SURVIVOR SPACE
OXFORDSHIRE

Impact Report

2024-2025

Registered charity number 1131054

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF OUR BOARD

It is my pleasure to introduce the Survivor Space Impact Report for 2024–2025.

This year, as always, our work has been **shaped by the voices, strength, and needs of survivors**, but also by the continued failure of wider systems to meet them with the justice and care they deserve.

The reality we face is stark. In the past year, over 205,000 sexual offences were recorded by police in England and Wales, the highest on record. Yet we know these figures only scratch the surface. The NPCC reports that violence against women and girls makes up almost 20% of all recorded crime in England and Wales. An estimated 798,000 women experience sexual violence each year, but fewer than 7% of these offences are reported. Of the rapes that are reported, just 2.6% result in a charge or summons. These numbers reveal a justice system that is struggling, or in some cases unwilling, to respond meaningfully to survivors.

Behind these statistics are real people, survivors who are navigating not only the trauma of sexual violence, but also the burden of disbelief, delay, and dismissal. It is for them that Survivor Space exists.

This year, we have developed our impact in powerful ways, expanding our provision of trauma-informed support, growing our peer-led networks, and pushing for change where institutions have failed.

As Chair of Trustees, **I am continually humbled by the resilience of the survivors who engage with us, and inspired by the dedication of our staff, volunteers, and partners.** This report reflects their efforts, and the collective will to ensure no-one has to navigate this journey alone.

There is still much work to do, but together we are building something that does more than respond to crisis; **we are building a future where survivors are supported, believed, and empowered.**



Thank you for your continued support.

Jo Evelyn
Chair of the Board of Trustees

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

This past year at Survivor Space Oxfordshire has been nothing short of remarkable. Together, we have navigated challenges, touched lives, and made strides toward creating a brighter future for survivors of sexual violence. With 715 individuals supported - spanning adults, young people, and children - our impact has been profound.

We celebrated a significant milestone in **reducing our counselling waiting lists by over half**, ensuring that survivors receive the timely support they deserve. Programs like Survivor Purdah have shattered barriers, offering tailored spaces where cultural sensitivities are met with compassion and understanding. These achievements reflect the power of what we can accomplish when a shared mission drives us forward.

This year also marked the **launch of our new identity as Survivor Space Oxfordshire,** a rebrand that brought fresh energy and purpose to our work. Our renewed name and visual presence have helped us reach more survivors than ever before, amplifying our message of hope and resilience. The rebrand has strengthened our sense of who we are, making it easier for people to find us, trust us, and feel proud to be part of our community. Most importantly, it has deepened our connections with those we support, opening new pathways for engagement and allowing even more survivors to see themselves reflected in our mission.

None of this would be possible without the unwavering support of our community. Whether through donations, volunteering, or simply spreading our message, **you have shown what it means to stand together with survivors**. Thank you for being part of this movement.

At Survivor Space Oxfordshire, we are more than a service; we are a catalyst for change. Each story of healing, every life transformed, reinforces **our vision of a world where survivors don't just survive, they thrive.**



Here's to building that world, together.

Lauren Kendall
CEO

OUR SERVICES

Survivor Space is the only organisation providing accredited specialist support to survivors of sexual violence in Oxfordshire. Our mission is clear and unwavering: to provide free services and a safe space where every survivor feels heard, valued, and empowered to take the next steps on their individual healing journeys.

We support adult and child survivors (aged 14 years and over) of all genders, who have experienced rape, sexual abuse, or any other form of sexual violence, whether experienced recently, or in the past. We are active members of Rape Crisis England and Wales and The Survivors Trust.

ADVOCACY

We offer **Independent Sexual Violence Advocacy (ISVA)** providing specialist **survivor-centred emotional and practical support** from our qualified Independent Sexual Violence Advisers (ISVAs) for the **duration of their involvement with the Criminal Justice System**.

ONE-TO-ONE COUNSELLING

We offer **12 specialist one-to-one sessions of trauma-informed counselling**, delivered and overseen by our highly trained, qualified and accredited counsellors.

PEER SUPPORT GROUPS

We run **psychoeducation and holistic support groups** to provide a safe and inclusive space for adult survivors, so that they can draw on strength and support from other survivors coming to terms with similar issues. Some of the holistic groups facilitated last year included a **strength and boxing group**, a **restorative meditation group**, and a **cooking group**. We delivered **monthly drop-in webinar sessions** on topics such as shame, the window of tolerance and trauma, and a self-care group for survivors with neurodiversity.

TRAINING

Our training offer raises **awareness of the prevalence and impact of sexual violence**, and aims to challenge and change attitudes about sexual violence. We provide comprehensive **Sexual Violence Awareness, Sexual Harassment Awareness**, and **Consent Training** to individuals, organisations, educational settings and institutions across sectors.

SERVICE DELIVERY AND REACH

715

Survivors

This year, we have proudly supported 715 people through our one-to-one services.
Of these, 682 were adults, 28 were young people, and 5 were children.

1,982

Counselling sessions

Our counseling sessions soared to a remarkable 1,982 this year, meeting survivors where they are and guiding them toward lasting recovery.

“Without Naseem and Yasmeen I would still be dead inside.”

5,428

Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) sessions

By delivering 5,428 ISVA sessions, we stood steadfast beside survivors in their legal and emotional journeys

“Ellie has been incredible, from the emotional and practical support to supporting me when going to give evidence in court. Nothing is too much for her and she is there to help me with anything I could ever need. Ellie has made my life a lot easier and I am very grateful to her.”

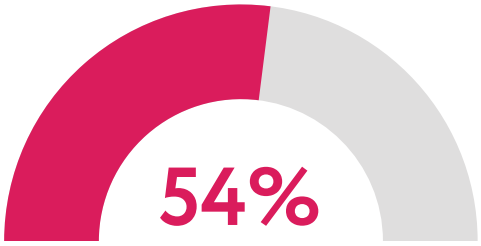
335

Attendances at Innovative group sessions

Our groupwork sessions opened new paths to healing and empowerment.

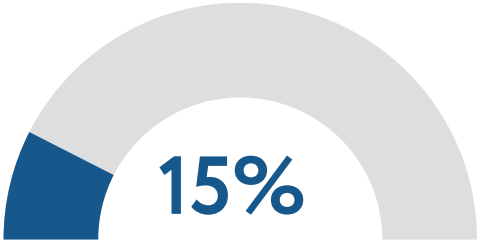
“This has been the care I needed - not just helpful, but downright vital for my ongoing recovery. It has meant the world to discover a way of engaging with my body in a way that makes me feel safe and strong.“

SERVICE DELIVERY AND REACH



54%

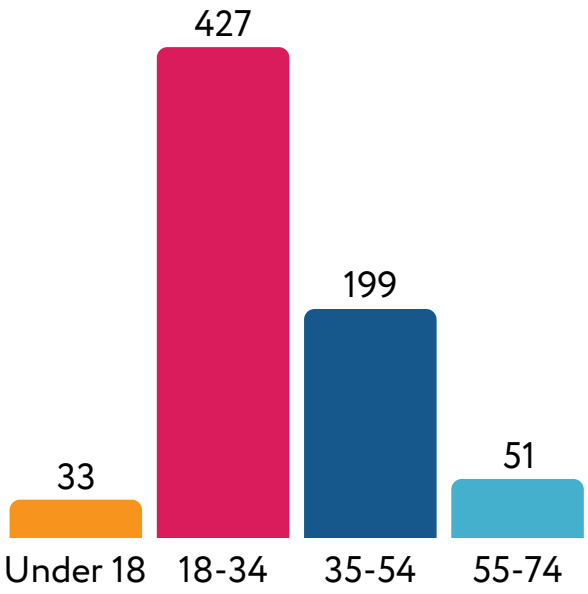
Of survivors have a **disability**



15%

Of survivors are from an **ethnic minority background**

Age Range



SURVIVOR PURDAH

This year, we introduced our 'Survivor Purdah' pilot sessions, with 'purdah' meaning '**veil**' in English. The word purdah is used not only to refer to a literal veil worn by some survivors, but also to symbolise the societal and cultural barriers that can prevent individuals from talking about their abuse. The aim of the sessions was to break down these barriers, and survivors were given the option to completely anonymise themselves in order to speak freely.

> To have these conversations about... how to talk about someone sexually abusing you when you don't have the language...this space is really amazing

> This is a great space. We never get to talk about these things, and I didn't know any of this growing up

> Was glad to see representation by the police - very much needed to understand the root of issues faced by these communities

SURVIVORS' FEEDBACK ON OUR SUPPORT

100%

Rated our service as either **excellent** or **good**

100%

Felt **heard** and **believed**

94%

Felt **less alone** and **isolated**

> The support received was amazing at helping me guide my way through my experience, learn how to cope, deal with emotion and understand how important it is to keep going

> This allowed me to take control of my own healing, empower myself and not have to dwell on the horrible things that happened to me and instead feel like I can move forward, learn new skills and create a different way of managing my flashbacks and emotions

> The support and educational sessions soon after the assault, as well as the care pack I received was invaluable for those first few months of actually just wanting to carry on being alive. It helped me feel like I was a real person that was valued and had a right to be alive and taking care of myself

> I have felt: heard, listened to, empowered, seen, understood, non pressured, and acknowledged. I am worthy. I matter. I am not at fault. My past doesn't define me. I am a woman, important, nurtured. I have a voice. My life is mine, healing is possible.

96%

Were better **able to manage their mental health**

96%

Felt able to go through the **legal proceedings** if they wanted to/were required to

78%

Had an **improvement** in their level of **psychological distress** following the **completion of counselling sessions**

OUR VITAL WORK: LUPITA'S COUNSELLING JOURNEY

Lupita began working with our counsellor, over the course of 12 one-to-one trauma-informed counselling sessions Lupita experienced transformational changes, that significantly reduced the levels of psychological distress she experienced on a daily basis.

Lupita was repeatedly sexually assaulted as a child, and came to our service for counselling after a court case against her abuser was unsuccessful. She was having difficulties with current relationships and felt she was being taken advantage of. Lupita became severely distressed when she thought about the abuse, and she could not say her abuser's name without becoming overwhelmed.

Lupita's CORE-10 score at the **beginning of therapy** was

24

characterised as **moderate** to **severe psychological distress**.

Lupita's CORE-10 score at the **end of therapy** was

14

characterised as **mild psychological distress**.

Outcome

After completing our counselling course, Lupita is now able to say her abuser's name. She has developed more of a sense of self, and is better able to advocate for herself. She is able to detach from feelings rather than always being overwhelmed by them.

"It has made me believe in myself and made me feel good about the future"

TRAINING

At a time when awareness, accountability, and action are more critical than ever, our training programs are designed to raise awareness of the prevalence and impact of sexual violence, and not only inform but transform, shifting mindsets, challenging harmful norms, and empowering participants to become proactive agents of change. Over the past year, we have continued to provide comprehensive Sexual Violence Awareness, Sexual Harassment Awareness, and Consent Training to individuals, organisations, and institutions across sectors.

In total, this year we trained over **1500** people...

15 Consent training sessions	**15** Sexual harassment awareness training sessions	**2** Sexual violence awareness training sessions	**3** Bespoke training sessions, including a keynote speech

What participants say about our training

> I thought I knew and understood consent, but the way you talked about it was so clear and added to my understanding. You talked about the interplay of the 3 aspects and how they all have to be in place. I hadn't thought about consent in this way before.

> People found the session very informative, useful and very well delivered.

> The facilitator was very friendly, approachable and knowledgeable. She turned what could be a very difficult day into a manageable and informative training day.

> We have received really fantastic feedback from those who attended... We have also seen the value in having an external and impartial provider deliver this type of face-to face training.

FUNDRAISING AND FINANCIALS

At the heart of every transformation we achieve is an unwavering community of supporters who believe in the power of hope. Survivor Space Oxfordshire couldn't do what we do without you. Your generosity fuels every counselling session, every group workshop, and every ISVA meeting. Together, we are not just changing lives, we are saving them.

This year, you showed up with more passion than ever. From charity runs to corporate partnerships, every effort played a vital role in keeping our mission alive. A standout event was the launch of our rebrand event at The Westgate, which, with matched funding from a generous donor, raised over £12,000! This incredible gift meant we could re-open our counselling service, which we'd had to pause due to lack of funding and capacity.

We would not have been able to do this without you. Thank you sincerely to all of our amazing donors below.

Anonymous Major Benefactor
B4
Clarity Fund
Debbie Ehrstein
Garfield Weston Foundation
Hobson Charity
Kiera Gabrielle and guitarist Ozzy
Landsec
LoveCorn
Mills & Reeve
Ministry of Justice
National Lottery
One Living
Oxford City Council
The Brook Trust
The Edward Gostling Foundation
The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
The Pye Charitable Foundation
TrueStart Coffee
Women's Budget Group
Willy's ACV Kombucha
Rape Crisis England and Wales
Sally Scott
Oxfordshire Community Foundation
Savills Oxfordshire
St Aldate's Parochial Charity

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report is a testament to what we can achieve when we unite for a common purpose. The stories of transformation and resilience within these pages are made possible by an extraordinary group of people who are the very foundation of Survivor Space Oxfordshire.

TO OUR TRUSTEES

Your vision and guidance helps direct our mission. You challenge us to dream bigger, reach further, and serve our community with greater impact. Thank you for your strategic leadership and your steadfast belief in a world where every survivor can thrive. Your commitment is the bedrock of our success.

TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

You are the lifeblood of this organisation. You bring energy, compassion, and thousands of hours of dedicated service that ripple through every aspect of our work. Thank you for being the heartbeat of our community.

TO OUR INCREDIBLE STAFF TEAM

Your passion, expertise, and boundless dedication are nothing short of inspiring. Day in and day out, you stand with survivors, offering a steady hand, a listening ear, and the expert support needed to navigate the path to healing. You embody our values with every action, creating a sanctuary of safety, trust, and empowerment. Thank you for pouring your hearts into this vital work. You are true changemakers.

Together, you create a tapestry of hope and strength. We are profoundly grateful for each and every one of you. Your collective effort is not just changing lives, it is building a movement.

Thank you, everyone.

DONATE TO US

Supporting Survivors of sexual violence, abuse, rape and harassment across Oxfordshire.

To donate to our work and ensure that more survivors get the support they need, please visit **www.survivorspace.org.uk/donate/**

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www.survivorspace.org.uk

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Survivor Space Oxfordshire is registered as a charity in England and Wales under number 1131054 and is a company limited by guarantee, registered in England & Wales No: 6835605.