

# SARSAS

*Listen.  
Believe.  
Support.*

## IMPACT REPORT 2023 - 2024



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*We  
believe  
you*

# Foreword

Last year, we said 'Goodbye' to our CEO of 6 years, **Claire Bloor**. Claire led SARSAS through a period of positive transformation and grew the organisation into the incredible service it is today. It has been the privilege of my life to move into the role of CEO and lead SARSAS through the last year, a year that has challenged us to show resilience and adaptability in our unwavering commitment to supporting victim-survivors of sexual violence across Avon and Somerset.

Despite rising costs, growing demand, and an increasing number of clients with multiple support needs, our services continue to be a vital lifeline for thousands. On average, we receive **four referrals every day—1,382 in FY23/24**.

Over the past year, we have worked tirelessly to ensure our services are inclusive, accessible, and tailored to the evolving needs of those we support. From **counselling** and **specialist support** work to our innovative **group programmes** and our **'Waiting Well' strategy**, we have prioritised healing, and hope. The development of our drop-in and outreach services, as well as **The Pathfinder Project**, highlights our dedication to transforming access and pathways to support across the region.



Lorri Weaving CEO and outgoing CEO, Claire Bloor

Partnership remains at the heart of what we do. By collaborating with organisations such as **Refugee Women of Bristol**, the **Nelson Trust**, and the **Learning Disabilities Sexual Violence Network**, we are building stronger, more inclusive support networks.

It has been exciting to witness the growth of our **training provision**, particularly as we strengthen our relationships with the corporate sector. Through this work, we are making a meaningful impact on increasing awareness and **preventing sexual harassment** in the **workplace**.

Looking forward, we recognise the urgent need to reduce waiting times while continuing to offer meaningful support to those awaiting services. Our focus will remain on **expanding partnerships**, enhancing **community-based services**, and ensuring **victim-survivors' voices** shape everything we do.

To everyone who supports our mission—our staff, volunteers, partners, and funders—thank you for your commitment. Together, we can create a world where everyone can live a life free from abuse and its devastating impacts.



**LORRI WEAVING**  
CEO



**RACHEL NOTLEY**  
CHAIR OF TRUSTEES



Lorri Weaving  
SARSAS CEO  
(she/her)



Rachel Notley  
Chair of Trustees  
(she/her)



# Supporting people



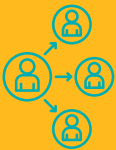
## Pathways to support

We continue to offer a range of services tailored to meet the diverse needs of victim-survivors. While the majority of our services are provided face-to-face, we recognise the importance of accessibility and have maintained **remote options** for approximately **30% of clients** who prefer this approach.

The demand for our services remains consistently high and there has been a continued increase in the number of people we support with multiple needs.

Our **Pathway Navigator** service has been instrumental in addressing these challenges, providing a collaborative approach to triage, assessment, and signposting.

## In Financial Year (FY) 2023 - 2024, we received...



**1,382**  
referrals for support



**706**  
assessments

## we delivered...



**38**

online courses



**192**

clients

Long-term physical health conditions, mental health diagnoses, eating disorders, severe anxiety, and depression are compounded by external pressures linked to the rising cost of living, such as housing instability and financial debt.

# Supporting people

## Counselling

Our specialist **one-to-one counselling** provides a safe space to think and talk things through. All of our counsellors are qualified and highly experienced at working with people who have experienced sexual trauma and are always led by the needs of each individual client.



In FY 2023 - 2024,  
we supported...



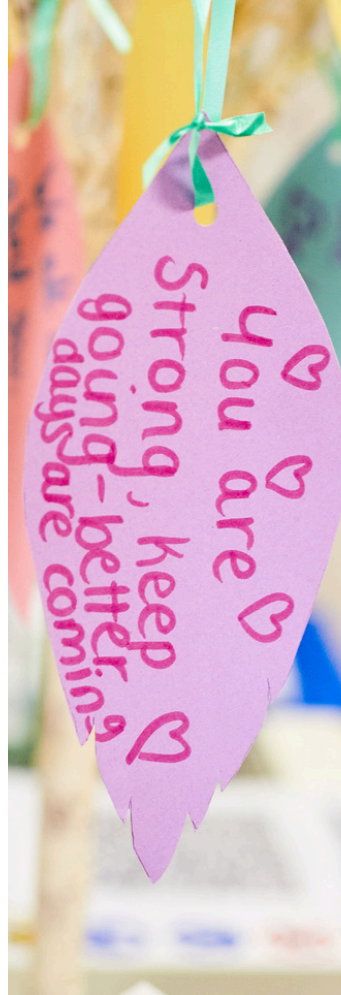
# Supporting people

## Specialist support

**Specialist Support Work (SSW)** provides emotional, practical and advocacy support for victim-survivors who have **multiple support needs**.

Our specialist support workers offer a combination of **emotional** and **practical** support along with **advocacy** around issues such as housing, drugs and alcohol and education.

We are proud to be one of the few sexual violence organisations in the UK that offers a specialist support service for people with **learning disabilities** and/or **autism (LDA)**



**In FY 2023 - 2024,**  
*we supported...*

**92**

SSW clients

**53**

LDA clients

*through..*

**455**

sessions

**341**

sessions

"Our specialist support workers offer 1:1 trauma-informed care that goes beyond just understanding the impact of sexual abuse.

They take the time to listen, creating tailored support plans that focus on real, practical steps to help victim-survivors reclaim control over their lives, and feel hopeful about the future. It's genuinely life-changing."



SADIE, SUPPORT SERVICES MANAGER

# Supporting people

## Group work

Through our groupwork programme, we provide vital support at a critical moment, fostering **connections** with others who **share similar lived experiences**.

Our group sessions are designed to help clients **understand the effects of trauma** and the varied responses it can elicit. Participants also gain **practical tools**, from daily coping strategies to self-care techniques, to help minimise its impact and promote healing.



In FY 2023 - 2024,  
we ran...



**12**  
groups



**102**  
people

- ✓ Online Trauma informed group for Autistic women
- ✓ Learning disability and Autism art group
- ✓ Women of colour walking group (with Nilaari)
- ✓ TNBI peer support group
- ✓ Creative Minds arts workshops
- ✓ RISE psycho-educational groups
- 8 ✓ Pass it on peer support groups



"Sharing a space with other people who have experienced similar things to me but without having to speak about it directly. Being with women for a few hours a week has felt nourishing".



# Supporting people

## Helpline services

Our helpline services (telephone, e:support, live chat) offer a lifeline for victim-survivors when they need it. Our specially trained volunteers provide a safe and non-judgmental space for people to explore their thoughts, feelings and the options available to them.

Our helpline services support anyone aged 13+, from those who are talking to someone about their experiences for the first time to those who need on-going emotional support.

Last year we **received 3381 contacts** and provided **937 hours of support**.



**In FY 2023 - 2024,**  
*we received...*



**1622**

calls to our helpline



**699**

e-support mails



**687**

live chats



**349**

emotional support calls



**54**

translated calls

# Volunteering

SARSAS started its journey as a volunteer-led organisation, set up as **Bristol Rape Crisis** to provide support to survivors of rape and sexual assault.

Fast forward to today and volunteers are **still at the heart of the work that we do**. They provide thousands of hours of crucial and highly skilled support to survivors and our organisation every year.

Our volunteers bring a wide range of skills, knowledge and life experiences to SARSAS which is vital to enable us to respond to the diversity of those who use our services.

Last year, we were pleased to welcome **20 new volunteers** to the SARSAS team



**In FY 2023 - 2024,**  
*we had...*



**40**

helpline volunteers



**20**

volunteers recruited



**2**

communications volunteers



Volunteering at SARSAS has massively boosted my confidence. My soft skills, such as time management, creativity and teamwork, have definitely improved.



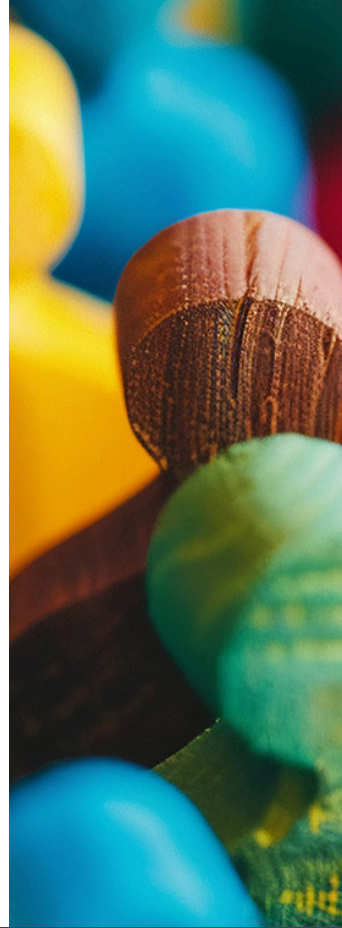


# Equity, diversity & inclusion

We are proud to be an inclusive organisation and strive to make our services as **accessible as possible**.

The FY 2023 - 2024, saw us continue our commitment to EDI with two key focus areas, **LGBTQIA+** inclusion and **anti-racism**.

We were pleased to create and recruit to an EDI Lead role to support the work of our EDI steering group.



## In FY 2023 - 2024, *our key achievements were:*

- ✓ Launched our first **trans and non-binary (TNBI) inclusion event** in November 2023, creating a space for specialist organisations nationwide to connect and share insights on TNBI inclusion.
- ✓ Updated **language** on website and in policy documents to clearly highlight **accessibility** and **inclusivity** in service provision
- ✓ Launched our **anti-racism consultation** to increase team diversity, better reflect client demographics, and enhance inclusion and support for both clients and staff of colour
- ✓ Started **pre-recording online courses** to improve accessibility for diverse needs, including non-native speakers, D/deaf clients, parents, shift workers, and others unable to attend live sessions



# Training

The last year saw us further expanding our training offer, and we now work with some major corporate clients in the **retail** and **hospitality** sectors, as well as continuing to work with **schools**, **colleges**, and **statutory** and **non-profit** organisations.

Our talented training team provide a combination of **online** and **face-to-face training** across Avon & Somerset and beyond, using their expert knowledge of trauma and sexual violence to create positive cultures of consent.

Our training plays a vital role in our prevention efforts, working towards our vision of a **world free from sexual violence** while supporting the economic sustainability of our essential support services.



**In FY 2023 - 2024,**  
*we delivered...*

**72**

**across England  
and Ireland**

**training sessions**

*in topics including...*



**Responding to Disclosures**



**Consent**



**Sexual Harassment  
in the Workplace**



**Understanding Sexual Violence**



# Fundraising

Our fundraising team is at the heart of driving change and creating lasting impact for survivors of sexual violence.

Through **innovative campaigns** and **meaningful partnerships**, we ensure that vital services remain accessible to those who need them most.

*Our key focus over the last year has been:*

- **Inspiring community action:** we engage individuals, groups, and businesses to stand with survivors through events, challenges, and creative initiatives.
- **Sustainable support:** by securing grants and building lasting donor relationships, we ensure the continued delivery of life-changing services, from helplines to therapy.



**In FY 2023 - 2024,**  
*our Charity of the Year*  
*partner was...*



"Together with our supporters and corporate partners, we're building a community committed to ending sexual violence and to standing alongside survivors."

Every contribution helps us reach more survivors. Whether someone is attending an event, making a donation, or sharing our message, they're a vital part of the SARSAS story."



TRACEY, HEAD OF INCOME GENERATION, TRAINING AND COMMS

# Fundraising



Outgoing CEO, Claire Bloor, receiving £6,000 raised at the Bristol Law Society raffle



A team of SARSAS staff took on the #ThreePeaks challenge



Bath Half runners raised £2,877



The December 2023 Big Give Christmas Challenge raised £26,592



Waitrose (Nailsea) donated £1000 donation and paid for a survivor to attend group therapy



Lara's climb for Kilimanjaro raised £3,402

# Connecting

Building **strong connections** within our **communities** is a vital part of our outreach work.

We've created safe and welcoming spaces at **Glastonbury** and **Boardmasters** festivals, providing support to survivors and raising awareness about sexual harassment.

This year, we also proudly attended events such as **Bristol Pride** and **Trans Pride**, standing alongside the LGBTQIA+ community and reinforcing that our services are for everyone.

Attending the **Rape Crisis Conference** each year promotes knowledge exchange and collaboration with other organisations dedicated to preventing sexual. On **International Women's Day**, we joined with others to celebrate the achievements of women and advocate for a world free from gender-based violence at the IWD event at City Hall, Bristol.

We regularly attend **freshers fayres** across the whole of Avon and Somerset, speaking to young people about consent and letting them know about our services.

*Out in the community...*





# Creating change

Alongside our commitment to supporting survivors, we believe that **strengthening prevention** is key to creating a world free from sexual violence. In the coming year, we are expanding our outreach through the delivery of our **consent and health relationships workshops** in schools, colleges and communities.

We want to continue to target some of the root causes of rape and sexual abuse, campaigning to raise awareness of the systemic factors that allow sexual violence to thrive, including gender inequality, power imbalances and societal misconceptions.

We are expanding our training offer to the corporate providing a range of trauma-informed off-the-shelf and bespoke packages to address sexual harassment in the workplace and responding to disclosures of sexual violence

As ever, the needs of survivors remain at the heart of everything we do. To ensure every voice is heard, we'll continue to work on increasing the accessibility of our services, improving and adapting our services to reflect the unique needs of all survivors.

We are committed to continuing to embed equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) into all areas of our work. This includes implementing our EDI plan and launching targeted actions to ensure our organisation is inclusive, accessible, and reflective of the communities we serve.

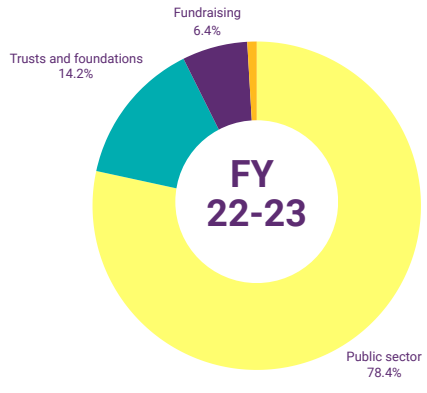
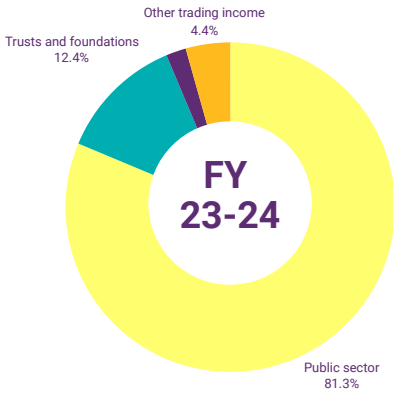


# Financial overview

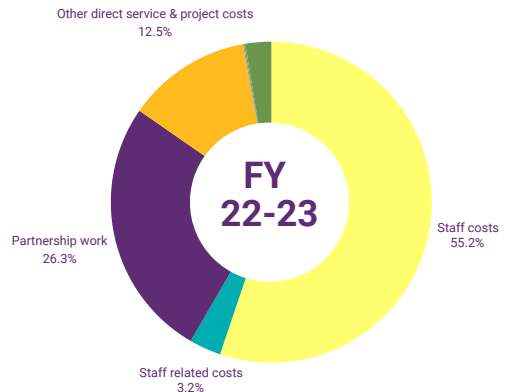
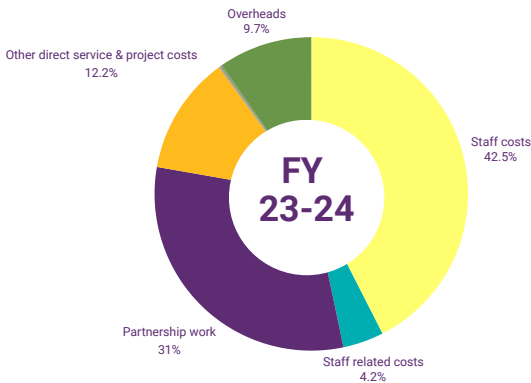
In FY 23 - 24, we secured additional statutory grants in-year, increasing our grant income by £382.5k, compared to the prior year.

Our training offer continued to grow, generating an additional £108k in income compared to the previous year, further enhancing our financial sustainability.

## Income



## Expenditure



# Financial overview

Income	FY 23-24	FY22-23
Public Sector	£ 2,468,462	£ 2,085,914
Trusts & foundations	£ 375,204	£ 379,062
Fundraising	£ 59,712	£ 171,168
Other trading income	£ 132,636	£ 24, 651
Investment income	£ 5,119	£ 4,050
	<b>£ 3,041,133</b>	<b>£ 2,664,845</b>

Expenditure	FY 23-24	FY22-23
Staff costs	£ 1,311,823	£ 1,238,335
Staff related costs	£ 129,823	£ 71,913
Partnership work	£ 958,111	£ 589,399
Other direct service & project costs	£ 377, 413	£ 280,756
Volunteer costs	£ 5,707	£ 2,485
Fundraising costs	£ 5,108	£ 3,220
Overheads	£ 298,439	£ 58,140
	<b>£ 3,086,287</b>	<b>£ 2,450,314</b>



# Thank you

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Our work is only possible because of the incredible support of our community. We want to express our gratitude to everyone who has contributed to our mission of providing compassionate support and working for a world free from sexual violence.

**To our clients**, thank you for trusting us to share this part of your healing journey. You are stronger than you know and inspire everything we do.

**To our supporters**, our community fundraisers, corporate partners, donors, and funders, thank you for believing in our work and ensuring we can continue to make a difference. Your generosity changes lives.

**To our partners**, and all the incredible organisations who walk alongside us - thank you for standing united to promote healing, safety, and justice for all survivors of abuse.

**To our amazing team**, the volunteers, staff, and trustees who are the beating heart of SARSAS - thank you for your unwavering dedication, empathy, and resilience.

Together, we CAN create lasting change and pave the way for a world where everyone can look forward with hope and live free from the threat of abuse.

From all of us at SARSAS, thank you for being part of this vital journey.



# SARSAS

*Listen.  
Believe.  
Support.*

## **We are grateful to receive statutory funding through:**

*The Avon and Somerset Sexual Violence Alliance  
(in partnership with NHS England)*

*Avon and Somerset Sexual Assault and Abuse Therapies Service  
(co-funded by Bristol Council)*

*Avon and Somerset Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner  
Bristol, North Somerset and South Glos. Integrated Care Board*

*Somerset Integrated Care Board*

**The Home Office  
The Ministry of Justice  
Somerset Community Foundation**



**I was doubtful and sceptical at first. This work even though it was extremely hard, has helped me change my life. What you do for people is amazing and I cannot thank you all enough.**

