



# SADA Summer News 2023



It has been a very busy time of year for the team. We have had a further increase in referrals while continuing to work hard to raise awareness across the county. The sun was shining, and we had our most important event of the year so far... **Stevenage Day on Sunday 11 June 2023**. We all had a fantastic day, and many came over to visit our information stand and find out more about our service



## Community Safety football (SBC V POLICE)

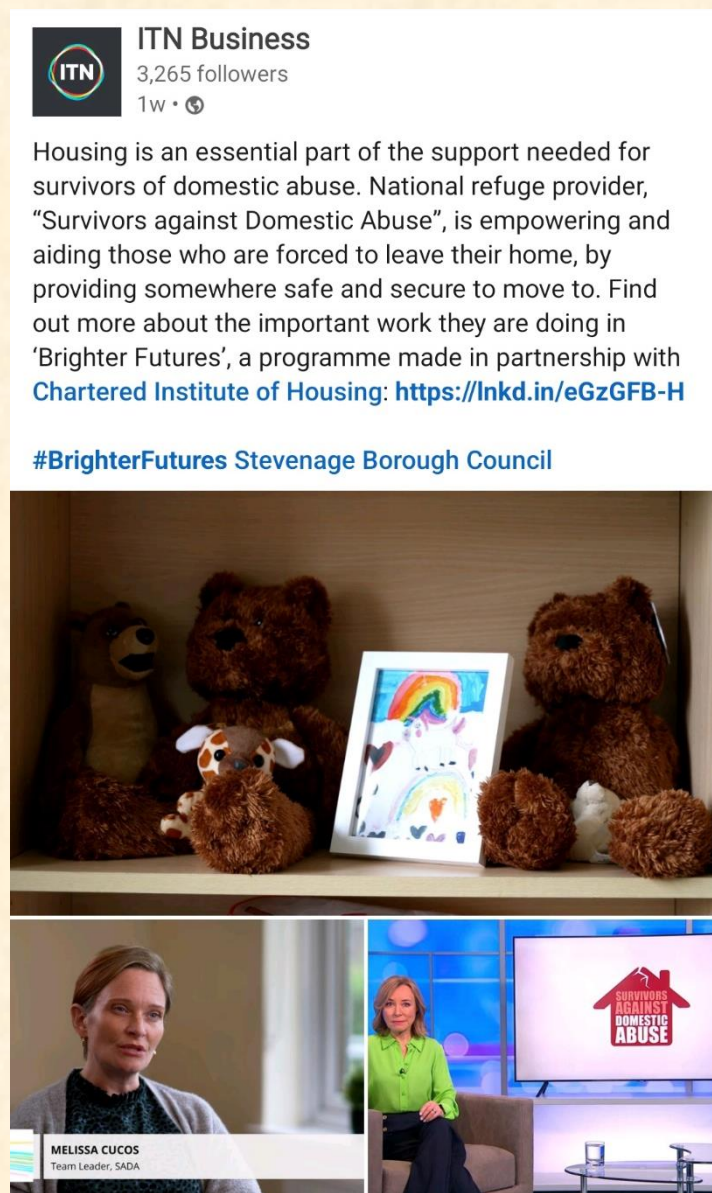
Our fantastic team at Stevenage Borough Council put together a very special team, dedicated to raising awareness and donating to the Friends of SADA Charity 1199030. We've played two matches so far, with more planned. On Father's Day (Sunday 18 June), SBC and Stevenage Police came head-to-head, with both teams determined to win. The winners of the match were SBC with a score of 3-2. However, the real winners were Friends Of SADA, as the match raised a total of **£353!** Thank you to everyone involved and that took part in making such a brilliant day.



## ITN – Chartered Institute of Housing

To explore the role that the social housing sector can play, the Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH) has partnered with ITN Business to produce 'Brighter Futures', a news style programme. The programme will feature examples of the sector delivering on its core purpose – to provide affordable, decent, and safe homes so that individuals and communities can look towards a brighter future. 'Brighter Futures' will also feature best-practice case studies, including local community initiatives and cost of living support. This will also look to support the crucial role of housing officers and to highlight where support is needed.




SADA was very lucky to have the opportunity to support the #BrighterFutures programme, highlighting best-practice from our accommodation support available from the SADA services. Our team members and survivors were interviewed by ITN and have very bravely shared their own personal journeys, to continue to raise awareness of support services available.



**ITN Business**  
3,265 followers  
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Housing is an essential part of the support needed for survivors of domestic abuse. National refuge provider, "Survivors against Domestic Abuse", is empowering and aiding those who are forced to leave their home, by providing somewhere safe and secure to move to. Find out more about the important work they are doing in 'Brighter Futures', a programme made in partnership with **Chartered Institute of Housing**: <https://lnkd.in/eGzGFB-H>

**#BrighterFutures Stevenage Borough Council**



## SADA Summer Project

This year we have been working hard to find ways to keep all our families busy over the summer. With the cost of living going up, we have found lots of activities that our families can do over the holidays together in their safe spaces. We distributed several outdoor games and activities for our families and even secured some free places at soft play centres.



## SADA House Refuge

To make sure everyone is keeping active and safe, we have also continued to run our self-defence classes at the refuge every week. These classes are designed to support attendees with their health and wellbeing, as well as helping to keeping themselves safe.

We have also been busy getting refuge summer ready. With a small herb garden planted and lots of new toys to enjoy.



## SADA Drop in Service

We currently run two drop-in services and we are all set to introduce a <sup>third</sup>. We currently have the virtual drop-in every Friday, from 10.30- 11.30am on Microsoft Teams. We also have our very popular face-to-face drop-in service, held at the Stevenage and North Herts women's centre every other Thursday from 11am-12pm. This has been extremely well attended and those attending have given fantastic feedback.

We have completed courses together looking at various aspects of life as a survivor, including control, understanding healthy relationships, and understanding anxiety. We will be looking to expand this to include a session every other Thursday for the BAME communities, to help those in need of additional support. This will begin on Thursday 27 June from 12-12.30pm following on from the drop-in.

Coming soon to SADA will also be the opening of the face-to-face North Herts drop-in service.



## Peterborough Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Conference



We attended the first Peterborough Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Conference on the 22 of June, and SADA presented some of the feedback from the Cambridge and Peterborough

feedback project from over the last 18 months. Highlighting best practice, lessons learnt and providing ideas for service improvement.

Since September 2021, the SADA service have been commissioned by Cambridgeshire County Council to work on a project that allows us to collate and share feedback from young people and adults who had experienced domestic abuse within Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

The project is an opportunity for both survivors of domestic abuse and young people to highlight the positive and potentially negative experiences during their victim journey.

The feedback provided has been anonymously recorded and communicated back to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Domestic Abuse Partnership Board as an opportunity for 'lessons learnt' and to identify where there is best practice.



For any advice and support around the services we have available or if you would like to make a referral, please contact us via email [SADA@stevenage.gov.uk](mailto:SADA@stevenage.gov.uk).