

Past Achievements/Milestones

- 1993** Knowsley Domestic abuse forum established, decision made to form independent domestic abuse agency
- 1995** One full time worker appointed to establish an agency
- 1996** Funding secured for three years from Safer Merseyside Partnership of £26k per annum which was total income for the agency. Official launch of KDVSS and charitable status gained
- 1997** European funding, in partnership with Federation of Mother and Baby Homes and Shelters, gained under the Daphne initiative enabled the commencement of a research project into the wants and needs of people living in Knowsley affected by domestic abuse
- 1998** Research project completed with draft report produced
Visited Finland to view their services and hosted observers from Finland here
Funding gained from Camelot to employ a part-time admin worker
Commenced funding applications to charitable trusts for an outreach worker
- 1999** Findings from research project presented in Helsinki, Finland and Edge Hill College, Ormskirk – results informed KDVSS service development
Funding applications successful, outreach worker employed
KDVSS launched Merseyside Zero Tolerance campaign at new Liverpool Football Club Academy in Kirkby; Zero Tolerance help line co-delivered from Kirkby by KDVSS volunteers
- 2000** KDVSS won award from Safer Merseyside Partnership in recognition of our work
Funding from St Helens and Knowsley Health Authority enabled us to deliver two day multi-agency domestic abuse training courses to over 300 front line workers in Knowsley
Presentation given by KDVSS on the need for a women and children's refuge in Knowsley
- 2001** Feasibility study for community First Step Centre completed
Outreach project established at sites across the borough
- 2002** Application to KMBC Children's Fund successful enabling us to start delivering an accredited eight week education programme in primary schools (Gender and Conflict) and a fourteen week community based programme for children and their non-abusive parent (Butterfly Programme)

Capital funding bids successful to refurbish St. Martin's Church Hall into First Step Centre

Funding gained from DAAT (Drug and Alcohol Action Team) for InPACT project – the only male perpetrator programme in the country to be funded by DAAT

- 2003** Partnership formed with Arena Housing to construct first purpose built women and children's refuge in Knowsley
Gained Community Legal Services quality mark
KDVSS submitted by Children's Fund as a showcase agency for its Children's Education Programme and Butterfly Programme; both programmes inspected by Ofsted and entered into their 'Book of Good Practice'
Outreach project ceased and changed to Floating Support service under Supporting People funding criteria
- 2004** Refurbishment work commenced on First Step Centre
Construction work started on refuge
Children's Education Programme been delivered to 1000 pupils in Knowsley schools
Successful funding bid to New Deal for Communities (North Huyton) enabled us to start delivering a targeted service in that area
Charity ball sponsored by Goodman's solicitors raises over £3k
- 2005** First Step Centre officially opened – royal visit by request of HRH Duke of Gloucester KG GCVO
36 bed women and children's purpose built refuge completed and opened
CEO invited to meet Prime Minister
Funding bid to Sport England successful enabling outdoor play equipment to be purchased plus 2 year funding for a full time activity worker
- 2006** Knowsley gained Specialist Domestic Violence Court Status and KDVSS was commissioned to deliver Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA) Service
Rickter scale training delivered to KDVSS staff for monitoring service user progress and qualitative outcomes
KMBC voluntary sector grant aid review undertaken
- 2007** Refuge crèche successfully achieves OFSTED accreditation
KDVSS wins Best Team Award from the Safer Knowsley Partnership
Our Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedure is the first one to be successfully ratified by the Knowsley Safeguarding Children Board
Refuge wins North West award from the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors in their residential category

- 2008** Due to cessation of project funding we had to make three staff redundant
Tender to KMBC Prevention and Early Intervention Fund successful for the innovative KDVSS Teen Talk project
Funding applications to Charitable Trusts for the InPACT project are successful
- 2009** QVC made us their charity of the year raising over £40k
A weekly outreach GP and health service in the refuge commenced delivery by the Options Health Team
KMBC appoints a Domestic Abuse Strategic lead for the Borough
KDVSS held an event in the Huyton Suite to mark International Day For the Elimination of Violence Against Women with a market place, a powerful drama by Aftathoughts and a workshop by Batala the Brazilian Samba drumming band
Knowsley Domestic Abuse strategy 2009/11 launched
- 2010** A Knowsley MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference) steering group is established to ensure CAADA principles are met
Tender to DCFS (Department for Children, Families and Schools) successful to deliver perpetrator programmes for males referred by CAFCASS¹
Eight service users, five children and the Specialist DV Support Worker completed the Knowsley Challenge successfully raising £800 for the service user fund
- 2011** Victim/Survivors who use our services drew up their 'Bill of Rights' with each woman adding their own 'right'
Funding for the Teen Talk project sadly came to an end and we had to say goodbye to two valued staff members
A Service User/Stakeholder consultation showed that 100% of respondents would recommend KDVSS services to other people
Following nomination by the Knowsley Chamber of Commerce our CEO was honoured as 'Inspirational Woman of the Year'.
InPACT/IPS was formally invited to participate in the Mirabal Project, the first longitudinal research in Europe into the effectiveness of domestic violence prevention programmes for men
- 2012** The established service user focus group commenced a consultation to identify service needs for a funding bid to the Big Lottery Fund (BLF)
Through a partnership with Merseyside Listening Ear an onsite counselling service is being delivered at the First Step Centre for our service users

¹ CAFCASS – Children and Families Court Advisory Support Service

Specialist domestic violence court for Knowsley and Liverpool opens in Liverpool

Funding application to the BLF successful

KMBC introduces competitive tendering to fund services going forward utilising a Framework approach

2013 The KDVSS InPACT and IPS services successfully gain full accreditation from Respect – only accredited programme in the North West and one of only nine nationally

New Government domestic violence and abuse definition comes into force

KMBC Public Health commences a Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment

KMBC undertakes a Domestic Abuse Scrutiny Review

KDVSS becomes an accredited Living Wage Employer

2014 KDVSS initiates a re-branding process, following consultation with service users, stakeholders, staff and volunteers, we agree to become known **The First Step**

Work starts on redesigning our logo, leaflets, and website