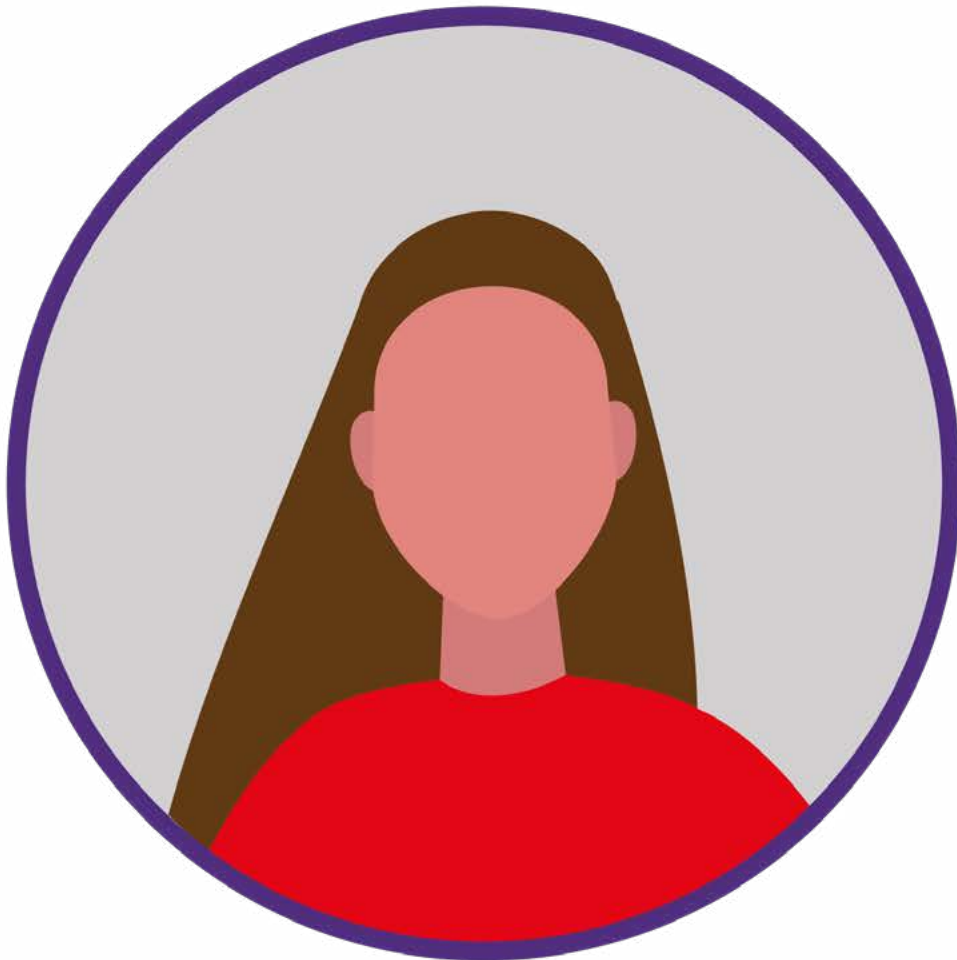




**VICTIM
SUPPORT**

What is an
ISVA?



Easy Read Version

What is an Independent Sexual Violence Adviser (ISVA)?



An ISVA is a trained specialist. They give advice and support to anyone who has been the victim of a sexual assault or rape.



Our ISVA service can offer you practical support to deal with your situation.



We can make referrals to other agencies that can support you.

We can also offer you emotional support.



Our aim is to give you the confidence, support and information you need to take control and move forward.



Our service is available to men, women and children.

There are male and female ISVA's.

We can give you support at any time in your life. It doesn't have to be just after the assault happened.

What your ISVA can do



Your ISVA can give you support in person, over the phone or by text or email.

This includes:

- Information and advice to help you think through your options
- Working with other agencies to make sure that you are safe. This could be the police, council, social worker and others
- Signposting you to other agencies if you need them
- Supporting you with sexual health including going to clinics





- Supporting you through the criminal justice process if you decide you want to report the assault



- Liaising with the police if you decide to report the sexual assault



- Giving you support under the victims right to review



- Going to 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 information that may be useful:

- If you are over 16, hospitals and doctors must see you in confidence. They will not tell the police unless you want them to
- If you are worried about being pregnant you can get advice and treatment straightaway from your GP or practice nurse, family planning clinic or Brook Advisory Centres. This includes pregnancy testing and emergency contraception.



SARC



A Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) is a special facility. Recent victims of rape or sexual assault can get immediate help and support at a SARC.



This includes a forensic medical examination. This is carried out by an experienced and qualified doctor.

They will collect evidence that could help a police investigation.



You will also be able to speak to the police about what has happened to you if you want to.



When you arrive at the SARC you will be met by a crisis worker. They will speak to you in private. You can tell them any concerns you have.



They will explain what happens in the SARC and you can talk about your options.



They will give you all the information you need to help you make your mind up about what to do next.

This includes whether or not you want to report your assault.

How the ISVA service can help a child or young person



- Signpost the young person to the right services that can help them



- Talk to the child or young person about any anxieties or concerns



- Make sure that they have support in school or college



- Work together with social care or other services to make sure support is in place where possible



- Support parents or carers to support their child



- Support the child or young person if they have to go to court. Offer support before, during and after a trial



You are the only person who can decide whether to report your 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 straightaway, later or not at all. It is up to you.



If you report it soon after it happened it may give the police a chance to get physical evidence against the person who attacked you.



If you wait until later to report it this might not be possible.



If you have been assaulted within the last 7 days, you can go to the SARC.

They can take forensic evidence without you having to report to the police.

Forensic evidence is things like fingerprints, blood samples, hair samples and so on. This evidence is then used in court.



If you report the attack to the police, you will be told the name of the officer who is dealing with your case.



The police will let you know if someone is caught and charged.

They will tell you if they are released on bail.



This means the person is allowed to stay out of prison while they are doing investigations or before going to court.



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 everyone from the diverse communities we serve.

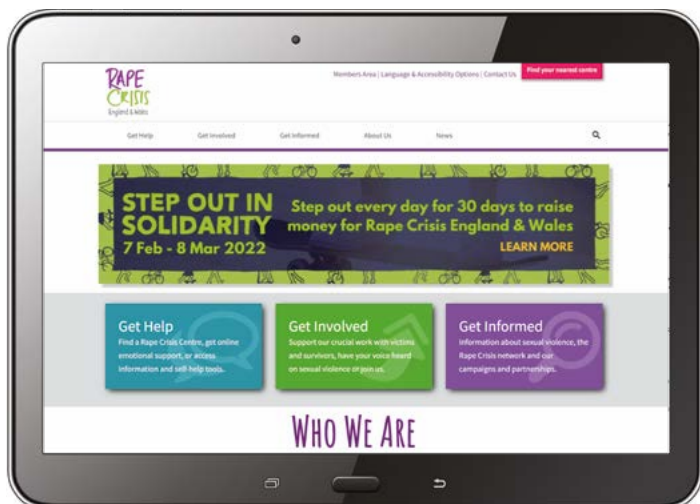


We can provide interpreters and give information in the format that you need it, for example easy read.



If you have any additional needs please let us know so we can support you.

Other organisations that can help



Rape Crisis
Telephone 0808 802 9999
www.rapecrisis.org.uk



Victim Support male abuse helpline
Telephone 0800 328 3623



Helpline for Men
0808 800 5005



- All ISVA's are Home Office accredited or working towards accreditation
- You will be contacted within 48 hours of us getting a referral
- Our ISVA service does not support offenders of sex crimes



- Complaints procedures are available on request
- Live Chat is available on our website www.victimsupport.org.uk



We welcome your feedback. If you would like to get involved in our service user group please get in touch.

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