

Partner: SignHealth

Organisation: DeafHope

Case Study

The individual is in their mid 50s and lived with their husband in Wandsworth, they have grown up children together. Their husband liked to gamble and liked to binge drink after work.

3 years ago, their husband was due to retire from his job. The individual was worried about what would happen to them when he retired and would be at home more. The individual found lots of empty bottles around the house that their husband had hidden. During their marriage, the husband had verbally abused this individual and had mocked their deafness. The husband had been very critical of the individual often.

The individual and their husband had two dogs together. The husband was very jealous of the dogs which the individual adored. The husband would hurt the dogs and threaten to kill them with guns he had in the house. He would abuse friends and family online which made it difficult for the individual to maintain relationships with other people. He also ran up debts in the individual's name. They felt they had to help him to clear the debts by getting a loan which the individual had to repay themselves.

At the husband's retirement party, he was very drunk. The individual would normally stay with their daughter as she didn't feel safe around him when he was like that. Unfortunately, one of her dogs was ill and had an operation so they had to return home with the husband to care for the dog. After the party, the individual told the husband that they wanted them to separate. The husband became very aggressive and told the individual that he was going to kill the dogs. The individual contacted the police. The police came and arrested the husband and he was put on bail. The individual was too scared to go out of the house, they were housebound for three weeks.

The individual decided to contact DeafHope for support. After meeting the IDVA, they agreed that they needed a non-molestation order. Both the individual and the IDVA went to court and applied for one. The individual also told the IDVA that the guns were still in the house. The IDVA contacted the police and the police went to check if the guns were loaded. The police were able to confirm the guns were broken and the individual was relieved to hear this. The police advised the individual to remove them from the house which their son later did for them.

The individual did not want to leave the house to move elsewhere because of the dogs. The IDVA was able to give them a panic alarm and loaned equipment for the front door to make the house more secure.

The police decided to not to go ahead with the investigation. The husband never came back to the house and he moved out of the area. The individual and the husband agreed to a divorce and sold the house. The husband continued to verbally abuse the individual via family and friends.

The individual attended our Survivor Workshops for 7 weeks. They met other survivors and felt they was able to move on. With the money from the sale of the house, they were able to enrol on a dog grooming course and has since become qualified. They have bought a mobile van and set up their own business as a dog groomer visiting clients. They are much happier and have stayed in touch with their IDVA who they contact occasionally. The individual also sometimes emails DeafHope with photos of their achievements.