

## What is the role of an Independent Sexual Violence Advisor?

### Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA)

The ISVAs role is to work with you and help you access other available support services to address both your short and long term needs. They will complete an initial assessment to identify these requirements.

ISVAs offer ongoing practical and emotional support to anyone who has been raped or sexually assaulted, recently or in the past.

They can help those affected come to terms with what has happened and explain the options available.

If required they can refer to different agencies in relation to counselling, sexual health, mental health, substance misuse and housing.

If the police are involved they can liaise with them for regular case updates, accompany and support individuals through any police interviews and throughout the court process.

The Independent Sexual Violence Advisors cover differing areas of Suffolk: -

- Waveney & Suffolk Coastal,
- Ipswich & Babergh
- Western Area

## About the Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC)

There are a number of other people involved in The Ferns to offer you help and support:

### Crisis Workers

Their role is to look after your immediate needs and assist you in determining the service that you require. They will be able to provide you with information, which will help you make informed choices. If you decide you want to have a medical examination a crisis worker can remain with you for support. They will complete the initial paperwork with you, and explain what will happen next.

### Sexual Offences Investigative Trained (SOIT) Officer

If you decide you wish the police to be involved then a specially trained officer (SOIT) will be assigned. Their role is to assist the Forensic Medical Examiner to take a statement of evidence and act as a link between you and the investigation team.

### Forensic Medical Examiner

If you choose to have a forensic medical examination a specially trained doctor known as a forensic medical examiner will come to The Ferns to see you. They will take samples, which may be used in order to assist with the investigation. During this examination, the doctor will also discuss and advise you regarding any immediate health concerns.

## How to refer to our services...

We **do** accept self-referrals, so feel free to contact us. Clients can also be referred through other agencies, via telephone, fax, or email. We offer an independent service to clients. We aim to offer a service which is supportive and informative, and is tailored to meet the needs of the individual

Our work with clients is strictly confidential however, we have a duty of care to share concerns with other relevant agencies regarding adults and children who may be at risk of significant harm. Our priority is to help clients become independent and safe, by offering practical advice and support.

For more information about The Ferns Sexual Assault Referral Centre visit our website:

[www.theferns-suffolk.org.uk](http://www.theferns-suffolk.org.uk)

## Who we work in partnership with...

We work with a range of agencies, including voluntary organisations and support services for children and families.

*Refuge providers*

*Health Services*

*Children and Young People and Adult Safeguarding*

*Housing Departments*

*Citizens Advice Bureau*

*Community Mental Health Teams*

*Counselling, Advice and Support Services*

*Courts*

*Probation Service*

*Schools*

*Voluntary outreach services*

*Police Victim Care Centre*

## Contact Us

### Sexual Assault Referral Centre

**By Phone:** (Main) **01473 668974**

- ISVA, Waveney & Suffolk Coastal
- ISVA, Ipswich & Babergh
- ISVA, Western Area

**Fax:** 01473 719684

**Or by email:**

[contact@theferns-suffolk.org.uk](mailto:contact@theferns-suffolk.org.uk)

**And we will get back to you**

## Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC)



Independent Sexual  
Violence Advisor (ISVA)  
Service