


BARNSLEY SEXUAL ABUSE  
& RAPE CRISIS HELPLINE

INDEPENDENT SEXUAL  
VIOLENCE ADVISOR

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& RAPE CRISIS HELPLINE

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Supporting women survivors  
of sexual abuse & rape

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**01226 208666**  
www.bsarch.org Registered Charity Number 1001452

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## Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA)

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BSARCH has appointed an ISVA to advise and support women who have been raped or sexually abused.

It is a myth that only strangers carry out sexual attacks. Many assaults are committed by someone the victim knows including partners and close friends.

Whoever the attacker was, the important thing to remember is that it was not your fault. Do not be afraid to ask for help when you need it.

The ISVA can help any woman who has experienced rape or sexual abuse at anytime in her life. The ISVA will be sensitive to your needs and move at your pace. The ISVA is not about telling you what to do, but is about helping you make informed choices.

The ISVA can support you in a number of ways:

She can help you decide if you wish to report to the police and give you information about the legal process and your rights.

The ISVA is your advocate and will work with you to identify what kind of support (if any) you require. The ISVA has links with services across Barnsley and will help you to access these services.

The service is confidential; your details will only be shared when you give your permission. The only exception to this would be if something you tell us results in serious concern for the wellbeing of a child.

If you have made a report to the police the ISVA will support you in all stages of the legal process. If your case goes to court, she can be with you when you go to give evidence.

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The ISVA will assist you with contacts with the police and prosecution service.

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The ISVA will work with you if you do not wish to report to the police, but need help identifying what support you may need. The ISVA will help you to access that support. You will have the opportunity to talk about your situation in a safe space with someone who is not here to judge you.

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The ISVA will listen to you, find out what your needs are and assist you to gain support from other agencies. For example housing, health, addiction and counselling.

The ISVA for Barnsley is Ruth O'Leary. You can contact her on 01226 208666 during office hours.

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Alternatively outside office hours you can call the BSARCH Helpline on 01226 298560 and ask for your details to be passed on to Ruth.

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I will see you in your own home or in the office. The support is open ended and can be time limited or ongoing.