

Kingdom Abuse Survivors' Project (formerly Kirkcaldy Area Abuse Survivors' Project), is an independent voluntary organisation established in 1995, to provide a range of free and confidential support services to adult, male and female, survivors of childhood sexual abuse in central and north east fife. We also support partners and families and act as a specialist resource for other health and social care professionals, as well as carrying out training and awareness raising.

A Management Committee, who have a wide range of experience in social work, health care and child protection as well as the voluntary sector, manages KASP. There are five full time members of staff, a project manager, assistant manager, domestic abuse support worker, specialist mental health worker and office administrator. In addition, we have between eight and twelve trained voluntary counsellors working with survivors. These counsellors receive induction and further training on childhood sexual abuse.

KASP provides professional indemnity insurance, external practice supervision and travel expenses in return for volunteers giving their time and expertise to the project. All counsellors at the project work within the Codes of Practice and Ethic of the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy.

The domestic abuse worker supports women who have a history of sexual and domestic abuse. This is joint-funded by the Scottish Executive Domestic Abuse Service Development Fund, Fife Council and a one of grant from Kirkcaldy and Levenmouth LHCC. Support can be offered in KASP premises or at outreach locations.

Likewise, the mental health worker supports men and women who have a history of sexual abuse and mental health problems both within the centre and at outreach locations. This post is funded through Mental Illness Specific Grant.

Our project works closely with social work, health care and the voluntary sector, enjoying positive relationships and recognition of the good practice our service delivers. We are members of the Fife Domestic Abuse Forum and work closely with the Forum and its various sub groups. We are also members of a multi-agency working group on severe trauma, of which sexual abuse is a major component.

In our premises we run weekly support groups and other activities, a drop in facility, and fortnightly self-help group. We also support survivors on our telephone help-line, which averages approximately 20-30 calls per week.

KASP has played an important role in awareness raising and campaigning for services for survivors, as well as wider recognition of the impact of sexual abuse. A screening of a film that both arrestingly and sensitively portrayed the consequences of childhood sexual abuse we held at the Adam Smith Theatre two years ago, when over 450 people involved in child protection attended.

We petitioned the Scottish Parliament, calling upon the Scottish Executive to recognise the need for secure and adequate funding of existing support services, and to encourage new services to fill gaps in national provision. We have further

requested the implementation of a national strategy to address the social, health and legal implications of childhood sexual abuse.

From this petition, a Cross Party Working Group has been formed, with the support of Kirkcaldy MSP, Marilyn Livingstone and a further 25 MSPs and survivor projects, health and social care professionals, and survivors themselves included. A major launch was held in March 2001, following a debate in Parliament earlier that day.

The work of this group is continuing to gather pace, and we are confident that we will achieve our goal of a national strategy on child sexual abuse.

KASP is currently represented on the Scottish Executive Short Life Working Group which is reporting on the needs of adult survivors.

The impact of sexual abuse is extremely complex; its long-term effects can be devastating, affecting physical and mental health, education and employment. Links with drug and alcohol abuse, domestic violence, homelessness and suicide are becoming increasingly understood.

The sexual abuse of children is not going to end. We can, however, with care and skilled support, enable survivors to come to terms with their abuse, and alleviate the psychological trauma they experience.

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