

## What is an Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA)?

An ISVA is a trained specialist who provides advice and support to anyone who has been the victim of sexual assault or rape at any time in their life. Our ISVA service can offer you practical support to deal with your circumstances, make referrals to other agencies for support around additional issues as well as offering emotional support.

We aim to give you the confidence and support you need to take control of your situation and help you move forward.

We are here to make sure that you are given a voice and listened to throughout your involvement with the Criminal Justice System.

We can assist with challenging myths about male survivors of sexual violence.

We are a leading male quality standards accredited service.

We are not linked to the police but can support you in reporting if that is what you decide to do.

We have qualified and accredited ISVAs that are trained to respond to your needs. You can choose to be supported by a male or female ISVA.

## What your ISVA can do

The ISVA can give face-to-face, telephone, text or email support. This includes:

- information and advice to help you think through your options
- working with other agencies to make sure that you are safe
- specific male support services and any culturally identified needs
- supporting you with sexual health or attending genitourinary medicine (GUM) clinic specialists in sexual health
- Support plan and assessments around your safety
- provide support to victims through the criminal justice process
- liaise with police for regular case updates, if you choose to report the sexual assault
- access to male and female ISVAs
- providing support under the victims right to review
- information on report to court and the victims code
- attending court with you and supporting you through the trial.

## Your health

We can give you information and support related to your health. Here is some key information that may be helpful:

- If you are over 16 years old, hospitals and doctors must see you in complete confidence and will not tell the police unless you ask them to
- Even if you are under 16 years of age, most doctors will try to keep what has happened to you as confidential as possible. If you prefer not to use your own GP there are many clinics that offer free and confidential testing and advice.

## SARC

A Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) is a special facility where recent victims of rape or sexual assault can receive immediate help and support. This includes access to a forensic medical examination, which is carried out by an experienced and qualified doctor, and the opportunity to speak to the police about what has happened to you, if you choose to do so.

SARC services are completely client focused.

## How we support young boys

- We will try to address any particular anxieties and concerns.
- We will make sure that support is available in school or college.
- We will also support parents/carers in order to support their child.

## Telling the police

- Only you can decide whether or not to report the assault to the police. If you don't know what to do, we can talk to you about what it would mean and what your options are.
- You can report the attack to the police straight away, later, or not at all if you choose.
- If the assault happened recently, the police will arrange an examination by specially trained medical staff to collect evidence. The police will take further details from you only when you feel ready.
- You will be told the name of the officer dealing with your case. The police will let you know if someone is caught and charged and whether or not they are released on bail. You should tell the police if you are worried that the attacker will harass or intimidate you.

## Diversity matters and we value it

We are committed to supporting the needs of the diverse communities we serve. We can provide interpreters and information in alternative formats. If you have additional needs please let us know so we can put the right support in place.

- All ISVAs are accredited or working towards accreditation
- Complaints procedures are available upon request
- You will be contacted within 48 hours of the initial referral
- Our ISVA service does not support offenders of sex crimes
- Live Chat is available on our website [www.victimsupport.org.uk](http://www.victimsupport.org.uk)

We welcome your feedback. If you would like to get involved in our service user group, please contact us on: **01274 535432.**

## Other organisations that can help

**Victim Support male abuse helpline**  
**Tel: 0800 328 3623**

**Male Survivors partnership**  
**Tel: 0808 800 5005**

VARC: 0300 303 1971

West Yorkshire ISVA Service:  
01274 535432

Offices and outreach venues  
across West Yorkshire

We are an independent charity offering free, confidential support to people affected by crime and traumatic incidents.

For information and support, contact us by:

- calling: Supportline **08 08 16 89 111**
- using Text Relay (add **18001** before any of our phone numbers)
- Online: [victimsupport.org.uk](http://victimsupport.org.uk)

To find out how you can help us, visit [victimsupport.org.uk/get-involved](http://victimsupport.org.uk/get-involved)

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Men and boys

[victimsupport.org.uk](http://victimsupport.org.uk)