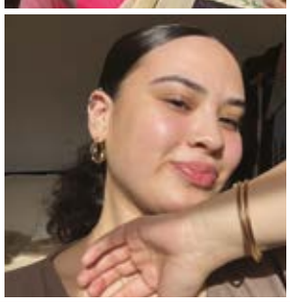


OUR ANNUAL REVIEW AND IMPACT REPORT

2025-2026









I Am Enough









MISSINGLINK
cutting edge
women's mental health services

NEXTLINK
changing the face of
domestic abuse support services

SAFELINK PLUS
supporting survivors



MISSINGLINK
cutting edge
women's mental health services

NEXTLINK
changing the face of
domestic abuse support services

SAFELINK PLUS
supporting survivors

MISSING LINK MENTAL HEALTH AND HOUSING SERVICES

Missing Link began in 1983 with the opening of Bristol's first women-only house. At the time, temporary accommodation for single women was very limited, and fear of violence and abuse made many women reluctant to stay in mixed hostels. The continued growth and demand for our services shows the ongoing need for women-only spaces and support.

Our trauma-informed, holistic recovery approach considers each woman's health, social care, housing and mental health needs. Support is person-centred and tailored, building on individual strengths to improve wellbeing, secure housing and sustain long-term recovery.

Today, Missing Link provides a range of services, including peer support groups, short-term support through Help When You Need It, wellbeing groups, supported housing and crisis houses. We also partner with local charities and organisations to deliver community mental health services across Bristol, South Gloucestershire, North Somerset, BaNES (Bath and North-East Somerset), Swindon and Wiltshire.

NEXT LINK DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES

Next Link was launched in 1999 as part of the Missing Link service. Many women using Missing Link's services told us they were survivors of domestic abuse, which was often a key factor in their homelessness and mental ill health.

Since then, Next Link has grown significantly in size, specialisms and reputation across Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire.

As the lead provider of domestic abuse services (in Bristol and South Gloucestershire), Next Link sub-contracts with specialist organisations so survivors can access tailored support through a single pathway.

Today, Next Link offers a range of support, including telephone advice, Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) support, community and outreach services, safe houses, group work, a health intervention team, and specialist support for LGBTQ+ survivors, children, male victims, disabled survivors, Black survivors and people from minoritised ethnic communities.

SAFE LINK SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND ABUSE SERVICES

Safe Link launched in 2009 to support victims and survivors of sexual violence and abuse across Avon and Somerset. The service provides a much-needed, empowering space for survivors and helps address gaps in existing provision.

Our Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs) provide independent advice and practical and emotional support, including help to navigate the criminal justice system. Where needed, they liaise with sexual health services, the police and other agencies, and signpost survivors to further support.

Safe Link also offers peer support groups, Waiting Well support for people awaiting court hearings, and dedicated services for people with learning disabilities, Black people and people from minoritised ethnic communities, LGBTQ+ survivors, and those experiencing mental ill health and complex needs.

In April 2025, Safe Link Plus launched in partnership with One25 and Second Step to provide joined-up support for street sex workers and male victim survivors.







All three services have been influential in raising public awareness of the needs of women with mental ill health and victim-survivors of domestic and sexual abuse and violence, whilst challenging myths and stereotypes that create barriers for people accessing support that works for them.

Every pound invested *in domestic abuse support services* ***saves*** *the public purse* ***at least £9***



Welcome

to the Annual Report for Missing Link Mental Health, Next Link Domestic Abuse, and Safe Link Sexual Violence and Abuse Support Services.

All three have a reputation for delivering Trauma-responsive services that have a holistic approach, offer best value and are well respected across the Mental Health and Domestic and Sexual Abuse fields.

The well-evidenced links between mental ill health, domestic abuse and sexual violence place our services in a unique position to offer support that draws on the combined skills and expertise of all three.

This approach is unmatched by any other organisation.

CONTENTS

Introduction	01
Management Committee	03
Review of the Year	04
Core Values	17

Our mission is to empower people to live independent lives free of abuse and stigmatisation.
We want to see people thrive not just survive.

MISSING LINK offered a range of support services to **805** women

NEXT LINK supported **6960** adult survivors

and **711** children

SAFE LINK received **1618** adult referrals

and **358** for children

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

A message from our Chair and Chief Executive

"I Am Enough" is a powerful statement of self-worth and resilience. No experience of domestic or sexual abuse, or mental ill health diminishes a person's worth. Yet for many women, children and survivors, feeling safe, valued and heard can be a daily challenge.

This annual review highlights the difference specialist support can make and reflects the courage of the people who have trusted Missing Link, Next Link and Safe Link. Their voices continue to shape our services and drive our determination to create lasting change.

The need for our work remains urgent. Common mental health conditions affect almost one in four women in England, and while abuse can have a devastating impact on the lives of all victims, women and children continue to be disproportionately affected by domestic abuse, sexual violence, stalking and coercive control. While continuing to believe every victim-survivor and provide the support they need, we remain committed to challenging male violence against women and children and the inequalities underpinning it.

The Government's **Freedom From Violence and Abuse Strategy** recognises it as a national emergency. Our work contributes to its key ambitions through **prevention, early intervention, and support services.**

This year we've provided **specialist housing and support services** to thousands of people, helping them regain safety, independence and control.

A **significant milestone** was the opening of Oriana House in Swindon - the first women's mental health crisis house of its kind in Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire (BSW). Co-produced by women with lived experience, it offers a trauma-responsive alternative to hospital admission and demonstrates the strength of partnership among women, voluntary organisations and NHS services.

Prevention and **early intervention** remain central to our mission. Through awareness-raising campaigns, community engagement, public vigils and healthy relationship work, we have challenged misogyny, online abuse and harmful attitudes that enable abuse to continue. Responsibility always lies with the perpetrator, never the victim.

We continue to operate in a challenging environment. Despite rising demand, funding pressures and changes across health, housing and criminal justice, we will continue advocating for sustainable investment, prevention and perpetrator accountability so survivors receive timely support.

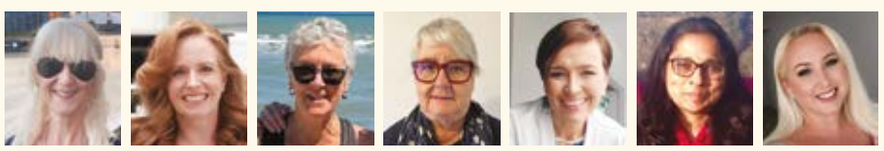
We thank staff, volunteers, Management Committee colleagues, funders, commissioners, donors and partners for their expertise, compassion and unwavering commitment. Above all, we thank every person who has trusted us, shared their experience or helped shape our services.

As we look ahead, our commitment remains unchanged. We continue to listen, learn and work alongside survivors to prevent violence, improve recovery and create lasting change. The theme of this year's report, **"I Am Enough"**, captures the strength and determination we see every day in the people we support and the future we are striving to build together.

Rowena Hastings
Chair of the Management Committee

Sarah O'Leary
Chief Executive

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



Above, from left to right: **Rowena Hastings** Retired NHS Manager (Chair), **Iona Phillips** Solicitor, **Mary Welsh** Retired GP, **Joi Demery** Mental Health Manager (retired), **Mayah Joanna Smithers** Deputy Divisional Director at Southmead Hospital (Treasurer), **Vajakumari H. Siddaramiah** Researcher and Lived Experience Representative, **Emma Jay Webber** Radio Presenter and Lived Experience Representative

WE ARE... *Changing Perceptions*

Women's Health Inequalities training

We have launched 'Strengthening Equity in Women's Mental Health' training across BSW (BaNES, Swindon & Wiltshire), funded by the ICB, for the NHS, local government, Statutory Agencies and VCSE (Voluntary, Community & Social Enterprise) practitioners.

The training follows the life course of a woman and has been co-produced with women with lived experience and other VCSE organisations. The aim is to develop a deeper understanding of the life complexities women may experience, the barriers they report in accessing mental health services, and why a greater knowledge of women's lives is needed throughout the health system.

SCAN THIS CODE FOR OUR TRAINING PROGRAMMES



I AM... *Seen*

TRACEY'S STORY

"At the age of 16 I was sectioned and then spent the next 20 years in hospital. When I was discharged, I was placed in a flat all on my own. My mental health support was gone, and I was left feeling overwhelmed. I was left in a situation where I had no support. Thankfully, an old support worker spoke to Link House, the women's crisis house in Bristol. She encouraged them to ***see the person behind the paper,*** *and they accepted my referral.*

Launch of new Missing Link crisis house in Swindon – Oriana House









We were thrilled to open Oriana House, the new women's mental health crisis house in Swindon! Delivered through the Mental Health & Wellbeing Partnership, alongside partners including AWP NHS, Alabare, Second Step and Nilaari, it's the first service of its kind in the BSW region (BaNES, Swindon and Wiltshire).

To celebrate the opening, we welcomed partners and local councillors Cllr Neil Hopkin and Cllr Nadine Watts to see the house, hear from those involved, and importantly cut the cake!

The house is special in many ways:

- **Trauma informed** – based on Bristol's Link House model, Oriana House offers specialist, everyday support in a welcoming, homely and safe non-medical space for recovery.
- **Lived experience** – a group of women with lived experience helped shape the house into the welcoming space it is today. It was amazing to see two of the women, Tracey and Sam, speak so movingly at the launch.
- **Working in partnership** – Missing Link, Alabare, Nilaari, Second Step and AWP combine their expertise to provide life-changing support for women in need.

MP Heidi Alexander visits Oriana House

Following the launch, Heidi Alexander, Secretary of State for Transport and MP for Swindon South, visited the house. A great opportunity to showcase the great work that can be achieved through partnership working across the NHS and voluntary sector.

It was fantastic to share more about the service with Heidi, who is delighted that women in the region now have access to this vital service. She was also able to meet some of the women whose lived experiences have helped make Oriana a wonderful, welcoming home for women in need.



"I just wanted to say a huge thank you for everything you've done for me. Thank you for your patience, your kindness and for genuinely caring. You've both always shown that you truly cared and that has meant more to me than you'll ever know. I also want to thank all the staff, so please pass on my gratitude to everyone. I really do appreciate all the time, effort and compassion that everyone put into trying to help me. Thank you, truly, for everything."

Oriana House resident

The first time I arrived at Link House- things really took off. I knew that I was nothing like the person on paper, I could see that the staff could see that too. I realised how important these places actually are - they are life savers - I would not be here without them. Getting to speak to other women who are going through something similar in a safe environment with amazing staff and the fact it was only females made me feel safe. It was life changing.

At Link House they gave me my independence - the responsibility is yours but still with lots of help and support, and care. It doesn't feel restrictive despite the rules and restrictions of the house. In hospital you can't go out past 7 o clock at night- you have to ask to be let out and have your pockets searched.

I first got involved in the BSW partnership when I was asked if I wanted to join a focus group for people with lived experience of mental health services. It felt like my opinion really mattered - they were not only interested in what the professionals had to say but also the people that had actually been in the system have to say.

After being part of the focus group, I then got asked if I would be interested in taking part in the development of a new crisis house. I knew I wanted to make a difference in people's lives. It also helped with my self-esteem being part of something like this -a couple of years ago I wouldn't of dreamed I would be capable of doing something like this.

To see the house today, it feels like a huge sense of accomplishment. I hope this will inspire more organisations to build spaces like this - we need more of these, so many more- all around the country and the world.

Women only crisis houses are essential. The fact that I am standing here today talking to you is proof it works."

"I hope this will inspire more organisations to build spaces like this"

WE ARE... *Campaigning*









UN's Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls

Bristol's Vigil

Our annual candlelit vigil was bigger and brighter than ever this year! We marched down Park Street, gathering our crowd of over 200 people on College Green. It was incredible to be in a safe and supportive space, surrounded by wonderful people including victims, survivors and male allies too.

It was a privilege to march through the city together and see the support that exists for the elimination of male violence against women and girls.

We heard from Cllr Carole Johnson, followed by incredible poetry from some of the survivors we've supported - thank you Jaidan, Liz, Cllr Kerry Bailes, Amanda, and to Kennedy who performed a beautiful song. Two survivors, Nora and Akessa, lit candles to honour the two women killed each week by male violence.

Vigil art display in Bristol City Hall

Victims and survivors in our services, and members of the Hartcliffe & Withywood Community Partnership provided incredible, moving artwork created by survivors for a display in City Hall, offering a space and opportunity to reflect after the vigil.



Safe Link supported

522 adults supported by triage

926 accepted into full service

161 children supported by triage

181 children accepted into full service

89% of survivors **felt safer** following their Safe Link support

97% of Safe Link service users **received all the support they needed, when it was needed**

Safe Link Dedicated support services

Over the past year **16%** of survivors had a Learning Disability **22%** came from the LGBTQ+ community **67%** had a substance misuse or mental health need **14%** were from a black or minoritised community **9%** of victims were male

124 victims went to peer support

South Gloucestershire Vigil

We were inspired and proud to host our biggest South Gloucestershire event to date! Around 70 of us gathered to mark the UN's International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls.

We heard passionate and heartfelt speeches from Cllr Alison Evans and Cllr Sean Rhodes, and moving poetry written by one of the survivors we've supported.

The event was an important reminder of the value in coming together in our local communities.

North Somerset Vigil

In partnership with the Weston-Super-Mare Soroptimists, we gathered with partners and survivors in Weston for the North Somerset candlelit vigil to honour those affected by domestic and sexual abuse and violence.

















UN's 16 Days of Action

The theme for the UN's 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence was digital and online abuse – one of the fastest-growing forms of abuse.

We held a 16-day social media campaign to explore themes of digital abuse and highlight risks of online spaces which are increasingly being used by perpetrators to cause further harm to victims and survivors.

Meeting the Victim's Commissioner Claire Waxman

We met with Claire Waxman OBE, the Victims' Commissioner, to share more about our support to victims through our Safe Link ISVA service, talking about strengthening the Victims' Code, and ensuring survivor voices shape services.



I AM... *Listened to*

"After decades of keeping childhood sexual abuse to myself, suffering anxiety, feelings of worthlessness, guilt, shame etc. I managed to report this sexual perpetrator to the police.

I was put in contact with Safe Link, and assigned a fantastic ISVA, who has been with me 100% for any support I need, Nothing is too much trouble for these people, ***they listen with no judgement,*** *helpful, give encouragement, guidance, they are an inspiration.*

I have participated in Peer Support group, which consists of a group who have been through trauma similar to each other, we do various crafts, listen if someone wants to talk about feelings, be supportive of each other in confidence, or just listen and participate, knowing you are not alone.

My journey with Safe Link, Police and other support, has enabled me to realise it was not my fault, shame, guilt to carry but the perpetrators.

I have been able to find confidence, self-worth/love, trust and start living again.

Although it was the toughest/frightening journey at the beginning, it's truly the best thing I have ever done.

They have been my Saviour, they are all fantastic!!!!!! Thankyou Safe Link for everything."

WE ARE... *Preventing harm*





Children days out

During the school holidays, the Next Link children's team organised trips for children in our safe houses and other Next Link services, including a forest experience, football coaching, and visits to a zoo and a history museum in Wales.

These outings give families valuable time to connect and engage meaningfully, supporting children's emotional development and communication skills.

They also create lasting memories, build trust, and give parents space to better understand their children away from the pressures of daily life, which can be especially challenging when recovering from domestic abuse.



Children and Young People

Through our services, we are supporting more and more young people affected by sexual abuse and violence with specialist, trauma-informed help.

Early intervention and healthy relationships education are vital to preventing abuse among young people. We will keep raising awareness, challenging harmful narratives and stereotypes, and promoting positive values and role models for boys and young men.

A study (Youth Endowment Fund) of 13–17-year-olds in relationships found:

- ***49%*** *experience some form of* ***violent or controlling behaviour***
- ***20%*** *had been* ***pressured or forced into sexual activity*** *against their will.*
- ***27%*** *said they were made to* ***feel afraid to disagree*** *with their partner.*
- ***26%*** *said their partner made them* ***feel scared to break up with them****.*



I AM... *Happy*

VOICE OF A CHILD SURVIVOR

"When we first went to safehouse, I was scared, I didn't show it. I know I was a bit of a nuisance. I was lazy sometimes, complained a lot, and never listen. We met Louise and Heather and other supports. No more shouting, or my mum crying in her eyes.

I got really angry with my mum and my sister sometimes. Looking back, It wasn't easy for anyone. You were kind with us, even when I made things difficult. You helped my mum take care of us. The flat felt safe, and after a while, it felt like home.

Now we've got a place of our own, and things are so much better. ***My mum laughs in her eyes, and so do we****.*

Thank you for believing in us and helping us get here. I know I won't forget everything you did for my family. Thank you for giving us a safe place when we needed it.

Goodbye to safehouse, goodbye to lovely support workers and hello to our lovely new home.*"*





WE ARE... Nurturing

Nature Connection

We've loved getting outside alongside women and survivors to support and to learn about the benefits of nature connection and our wellbeing, as a form of support for service users – thanks to both The Community Farm and Frome Valley.







West of England Women's Commission (WEWC)

Our CEO Sarah sits on the WEWC panel to help identify and tackle women's inequality in the region. Through this, she also chairs the Tackling Misogyny Task Group which brings together partners across sectors to tackle the culture and work towards vital changes to end violence against women and girls, and ensure women's equality and safety.

So far, the task group has created and issued a survey to find out what existing work exists to help tackle misogyny across our region, and identify gaps in prevention work

Drive IDVA

Our Independent Domestic Violence Advisers (IDVAs) support victims whose perpetrators are taking part in the Drive programme, which challenges the perpetrator and aims to change their behaviour. Our funding was extended for this service, so we can continue to keep survivors safe throughout the programme, ensuring their voice, safety and wellbeing remain central to the intervention.

"We had such a wonderful time at the beach, really enjoyed ourselves, and made so many lovely memories. I hope we'll be able to make many more happy memories with our support workers in the future as well. Thank you again for your kindness and support. It really means a lot."

Next Link contacts to our duty triage by region

5,659 to our Bristol service
3,036 children whose parents received support from our services
2,639 to our South Glos service
2,049 to our North Somerset service
150 enquiries online

89% of survivors had **improved quality of life** after receiving support in our safe accommodation

Of the **3150** adult survivors who completed an exit assessment,

100% of survivors in our safe accommodation **had a robust safety plan in place**

83% of Next Link service users **felt safer** following our support

Next Link Dedicated support services

Over the past year **38%** of families in our safe houses and **33%** of families in our community services came from a black or minority ethnic community **7%** of survivors came from the LGBTQ+ community **54%** had a disability **9%** were over 55 years old **11%** had a substance misuse and mental health need

We supported **37** women who had experienced honour-based violence and **19** victims of forced marriage

WE ARE... *Collaborating*

Operation Balearic – IDVA and Police Collaboration

During the football World Cup, we worked with Avon & Somerset Police to provide specialist IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Adviser) support for domestic abuse victim-survivors to access after the matches.

Working collaboratively meant victims were able to access trauma-responsive support at the earliest opportunity.







Operation Limit

Operation Limit in Avon & Somerset formed part of a national police campaign to reduce drink and drug driving during the 2026 men's football World Cup. But it also reinforced the links with wider crime, including domestic abuse.

As part of the operation, we were proud to provide an IDVA to help victims and survivors of domestic abuse access vital independent support and improve their safety and wellbeing while helping them access the wider services they need.

IRIS ADViSE programme

We're pleased to have launched the delivery of IRIS ADViSE (Assessing for Domestic Violence and Abuse in Sexual Health Environments) in a clinic in Yate, South Gloucestershire.

The programme trains and supports sexual health clinic staff to spot the signs and help patients affected by domestic and sexual abuse.

For many victims and survivors, a health clinic is the one place they can speak to someone anonymously, away from the perpetrator, meaning it could be one of the safest and most confidential ways to get support.

The sharing of expertise between Next Link and sexual health practitioners encourages a more holistic response, meaning the most vulnerable victims can get the support they need to live safer and healthier lives.

North Somerset safe accommodation service

Next Link is now one of three services supporting victim-survivors of domestic abuse in North Somerset. We provide safe accommodation for victim-survivors and children fleeing high-risk domestic abuse, alongside practical and emotional support. Working alongside us to provide the IDVA support service is Cranstoun, and Family Action who provide therapeutic support.

In the region, we also manage the **Sanctuary Scheme**, helping survivors remain safely in their own homes where appropriate, and provide emergency 'crash pad' accommodation for stays of up to seven days. This ensures victim-survivors can access safe housing immediately while longer-term or move-on accommodation is arranged.

WE ARE... *Learning*

CATIA – NEXT LINK SAFE HOUSE PLACEMENT STUDENT

"Looking back at my time with Next Link, I can wholeheartedly say that it has been ***one of the most valuable and rewarding experiences of my journey so far.***

At the beginning of my placement year, I was unsure of what to expect from working in a professional environment full-time. However, those feelings quickly disappeared thanks to being part of such an amazing team that felt more like a family than a workplace. From day one, everyone was welcoming, supportive, and always willing to help.

What stood out most about my experience was the privilege of supporting clients through challenging periods in their lives. ***Witnessing their progress, celebrating their achievements, and knowing that I had played a part in their journey was incredibly rewarding****. This experience has reinforced the importance of empathy, patience, continuous learning, and personal development, lessons that I will carry with me throughout my future career.*

I am incredibly grateful to have had the opportunity to undertake this placement. The experience has been instrumental in

Training in North Somerset

We now offer our Domestic Abuse Awareness training package in the North Somerset region. This is available to a range of organisations and groups, including primary healthcare providers, police, adult and child social services, VCSE partners, and council employees.

Bristol Court Case Listing Pilot

In response to us raising concerns of last-minute court case cancellations, an increase in the use of 'floating' cases, or victims whose court date isn't fixed, our ISVA (Independent Sexual Violence Adviser) team worked with the Police, Crown Prosecution Service and the court listings team to set up a pilot meeting two weeks before a sexual abuse trial. The aim is for all partners to meet and understand the needs and risks of each victim, where their trial is at risk of not proceeding.

This has improved communication between partners and helped to reduce the uncertainty and distress caused by court delays with fewer last-minute changes. It's a positive outcome for victims which we hope can be adopted in other regions.

Lived Experience

With the help and partnership of those with lived experience of our services, including members of our new lived experience consultancy group, we can continue to make decisions that support what people actually need, and make real changes that have a real impact. Their voices help shape and create new opportunities - including a brand-new manicure and hand massage service for the women in our homeless accommodation and safe houses!

Our Co-production lead, Sally, says: *"I feel so lucky to work alongside those with lived and living experience of our services. Their passionate, courageous, and insightful conversations continue to inspire and fuel me! Together they have already achieved so much - influencing trauma informed language, waiting list processes, training professionals and more. Services work best when they are built with the real people who use them, and it is an honour to create safe spaces for such important conversations."*

Volunteer support

We're so grateful to our volunteers who dedicate their time, energy, skills and expertise to support our mission. From working in reception, supporting group work, helping with communications and fundraising, admin tasks and organising events, we don't know where we'd be without them!

"I feel very lucky to be able to work with such a wonderful team of volunteers here at Missing Link, Next Link and Safe Link. By giving us their time, skills, and experience, our volunteers allow us to better support people using our services."





Work Well West programme

We received funding to support the Work Well West programme - assessing and supporting women across our hubs in Bristol, South Glos and North Somerset, to give free personalised support, advice and guidance to those struggling to maintain or start work due to mental ill health or wellbeing. We support through Missing Link's wellbeing activities, and link in with other local partners across VCSE/ statutory sectors.

The programme is funded through the Department for Work & Pensions (DWP), Sirona Care & Health and NHS England, and the West of England Combined Authority (WECA).



helping me grow as both a student and a professional, and I am thankful for the guidance, encouragement, and support I received throughout the year."

What our professional partners say:

"I am writing to express my sincere appreciation for the continued support you provide to both our team and the families we work with. Your team consistently goes above and beyond to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our clients, while also making me feel heard, valued, and supported in my role. On two separate occasions, you have responded with remarkable urgency and compassion by housing highly vulnerable clients within a very short space of time. This level of dedication makes a profound difference to the individuals we serve and to those of us advocating for them.

Honestly, we would be lost without your service. You are there when it matters most, often at times when no one else is, and that reliability makes an immeasurable difference to both professionals and the families we support. ***Your service makes a significant and meaningful impact, and as a team, we deeply appreciate the work that you do every day****."*

WE ARE... *Celebrating*





Eid

This included fun activities with children, and celebration meals with safe house residents and at community drop-ins.

Diwali

We had a wonderful time celebrating Diwali, the festival of light, across the organisation and with the families we support.

Halloween

The children in our safe houses enjoyed getting creative with some Halloween activities including a scavenger hunt and pumpkin decorating!



Easter

Families we support were treated to many tasty Easter Eggs donated by QEH school and members of the public.

"Words cannot tell you how special I felt after getting the giving tree gifts for my children. I am not forgotten and alone. It made me realise this. Please pass on my thanks"

"Thank you for the gifts at Christmas. My children got what they asked for. They were listened to and this means a lot"

"I was dreading Christmas because I just didn't know how I was going to make it special. So so grateful for the giving tree – thank you"





Christmas

We were chosen again by Cabot Circus's Giving Tree project as one of their charities of choice, as well as some other generous donations from local organisations, including Nando's and Arena Fitness, and families.

We were truly overwhelmed by the generosity. These donations meant that all families in our houses received a Christmas present.



Pantomime

Written, directed and acted by staff - our Children's Team transformed from their day jobs and were up on the stage for the Christmas panto!

"My kids don't feel safe enough to go to the theatre and watch strangers on the stage, so it was perfect that they could watch it acted by people they know and trust"

Staff Summer Social and Winter Festival

We all enjoyed a summer celebration in the park led by our amazing events team, and a fabulous Winter Party with raffle prizes, delicious local food and long-service awards!









WE ARE... *Empowering*

ALMIRA'S STORY

"Volunteering with Next Link and Missing Link has been an incredible experience so far.

This role involved connecting with women to participate in group work, offering support and information relevant to their situations. It was incredibly rewarding to provide a listening ear and make a difference through simple conversations.









Photo © Tina Gue

International Women's Day

We were part of several International Women's Day celebrations which were so inspirational and positive to be a part of.

We joined the Hartcliffe & Withywood Community Partnership, Wellspring Settlement's event and the Bristol Women's Voice events. These brought together some amazing local organisations supporting women and girls.

Highlights included our senior ISVA Alex exploring topics on the Tackling Misogyny discussion panel, a vital session on talking to children about consent, and a calm wellness journal workshop to end the day with.

It's always fantastic to connect and celebrate women with people across the community.



Pride

We had a wonderful time at Bristol Pride festival this year, where we had a stall and talked to participants about the support we provide.







Birthday cakes

With thanks to Free Cakes For Kids, the children in our safe houses always get the best birthday cakes! Making cakes and cooking are important activities we facilitate in our houses, bringing families together.



Even small acts of support can have a huge impact on someone who's going through a difficult time, and ***being a part of that positive change is incredibly fulfilling***.

The whole experience has pushed me out of my comfort zone, reinforcing my desire to help others. It has opened my eyes to the prevalence of domestic abuse and the importance of support networks like Next Link. Seeing the number of women in need has underscored the importance of leading with kindness and offering empowerment.

I've learned so much about resilience, empathy, and the importance of community support. I've also developed my communication and problem-solving skills, which have been valuable in all aspects of my life.

If anyone has even the slightest inkling to help others, no matter big or small, then do it! ***I would wholeheartedly encourage them to get involved!*** It's a chance to make a real difference, learn new skills, and connect with a passionate and supportive team.

I volunteer because I believe in giving back to the world and empowering others to build brighter futures."



WE ARE... *fundraising*

We are so thankful to our supporters who have worked hard to fundraise and hold events for us over the last year:

Mary's head shave - our brave supporter Mary who we supported through our Next Link North Somerset service, shaved her hair off to raise awareness and funds for us! With her Santander colleagues and local community in Weston-super-Mare, she raised £1,200.





BKW CrossFit helped turn sweat into support through their ambitious CrossFit fundraising challenge – raising over £1,000!



Rolls Royce Apprentice Association completed their year of fundraising for Next Link, raising an incredible £12,010! Throughout the partnership we were able to share more with them about our vital services, the impact of their fundraising and the difference it'll make to the survivors we support. We're very grateful for their support and fundraising through various sports events and races, art auctions, and many donut sales!



Bristol Bears - The women's rugby team Bristol Bears selected us as their charity of choice at one of their matches during this year's season! It was great to share more and raise awareness of our vital services supporting local women and survivors. We were so grateful for the generosity of the supporters and the donations we received.



Soroptimist support - The wonderful Soroptimist's in Bristol and across the South West, donate, fundraise and are always there to support us. We're very grateful for their ongoing generosity throughout this year and every year!



I AM... *Safe*

"Next Link were my shining light when all other services refused to help me. They subsequently gave me a safe place to stay. When Caitlin showed me my room, I cried with relief, I was safe and he wouldn't find me here.

Thank you for being there for me when other services turned a blind eye. I can't thank you enough, ***you were the difference between me thriving instead of just surviving****.*

Thank you so much for helping me when I had lost all hope. You are the reason I am where I am today, my shining light, when I was scared, lonely and feeling very vulnerable after fleeing my abusive relationship.

Demi, is the epitome of care, she truly made me feel like I mattered, like I deserve all the good things in life.

She helped me practically by helping me apply for hardship payments, benefits, grants and getting me foodbank vouchers when I was hungry and lacking the energy I needed to support myself at a frantic time, of managing legal, council, housing and health queries.

But most importantly, she supported me emotionally. The abuse I had suffered had left me scared, had exacerbated my mental health conditions, and had left me feeling less the human."

International Women's Day

Our supporter **Heidi** and team at a local tech company held an office fundraiser including a lunch and learn session on domestic and sexual abuse, as well as a delicious bake sale!



Catherine, another local supporter, set up an IWD weekend of events at her local pub including bands, an art fair, and DJ sets, raising an amazing £658 for Next Link!

Bristol Gym Girls - Natalia hosted a self-defence workshop with all proceeds donated to Next Link – it raised an incredible £520! The group learned self-defence techniques to build confidence and connect with other women in a safe, supportive space.



Watkins Solicitors held a brilliant quiz night and raised over £1,700 for Next Link!







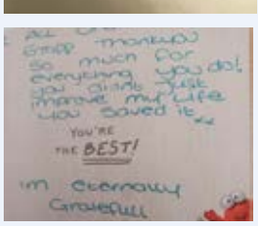
Bath and Bristol Half Marathons

A group of amazing supporters, staff, and other professionals and supporters completed the Bristol and Bath Half Marathons and 10K this year, raising an incredible £6,500 across both events!









I AM... thankful

JAIDAN

"I can't put into words how thankful I am for Safe Link and the support they provided me through such a challenging time, the ongoing work they continue to do to try and help end violence against women and girls and ***the continued support to those going through it****".*

WE ARE... *Speaking up*

We're committed to continuing to raise the issues we support tthrough our services, in person, online and in the media - at a local and national level and at the same time reassure survivors that they are not to blame. Too often domestic and sexual abuse are seen as the victim's fault and we continue to challenge this perception and put the responsibility for the crime where it rightly belongs – with the perpetrator.



Meeting the Queen

Our CEO Sarah had the honour of being invited to meet with Her Majesty the Queen on her visit to Avon and Somerset Police HQ.

This was a special opportunity on behalf of Next Link and Safe Link to highlight the impact of sexual and domestic abuse, share survivor experiences and discuss the need for the criminal justice system to help transform the way we tackle these issues.

Tackling Misogyny

The rising trend in misogyny and harmful gender norms is ever present, and we're seeing it come through our services among the victim-survivors we support. In particular, these attitudes and behaviours are leading to harmful coercive control over women.

We're pleased to help raise awareness of these issues and highlight what needs to be done to combat the growing trend.









Rural Domestic Abuse

We were pleased to feature on BBC Countryfile to highlight rural domestic abuse – helping raise awareness of the shocking reality of domestic abuse victims and survivors who are trapped in rural communities.

The feature highlighted how vital it is for rural communities to be considered and included in the government's approach to tackling domestic abuse.

Thank you to the survivors who bravely spoke about their experiences, and Mel and Catherine, from the Next Link teams in South Gloucestershire and North Somerset for raising awareness and amplifying the voices of victims we support.



Women housed by Missing Link:

66 in Supported Housing

32 in Independent Living

218 in Link House (our Bristol Crisis House)

OVERALL **81%** of women reported **positive outcomes** on case closure

Help When You Need It Service

128 women supported by triage

448 women accepted into full service

LINK HOUSE **women's crisis house**

This year the client survey was completed by **198** women and showed that

96% found their stay **a helpful experience**

96% said the support was **responsive to their needs**

95% felt their **mental health has improved**

97% would **recommend Link House to a friend**



World Cup campaign – There is no excuse for domestic abuse

Throughout the 2026 football World Cup, we came together across Bristol and South Gloucestershire to take a stand alongside the local councils, Avon and Somerset Police, with the support of Bristol City FC and Bristol Rovers FC. The campaign highlighted the increased risk of domestic abuse and violence during England games – targeting perpetrator behaviour and signposting victim-survivors to get help.

Next Link visit Downing Street





We were delighted to be invited to a thank-you celebration hosted by Rt. Hon. Darren Jones MP at 11 Downing Street. The reception recognised and celebrated the valuable community-based work that organisations across Bristol North West are delivering to support local communities and make a positive difference.

WE ARE... *Quality Assured*

AQS – Advice Quality Standards

Our Next Link services were successfully re-accredited by AQS. AQS set the standards to ensure organisations are well managed, give accurate and useful advice that's accessible and effective, so we were delighted that they recognised our staff and managers' compassion, skill and dedication which shone through.



LimeCulture Quality Mark for Safe Link

We were delighted that our Safe Link Adult and Child & Young person's ISVA services were successfully re-accredited by LimeCulture, a trusted sign of high-quality, safe, and survivor-focused service delivery of support for victims and survivors of sexual violence.

We're so pleased our commitment to ensuring a quality service continues to be recognised.







I AM... *Proud*

*"**Today, I received an invitation to attend Downing Street,** following the creation of The Lotus Group. This opportunity is a direct result of the incredible support I received from Next Link.*

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you. I have proudly accepted the invitation as a representative for women who have experienced domestic abuse.

Without the amazing support, compassion, guidance, and encouragement I received from Next Link, I may never have found the strength or confidence to establish The Lotus Group. For that, I will always be grateful.

Thank you again for everything you have done for me and my family. ***Your support changed the course of my life.**"*

"Everyone who works in Safe Link and the overall organisation is incredibly kind and generous. It makes working here easier as everyone wants to help."

"I really enjoy coming to work and overall find it a lovely place to work. I love working for an organisation where I believe in the work that they do. We have a brilliant workforce. Everyone is really supportive, friendly and helpful. We also have an amazing CEO who sets a brilliant example and is a great leader."

OUR CORE VALUES

Missing Link, Next Link and Safe Link are committed to the following core values:

To offer quality accredited advice and advocacy to enable clients to make informed choices about their lives

We know that many victims suffer in silence because they do not know what options there are available to them to live without fear of attack. With our telephone support and face-to-face advice sessions, we will ensure that the advice that is given to each person is appropriate and quality assured.

To treat people as individuals

We believe in providing high quality personalised support, tailored to individual needs. Our support packages, informed by the woman's experience and co-produced, provide an appropriate level of flexible support to maximise independence and self-determination.

To challenge commonly held misconceptions about mental ill health

We recognise the importance of addressing negative attitudes and perceptions about mental illness and how it is experienced. We understand how the stigma can be a barrier to seeking help. In our work we will challenge any prejudice or assumptions that prevent people from seeking help and realising their full potential.

To challenge commonly held myths about domestic abuse

We will challenge the many myths surrounding domestic abuse that make survivors feel that domestic violence is their fault and they are to blame for not leaving their violent partner. In our work we will make clear the reality of domestic abuse and tackle the obstacles that prevent victims from seeking help.

To challenge commonly held assumptions about rape and sexual assault

We know that rape and sexual assault happens far more than people think and the statistics indicate. In our work we will raise awareness of the issue and challenge assumptions that the women's behaviour and dress is often seen to be responsible for the attack rather than the behaviour of the perpetrator.

Equal opportunity

We are aware that domestic and sexual violence and mental ill health occur in all cultures and communities. We will strive to ensure that all disadvantaged groups are treated with fairness and equity and that the organisation and its services are inclusive and accessible to all.

Empowerment

We understand how domestic and sexual violence and mental ill health can make women feel disempowered and devalued. To challenge this, we will ensure that the experience and ideas of the women and children that we support are heard and that we maximise their participation in the design, delivery and development of our services.

Cultural diversity

We are committed to ensuring that the organisation and its services are inclusive and reflect the rich cultural diversity of the community we live in. We understand that women and children from Black and Ethnic Minority communities experience institutional racism and have to face the extra dimension of discrimination, so we will offer culturally sensitive dedicated services. This will encourage women to come forward, seek help and give them a real choice about how they want to be supported.

Quality children and young people's services

We know that children are victims in their own right. We understand the importance of children and young people having their own individual support. We recognise the value of play as a therapeutic tool in the recovery process and will provide quality play and activities within a safe and stimulating environment. We will engage and help children and young people to express their feelings, build resilience and receive specialist support.

Safe quality housing

We are committed to the provision of quality housing services that are responsive, accountable, meet the needs of the women and children that use them and are of a standard that reinforces their self-esteem.

Partnership working

We are committed to a holistic approach to our service users' needs and recognise that our service is a part of a patchwork of services that are required. This holistic

approach can only be achieved through collaboration and co-operation with local and national authorities, health, police and voluntary and statutory sectors.

Quality and efficiency

We have in place systems and procedures that make the best use of the resources available to us. We are committed to providing an effective value for money service while at the same time maintaining quality in order to achieve the best possible outcomes for the women and children that come to us for help.

Campaigning and Raising Awareness

We are committed to campaigning to stop violence against women and children in all its forms. We will work collaboratively with our partners to promote the issues, highlight the importance of prevention and strive to reduce the impact of gender-based violence.

FURTHER NEXT LINK IMPACT

Safe houses

705 referrals

207 families housed

Community outreach and IDVA services

2,747 survivors supported

Support to survivors in rural communities

86 victims supported

56 rural champions trained

Hospital IDSVA services

558 victims supported

18 training sessions delivered by our Hospital IDSVAs

Primary Health IRIS and IRIS ADViSE

482 survivors referred

276 primary health care staff trained by IRIS Bristol

239 primary health care staff trained by IRIS South Glos

30 primary health care staff trained by IRIS ADViSE

Group work

273 survivors attended group sessions













I AM...

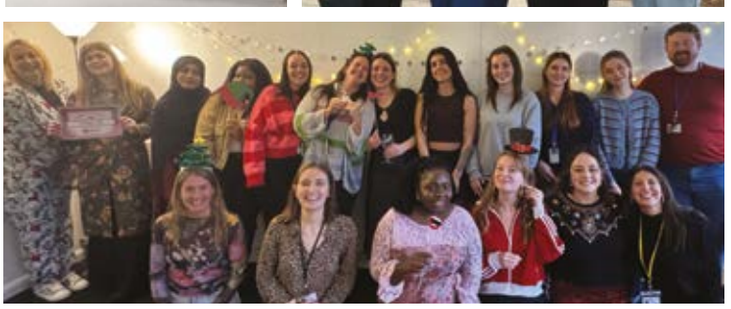
joyous again

"Since getting the help from Safe Link, I can feel again.
***I can see spring and be joyous** and see the flowers bloom and I just wish that I had found my way to you sooner.*

*I didn't quite realise what an accepting and supportive environment could look like until I came here and had that first phone call. And just in the words **we believe you**. You don't question it. It's all I needed in that time up until now. Support is crucial to gain your freedom back"*











MISSING LINK
www.missinglinkhousing.co.uk
t: 0117 925 1811
e: enquiries@missinglinkhousing.co.uk

NEXT LINK PLUS BRISTOL
www.nextlinkhousing.co.uk
t: 0800 4700 280
e: enquiries@nextlinkhousing.co.uk

NEXT LINK PLUS SOUTH GLOS
www.nextlinkhousing.co.uk
t: 0800 4700 280
e: enquiries.southglos@nextlinkhousing.co.uk

NEXT LINK NORTH SOMERSET
www.nextlinkhousing.co.uk
t: 0800 4700 280
e: enquiries.NorthSomerset@nextlinkhousing.co.uk

SAFE LINK
www.safelinksupport.co.uk
t: 0333 323 1543
e: safe.link@safelinksupport.co.uk

**Part 2nd Floor,
Embassy House,
Queens Avenue,
Clifton, Bristol
BS8 1SB**

"Attending the peer support group helped me allow myself to sit in the feelings I was having and process them with others who understood it and there has not been any other place that it's been possible, so I'm truly so grateful to you. You have also helped bring together people who might have never crossed paths before and on behalf of our peer support group we all thank you for that as we are still in contact and are going to be meeting up soon." JAIDAN

I AM... *Supported*

"I am writing to express my gratitude for the incredible support I received from your organisation since November 2023. As someone new to this country with a child and facing challenging circumstances, ***you picked up my broken pieces when I was helpless*** *and your help was invaluable.*

You sheltered me, provided food, clothing, rehabilitated my mental state, assisted in navigating my immigration status and above all you extended support to my child too. I cannot thank you enough.

Thank you once again for your support and I am truly grateful."

www.facebook.com/missinglinknextlinksafelink
instagram @missinglinknextlinksafelink
www.linkedin.com/company/missinglink-nextlink-safelink

Missing Link strives to create a culture that encourages and values everyone's differences and promotes mutual respect and shared understanding.

Missing Link is a Housing Association with charitable status, registered under the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act (2014). Register No. 24218R

Supported by

Sustainability and the environment. As part of our commitment to demonstrable environmental management, conserving raw materials and energy, our printed materials are sustainable wherever possible. We select printers who recycle, reuse and prioritise sustainable practice and who have gained FSC® and ISO 14001 Environmental Standard certification. Our printer guarantees: all paper and cardboard waste is recycled, all printing plates are recycled, use of vegetable-based inks, papers from managed forests and use of recycled papers when appropriate.

MIX
Paper from responsible sources
FSC® C015170

MISSING LINK
cutting edge
women's mental health services

NEXT LINK
changing the face of
domestic abuse support services

SAFE LINK PLUS
supporting survivors

GUIDE TO OUR SERVICES









MISSING LINK 01

NEXT LINK 05
NEXT LINK PLUS BRISTOL
NEXT LINK PLUS SOUTH GLOS
NEXT LINK NORTH SOMERSET

SAFE LINK PLUS 13

TRAINING 17

Across all our services, we work from a trauma-informed, intersectional and rights-based approach. This means we

- recognise the impact of abuse, trauma, inequality and discrimination
- place safety, choice and dignity at the centre of support
- work alongside survivors and children rather than making decisions for them
- hold perpetrators responsible for violence and abuse.

Our services are shaped by lived experience and aim to build confidence, connection, recovery and long-term safety.



MISSINGLINK
cutting edge
women's mental health services

Missing Link

Since 1983 Missing Link has successfully supported women with mental ill health and additional needs to recover, secure and sustain housing and live full and rewarding lives. We are the largest provider of women-only services in Bristol bringing innovation, expertise, established partnerships and extensive experience of engaging women in our wide-ranging support services.

We provide a range of housing and support to women who have either acute or long-term mental health needs. We also support women who are homeless, sleeping rough or whose housing is at risk because of their mental ill health. We provide a direct access service, women's crisis houses, as a preventative or alternative to psychiatric admission. We are funded to provide Women's Health Inequalities training across the BaNES (Bath and North East Somerset), Swindon and Wiltshire (BSW) Mental Health Workforce.

"You have helped me to survive and I'm sure that you have and will continue to help many others through times of crisis"

WOMEN EXPERIENCE DISPROPORTIONALLY HIGH RATES OF MENTAL ILLNESS WITH

1 IN 4 WOMEN

IN ENGLAND HAVING A COMMON MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEM SUCH AS DEPRESSION OR ANXIETY

We specialise in working with women who face multiple disadvantage including substance misuse and offending. Our support has a rights-based, trauma-informed approach and a holistic recovery focus looking at health, trauma, social care, housing and mental health.

All our support is person-centred and tailored to each woman's needs and builds on their individual strengths to improve their well-being, secure their housing and sustain their long-term recovery.



1 IN 3

16-24 YEAR OLDS

ARE LIVING WITH POOR MENTAL HEALTH



Bristol Women's Homelessness Pathway

We provide a range of temporary accommodation and support for women who are facing homelessness in Bristol. Women will have a dedicated support worker and access to staff on site with an on call, out of hours, service. Staff provide regular practical and emotional one-to-one support, drop-ins, group activities including gardening, cooking and baking, and arts and crafts sessions.

We understand there are many reasons that a woman may become homeless, and we work with compassion and without judgement, valuing each woman's skills and strengths.

The aim is to support women to access and engage with other specialist services and recover from homelessness, moving on to independent and long-term accommodation.

1 IN 20

WOMEN

HAVE PREMENSTRUAL DYSPHORIC DISORDER WHICH MAKES DAY TO DAY LIFE A STRUGGLE



Help When You Need It Service

This service offers short-term practical and emotional support for women living in Bristol. We recognise that women with mental health issues have times when they are well, and times when they need support. Support workers will offer short-term support including help with life skills and wellbeing, claiming benefits and money advice, building social networks and connecting to communities, managing tenancies, help into volunteering or training, education and employment. We facilitate peer support groups and training on developing coping strategies. The aim of this project is to support vulnerable women to avoid accommodation breakdown, and remain safely and securely housed.

"I just wanted to say a huge thank you for everything you've done for me. Thank you for your patience, your kindness and for genuinely caring."



Professional feedback about Link House:

"This absolutely would have been a re-admission for someone who had been out of services for several years, I don't believe we could have achieved this without Link House so I just wanted to let you both know!"

Triage Assessment

When women are referred, a triage worker assesses their immediate support needs and offers emotional support. The range of support we can offer includes one-off advice and referrals to other services, a short-term intervention, group work or ongoing support from a support worker. Women can re-enter the service when they need to.

"I never had any thoughts of having a future until I met all the brilliant Link House staff"



"Lovely house. So glad it's female only! Great management! Large rooms, lots of creative activities and lovely garden. I'm glad this crisis house is open. Another option for when I'm in crisis. Thank you to all the staff that have supported me."

Oriana House resident

Women's Crisis Houses

Our women's crisis houses offer a safe, welcoming and supportive alternative to hospital admission for women experiencing a mental health crisis. Based on a trauma-informed, rights-based and recovery-focused approach, they provide short-term support in a homely, non-medical setting, helping women through immediate crisis while building resilience, strengthening support networks and supporting longer-term wellbeing.

In Bristol, Link House provides specialist women-only crisis accommodation for women across Bristol, South Gloucestershire and North Somerset, working as part of the AWP mental health care pathway. In 2026, we opened Oriana House in Swindon, the first women's crisis house for the BSW area, delivered in partnership with Alabare, Nilaari, Second Step and AWP to extend this vital model of support to more women in the region.

We're proud that Link House was one of 28 organisations chosen worldwide by the World Health Organisation as a model of best practice in promoting a person-centred, recovery and rights-based approach in mental health. It has been very successful in preventing hospital admissions and, for those who are admitted into hospital, reducing their length of stay.

RESEARCH SHOWS THAT
WOMEN WAIT
ON AVERAGE
4 YEARS
LONGER THAN MEN
FOR A CORRECT MEDICAL DIAGNOSIS





Bristol Community Mental Health Partnership

Missing Link is one of the organisations which make up Bristol Mental Health Partnership, striving to ensure everyone in Bristol receives treatment and support with their mental health to lead fulfilling lives.

We are one of four voluntary community sector organisations:

Second Step (www.second-step.co.uk), Off the Record (www.otrbristol.org.uk), and Nilaari (www.nilaari.co.uk) who work with Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust (AWP) and employ staff within the Bristol Assessment and Recovery Services.

Staff roles include Recovery Navigators, Mental Health Crisis workers, Facilitated Discharge workers, and Peer Support workers based in hubs in North, Central and South Bristol.

"Just thank you all so much for everything, you changed my life forever, I feel very blessed you welcomed and helped me through such a tough time in my life"

BSW Mental Health and Wellbeing Partnership

Alongside Second Step, Alabare and Nilaari we have formed this partnership across BaNES, Swindon and Wiltshire (BSW). Missing Link employs Recovery Navigators to work within the AWP community mental health teams, and runs a women's crisis house that is part of the AWP care pathway.

"Thank you to everyone who helped me and taught me some brilliant skills to take forward with me to the future"

Community Rehabilitation Service

This service supports people living with complex mental health problems to achieve their goals and gain the skills and confidence to live as independently as possible. Missing Link works in a partnership led by Second Step and Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust (AWP) and our staff provide a range of interventions to help women manage their mental health problems and live as independently as possible.

The service accepts referrals for people who are registered with a Bristol GP, have severe and enduring mental health problems and have previously received substantial intervention from secondary mental health services without resulting in a level of recovery that they would have wanted. Most of the people we work with have had repeated hospital admissions or have difficulties with self-care, independent living or confidence.

50%
OF WOMEN
SAY THEY HAVE BEEN
DISMISSED, IGNORED
OR NOT BELIEVED
BY A MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL
BECAUSE OF THEIR SEX

NEXT LINK
changing the face of
domestic abuse support services

Next Link Domestic Abuse Services

In 2022 we were delighted to launch Bristol's new domestic abuse safe accommodation and community support services. Having provided domestic abuse services in the city for the last 25 years we have an excellent reputation for high quality, trauma-informed and innovative services, and now offer a range of diverse, tailored and specialist support to adult and child survivors. We are the lead provider collaborating with Nilaari, Victim Support, Off The Record, St Mungo's, 1625 Independent People and Horizons.

In 2023 we were re-commissioned by South Gloucestershire Council for the new safe accommodation and community domestic abuse services. Since we first started delivering the service in the region in 2017, we have increased our safe house provision by 5 bed spaces, expanded our IDVA team, developed dedicated children's support and new specialist services for survivors from different communities.

As the lead provider, we have collaborated with a range of partners including 1625 Independent People, Womankind, Nilaari, Sign Health and Victim Support to offer an even greater package of support and recovery options. Our South Glos office base is at Kingswood Estate.

EACH YEAR IN AVON AND SOMERSET, THERE ARE OVER

23,000

RECORDED DOMESTIC ABUSE CRIMES, AROUND 15% OF ALL RECORDED CRIME



"Next Link made me feel safe from the very beginning"

Referrals - Single point of contact in Bristol and South Gloucestershire

There is a single point of contact for survivors to use, and referrals can be received by telephone, text, drop-in or email between 8.30am-5.30pm Monday-Friday and 9.30am-1.00pm on Saturday. Victims and survivors can also contact us via our Live Chat service, open 10am-4pm weekdays. Safe house referrals can also be made through the referral form on our website.

Our team of female triage workers will ask survivors about their situation and what support they or their children need.

They complete a DASH (domestic abuse, stalking and 'honour'-based violence) risk assessment alongside the survivor, and if appropriate, refer to MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference) and offer immediate help with any safety needs, as well as advice and information from our accredited service.

"Everything has changed for me. I finally have hope for a better future. I could never thank you enough for the support that I had!"

NEXT LINK PLUS+ Bristol
changing the face of
domestic abuse support services

NEXT LINK PLUS+ South Glos
changing the face of
domestic abuse support services

NEXT LINK North Somerset
changing the face of
domestic abuse support services



A MINIMUM OF

£516 MILLION

IS NEEDED PER YEAR TO FUND SPECIALIST DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICES FOR WOMEN AND THEIR CHILDREN ACROSS ENGLAND

(WOMEN'S AID, 2024)

"I would have continued living in an abusive relationship, I would keep blaming myself for getting into abusive relationships, I would continue to feel sorry for the abuser and help him more than I would help myself. You have turned that all around for me, it's not my fault."

Safe Houses

We have multiple safe houses across Bristol and South Gloucestershire including dedicated houses for single women, women with children, global majority women and children, a 24-hour complex-needs house for those needing more intensive support around substance misuse or mental health issues, a male safe house and a block of self-contained units. Each adult and child survivor who comes into the houses has their own dedicated support worker, who gives emotional and practical support to help them recover and move on to independent accommodation free from violence and abuse.

North Somerset safe houses

In North Somerset, Next Link is now one of three services supporting victim-survivors of domestic abuse. We provide safe accommodation for adults and children fleeing high-risk domestic abuse, alongside practical and emotional support.

All children have dedicated support from the children's worker and can access play sessions with the play worker.

Working alongside us to provide the IDVA support service is Cranstoun, and Family Action which provides therapeutic support.

In the region, we also manage the Sanctuary Scheme, helping survivors remain safely in their own homes where appropriate, and provide emergency 'crash pad' accommodation for stays of up to seven days. This ensures victim-survivors can access safe housing immediately while longer-term or move-on accommodation is arranged.

North Somerset Council also fund us to deliver domestic abuse training programmes to council and council commissioned services.



55% OF LGBT+ PEOPLE IN THE UK HAVE BEEN SUBJECTED TO DOMESTIC ABUSE BY A FAMILY MEMBER, PARTNER, OR EX-PARTNER



Community and Outreach IDVA Services (Independent Domestic Violence Adviser)

Our team of domestic abuse community workers support survivors living in the community who are experiencing domestic abuse. We provide practical and emotional support to help families remain in their own home safely or move and settle into a new property.

The support can include talking things through, forming a safety plan, making the home safe, help to go to court, legal protection, making grant applications, accessing benefits, budgeting, registering with a doctor, schools or nurseries, and planning for the future.

"Please give my IDVA 5 stars for supporting me in court, she made me feel so safe."

When survivors become safer, more confident and connected in their community, support gradually reduces.

We also provide virtual drop-in surgeries alongside specialist domestic abuse solicitors and community hubs across Bristol.

We have a range of specialist IDVA services in recognition that many survivors face extra barriers and discrimination in getting the support they need to be safe and free from domestic abuse.



We offer:

• Global majority communities IDVA

We recognise the importance of diversity and to ensure our services are inclusive we have a dedicated Black and minoritised woman's safe house. We also have dedicated IDVAs in community and short-term intensive services.

Nilaari, a Black led charity, provides specialist, culturally relevant therapeutic support to survivors in both our safe house and community services.

• South Asian IDVA

Domestic abuse is a major cause of homelessness for South Asian women. Our dedicated South Asian IDVAs provide culturally sensitive support and crisis intervention to South Asian survivors experiencing domestic abuse.

This service has proven to be extremely successful at both supporting women and raising the issue of domestic abuse within South Asian communities.

• Forced Marriage and 'Honour' Based Violence IDVA

We provide a service for victims who have either been forced into marriage or those at risk of forced marriage or honour-based violence. The service offers confidential advice and support to look at all the options available including accessing legal remedies and help to plan their future.

"You stood right by my side every step of the way."

• LGBTQ+ IDVA

We have a specialist IDVA for survivors from the LGBTQ+ community, whilst also raising awareness of domestic abuse and improving referral pathways into our safe house and community services.

To find out more about all our services please **call 0800 4700 280** or **text 0740 789 5620**

DISABLED WOMEN ARE

TWICE AS LIKELY

TO EXPERIENCE DOMESTIC ABUSE COMPARED TO NON-DISABLED WOMEN.





• Disability IDVA

Our Disability IDVA supports survivors with disabilities and care and support needs.

Women who are deaf or have a disability are more likely to be victims of domestic abuse. We have collaborated with SignHealth, a national deaf health charity, to provide dedicated support to deaf survivors and make our services more accessible.

We also offer one-to-one and group work support to survivors with a learning disability of domestic abuse.

• Older Survivor IDVA

We see high levels of older people reaching out for support, particularly those who have care and support needs. We know that some perpetrators can also mask as carers, and our dedicated IDVA works closely with adult social care to support survivors whilst also raising awareness about the needs of older survivors of domestic abuse.

• Multiple Disadvantage IDVA

Women who have multiple needs such as substance misuse issues, mental ill health, are trapped in street sex working or have histories of offending are often experiencing domestic and sexual violence and abuse.

Many are marginalised and isolated, and perpetrators can use their vulnerabilities such as addiction and mental ill health to have even greater power and control. We have dedicated multiple disadvantage IDSVAs (Independent Domestic & Sexual Violence Advocates) to support these survivors.

"With Next Link's help, I found the strength to engage with other services and take steps I never thought I could."

• Children and Young People's IDVA

Our dedicated children and young people's service prioritises the needs of child victims of domestic abuse.

We provide a range of support including one-to-one support from children's workers, children's group work, play therapy, play sessions, after school clubs and help with enrolling in schools and nurseries.

"My kids are so much happier now"

"It was good - I excited" **child - age 9**

• Drive IDVA

The Drive programme offers support to high-risk perpetrators to help reduce the risk they present to victims and change their behaviour. We offer IDVA support to the victims and survivors of perpetrators who access this service and make sure that the victim's voice is central to any planned intervention.

• Rural IDVA

In South Gloucestershire we have an IDVA service in rural communities. We know that survivors in rural settings often suffer greatly and are less able to seek help.

This much needed service reaches out to rural victims to offer help and at the same time train and support champions in the community to raise awareness of domestic abuse and refer into our services.

RURAL DOMESTIC ABUSE LASTS

25%

LONGER ON AVERAGE THAN IN URBAN AREAS

APPROXIMATELY

1 IN 5 MEN

WILL EXPERIENCE DOMESTIC ABUSE IN THEIR LIFETIME





Support for male victims

Men can be victims of domestic abuse too, though we understand how difficult it can be to reach out for support. Men and women have the same rights to protection from domestic abuse, and we want men to know that help is available.

Male victims can access support across Bristol, South Gloucestershire and North Somerset, although the way support is delivered varies by area. In Bristol, IDVA support for men is provided through Victim Support. In South Gloucestershire, male victims are supported by Next Link. In North Somerset, Next Link provides safe accommodation for male victim-survivors, alongside wider local domestic abuse support.

Dedicated safe house accommodation for male victims of domestic abuse is available in Bristol, South Gloucestershire and North Somerset.

"I was supported without judgment and I finally understood that the abuse was not my fault"

Co-located services

We have a range of IDVA support services in different organisations and settings across Bristol. These services are key in providing alternative referral pathways, and wrap-around support to victims and survivors wherever they present.

Family Hub IDVAs

We are working in partnership with Bristol City Council and have domestic abuse workers based in the north, south, inner city and east Family Hubs. The workers consult with children's social workers and Children's Centre staff to help recognise domestic violence and abuse, improving professional responses and support for victims and survivors. The workers also offer direct support and advocacy to survivors.

Housing IDVA service

Domestic abuse is a leading cause of homelessness, and our Housing IDVA supports survivors when they come to the attention of Bristol City Council Housing services. Providing support to high-risk victims, she also gives advice and training to housing staff so they are able to spot the signs of domestic abuse and prevent families from becoming homeless.

Respite Rooms

Most women who face homelessness have also been victims of domestic and sexual abuse, and are at high risk of exploitation. We have a dedicated IDVA and group work facilitator who provide support to the women living in St Mungo's Respite Rooms project. They provide short-term accommodation for homeless women to access support and move into longer-term safe accommodation.

Northern and Southern Arcs – support in local communities

Victims and survivors often find it difficult to leave their neighbourhoods to seek help. These services reach into communities and have offices in the south of the city in Hartcliffe and one in the north in Southmead.

We also provide drop-in surgeries at a range of local community venues. These include: Hartcliffe, Southmead Children's Centre and Barton Hill Settlement.

Each hub responds to local needs and offers high-quality front-line support to survivors and their children to increase their safety, prevent repeat victimisation and reduce levels of physical and psychological injury.

To contact the Northern Arc call 0117 9822495
To contact the Southern Arc call 0117 3533853



1 IN 3 WOMEN
IN THE UK HAVE
EXPERIENCED ONLINE ABUSE
(ON SOCIAL MEDIA OR OTHER ONLINE PLATFORMS) AT SOME POINT IN THEIR LIVES

Short-Term Intensive Support

Our IDVAs and crisis workers offer support to women and children who are at high risk of harm from domestic abuse.

Survivors can often become homeless when they are in a domestic abuse crisis because they are made to feel there are no other options but to leave the abusive home. This service responds the same day and will assist women to access emergency legal remedies and extra security in their home to keep the family safe.

When it is not safe for survivors to stay, the worker will find safe housing accommodation for them.

Sanctuary Scheme

Wherever possible victims and their children should be supported to remain safely in their home with the abusive partner removed. That's why we have a Sanctuary Scheme co-ordinator, who works closely with the IDVAs, Bristol City Council housing colleagues, Avon Fire and Rescue, and Avon and Somerset Police to provide enhanced safety measures in the home.

We also provide this service in North Somerset with support from North Somerset Council.

Peer Support Programme

This service provides a space for survivors to meet, share experiences and support each other. The groups have a facilitator and each week has a theme and activity chosen by the group. Activities have included arts and crafts, making 'happy memories' boxes, climbing and forest school activities.

"Is a very safe and friendly environment, there is no judgment and I have felt very comfortable opening up to the group."

Experts by experience – Co-production, Participation and Feedback

We firmly believe that domestic abuse services should be informed and guided by survivors. Throughout the year we hold "Have Your Say" meetings where we consult with survivors that use our services on new initiatives and their experience of our services.

They have also been involved in recruitment of staff, development of new services, fundraising, and talking to the media and key stakeholders about their experience of domestic and sexual abuse.

LEAF – Lived Experience Active Feedback group

The LEAF group is a lived experience group, bringing together a small group of current and former clients from diverse backgrounds, cultures and experiences to help shape and improve our services. Based on the belief that people affected by a service are best placed to help design it, we work with the members to review priorities, values, toolkits, promotional materials and induction processes, identify gaps and barriers, gather feedback from people currently using our services, and support wider system change.

The name LEAF reflects growth, change and individuality, while recognising the vital role lived experience plays in creating accessible, relevant, trauma-informed and effective support.



WOMEN WHO EXPERIENCE DOMESTIC ABUSE ARE

TWICE AS LIKELY

TO EXPERIENCE DEPRESSION



Counselling Service

Funded by the Quartet's Grove Fund, our counselling service supports women who have accessed our safe accommodation or community services. Our counsellors provide a safe place for survivors to work through the impact domestic abuse has had on them, helping them to develop tools to improve their quality of life.

"It's made me understand myself as a person, how I have been treated and opened my eyes up to many years of abuse I didn't see it as…I think overall it's an amazing course."

Groupwork services

In Bristol we offer a variety of groupwork programmes. The groups focus on both emotional and practical support including: self-esteem, confidence, safety, red flags of coercive and controlling behaviour, impact of domestic abuse on children, building friendship networks, independence and ambition.

The groups include:

- Freedom Programme
- Recovery Toolkit
- Hope 2 Recovery
- Peer Support

For children and young people:

- You and me, Mum
- Baby Massage
- Under 4's Stay and Play
- 5-7 Drawing and Talking
- 7-11 Aces Recovery Toolkit
- 12 – 16 Aces Recovery Toolkit
- 16 – 19 Freedom Programme

In South Gloucestershire we run the Freedom Programme and Peer Support, and in North Somerset, Peer Support sessions are held in safe houses.

Health Intervention team - Domestic Abuse workers in hospital A&E and maternity departments, GP's and sexual health clinics

The IRIS Service – Identification and Referral to Improve Safety

We have two IRIS workers supporting GP practices across Bristol to access our service and support, as well as a dedicated IRIS worker in South Gloucestershire.

For many victims of domestic abuse, visiting the doctor is the only safe place they can go without their abusive partner present. Our specialist Domestic Violence Advocate-Educators train and support primary care clinicians to recognise domestic abuse and refer their female patients to our service.

The IRIS workers offer both emotional and practical support to all women referred and, if appropriate, help to access a range of specialist services.

"I love being a small part of a team that does such amazing work to help so many people."

IRIS ADViSE (Assessing for Domestic Violence and Abuse in Sexual Health Environments)

Built upon the success of the IRIS model based in GP surgeries, we were one of two domestic abuse services involved in the original research to support the IRIS ADViSE intervention. We have two Advocate Educators supporting sexual health clinicians across Bristol and South Gloucestershire to identify domestic abuse, how to refer for support and then supporting survivors who present at the clinics.

JUST OVER

30%

OF **WOMEN**

HAVE EXPERIENCED DOMESTIC ABUSE

SINCE THE AGE OF 16



IRIS +

IRIS+ is a research project lead by University of Bristol and IRISi, and Next Link is one of the three services used in the research. IRIS+ is researching the use of the IRIS model with supporting both children and young people and male survivors of domestic abuse.

We currently have one IRIS+ Advocate Educator working with male survivors and two IRIS+ Advocate Educators working with children and young people. IRIS+ has 23 test GP practices across Bristol and South Gloucestershire.

IRIS+ Advocate Educators have also been delivering training to the clinicians and reception and admin staff across the test sites.

Hospital, A&E and Maternity IDSVA (Independent Domestic and Sexual Violence Adviser) Service

Often victims who present at A&E disclose high levels of abuse and are still living with the violent perpetrator.

We have IDSVAs in Bristol Royal Infirmary (BRI) and Southmead Emergency Departments who offer victims support with their immediate safety and link them in with longer-term services.

They also deliver training to health clinicians to develop their understanding of domestic abuse, recognise the signs and symptoms and how to access the service.

It is well evidenced that domestic abuse can often start or escalate during pregnancy and post-partum. Since 2023 we've been funded to provide specialist Maternity IDSVAs at St Michael's Hospital and Southmead Maternity Department. Alongside supporting victims that are referred into the service, the Maternity IDSVAs also provide advice, guidance, training and support to midwives and clinicians.

Research and Innovation – Women's Safety Workers

As part of our commitment to innovation and evidence-based best practice we work closely with Gene Feder, Professor of Primary Health Care at the University of Bristol on various research projects.

Quality Assurance

We are accredited by both Advice Quality Standards and Women's Aid National Quality Standards for our advice and guidance work. Both confirm we deliver well-managed domestic abuse advice and support services, provide ongoing help, ensuring staff have relevant, up-to-date knowledge to offer high-quality specialist advice and support.

Raising Awareness

Throughout the year we participate in events including Sexual Abuse Awareness Week, Pride, Freshers Fairs at Universities and Colleges, Recovery Festival, Hate Crime Awareness Week, World Mental Health Day, Volunteers Week, HBV Awareness Day, Elimination of Violence Against Women Candlelit Vigil, Refugee Week, Domestic Violence Awareness Month and International Women's Day.

Our commitment is to continue to raise these issues at a local and national level and at the same time reassure survivors that they are not to blame. Too often domestic abuse and rape are seen as the victim's fault, and we need to challenge this perception and put the responsibility for the crime where it rightly belongs – with the perpetrator.



SAFELINK PLUS+
supporting survivors



Safe Link Plus

Our award-winning service, Safe Link Plus was recommissioned in 2025 by the Police and Crime Commissioner. Working across the Avon and Somerset Police area, we provide emotional and practical support to all survivors of rape and sexual assault. If the victim or survivor wishes, we will support them to report the incident and go through the criminal justice system.

Safe Link is the lead provider, sub-contracting to One25 who provide specialist support to women who street sex work in Bristol.

"Without you helping me through this stage of my life I'm not sure I would be as okay as I am now. You have effectively saved my life."



Our Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs) provide independent advice and practical and emotional support, including help to navigate the criminal justice system. Where needed, they liaise with sexual health services, the police and other agencies, and signpost survivors to further support.

We offer:

- Adult Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs)
- Dedicated ISVAs for survivors of historic abuse
- Dedicated Young Person's ISVAs
- Dedicated Male ISVA
- Children's and Young Person's ISVAs
- Dedicated global majority communities ISVAs for children and adults
- Specialist Learning Disabilities ISVA for children and adults
- Specialist Mental Health and Complex Needs ISVAs
- Specialist LGBTQ+ ISVA
- Dedicated ISVAs who work alongside Avon and Somerset Police's Bluestone Investigation Team
- A Rural ISVA for survivors living in more isolated and rural communities
- One25 support for street sex workers

All offer confidential advice, practical and emotional support including a safe place to talk, referrals to specialist counselling, support attending sexual health services and help with medical attention. They can also help with supporting the family and practical problems such as help with housing, benefits and employment.

If survivors want to report to the police they can give support with making a statement, or report it anonymously on their behalf, assist with claims for compensation and give support before, during and after the court process.

1 IN 2
ADULT SURVIVORS OF RAPE HAVE EXPERIENCED IT MORE THAN ONCE

ON AVERAGE, ALMOST

200

RAPES WERE RECORDED BY THE POLICE

EVERY SINGLE DAY

IN THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 2025



Triage

Our Triage workers carry out an initial assessment alongside each survivor to understand what they want to happen next. We can offer initial support with any safety needs, and support the victim or survivor to make their own informed choice. This could be working with an allocated ISVA if it's identified that they have higher support needs or are moving through a police process, or a short-term intervention and signposting or onward referral supported by the Triage worker.

"You have been such a valuable source of honesty, kindness and patience and encouragement"

Safety and Support Assessment (SAS)

As a LimeCulture accredited service, we use the Safety and Support Assessment (SAS) and toolkit developed by LimeCulture. The SAS assessment provides structure and consistency in the development of the support plan, and support offered by the ISVA is tailored to the identified needs of each individual victim or survivor.

Examples of the areas that are addressed within the assessment and support plan are:

- Safety; harm from others
- Health and medical
- Reporting to the police
- Mental health and psychological wellbeing
- Coping mechanisms, social and cultural support
- Safeguarding
- Employment and education
- Finance
- Accommodation and housing

"You gave me confidence to keep going and safe in my decision making."

Waiting Well

We offer a support service for victims who are waiting for their case to get to court, or for postponed hearings. It provides wellbeing resources and support in the lead-up to the trial.

"You made such a difference in how my day turned out compared to if you weren't there. You do wonderful work and I'm glad to have you by my side throughout this." **(male client)**

AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER 2025, THERE WERE

14,180

SEXUAL OFFENCES WAITING FOR A COURT DATE

A 77% INCREASE SINCE 2022



1 IN 4 WOMEN AND 1 IN 18 MEN
HAVE BEEN
RAPED OR SEXUALLY ASSAULTED AS ADULTS

2 IN 5
RAPES AGAINST WOMEN
ARE CARRIED OUT BY THEIR PARTNER OR EX-PARTNER

More information about some of our ISVA specialisms:

• Learning Disabilities ISVA

We know people with Learning Disabilities are at higher risk of being victims of rape or sexual abuse, yet the barriers they can face when trying to seek help mean they often remain hidden and unsupported. Communication difficulties can impact on whether they are understood or believed, and they can sometimes be seen as unreliable witnesses so their case will rarely progress to court.

We support victims to tell their story in the best way for them, have help with benefits and housing, help with reporting to the police if they wish, learn about healthy and safe relationships, and support putting their life back together.

• Mental Health and Complex Needs ISVAs

These roles are particularly relevant as many survivors who have been traumatised by the abuse have been unable to access the emotional and mental health support they need. These workers can support survivors access relevant mental health or specialist interventions such as substance misuse support.

• Global majority communities ISVA

Many survivors who are black or from a minority ethnic community may face extra barriers when trying to get help and support. They can often be afraid to seek help due to experiencing racism, language barriers or isolation from their community. This dedicated service, delivered by ISVAs who are from a minority ethnic community, provide specialist advocacy support whilst also raising awareness of sexual violence within diverse communities. They work closely with Next Link's dedicated global majority communities IDVAs

• LGBTQ+ ISVA

For survivors from the LGBTQ+ community, fear of homophobia or having their sexuality used against them by the perpetrator can stop them from seeking support after rape or sexual assault. The dedicated ISVA, a member of the LGBTQ+ community, provides specialist support whilst also improving referral pathways and awareness of rape and sexual abuse in the LGBTQ+ community. They work closely with Next Link's dedicated LGBTQ+ IDVAs.

• Children's and Young People's (CYP) ISVAs

Safe Link now has a dedicated team of children and young people's specialist ISVAs. One post works closely with Avon and Somerset Police's Operation Bluestone, and there is a specialist CYP ISVA who supports victims who are black or from a minoritised community. The Learning Disability ISVA also works with children.

1 IN 6 CHILDREN
HAVE BEEN
SEXUALLY ABUSED

6 IN 7

RAPES AGAINST WOMEN ARE CARRIED OUT BY SOMEONE THEY KNOW



Support for men and boys

Men and boys can also be victims of sexual violence and abuse and deserve to be able to have specialist help and support to meet their needs. In 2019 we introduced a male ISVA and are working in collaboration with Second Step and other specialist providers to offer a joined-up service.

Our Safe Link workers can support victims and survivors to cope with what happened and help them recover fully and reclaim their lives. It is a free and confidential service. We can come to meet the survivors or they can meet in another location of their choice.

No matter how long ago it happened, anyone can still get support from us, report to the police if they choose to, and access other specialist services.

Our support is confidential and victims can just talk to us once or, if they prefer, we can give them ongoing support.

"These sessions have changed my life – I look forward to them every week"

Peer Support

Our Peer Support programme takes place virtually or in person. Each group has up to 8 survivors meeting in a closed setting to talk about their feelings and learn from each other. The programme consists of up to 10 sessions, each with a theme including: flashbacks and nightmares; trust; sleep; safe relationships; managing thoughts and feelings; healthy body/healthy mind; anger and triggers; support from family and friends; coping mechanisms; future hopes and goals.

Some members of previous groups are now trained to be peer facilitators and they co-facilitate the groups.

LimeCulture Accreditations

We continue to be accredited by LimeCulture, providing evidence each year to meet the national standards. We have:

- One for our general service - ISVA Quality Standards
- One for our male service - Male Survivor Partnership Quality Standards
- One for our children and young people service - CYPSVA Quality Standards

We see these awards as a recognition of the quality of service we offer and of our survivor-led values and ethos that underpin everything we do.

Promoting and Raising Awareness of Rape and Sexual Abuse

We continue our ongoing training of Detective Investigation Teams and the new Bluestone RASSO investigation team across Avon and Somerset. We also delivered training to and networked with: SARSAS, Womankind, Bristol Hate Crime Service, Bristol LD DSVA Network, The Greenhouse, Southmead Project, Off The Record's Freedom Service, Kinergy, The Bridge and One25.

We take part in a number of events including Pride, International Women's Day at City Hall, Stop Adult Abuse Week, Loneliness Awareness Week, World Refugee Day, World Suicide Prevention Day and Mental Health Awareness Week, and delivered workshops to schools about healthy relationships and consent.

Training

We offer a range of training packages focusing on different areas of our service. If you'd like to find out more or enquire about training for your workplace, please get in touch at **enquiries@nextlinkhousing.co.uk**



Next Link

• Domestic Abuse Awareness training

Our Domestic Abuse Awareness training is delivered to a range of organisations and groups, including primary healthcare providers, police, adult and child social services, VCSE partners and council employees.

Domestic Abuse Prevention Workshops for schools – an age-appropriate programme for primary and secondary schools to understand healthy relationships and reach out to children and families who may need support to prevent domestic abuse.

DASH and DA assessment training – for organisations who want to upskill staff to complete holistic and trauma informed domestic abuse risk assessments.

'Honour' Based Abuse and Forced Marriage training – for professionals and community groups who want to learn how to spot the signs of this form of abuse, understand the law and support available.

ALMOST
60%
OF GIRLS
HAVE EXPERIENCED ONLINE HARASSMENT

42%
OF STALKING VICTIMS
SAY IT INVOLVED ONLINE METHODS OF ABUSE

Missing Link

• Health Inequalities Programme

Missing Link facilitates Women's Health Inequalities training across BSW (BaNES, Swindon & Wiltshire), funded by the ICB, for front line mental health staff in the NHS, local government, Statutory Agencies and VCSE (Voluntary, Community & Social Enterprise) practitioners.

The training follows the life course of a woman and has been co-produced with women with lived experience and other VCSE equality organisations. The aim is to develop a deeper understanding of the life complexities women may experience, the barriers they report in accessing mental health services, and why a greater knowledge of women's lives is needed throughout the health system.

It also offers an ongoing reflective practice space after the training so staff can continue to embed their practice to improve the response to women with mental health needs including on self-injury, personality difficulties, domestic abuse, autism and menopause.

"These sessions have been invaluable and really help to build those strong networks across agencies as well"



Photo © Tina Gue



Safe Link

- **Consent and Healthy Relationships**

We deliver this workshop programme to young people in secondary school education across Avon and Somerset. Two ISVAs deliver consent and healthy relationship sessions and work closely with Bluestone and Operation Ruby officers, and 1625IP preventing technology facilitated abuse programme.

"The teams have got so much from the session and feel they have much better knowledge and confidence in how to approach conversations"

Sexual abuse awareness training - this is delivered to a range of organisations and groups, including primary healthcare providers, police, adult and child social services, VCSE partners and council employees.

Trauma informed training – delivered to criminal justice partners and beyond, in depth training on how to respond and offer support to those who disclose they have survived sexual violence or abuse.

We also deliver **bespoke training packages**. All training packages can be tailored or developed for an organisation's needs and learning outcomes.



Volunteering Programme

We have a diverse group of volunteers, from women with lived experience, those who want to give back to the community, to people who go on to gain employment in the organisation. We hugely value their time, energy, enthusiasm and wide-ranging skills that build extra capacity in our services. Without volunteers, some of our most important and effective services would not be able to operate.

"Becoming a volunteer at Missing Link during my university studies was the best decision I could have made. After graduating, I was able to move into a paid position and the organisation has been so nurturing and encouraging of my role(s) within. I have met amazing people in both clients and colleagues, and I really love working in such an empowering place"

If you want to find out more about volunteering **call 0117 925 1811 or email volunteer.coordinator@missinglinkhousing.co.uk**

If you're looking for a way to get involved and make a difference to the lives of women and survivors, we'd love to hear from you!

OVER

70%

OF GEN Z

SOCIAL MEDIA USERS HAVE WITNESSED MISOGYNISTIC CONTENT ONLINE

Part 2nd Floor, Embassy House,
Queens Avenue, Clifton, Bristol BS8 1SB

MISSINGLINK
cutting edge
women's mental health services

Missing Link
www.missinglinkhousing.co.uk
t: 0117 925 1811
e: enquiries@missinglinkhousing.co.uk

NEXTLINK PLUS Bristol
changing the face of
domestic abuse support services

Next Link Plus Bristol
www.nextlinkhousing.co.uk
t: 0800 4700 280
e: enquiries@nextlinkhousing.co.uk

NEXTLINK PLUS South Glos
changing the face of
domestic abuse support services

Next Link Plus South Glos
www.nextlinkhousing.co.uk
t: 0800 4700 280
e: enquiries.southglos@nextlinkhousing.co.uk

NEXTLINK North Somerset
changing the face of
domestic abuse support services

Next Link North Somerset
www.nextlinkhousing.co.uk
t: 0800 4700 280
e: enquiries.NorthSomerset@nextlinkhousing.co.uk

SAFELINK PLUS
supporting survivors

Safe Link Plus
www.safelinksupport.co.uk
t: 0333 323 1543
e: safe.link@safelinksupport.co.uk

www.facebook.com/missinglinknextlinksafelink
Instagram @missinglinknextlinksafelink
www.linkedin.com/company/missinglink-nextlink-safelink

"I would recommend Link House without any hesitation, and am very grateful for the welcoming and kind treatment I received here, thank you from the bottom of my heart"

"The support from Next Link has been life-changing."

"I can honestly say I would not have made it through the ups and downs if I hadn't had you to turn to, or call or just know that you're there"

Missing Link strives to create a culture that encourages and values everyone's differences and promotes mutual respect and shared understanding.
Missing Link is a Housing Association with charitable status, registered under the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act (2014).
Register No. 24218R

Supported by

Sustainability and the environment As part of our commitment to demonstrable environmental management, conserving raw materials and energy, our printed materials are sustainable wherever possible. We select printers who recycle, reuse and prioritise sustainable practice and who have gained FSC® and ISO 14001 Environmental Standard certification. Our printer guarantees: all paper and cardboard waste is recycled, all printing plates are recycled, use of vegetable-based inks, papers from managed forests and use of recycled papers when appropriate.

MIX
Paper from responsible sources
FSC® C015170