01457 856675

Derbyshire Domestic Abuse Helpline: 08000 198 668



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