



December 2020

**Oxford University ISVA**

Thank you for your interest in the role of Oxford University ISVA at Oxfordshire Sexual Abuse and Rape Crisis Centre (OSARCC).

This information pack includes

- A summary of who we are, our history, our values and the services we offer
- A role description and person specification

Please complete the application form in full on our website. Unfortunately, we are unable to contact candidates who are not shortlisted. Should you not hear from us within three weeks of the closing date please assume that on this occasion your application has been unsuccessful.

Your application form should be complete on our website.

Further information is available from [www.osarcc.org.uk](http://www.osarcc.org.uk). You're also welcome to contact me for an informal conversation about the role on 01865 725311 or [recruitment@osarcc.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@osarcc.org.uk), although please note that our office is closed from 5pm on 18<sup>th</sup> December until 4<sup>th</sup> January.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sear".

Siriol Davies

Interim Services Manager

### **About Oxfordshire Sexual Abuse and Rape Crisis Centre**

Oxfordshire Sexual Abuse and Rape Crisis Centre (OSARCC) is a feminist organisation committed to supporting and empowering those who have experienced sexual violence. We have been supporting women survivors of sexual violence since 1979. For many years, OSARCC was managed by a collective of committed women volunteers and still maintains a non-hierarchical ethos although a Board of Trustees and paid staff oversee the development and day to day running of the charity.

OSARCC has developed in a number of significant ways since 2009 when we became a registered charity and secured funding to recruit paid staff. This has had a marked impact on the stability of the organisation, enabled OSARCC to increase its profile and led to an expansion of services, staff positions, key partnerships and volunteer numbers. Our work has also been recognised with several awards, including a Lifetime Achievement Award, and several awards for volunteer engagement and support.

OSARCC is a member of Rape Crisis England and Wales, an umbrella network organisation that supports the work of Rape Crisis centres. It provides co-ordination and support to affiliated member groups and campaigns and lobbies to raise awareness of the issues of sexual violence in the wider community and with local, regional and national government. Local Rape Crisis Centres are autonomous, but work under the umbrella of Rape Crisis (England and Wales) and commit to working within the Rape Crisis National Service Standards.

Rape Crisis acknowledges all forms of sexual violence including; rape, sexual assault and childhood sexual abuse, sexual harassment, rape in marriage, forced marriage, and so-called honour-based violence, female genital mutilation, trafficking and sexual exploitation and ritual abuse irrespective of whether the violence is from known or unknown perpetrators. Rape Crisis Centres are frontline services providing crucial support for survivors of all ages who have experienced any form of sexual violence in line with a feminist empowerment framework. Rape Crisis Centres aim to offer specialist support, advocacy, counselling and information, free of charge and in confidence, in a safe and non-threatening environment.

### **Vision, mission and values**

Our vision is for everyone to be free from the fear, experience and stigma of sexual violence and supported when it does occur.

Our mission is to support survivors of sexual violence, promote and advocate for their needs and work towards the elimination of sexual violence.

We aim to do this by:

- Providing a diverse range of effective services that meet the needs of survivors in Oxfordshire who are affected by sexual violence.

- Raising awareness of the prevalence and impact of sexual violence and the need for specialist services to support survivors
- Challenging and changing public attitudes about sexual violence in Oxfordshire and beyond

Our **values** underpin all of our work. We are:

**1. Non-Directive**

We do not try to influence women to take any particular action, nor do we try to impose our views on their decisions. We help service users to explore their options, in a way that does not pressure them to choose any specific path.

**2. Non-Judgemental**

We do not judge service users or other OSARCC workers, but we do not permit abuse of others and will challenge discrimination.

**3. Empowerment**

We aim to empower survivors to make their own decisions and to support them in whatever way they need.

**4. Confidentiality**

Whatever a service user says is confidential to the organisation within safeguarding policies. Information is shared between OSARCC members and the OSARCC supervisor to ensure quality and consistency of service.

**5. Free**

We provide a service free of charge in order to be accessible to all survivors.

**6. Challenging Discrimination**

We are a non-directive and non-judgemental organisation, but we will challenge discrimination in any form.

**7. Committed to Good Practice**

We have meetings to share feedback and information about how we are helping service users, along with service development. We operate a lone working policy. We have a complaints procedure to ensure that all service users have a safe way to lodge complaints. We have monthly group and quarterly individual supervisions by a professional clinical supervisor. We encourage continual training and development.

**8. Women led**

OSARCC believes that sexual violence is both a cause and consequence of women's inequality and discrimination. We are therefore committed to challenging such discrimination in our work, to run our services for women by women, to delivering our services in a safe, women-only space and to working within an empowerment approach. Our values are based on feminist principles and we aim to work with others towards the elimination of sexual violence.

**9. Belief**

We believe what women tell us. Furthermore, we firmly believe that rape is never the fault of the survivor and actively and we actively seek to challenge this myth.

OSARCC, along with other Rape Crisis Centres, are allowed to advertise for women-only staff, volunteers and trustees, and are exempt under Schedule 9, Part 1 of the [Equality Act 2010](#).

### **OSARCC's services**

We support women survivors of sexual violence, whether their experience has been recent or in the past.

- We run a confidential, free **Listening Service** comprised of the **telephone helpline** (established 1979), **email support** (established 2010), and **text support** (established 2018) staffed by volunteers 3 evenings every week. Our helpline is a listening service, underpinned by our core values (see above). We provide callers with space to explore their feelings, and to consider what options might be available to them. We can signpost and provide information about other services on request, as well as providing general information about reporting and criminal justice processes. We also support women and men who are supporting survivors of sexual violence, as well as professionals. We will take a first call from a male survivor and signpost him to more appropriate support services.
- A **support group** for women over the age of 18 was launched in February 2011, offering 12 week cycles of semi-structured group and peer support work, facilitated by a qualified counsellor and an OSARCC volunteer. The support group has seen huge success and has led to positive outcomes for the women who have participated in it.
- We provide a fortnightly **drop in group** with a programme of different activities for women who are on our waiting lists for our face to face services, and for those who using (or who have used) other services.
- We provide a **Counselling service** which supports women through the use of trained volunteer counsellors for up to 48 session at a time. We also provide **Psychoeducation support** of 6 sessions at the point of referral, and a telephone call back service to those on the waiting list for counselling.
- As of December 2014 we've provided an **Independent Sexual Violence Advocacy (ISVA)** service, which offers both emotional and practical support to women who need information on health, housing, finance, and the criminal justice system.
- In January 2019 we recruited an **Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA)** specifically to work with students of all genders at the University of Oxford.
- Since 2017 we have offered support to young women and girls aged 14 to 18 via the **SEE Project**, funded by the Big Lottery. This includes **Empowerment Work, Counselling** and **Consent workshops**.
- In April 2020 we began working in partnership with two other organisations across Thames Valley on the **Victims First Specialist Service**, and we employ five ISVAs within that service.

- We offer **training and support** for people in other organisations who are working with survivors.
- We use **outreach** work in schools and universities as part of our efforts to prevent violence against women.
- We **campaign to end violence against women** and to improve support services for survivors of sexual violence.

### Governance and structure

OSARCC is a charity run by a board of ten trustees and paid staff in consultation with volunteers - each of whom can contribute to decisions about the running of the centre through relevant forums. We believe it is important to make decisions with as broad a consensus as possible, and value everyone's contributions.

The board of trustees holds overall responsibility for strategy, staff employment and supervision, ensuring adherence to legislation and other binding roles and regulations and the financial viability and accountability of OSARCC. However most day to day activities are delegated to the CEO and other paid staff.

Our staff team includes a full time CEO, part time Services Manager, 2 x full time ISVAs, full time Helpline and Training Co-ordinator, a full time Counselling & Groups Co-ordinator, a full time Centre Administrator, a part time Young Women's Project Coordinator, and a full time Empowerment Worker. We also employ clinical supervisors on a freelance basis, and have a part time cleaner.

We have approximately 70 volunteers who are intensively trained to deliver the majority of our front line service provision.

The work of OSARCC is made possible by grants from central government, local authority grants as well as local charitable trusts and individual donations.

### OSARCC's structure





