



CREATING SPACE

Recovery from Domestic Abuse - a whole family approach

Creating Space has evolved from the work that St.Mary's have been doing with families in Chipping Norton over the past six years. We have recognised the profound value there is in working with not only the adult in a DA situation, but the children too and in supporting the family as a unit. The project has creativity and partnership working at its heart and alongside programmes based on the Recovery DA and ACEs Toolkit we will offer more innovative opportunities that aim to build self-esteem and resilience, and explore identity and aspiration.

The backbone of this project is the Network that we have set-up in Chipping Norton to advocate partnership working. By bringing together the key agencies and organisations that work in the area, to share ideas, information and encouragement, plus provide a gap analysis, we have been able to link on a range of initiatives including DA support (Freedom Programme). Working closely with health visitors, social services, the health centre, local nurseries, schools and charities, we can be confident that we are reaching those most in need. Part of the Creating Space project is to extend our Network by training members in DA awareness and support and then form a network that knows the local rural context and offers an appropriate DA service. We are doing this in collaboration with Reducing the Risk as part of their DA Champions scheme and with local solicitors to create a clear system towards legal aid.

We will run the evidence-based DA and ACEs Toolkit for adults and then bring elements of this programme to our work with children and young people through the youth club and schools. An important part of learning for all age groups will be around protective behaviours. One of the key aims of this project is to break the generational cycles which are so strikingly apparent in Chipping Norton and encourage and raise awareness about safety and protection. We will use creative activities within the youth and school sessions to promote and explore these concepts.

Through workshops such as floristry, mosaic, bushcraft and cooking we will enable adults and children the time and space to focus on their own needs and aspirations and then come together to do an enjoyable activity as a family in a secure and relaxed environment.

In summary Creating Space is about working holistically and in partnership to liberate families who have been through domestic abuse and offer them a creative path to recovery, hope and a new life.

For further information or to make referrals, please contact catherine.spring@stmaryscnorton.com

