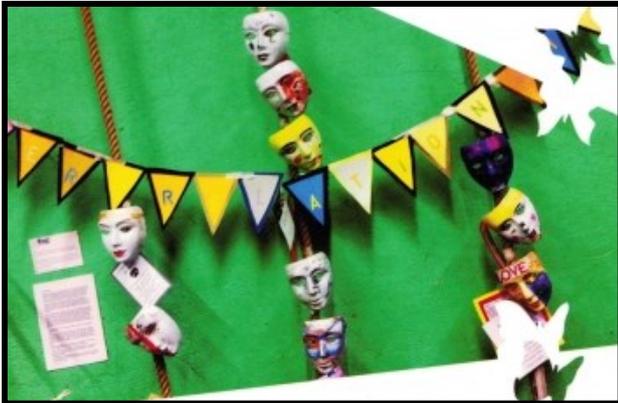




Local Focus

The Butterfly Foundation

The Butterfly Foundation is a small home-grown charity which was established to meet a local need; helping survivors of domestic violence move on through the medium of creative arts.



Artwork from the Safer Relationships Project delivered in schools

It was set up in February 2004 following a Woman in Crisis event, attracting money for a worker to develop the organisation. The original member of staff is now their Creative Director and 2 of its current trustees were founder members. In 2011-12 they had an income for services of about £81,500 made up of grants from The Big Lottery, Bournemouth Borough Council, other funders and fundraising activities.

The charity used the money to employ a full time Creative Director, a substantial part-time administrator and a small number of sessional staff. It relies heavily on volunteers and has 12 regulars. In 2012 they won the Volunteer Team Award at the Poole Volunteer Awards in partnership with another local charity, Vita Nova.



Cinder's Blind Date, a Christmas performance in partnership with Vita Nova

Over the year services were provided to a total of 100 adult users who had survived domestic abuse, of which 80 were new users. It ran four courses for 81 users and 87% reported that the course had significantly improved their well-being.

“Joining the Freedom Programme has helped me enormously, the abuse affected my health, body and mind. The Butterfly Foundation has given me the tools to cope with sorting my life out”

21 users also made use of the 1-2-1 counselling. The charity organised weekly and one off workshops, exhibitions and other events which involved 70 adult users. It also provided art therapy programmes to 34 under 11 year olds who had witnessed domestic violence.

It is estimated that it costs the state about £10,000 for each repeat incidence of domestic violence and so if the work of Butterfly prevents just one such incidence for each user it would save the state £1 million.

As part of its public education and preventative work the charity worked with Vita Nova on running Safer Relationships into Schools to a total of 400 primary pupils. It worked jointly with the Bournemouth Youth Service to deliver a Healthy Relationship programme to twenty five 13-19 year olds. Butterfly also delivered presentations about its work to 25 educational professionals.

During 2011-12 the charity was run by 5 local trustees who, recognising the ending of the grant from The Big Lottery, drew up a Business Plan for its sustainable future. They also identified the need to become a charitable company and the need to recruit new trustees. In April 2013 they achieved this status and successfully recruited two new trustees bringing financial and legal expertise.

For more information visit their website:

www.thebutterflyfoundation.org.uk

