

ISVA

Independent Sexual Violence Advisor



**Free, confidential
advice and support
for survivors of sexual violence
in Darlington and County Durham**

What is an ISVA?

An ISVA is an independent sexual violence advisor; a trained specialist who offers non-judgemental, practical and emotional support to survivors of sexual abuse. It is the ISVA's role to work with survivors and help them access other support services and address long and short term needs.

What we do

- Offer support for those thinking of reporting
- Provide you with impartial information to enable you to make choices
- Offer an overview of the police process and what to expect
- Support you through the criminal justice process
- Liaise with police, courts & CPS, and work closely with other agencies involved
- Accompany you to important appointments
- Support your next steps after the legal process
- Offer continuing support after the criminal justice process

What Next?

Your ISVA will usually contact you in the first instance by phone to introduce themselves and arrange your first appointment in a neutral location. In this appointment they will talk you through the contract and answer any questions you might have.

Do you have to report to the police?

No, your ISVA will give you information to help you make an informed decision whether or not to report. If you do decide to go ahead they can support you through this process.

How to access the service

If you are a survivor of sexual violence aged 13 and over, then you can call the number on this leaflet and refer yourself for the ISVA service.

Confidentiality

This service is confidential, what you tell your ISVA will remain between the two of you. Confidentiality is only limited in respect of policies pertaining to safeguarding, further details will be discussed at your first meeting. Every effort is made to promote your privacy and dignity.

Specialist ISVAs

We may also be able to offer a small number of specialist ISVAs who provide support to survivors from communities who may experience additional challenges in navigating the Criminal Justice System. Check our website for details.

Contact information

Opening hours

Monday:	9.00am to 5.00pm
Tuesday:	9.00am to 5.00pm
Wednesday:	9.00am to 5.00pm
Thursday:	9.00am to 5.00pm
Friday:	9.00am to 5.00pm

Phone

01325 354119

Emotional Support Line

0300 222 5730

Please check our social media
for days and times.

Emotional Support Email

support@rsacc-thecentre.org.uk

You will receive a response within 7 days.

Charity Number: 1164121





FAQ's

What does ISVA mean?

It stands for independent sexual violence advisor.

Does the ISVA work for the police?

No, the ISVA works independently of the police and courts. They work to support you.

Does the ISVA provide legal services?

No, ISVA's provide emotional and practical support as you go through the Criminal Justice System.

How long will my appointments be?

Appointment times are flexible to suit your needs.

Does the ISVA provide drop-in services?

No, due to the different locations and duties of the ISVA, only pre-arranged appointments can be made.

Does the ISVA provide out of hours services?

No, the working hours of ISVA are Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.

If I don't want to report, can I still access the ISVA services?

Yes, ISVA services can be requested at any time to help you make decisions about your experience.



RSACC ♀
Rape and Sexual Abuse Counselling Centre
Darlington and County Durham