

Safe Spaces Newsletter

Quarterly Newsletter - Issue 6
June 2022



Hello and welcome to the June edition of the Safe Spaces newsletter

Thank you for joining the mailing list to receive our newsletter. If you have received this via a contact and you would like to receive it directly, please contact us at:

safespacesfeedback@victimsupport.org.uk

In this June edition we'll be updating you on what the Safe Spaces team have been up to and sharing some extra content from people who have used our service.

Service Update (by Donna)

Safe Spaces has been very busy as usual. February gave us the highest number of new referrals since June 2021. In all we have supported 283 people since the launch of the service.

Our caseworker Jack has moved on to pastures new and we wish him the very best of luck in his new role with Victim Support. We have recruited two new excellent caseworkers. Eve is working with us part time and you can read a little about her in this newsletter. Sian has just started with us and we will feature her next time around.

We have concluded the grants process and are beginning to receive feedback from the funded projects. Some of which are featured in this newsletter. It has been such a rewarding process for myself as manager to deliver this service alongside an excellent team of professionals, who are also victims and survivors of church abuse.

I had the privilege to attend a fabulous event hosted by the Catholic Diocese of Northampton's Safeguarding team. This event was held at Northampton Cathedral, to open a healing garden created by the Cathedral's healing and reconciliation group.

If you are interested in this garden please do visit the website to read more,

<https://northamptondiocese.org/healing-garden/>

Sending everyone best wishes for the summer and I sincerely hope you are able to enjoy some well-earned fun with loved ones.

Donna

How to contact us...

Safe Spaces is open:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday,
Friday and Saturday: 10am - 6pm

Thursday: 12pm - 8pm

Sunday: Closed

Email:

safespaces@victimsupport.org.uk

Phone:

0300 303 1056

Website and Live Chat:

safespacesenglandandwales.org.uk

If you'd like to chat with us via live chat please visit our website. You can do so anonymously, if you prefer, and this service is available during the opening hours above.

When Safe Spaces is closed, you can leave a voicemail or drop us an email. We will get back to you as soon as we are able to.

If you are in crisis or need immediate help call 999.

Safe Spaces Grants Service Update *(by Donna)*

In order to review expenditure and offer ongoing support as grants recipients reach the half way stage, Safe Spaces have sent out monitoring reports to the successful applicants from each round of the grants process. We are currently in receipt of round one recipients' feedback, the roll out of invites to complete the monitoring forms is now underway for those successful applicants from round two. There were no successful applicants from round three and the grants application process is now closed.

There have been a number of projects who had to overcome challenges created by world events and have worked hard to reimagine their projects to ensure that the needs of their beneficiaries are met and a successful project is delivered.



We are delighted to feature information from one of our successful grant recipients 'Voices of Awareness' as they invite the reader to engage directly with their project – see next page!

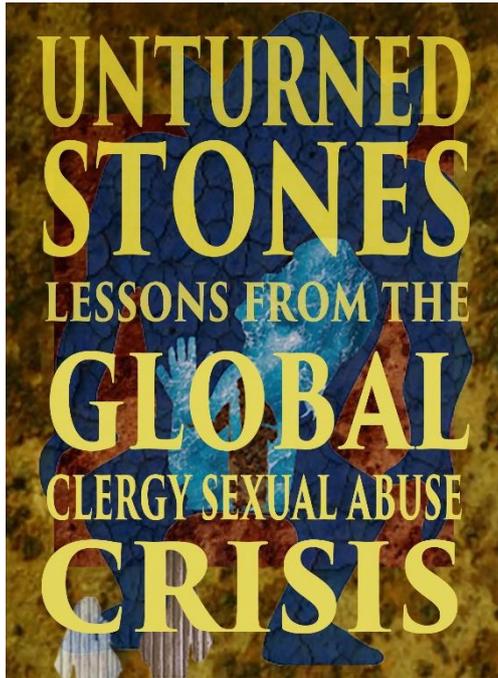


Another grant recipient from the Diocese of Newcastle has kindly given permission for us to offer the link to their webpage where they share the final versions of films they have produced as part of their project alongside a wealth of resources which aim to engage with survivors of faith-based abuse. Follow the link is below:

[If I Told You, What Would You Do? - Newcastle Diocese \(anglican.org\)](https://www.anglican.org/what-would-you-do/)



With the assistance of the grants panel members, the Safe Spaces team have begun the process of developing an evaluation tool to measure the effectiveness of the grant process from the perspective of the panelists and to later be rolled out to the recipients of grants for feedback. Input has been offered and suggestions made by the group as to the type of questioning that should be used offer an overview of the process in general. We hope to have the questionnaire ready for roll out by the end of the month.



Fancy having YOUR words in print?

A participation section of this book is currently being compiled to amplify the voices of victim/survivors, allies & friends including clergy members & safeguarding campaigners & personnel.

This is an opportunity to feature more voices with the minimum of time commitment.

The theme is “Today, I understand.”

Each participant is invited to begin a short paragraph with the words “Today, I understand....”

You can add your name & profession, & a website address & email, remain anonymous or use a “nickname.”

(Word limit: Under 300 / Deadline: 25th July 2022) voicesofawareness@protonmail.com

For more information see the website: <https://unturnedstones.mystrikingly.com/>

We are also on the lookout for contributors to write about:

- Trauma Informed Correspondence
- Survivor Solidarity / Co support
- Survivor Reference Panels
- Non-Disclosure Agreements
- Forgiveness
- Spiritual Aspect of Clergy Child Sexual Abuse
- DARVO
- The Wisdom of Survivors
- How to be Heard
- Awareness
- The journey of therapy
- Healing Activities

Small print: Unfortunately, we don't have a fund to pay contributors, all the contributors to the 7 chapters written so far have donated their time freely. “The reward is in the taking part” is not our favourite platitude, but we hope that in this case it will be true. The hardback book will be available through all the usual bookstores in large print in English. A kindle e-book will be available in English & Spanish.

Safe Spaces Compliments

Feedback is incredibly important to the Safe Spaces Service. When we are nearing the end of support with service users, we send a form asking for feedback.

This Month we are sharing the gratitude and experience of some of our services users feedback, offered recently following their time within the service



XXXXX has been fab, I just needed a listening ear who got it, and she fitted that bill perfectly.

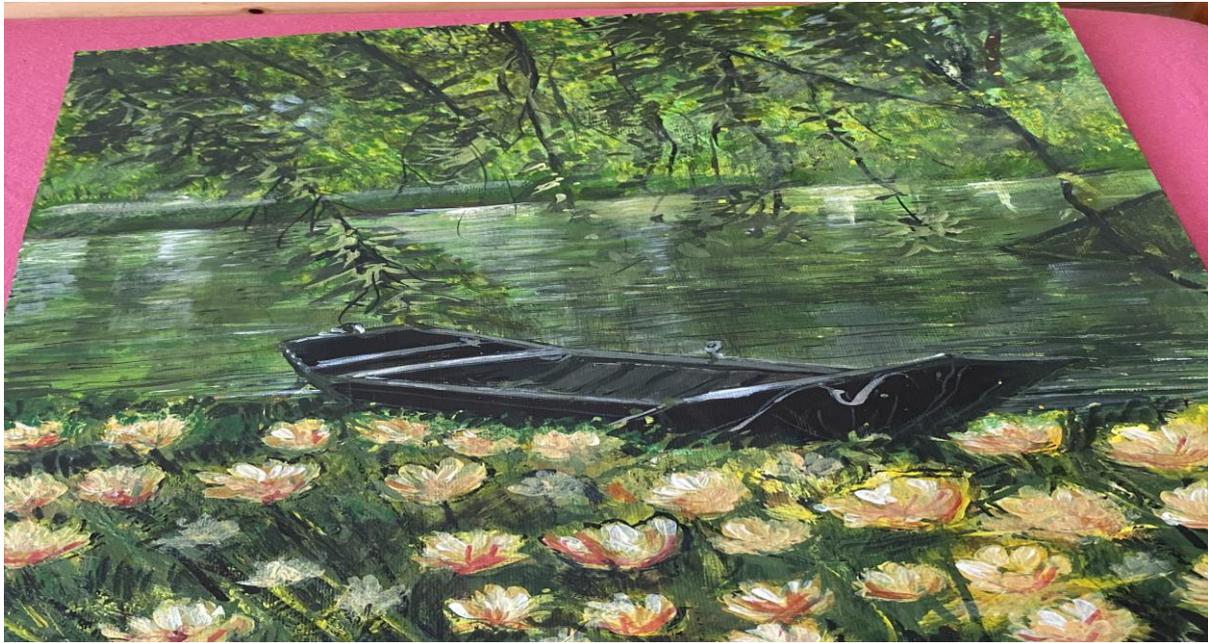


Thank you for your help and XXXXX. You have helped me to get to this point and really appreciate how you looked after me. Safe Spaces has been an essential part the journey for me.



Survivors Artwork

Thank you to our contributors for another beautiful addition to our newsletter.



Welcome to Eve one of our new Caseworkers



Hi I'm Eve one of the new case workers at Safe Spaces. I joined Safe Spaces in March 2022 and I am working part time whilst completing my masters in Essex. I previously worked for Victim Support Scotland supporting victims of crime and applied to work with Safe Spaces as I am passionate in supporting and advocating for survivors of abuse. I have loved working with the Safe Spaces team, they are all kind and supportive and have already taught me so much!

Out with work and my studies I enjoy reading, camping and exploring the countryside. I am also trying to learn how to crochet but it isn't going very well!



Safe Spaces Evaluation

Rocket Science, an independent research and evaluation organisation, has been commissioned by Safe Spaces England Wales to evaluate the Safe Spaces service, delivered by Victim Support.

One of the aims of the evaluation is to understand the impact of the service for those who have accessed it. The evaluation will be conducted by a trained team of researchers at Rocket Science, who are all experience in trauma informed research.

If you are currently being supported by Safe Spaces or have previously been in contact with the service, they would like to hear about your experience.

An on-line survey is available here <https://www.research.net/r/HHSJW7W>

The survey should take no more than 7 minutes to complete, all answers are completely anonymous and confidential and the survey only asks about your experience of using the Safe Spaces service. Contact details for Rocket Science can also be found by following the link.

Can you help us with future newsletters?

We at Safe Spaces hope that eventually this newsletter will be co-produced with service users. We therefore welcome anyone who has engaged with us to write to us with any suggestions for input, or even write an article.

Keeping in touch

If you would like to continue to receive our quarterly newsletter please email safespacesfeedback@victimsupport.org.uk

If you have already registered to receive this newsletter you will remain on our mailing list, until you ask to be removed. If you know of anyone who would like to receive our newsletter in the future, ask them to email us directly @safespacesfeedback