



Incident Report

Victim calls PSNI for help. PSNI respond to domestic or sexual abuse crime.



Referral

PSNI refer Victim to ASSIST NI.



ASSIST NI support

- Advocate from ASSIST NI contacts Victim via telephone within 48 hours of the incident to begin support.
- Advocate talks to Victim to assess any urgent risk in their present circumstances.
- Advocate completes an initial needs assessment to ensure Victim's essential needs are met before the next advocacy session.
- Advocate and Victim create a safety plan around identified risks.
- One-to-one support session with Advocate.
- Advocate explains the level of support the advocacy service can provide.
- Advocate determines if Victim needs any assistance contacting the investigating officer or other relevant persons i.e. social worker, CPN or mental health services etc.
- Advocate liaises with PSNI and any other relevant persons.
- Appointment scheduled for one-to-one support session for the Victim and Advocate.
- Entry questionnaire given to Victim to complete.



Practical and emotional support and advocacy

- Advocate will meet one-to-one with the Victim at the agreed time and location.
- The Advocate will speak to the Victim about their safety and determine if their risk level has changed since the first contact.
- The Advocate will assess the Victim's needs both immediate, short and long-term.
- The support plan will be created and tailored to the Victim.
- Actions to achieve the goals on the support plan will involve the Advocate working together with the Victim.
- Health and wellbeing support to access treatment for physical injury, specialised sexual violence support, substance misuse support, access to counselling, specialised mental health support, access to life skills groups.
- Practical support to help the Victim access safe housing, emergency accommodation, prepare to leave current housing, support keeping children safe, accessing benefits and financial management, or Victim Support.
- Victim assisted to access protective orders, injunctions, family law or other special measures.
- Advocate will explain to the Victim how their case is likely to proceed within the Justice System.
- Advocate will liaise with other criminal justice agencies as needed.
- Ongoing one-to-one support sessions with advocate will be arranged.



Ongoing Support

- Ongoing impartial support and contact via telephone and key worker support sessions.
- Ongoing review and adaptation to the risk assessment.
- Ongoing review of Victim's support needs.
- Update support plan with actions and any new areas of support as they arise.
- Liaising with other criminal justice agencies to keep victim up to date with case progression as necessary.
- Referral to relevant specialist agencies and Advocate to employ multi-agency approach to fully support Victim.
- Midway questionnaire completed by Victim.



Post Court Support

- Effective information sharing between relevant agencies.
- Action remaining areas of support plan.
- Review the Victim's options and support to access safety.
- Information given and referral to relevant specialist agencies as appropriate.



Case Closes

- Final one-to-one support session.
- Help Victim with transition out of support and accessing relevant agencies and support groups.
- Exit questionnaire completed by Victim.
- Victim exits service.

