

THE sister of a mother-of-four who was brutally murdered by her ex-partner is holding a Zumbathon event in Derbyshire to raise money to help women and children affected by domestic violence.

Karlana Diedrick's sister Sharlana was stabbed 16 times by Marvin Samuels, who had just hours earlier raped a complete stranger and left her for dead.

In October 2013, Samuels, then 31, was jailed for a minimum of 33 years.

The Old Bailey heard that Samuels, of Conduit Way, Stonebridge, had also carried out previous violent attacks on Sharlana, who was born in Derby but moved to London as a teenager and would have turned 35 this Sunday.

Sharlana's death left her family, many of whom live in Derby, shattered.

They had on numerous occasions warned her off Samuels, but despite realising the relationship was destructive and violent they never imagined it would end as it did.

Now Karlana, of Derby, is determined to help other women affected by domestic violence before it is too late for them too.

The 39-year-old has organised a three-hour Zumbathon to raise money for Refuge – a national charity, which supports and empowers women and children who have experienced domestic violence.

The event, which will be held at Cherrytree Farm, in Dalbury Lees, on Saturday, August 8, between noon and 5pm, will have stalls, a barbecue, a raffle – value prizes – and an auction.

Karlana said: "While it will be a fun day, I don't want to detract from the actual message, which is domestic violence impacts on many people not just the direct victim, but children, parents, siblings and friends. When I look at how many people have been affected by what happened to my sister, it's wide.

"Sharlana's youngest son, who is now five, was two when his mum was killed. He can recall things like the police coming round.

"It's horrific that he's now recalling things from an age when he couldn't talk. People may think they're too young and they don't understand what's going on but that's really not the case."

Members of Derbyshire police's domestic violence unit and also the Derby charity Women's Work, which supports women and children fleeing or recovering from domestic abuse and violence, will have stalls at the event and will be on hand to speak to people throughout.

Karlana, who is a Zumba instructor, said: "If I can raise awareness through doing this event among other women and young people and it gives somebody information so they can help a friend who is suffering domestic violence and raises money for refuges, then I feel a little bit of good has come out of what happened to Sharlana."

It costs £5 for every person attending the event and then people can pay £1 for each of the things on offer, such as the barbecue, nail art, henna tattooing or even to have their clothes customised. There will also be a clothes stall. All the money raised by the event will go directly to Refuge, as all the food and services are being donated.

Children must be accompanied by an adult, who is not taking part in the three-hour Zumbathon, which will have a half-an-hour break between each hour of exercise.

For people to try out Zumba before the event, Karlana is holding a free session at Walkabout on Saturday, July 25, between 10am and 11am. To attend either leave a message on www.facebook.com/ZumbathonDerby or turn up on the day.

To book a place on the Zumbathon go to www.justgiving.com/karlana-diedrick2 and leave your email and mobile.

Read more: <http://www.derbytelegraph.co.uk/Sister-murdered-mum-Sharlana-Diedrick-holding/story-26916077-detail/story.html#ixzz3hqE0RWeL>

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By Derby Telegraph | Posted: July 17, 2015