In July 2017 Northampton Women’s Aid became Northamptonshire Domestic Abuse Service. The change of name was launched at an event held at the Guildhall for staff, volunteers, stakeholders, local dignitaries, service users and professionals. Thanks must go to Northampton Borough Council for providing the venue.

For several years NDAS had offered advice and support to male victims through the 24/7 telephone helpline and drop in service. In 2017 Northamptonshire Quakers and NDAS began their search for a suitable property for the provision of refuge accommodation for male victims. Northamptonshire Quakers very generously had offered to purchase a property for this purpose with a commitment from NDAS to manage the project. The new name was adopted to make evident that we provide an inclusive service across the whole county.

The male refuge was one of two new refuges opened by NDAS in 2017-2018. New provision for South Northants opened November 2017, in a refurbished property provided by Grand Union Housing.

A successful application to the Department of Communities and local Government (DCLG) resulted in one year’s funding for Targeted Support Workers in the seven district and borough areas and two specialist children’s workers. This enabled the continued development of services which addressed the needs of victims of domestic abuse across the whole county. In district and borough councils where there is no refuge NDAS were able to recruit Targeted Support Workers to deliver a community based service providing advice, support and group work using local authority offices, children’s centres and GP surgeries for drop-in locations. Regrettably central government funding for domestic abuse services is not continuous and funding from within the county for this work has proved to be unsustainable.

As always none of the work would be possible without the commitment of the staff and trustees. Direct support staff, back room staff, reception and housekeepers all have an essential role to play in the delivery of our services. We thank you for the difference you make in the lives of the charity’s service users.

This report provides a summary of the charity’s activities during 2017/18. More information can be found in the Full Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2018, available from the Charity Commission website or on request from the charity.
Total number of clients supported in 2017-18:

- 302 Drop in clients
- 272 Targeted Support Clients
- 477 Advice Clients
- 72 Refuge Clients
- 151 Freedom Clients
- 274 Interventions

Total: 1548
This is my first year as Chairperson for Northamptonshire Domestic Abuse Service, having taken over the reins from Wendy Lovell on 19th January 2018. I would like to first pay a sincere tribute to Wendy for chairing NDAS for 10 years, helping it through some very testing times, but also leading it to become a dynamic organisation, providing a range of support services for victims of domestic abuse and their families. A very large act to follow and I am grateful that she is remaining as a Trustee.

Over the past few years NDAS has developed from a service primarily providing Refuge accommodation, to one that delivers support for male and female victims, children and families, and perpetrators who voluntarily participate. Community workers have been based in localities across the county with great effect, focusing on early intervention and prevention. Freedom programmes have been delivered to victims, helping them understand their situation, how they can move on and avoid being a victim in the future. Children's workers have helped children understand what has happened, cope with it and keep themselves safe. All work is underpinned with a firm safeguarding policy.

Refuges too have developed with innovative and ground-breaking projects – NDAS runs a refuge for women with drug and alcohol problems, funded by Health, and recently opened a Refuge for male victims and their children with financial help from Northamptonshire Quakers.

All our work needs financial support and NDAS has successfully contracted with commissioners because it is able to demonstrate that it has the governance, structures and policies that underpin safe and best practice. We recruit workers who are committed, with the qualities needed to encourage & enable victims and perpetrators to change their lives and those of their children; but we also provide the back room and management needed for all this to happen.

However – year on year NDAS has faced cuts to contracts and funding and this year was no different. Currently, the local picture is bleak, with a financially troubled County Council and no current strategy for domestic abuse. Nationally, funding is expected to support domestic abuse and particularly Refuge services, but this will not happen until late into 2018 and only Local Authorities can apply. Cuts early in 2018 will mean that locality-based workers will finish and refuge support workers will be cut. The financial challenges we face are significant, but trustees are determined to meet them. In 2018 we will implement a strategy to reduce costs where feasible and look for diversification of our income to support both core costs and development work.

NDAS is also determined to continue encouraging and participating in partnership work, because we know this is the only way that domestic abuse can be successfully tackled. We know there are many services and people in the county dedicated to working hard to help victims and children. We are very proud to be a leading partner in this work, but we need Commissioners to step up and support this through a strategic plan that will take us into the future with sustainable services that meet the county’s needs.

We are also incredibly proud of our staff and the difficult and challenging work they do, whether at the front line, or in the background, providing the support services needed. The Board of Trustees will continue to work hard to secure sustainable funding for the future and retain the structures needed to support them. I would like to thank all staff and trustees for their work, commitment and support and I look forward to working with them in the next year.

Glynis Bliss, MBE
Case Studies

Refuge

Greta came to NDAS drop in service on several occasions to seek advice about the emotional and physical abuse she was suffering from her husband. She was extremely scared due to threats that her husband had made to her if she ever left him.

Greta was on maternity leave and there was some confusion over her eligibility for benefits due to her being an EAA national worker.

NDAS worker helped to navigate her through the benefits system and established that she was eligible for benefits. Greta eventually found the courage to leave and was placed in refuge with her very young baby.

Greta was very isolated as had no friends or family in this country and has very limited English. NDAS worker supported her through the system and attended all of her benefit and housing appointments to ensure understanding.

Greta gained a great deal of confidence whilst being in refuge. She recognised that she had the right for herself and her child to feel safe. This confidence enabled her to make the decision to start divorce proceedings.

Greta was eventually offered a house with the local authority and is now living there happily with her baby in safety.

Names have been changed to protect client confidentiality

“Without NDAS I don’t think I would still be here. They saved my life without even realising it”

Advice

Tara is 17 years old and was referred to NDAS via Northamptonshire County Councils Early help and Prevention team. The referral was made due to Tara having witnessed domestic abuse between her parents as well as concerns that she was also being subjected to abuse from her partner Craig. They have a 6 month old child together who was subject to a Child Protection plan due to the abuse in the family home.

When the NDAS Worker first started to work with Tara it became apparent that she had normalised domestic abuse and saw it as part of every relationship. The NDAS worker taught Tara about what a healthy relationship is, what the effects of domestic abuse on children could be and how she could protect herself and her child.

Tara also learnt about what domestic abuse is, the different forms it can take and the types of behaviour presented. She was helped to identify a support network and the NDAS worker created an intensive support plan to protect Tara and her child.

Due to the work completed with her, Tara was able to recognise that her relationship was not healthy which led to her reporting incidents that had happened with her partner to the police.

Tara has now left her partner and is living free from abuse with support from her family. She found that the completion of the work with NDAS gave her the strength to disclose the abuse, to gain support and ask for protection from the relevant agencies.

Names have been changed to protect client confidentiality
NCC Contract

In 2017-18 Northamptonshire Domestic Abuse Service provided a range of services within Northamptonshire Country Councils Supporting Services Contract as part of NCCs Early Help and Prevention Supporting Services for Children and Families. NDAS provided services including; Freedom group work for female victims; Your Power to Change group work for male perpetrators and Help me to Stay Safe group work for children.

Advice

The advice centre continues to answer high numbers of calls from both clients and professionals and from partner agencies seeking support and advice. The organisation continues to provide access to The Freedom Programme at its advice centre for women who were not eligible to apply for support via the NCC Early Help and Prevention contract. In the main these were women with no children.

The training room at the advice centre continues to be the venue for the bi-weekly MARAC meetings. We offer ongoing support, including room provision, to many other partner agencies including Family Support Link and Family Action.

“I honestly don’t know where I would be now if it wasn’t for you”  Targeted Support Work Client, May 2017
Refuge

There were 21 units of mainstream refuge accommodation in the county in 2017-18 and five units of specialist refuge accommodation for women and their children with substance misuse issues. The referrals for refuge far exceeded availability.

In addition to the above, the male refuge opened in March 2018. This refuge can accommodate three men and one child. This is only one of 9 refuges in the UK to cater exclusively for male victims of domestic abuse. The organisation’s support staff are experienced in helping women, men and their children to adjust to life in refuge. Except for six self-contained units of accommodation in a purpose built refuge, our safe emergency accommodation takes the form of bedrooms in a property where kitchen, lounge and bathrooms are shared. Support staff endeavour to identify how victims feel and they are committed to making refuge a nice space to live in.

“It’s 5 in the morning and I looked up at the stars, knowing I was believed and I’m finally free”
Refuge Client, September 2017

Targeted Support Work

Targeted Support workers have been based in the county this year offering a range of services including:

- Drop in surgeries
- Freedom Programmes
- Close links with GP Surgeries
- Referring in to other services offered by NDAS including refuge provision where appropriate
- Supporting clients to be able to stay safe in their own homes

The NDAS Targeted Support Workers were able to respond to clients based within their area and offer ongoing support on any matters relating to domestic abuse.

The Targeted Support Workers were based within their respective council offices which enabled them to forge great relationships with the local housing team and other departments within the councils.
Statement of financial activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNRESTRICTED FUNDS £</th>
<th>RESTRICTED FUNDS £</th>
<th>TOTAL 2018 £</th>
<th>TOTAL 2017 £</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Incoming Resources</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations and legacies</td>
<td>28,468</td>
<td>28,468</td>
<td>34,115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment income</td>
<td>3,492</td>
<td>3,492</td>
<td>2,876</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other incoming resources</td>
<td>12,983</td>
<td>12,983</td>
<td>3,959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Incoming resources from charitable activities:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catch 22 Contract</td>
<td>243,546</td>
<td>243,546</td>
<td>32,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCC TSS Contract</td>
<td>120,000</td>
<td>120,000</td>
<td>120,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northamptonshire Local Authorities</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>56,948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DCLG</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>352,168</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rent received</td>
<td>175,018</td>
<td>175,018</td>
<td>173,143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total incoming resources</strong></td>
<td>583,507</td>
<td>352,168</td>
<td>935,675</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resources Expended</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Charitable Activities</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provision of refuges and supporting services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total resources expended</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Net incoming resources for the year | (126,151) | 114,571 | (11,580) | (108,553) |
| Balances brought forward at 1 April 2017 | 1,099,883 | - | 1,099,883 | 1,208,436 |
| Balances carried forward at 31 March 2018 | 973,732 | 114,571 | 1,088,303 | 1,099,883 |

The company has no recognised gains or losses other than those included in the surplus above.
There were no discontinued operations.

Financial Review

NDAS benefited from £352K funding from a successful application to DCLG by a partnership of the local authorities in the county. This resulted in a 50% increase in income for 2017-18. The restricted unspent income carried forward into 2018-2019 from this funding was due to time taken in recruiting to additional posts.

The contract for NCC's Targeted Support Service delivery of interventions to families experiencing domestic abuse changed from a sub Catch 22 to a contract directly with NCC in 2017.

The opening of two new refuges, one in November and one in February, was too late in the financial year to have a significant impact on rental income.

The 2017-2018 financial result for the year taking account of the restricted unspent DCLG funding is a deficit of £126K indicative of a decline in funding for domestic abuse services in the county.

These summarised financial statements have been extracted from the full statutory financial statements of Northamptonshire Domestic Abuse Service and may not contain sufficient information of the financial affairs of the charity.
The full financial statements of Northamptonshire Domestic Abuse Service have been subjected to an external audit and the audit report thereon was unqualified. The Trustees approved the full financial statements of Northamptonshire Domestic Abuse Service on 13th October 2018 and these will be filed with the Charity Commission after the AGM.
Copies of the full financial statements will be available on the Charity Commission website and from the charity, by electronic means, on request.

Report of the Independent Auditor on the Summary Financial Statements to the Trustees of Northamptonshire Domestic Abuse Service

Opinion

The summary financial statements, which comprise the summary balance sheet as at 31 March 2018 and the summary statement of financial activities for the year then ended are derived from the audited financial statements of Northamptonshire Domestic Abuse Service for the year ended 31 March 2018.

In our opinion, the accompanying summary financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial statements.

Summary Financial Statements

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by applicable law and the Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland: General Purpose Financial Statements' and the auditors' report thereon.

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the summary financial statements and the audited financial statements for reading the audited financial statements and the summary financial statements and the audited financial statements for reading the audited financial statements.

The Audited Financial Statements and Our Report

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2018.

Trustees Responsibility for the Summary Financial Statements

The Trustees are responsible for the preparation of these summary financial statements in accordance with the recommendations of the charities SORP.
NDAS benefited from £352K funding from a successful application to DCLG by a partnership of the local authorities in the county. This resulted in a 50% restricted unspent income carried forward from this funding was due to time taken in recruiting to Targeted Support Service delivery of interventions to families experiencing domestic abuse changed from a sub-contract with Catch 22 to a contract directly with NCC in 2017-2018.

The opening of two new refuges, one in November and one in the following February, was too late in the financial year taking account of the restricted unspent DCLG funding is a deficit of £126K indicative of a decline in funding for domestic abuse services in the county.

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS £
RESTRICTED FUNDS £
TOTAL 2018 £
TOTAL 2017 £

Fixed Assets
Tangible Assets 246,455 – 246,455 255,927

Current Assets
Debtors, Prepayment and Accrued Income 90,638 – 90,638 94,213
Cash at bank and in hand 650,336 114,571 764,907 775,416

740,974 114,571 855,545 869,629

Creditors
Amounts falling due within one year 13,697 – 13,697 25,673

Net current assets 727,277 114,571 841,848 843,956

Total assets less current liabilities 973,732 114,571 1,088,303 1,099,883

Creditors
Amounts falling due after more than one year – – – –

Net assets 973,732 114,571 1,088,303 1,099,883

Funds
Restricted funds – 114,571 114,571 –

Designated funds
Refuge refurbishment 25,000 – 25,000 25,000
Staff costs 50,000 – 50,000 50,000

New case management software – – – 10,000
Property improvements 25,000 – 25,000 25,000

Other unrestricted funds 873,732 – 873,732 989,883

973,732 114,571 1,088,303 1,099,883

Northamptonshire Domestic Abuse Service. Charity Number: 1070741

Auditor’s Responsibility
Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summary financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with International Standard on Auditing (ISA) 810 (Revised), “Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements.”

DNG Dove Naish
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor
Eagle House
28 Billing Road
Northampton, NN1 5AJ

Date: 14th September 2018
Northamptonshire Domestic Abuse Service

Registered Charity No: 1070741
Registered Company No: 2978532
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
13-15 Hazelwood Road
Northampton
NN1 1LG

Telephone Number: 0300 0120154
Email address: info@ndas.co
Website: www.ndas.co

Auditors:
DNJ Dove Nash
Eagle House
28 Billing Road
Northampton
NN1 5AJ

Bankers:
Barclays Bank
PO Box 23
Northampton
NN1 4YD

Sincere thanks to all of our supporters this year. Your help has made a real difference to the lives of many families.

Investment Management:
CCLA Investment Management Ltd
COIF Charities Deposit Fund
Senator House
85 Queen Victoria Street
London EC4V 4ET

Solicitors:
Toller’s Solicitors
1, Waterside Way
Northampton
NN4 7XD

Company Secretary: Christine Starmer
Joint Chief Executives: Ann Bodsworth
Christine Starmer

Board Of Trustees & Directors:
Glynis Bliss (Chairperson)
Shaun Morris (Vice Chairperson)
Wendy Lovell
Beverley Czyz
Andy Horwood
Jennifer Moles
Richard How- Appointed 5/3/18
Lisa Buttar– Appointed 5/3/18
Annmarie Brown– Resigned 14/6/17
Helen Clancy- Resigned 4/5/17