

Saint Mary's Centre 23rd Annual Conference 2026

A Shared Vision: Reflecting on 40 Years of SARCs, Responding to Sexual Violence and Shaping the Future Together

Tuesday 21 – Wednesday 22 April 2026

Location: Bridgewater Hall, Manchester

Programme – Tuesday 21 April – Morning

9.30am	Welcome and Introduction Lisa Waters, Head of Operational and Strategic Performance, Saint Mary's Centre & SAFEPlace Merseyside
9.35am	SARCS – Looking Back (Working Title) Dr Michelle Carroll, Clinical Director, Saint Mary's SARC & SAFEPlace Merseyside
Chair:	Kathy Cowell OBE DL, Chairman, Manchester University Foundation Trust
10.00am	Jess Phillips MP Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Safeguarding and Violence Against Women and Girls
10.20am	Claire Waxman OBE Victims Commissioner for England and Wales (from 2026)
10.45am	Title TBC D.Supt Phil Key, Greater Manchester Police
11.10am	Questions
11.20am	BREAK
Chair:	Ursula Martin, Chief Executive, Specialist Hospitals Clinical Group, University of Manchester NHS Foundation Trust
11.50am	Title TBC Lorien Haynes, Actor & Playwright TBC, Refuge Domestic Abuse Organisation
12.15pm	Panel Discussion – The Media's Depiction of Rape and Sexual Violence: Then, Now and Looking Forward
12.50am	Questions
01.00pm	LUNCH



Saint Mary's Centre 23rd Annual Conference 2026

A Shared Vision: Reflecting on 40 Years of SARCs, Responding to Sexual Violence and Shaping the Future Together

Tuesday 21 – Wednesday 22 April 2026

Location: Bridgewater Hall, Manchester

Programme – Tuesday 21 April – Afternoon

Chair	HHJ Nicholas Dean KC, Hon. Recorder of Manchester
02.00pm	TBC
02.25pm	Reframing Vulnerability: Towards Empowerment and Accessible Support for Women with Learning Disabilities and Neurodivergent Women Penni Charteress, Service Lead: Learning Disabilities and Neurodivergent Women, The Women's Centre Cornwall
02.50pm	The Dutch multidisciplinary Sexual Assault Centres: from research to practice Iva Bicanic PhD, Director Knowledge Building, Sexual Assault Centres, The Netherlands
03.15pm	Questions
3.45 – 5.50pm	Workshops



Saint Mary's Centre 23rd Annual Conference 2026

A Shared Vision: Reflecting on 40 Years of SARCs, Responding to Sexual Violence and Shaping the Future Together

Tuesday 21 – Wednesday 22 April 2026

Location: Bridgewater Hall, Manchester

Programme – Wednesday 22 April

Chair:	Janet Potter, Deputy Chief Crown Prosecutor, Crown Prosecution Service
09.00am	Kate Green OBE, Deputy Mayor for Safer and Stronger Communities, Greater Manchester
09.25am	Stephen Parkinson, Director of Public Prosecutions, Crown Prosecution Service
09.50am	TBC
10.15am	QUESTIONS
10:30am	BREAK
Chair:	TBC
11.00am	Bridging the Gap: Because Healing Can't Wait Emily Jacob, Founder, ReConnected Life
11.25am	(Mock) jury decision making in cases of male sexual victimisation Dr Siobhan Weare, Reader in Law, Lancaster University Dr Dominic Willmott, Reader in Legal Psychology, Loughborough University Madeleine Millar, Research Associate, Lancaster University
11.50pm	Constructive Dialogues with boys and young men (working title) Michael Conroy, Founder/Director, Men at Work CIC
12.15pm	Questions
12.30pm	LUNCH

Chair:	TBC
01.30pm	Title TBC Slater and Gordon Lawyers
02.55pm	TBC
2.20pm	Questions
2.30 - 2.35pm	Closing Remarks Lisa Waters, Head of Operational and Strategic Performance, Saint Mary's Centre & SAFEPlace Merseyside
2.45 - 4.50pm	Workshops