

# **AAFDA**

## **Minutes/Notes from AGM**

**Held on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2011 at Swindon Council Offices**

### **Julie Wright, Chair**

Welcome to AAFDA's first AGM. AAFDA stands for Advocacy After Fatal Domestic Abuse

The organisation exists to advocate for all victims of domestic violence but specialises in helping victims after fatal domestic abuse. We hope that this AGM provides further understanding and assistance in addressing issues stemming from domestic abuse.

My involvement stems from years of being a voice for victims of domestic abuse made powerless by abusive and violent acts. As an MP's caseworker I have to try to overcome the lack of understanding within key agencies or the reluctance of those in key positions to go one step further to make a difference.

At times it has felt as if I was swimming upstream. Through AAFDA I have found a worthwhile way of addressing some of the ignorance and to aid others to treat victims differently and with understanding.

AAFDA is showing it is possible to challenge and invite a more effective response. We do not just have to accept the constraints of budgets or the limitations of responsibility. We can act as individuals to make a difference and that is what AAFDA is about.

AAFDA helps with transition, helping victims to break free from the control of disempowering experience. We know perpetrators violate more than victims; they violate the principles which enable trusting relationships.

Our work involves helping people to overcome the problems created by abuse. Making things better today so that tomorrow victims can find their own voice.

Each speaker today has a different insight into domestic abuse. There will be an opportunity for a Questions and Answer session when all speakers have finished.

A lady is writing down the key points in each speech but not the Q and A's. We will send each speaker a copy of the key points from their speech for their approval before putting the contents on our website. We will also send these to those invited to the AGM but unable to attend.

I would also like to announce apologies from the Charities Information Bureau who unfortunately were unable to attend this AGM. There may also be some invitees who may be arriving late.

I am now going to hand over to Frank Mullane, Founder of the Charity and current co-ordinator.