

**Approved by:** Board of Trustees

**Review cycle:** Annual

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## **Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) Policy**

An Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) is a trained professional who supports people who have experienced rape or sexual assault, whether they choose to report the incident to the police. ISVAs play a crucial role in providing specialist, tailored support to survivors.

ISVAs provide the following support:

Advocacy for all survivors of sexual abuse, regardless of the nature of the abuse or whether it is recent or non-recent

Tailored support based on the individual needs of each survivor

Accurate, impartial information for survivors of sexual violence

Emotional and practical support to meet the survivor's needs

Support before, during, and after court proceedings

A single point of contact throughout the support process

Safety planning for survivors and their dependants

A professional and confidential service

Support for clients of all ages

Support for clients who self-refer or are referred by other agencies

A full safety and needs assessment will be completed with the client, or with the client's parent/carer if the client is a young child or lacks the capacity to fully engage in the assessment process.

The safety and needs assessment include risk identification and safeguarding considerations. Any physical or mental health needs will be identified, and where necessary, a multi-agency approach will be used to ensure appropriate support.

Additional referrals will only be made with the client's consent, unless a serious safeguarding concern requires otherwise.

Any significant safeguarding concerns will be reported to one of the Designated Safeguarding Officers within KSAAS and managed in accordance with our safeguarding policy.

All clients will be provided with an ISVA Service Agreement outlining the ISVA role, working hours, what clients can expect from their ISVA, and information regarding GDPR and confidentiality.