

Interview took place at the South East Essex Rape and Crisis Centre (SERICC), Grays Essex. See also Interview UKLSE_CT1_SD01_001_001_0002_0001.wav, transcript UKLSE_CT1_SD01_001_001_0002_0001.pdf and photograph UKLSE_CT1_SD01_001_001_0002_0001.tif

Interview Summary.

0:00 mins:

Lee Eggleston and Sheila Coates' experience of working in the women's voluntary and community sector to improve women's structural position in the UK. Sheila is the Director of SERICC and Lee is SERRICC's Operations Manager and a Trustee of Rape Crisis England & Wales, representing the Eastern Region.

CND. TWAG (Thurrock Women's Action Group). Harassment at the cinema. Meeting with and attending training at the first Rape Crisis Centre. Opening a rape crisis centre and women's refuge. Getting the tenancy for the refuge. Grounding practice and services in political activism.

9:12 mins:

Working together in the refuge. Thurrock Council's attitude towards domestic violence and sexual violence and abuse issues. Overwhelming demand for rape crisis services and transition from helpline to centre. Shift to a 1-to-1 therapeutic model of service provision. Holding on to group work and the activist element.

13:42 mins:

Lifting the taboo around domestic violence and being part of a movement. Impact of the internet on recognizing sexual violence and abuse. Silo-ing sexual violence and abuse and domestic violence. The continuum of violence. Women's Aid movement rather than first refuge having an impact.

19:00 mins:

Incident involving Sheila's partner in the 70s. Feminist and Civil Rights activists and writers. 1996 Women's Conference. Louise Armstrong and child sexual abuse.

26:57 mins:

The women victims and survivors coming to SERICC as inspirational. Lee's vision. The woman who set up the Southend Refuge and people interested in politics in a little 'p' sense in the UK and internationally. Sheila's instinct.

32:00 mins:

Organic and non-hierarchical leadership. Prioritising need. Honesty and respect. Inclusive. Leading by example. Agents for change. Fairness. Activism.

40:50 mins:

Respecting women's lives. Understanding the communities you work with. Development of SERICC feminist leadership model. Women's leadership as more collaborative and less competitive and career progression orientated than men's. Power, sexism and sexual abuse.

47:24 mins:

Working together an inevitability from the beginning. Taking work issues home. Funding and long-term service security. Rage. Getting qualifications. Building resilience. Monthly training/discussion group. Involvement nationally and internationally.

58:04 mins:

Legislative changes. Influencing policy and strategy. Improving women and girls' access to legal justice. Neutral systems not addressing the realities of women's lives. Leadership at national and international level. Existence of a women's sector. Sharing practice and adaptability. Women's digital revolution.

1:06:35 mins:

Women's right to services. Uncertain political times. Challenging messages about women. Need for lasting change. Increasing capacity and building solidarity. Establishment of Centre for Women's Justice. Creation of spaces and resource women's time for discussions. Competition weakening trust between organisations. Holding onto existing rights. Forming partnerships. Sector's relationship with commissioners and need for a ring-fenced tax.