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Vida Secures Emergency & Matched Funding to Empower Women Survivors. Avoiding Closure

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Vida needs your donations, please! *Emergency support from a current funder and funding from The Henry Smith Charity has rescued Vida from imminent closure—now every donation is doubled to further empower and improve the lives of women in Sheffield!*

Sheffield, UK – In a heartening turnaround for one of Sheffield’s most dedicated charities, Vida has secured funding from The Henry Smith Charity and a promise of match funding from a current funder. With no statutory funding available, this crucial injection of funds promises to double every pound donated, up to £25,000. But that’s only until June 2025, so urgent action is needed to ensure their survival.

“At the core of Vida’s work is the belief that every woman deserves to live a life free from abuse, with dignity and the necessary support to rebuild her future,” - Karen Hague, MBE, and CEO of Vida explained. This matched funding initiative provides a unique opportunity for donors to maximise their impact at a critical time, ensuring that vital services continue without interruption supporting a **second chance** for countless women whose lives have been transformed by its services.

For over 12 months, Vida faced an uncertain future. In November 2023, following severe funding cuts that put its specialist services at risk, the charity launched a petition for emergency council funding. This petition, presented at a Sheffield City Council meeting on 15th July 2024 and signed by over 27,000 supporters, underscored the community’s urgent call to keep Vida’s doors open. Despite the written and verbal support from senior figures including leaders from Sheffield City Council, SYMCA, Integrated Care Board, the Domestic Abuse Commissioner, Women's Aid, Councillor Angela Argenzio, and MP Louise Haig, all of the charity’s annual funding requirement of around £250,000 had proven difficult to secure amid fierce competition for grants and donations.

A Beacon of Hope and Achievements That Speak Volumes

For 30 years, Vida has been more than a charity—it has been a trusted sanctuary in Sheffield. With a warm, welcoming environment and a passionate team, Vida has:

- **Averted Crisis through Counselling, Cognitive Behavioural Psychotherapy & EMDR:** Providing tailored, one-to-one support and over 216 therapy sessions a month at a cost of approximately £15–20k, ensuring that every woman receives personalised care.
- **Specialist Support Groups:** Recent additions such as The Wellness Recovery Group, Life After Trauma and the Chronic Pain Support Group offer vital peer support and new pathways to recovery.
- **Practical Assistance:** With 68% of referrals coming through the NHS (via MAPPS, GP's, and Talking Therapies), Vida not only alleviates pressure on local health services—saving the NHS an estimated £50k per month—but also helps women improve wellbeing and overcome practical challenges.

Every service offered by Vida is delivered with empathy and expertise—ensuring that every woman receives personalised care and opportunities. From averting crisis through counselling to aid recovery, to overcoming their wellbeing and practical challenges, Vida stands as a pillar of support in the community.

Discover how Vida is transforming lives—read our service users' stories and watch recovery journey interviews- [Our Impact : Recovery Journeys - Vida Sheffield](#)

An Urgent Call for Community Support

With the matched funding now guaranteed, the opportunity for the community to have an even greater impact is at hand. Every donation made will be doubled, directly contributing to the expansion and continuation of Vida's essential services.

This is the moment for Sheffield and supporters nationwide to double their impact. Visit [Vida Sheffield | Localgiving](#) to contribute and help Vida continue its life-changing work.

About Vida

Vida is a specialist trauma-focused Sheffield based charity dedicated to supporting women who have experienced abuse. It includes Cognitive Behavioural Psychotherapy, EMDR, counselling, emotional and practical support to support women to recover from their experiences of domestic abuse and trauma—Vida offers a safe haven and a path towards recovery and empowerment. With an unwavering commitment to nurturing every individual's potential, Vida continues to make a profound difference in the lives of survivors across the community. Learn more at www.vidasheffield.org.uk.

For the Editor

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