



NOTICE

In response to Covid-19 we are implementing a contingency plan that places domestic and sexual abuse adult and child victims at the centre of our risk management strategy. We have two strands to our business which includes a domestic and sexual abuse strand and a criminal justice strand. This notice refers to our domestic & sexual abuse strand currently delivered in Hampshire, Southampton and the Isle of Wight.

we currently have high numbers of perpetrators engaged in our service. Approximately 50% of these remain in relationships which is of particular concern, given the heightened risks due to factors linked to Covid-19.

We have withdrawn all face to face work to protect the health and wellbeing of staff and members of the public. We also no longer have access to any premises for our group work. The infrastructure is in place for all staff to work at home. We have tested this and our workforce have already made the transition to homeworking. Our offices in Ashurst will be fully closed from Monday 23rd March until further notice. The direct office lines have been diverted to mobiles phones staffed by members of the team, limiting disruption. Critical services include victim and perpetrator contact. Safeguarding, case/risk management and safety planning

The heightened risk of domestic abuse remains paramount and we will endeavor to provide an enhanced service to victims who have (ex) partners engaged with our service at this current time. This telephone service will be provided by our Domestic Abuse Safety Advisors. The Integrated Victim Safety Service that is aligned with our perpetrator programmes will remain a priority at this critical time. Our risk assessment and safety planning will include additional information on how to manage periods of isolation with a perpetrator present. We fully appreciate the enormous amount of work being carried out across pan Hampshire by our partner agencies and we will do all we can to support them. The Hampton Trust Integrated Victim Safety Service will focus entirely on individuals who have current or ex partners referred to our perpetrator service

Referral pathways for our perpetrator service will remain open. Assessments have been revised to include the impact of Covid-19. History taking, current context, static and dynamic

risk factors will continue to be included in our perpetrator assessment. There is little evidence to support robust change management via telephone. Instead engagement with perpetrators will have an emphasis on risk and 'hooking in' clients who may be showing levels of minimization, denial and blame. We will be able to discuss techniques and strategies for being non-abusive.

We will continue to liaise closely with our referring agencies, particularly with Police, Social Care, Mash, HRDA, Victim Services and all other statutory and non-statutory services to provide a Perpetrator Support Line for Professionals. We can provide tips and advice on how to manage perpetrators they are currently aware of. This will include perpetrators who are engaging with services or targeting those we need to disrupt. We understand that face to face contact remains limited to services such as police and social care. Our referral pathways will remain open to all agencies and will be closely monitored to ensure we respond quickly.

We do not intend to close our perpetrator service during this period. Now is not the time to reduce services to perpetrators. Whilst the service can no longer operate on a face to face basis we have highly skilled practitioners who are very familiar and able to use strategies to engage perpetrators using other platforms. We will not hesitate to make swift safeguarding decisions or engage police for tracking and disruption purposes should this be required. Covid-19 will not provide a smokescreen for perpetrators and our commitment to victim safety remains at the forefront of our work. Our standard business hours will be 9am – 5pm, however they will be flexible to meet client and professional demand.

Independent Sexual Violence Advisor Adult & Young People on the Isle of Wight

We currently deliver an Independent Sexual Violence Advisor Service available to adults and young people on the Isle of Wight. This service will revert to a telephone support service and will continue as normal. We understand that court cases lasting more than 3 days have been postponed so this will not impact on us being able to support clients through trials.