



Service User Accessibility

Published Strategy

SV2 provides services for victims of sexual violence of any age and any gender. In relation to this target population, we have identified that the majority of clients who access SV2's adult services are White British females. Although the number of men accessing our services has increased over the last few years this still remains low with 15% engagement in 2020. The gender split for children aged 0-17 was around the same in 2020 with 82% girls (312) and 17 % boys (65) who accessed the service with only 1% for Trans/Non-Binary/Not Disclosed across all ages.

We have identified low take up of services from the following groups:

- Males
- BAME communities
- Travelling communities
- Physical disabilities such as Deaf / hard of hearing
- LGBTQ+

At SV2 we are developing a strategy to increase accessibility to all of our services from diverse groups.

Following a re-structure in October 2020 two Single Point of Access (SPOA) Officers were created to develop an early needs and assessment process for clients and to develop links with appropriate agencies for signposting where possible.

The SPOA Officers also ask clients if there are any other needs/services that they expected to be available from SV2 but that have not been offered.

SV2 acknowledges that it may not be equipped to support all diverse groups and communities and therefore in the Summer 2020, each Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) was allocated a specialism to research and in the November 2020 each therapist was also allocated one. The research is to enable a greater understanding of the needs of particular communities within Derbyshire. The research should identify potential changes to awareness raising, referral pathways, agencies already in place providing support to particular communities or groups and alternative strategies for engagement. Staff liaise with other specialist services to understand the best approach for engagement and to build positive partnerships in order to extend SV2's services to those in hard to reach groups.

Areas of specialism allocated to ISVAs and Therapists:

- Male clients
- Sex workers
- Looked After Children
- Learning Difficulties and Disabilities
- Gangs
- Travelling community

- BAME
- Harmful Sexual Behaviours
- Inclusion
- Secondary survivors
- Parents of children who have been abused
- Creative therapy for children
- Trauma based interventions
- LGBTQ+

In September 2020 staff attended Equality and Diversity training. A further date for March 2021 has been organised for staff who could not attend due to COVID 19 and for new employees at SV2. The following actions have come out of this training:

- Create an SV2 Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy <https://www.sv2.org.uk/sv2-equality-diversity-and-inclusion-policy/>
- Develop an inclusion sub-group in the New Year - 2021 consisting of a representative from each SV2 team to determine the priorities for engaging with local communities and to develop an action plan to support these priorities.
- Organise unconscious bias training for May 2021
- Review strategy in June 2021
- To include Equality and Diversity training in SV2 induction for new staff