

Children's Support to Report Questions Parents/Carers often ask us

Who will work with my child?

Your child will work with a Children's Independent Sexual Violence Advocate (CHISVA). We also have adult Independent Sexual Violence Advocates (ISVA) who works with adults who have experienced sexual violence and want to report to the police, or have already reported.

Do you work with the police?

BSARCS is an independent charity. We are not part of the police service or controlled by the police in any way. We will work with the police but we do not work for them. Our priority is you and your needs. There are laws and procedures our CHISVA's must follow when working with children, for example they are legally obliged to disclose certain information to the relevant authorities. Our CHISVA's will discuss this with the child or young person they can work with, or their parent/carer (depending on the child's age) before they do. Each case is treated individually; we understand that each person and their situation is different

What will the CHISVA do?

Your child will attend appointments here at BSARCS (home visits are available if appropriate), where your child is given a safe space to speak about or express how they are feeling. This can be done through craft, art, talking, or play. Your child does not have to talk to us if they don't feel like talking.

A CHISVA can also accompany your child to appointments throughout the criminal justice process. They can help your child access other services, such as GUM clinic, dentist, or doctors. They can also liaise with school and college if needed.

A CHISVA can help if your child is in immediate danger such as emergency refuge hostels, (dependent on availability). They will work with other agencies to help them provide the support your child needs.

Where will you see my Child?

Appointments take place at The Core, County Way, Barnsley S70 2JW, which is a short walk from the bus and train station, there is also plenty of pay and display parking available. When you arrive, please let the reception staff know your name and who you are here to see. Your CHISVA will then collect you and/or your child from reception.

Our CHISVA's can offer home visits if necessary but this is decided and offered on a case-by-case basis.

What if the case goes to court?

If the case goes to court your CHISVA can support you throughout this process, including attending court with you. They can help prepare your child for court and help you all to understand what will happen and what your child will be asked to do.

What happens if the case is not pursued?

If a case is not pursued a CHISVA can still offer you support. They can also refer a child on to our Children's Therapy service if they feel this is appropriate.

Does my child have to talk to you?

If your child does not want to talk about what happened to them, they don't have to. Our CHISVA's are here to support them and will work around the needs of the child/young person. There is a range of activities for children and young people, in our safe space, and sessions with a CHISVA can include art, craft, music and games.

One minute my child is fine, the next they are in tears, can't sleep and they don't want to talk to me. Is this normal?

Everyone reacts to trauma differently, but - yes this happens to a lot of people who have experienced sexual violence. Our bodies go through different emotions at different times for different reasons. Our CHISVA's can work with you and your child to help them understand why this might be happening. Your child might also experience physical problems, for example, they might feel tired or sick (nausea). Again, our CHISVA's can help explain why this might be happening and how to try and manage it.

What happens when the case is finished and/or court is over?

Each of our CHISVA clients are offered the choice of being referred to our Children's Therapy service. If your child decides they would like Therapy they will work with a highly trained specialised therapist who will help them to deal with emotional and/or psychological problems they might have because of what happened to them.

What happens if my child/young person doesn't want to move on to Therapy?

If your child wants a break from support or chooses not to go ahead with therapy that is fine too. You can make a referral in to our Children's Therapy service at a later date if you want.

**If you have any further questions please call us on 01226 320140
We Listen. We Believe. We Support.**