

Job Description

Job title: Specialist Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA)
Supporting Survivors from Black & Minority Ethnic
Communities

Scale: £20,210 - £22,221 FTE

Hours: 37 hours per week
With occasional weekends and evenings as and when the
organisation requires (flexi-scheme available) Fixed term
contract until 31st March 2023 with possibility of extension
subject to available funding

This role is subject to an enhanced DBS Check and Police
Vetting

Responsible For: No staff

Responsible to: Sexual Violence Services Manager

Liaison/ communication:

- The post holder will work within a multi-agency setting and communicate regularly with other agencies.
- The post holder will communicate internally with all members of the Freeva and wider partner agencies, and report regularly to the Service Manager and other senior managers
- The post holder will represent Freeva at various meetings or committees as deemed appropriate by the Service Manager, Head of Services, Chief Executive and/or the Board of Trustees

Main purposes of the post

Freeva constantly strives to create an environment representative of and responsive to the communities in which we work and to ensure our services are known, accessible and relevant to people from all sections of the community.

The BAME ISVA will be responsible for providing a specialist service to Black, Asian and other minority ethnic community clients across Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland, recognising and responding to the additional barriers they may face in engaging with the service through our standard offer.

Partnerships and processes will be developed, along with a better understanding of the access and support needs particular to clients from Black, Asian and other minority ethnic communities.

To provide a proactive support service to adult survivors of sexual violence who come from Black, Asian and other ethnic minority communities; whether or not this sexual violence has been reported to the police or not, to:

- a) Risk assess clients and help clients keep safe
- b) Ensure clients are aware of their options in relation to the recording and reporting of sexual assault
- c) Help clients access their rights that they are entitled to including access to health and other services that they require
- d) Monitor and keep clients informed of case progress
- e) To ensure that the support is working to internal and multi-agency best practice guidelines; with the aim of increasing victim satisfaction, decreasing re-victimisation, ensuring victims have access to

appropriate and timely support, explore reporting options and a reduction in victim withdrawals from the criminal justice process where appropriate

Main duties

- To provide emotional and practical advocacy support to adult survivors of sexual violence from Black, Asian and other ethnic minority communities.
- To provide information, support and advice to survivors of sexual violence from black and other ethnic minority communities to access other relevant services and systems, including reporting the sexual violence they have experienced to the police should they wish to do so.
- To contribute to the ongoing review and evaluation of the service to ensure it meets the needs of the client group
- To develop good practice in working with clients from Black, Asian and other ethnic minority communities and to share this with the wider ISVA team and to improve our service offer.
- To promote our service with organisations and statutory bodies, identifying and developing new partnership opportunities and referral pathways, in particular specialist organisations locally and nationally, who support survivors from Black, Asian and other minority ethnic backgrounds
- To deliver training, provide consultancy on and raise awareness of the issues faced by survivors of sexual violence from Black, Asian and other ethnic minority communities
- To have a clear understanding of the myths and facts of sexual violence, rape trauma syndrome, the long term mental health effects of sexual violence, self-harm, suicidal feelings and attempts.
- Work within a multi-agency setting to provide institutional advocacy for the rights of the client.
- Provide support and facilitate access to clients who have reported to the police, or referred to the service by a hospital or other organisation, if possible, within 24 hours of initial attendance for forensic examination or support, and subsequently as necessary until other support is identified or at the client's request.
- Undertaking risk assessment and support needs analysis with client.
- Developing individual safety & support plans (SAS) to address risks/support needs of client.
- If assault was domestic violence related, liaise with the wider DV service. If the client is assessed as high risk, liaise with the IDVA and ensure a referral to MARAC is made following locally agreed protocols and attend and participate in meetings and follow-up on actions agreed in MARAC.
- Helping clients to access services to which they are entitled, e.g., through new and established referral pathways to sexual health follow-up services, making referrals to mental health services and local counseling organisations, assisting with the arrangement of child care and return to work or education as appropriate.
- To keep an up to date information knowledge base about appropriate and useful services to support clients who have a range of complex support needs. Liaising with team leader/service manager in developing referral routes and pathways as necessary.
- Providing face to face and telephone support (non-therapeutic) to clients and their supporters.
- Help clients to develop their own support network and access appropriate therapeutic interventions
- Explaining criminal sanctions, and if relevant, civil remedies and housing options to clients.
- Providing information and support in relation to Criminal Injuries Compensation.
- Where relevant (e.g. domestic violence cases), keep other agencies informed about important changes in client's situation.
- Ensure child protection and vulnerable adult policies and procedures are followed at all times.

If a client reports to the police:

- Support client through the criminal justice system, explaining the procedures and their role and rights within the system in a manner that is understood by the client
- Subject to local arrangements and the views of the client, support the client in the witness statement and during the trial phase in conjunction with Witness Services.
- Liaise with the police and CPS on behalf of the client, with the client's consent and adhering to confidentiality policy in relation to release of information. If local protocols can be agreed, keep the victim informed about case progress on behalf of the police in line with the requirements of the Victims Code of Practice.
- To participate in case conferences with the police, CPS and prosecuting barrister.
- To understand the need for some clients accessing special measures.

General duties

- Manage a caseload and maintain necessary case files and records including using OASIS database to report all support activity and monitoring information as required
- Evaluate the impact of the support on increased reporting and repeat victimisation on a regular basis, using a variety of methods
- Follow procedures and protocols with other services so that the safety of the clients is kept central to any process
- Note and feed back to other agencies any consistent difficulties clients are having in accessing their service and refer difficult cases as appropriate to manager and contribute to efforts to improve procedures and services.
- Contribute to the development of service policies, protocols, guidelines and strategies within area of practice as necessary
- To develop and maintain effective communication systems with key partners including the police, CPS, court service, social services, education, primary care trust (mental and sexual health) Victim Support, Witness Service, voluntary sector organizations, CAFCASS.
- To attend regular line management with the team leader, participate in team meetings and peer review
- To provide specialist advice to other workers and agencies, including participation in delivery of generic and specialist training sessions
- To be fully aware of resources available regarding interpreters, signers, etc
- Understand the legal framework relating to the protection of children including the policy and procedures of the Local Safeguarding Children’s Board.
- Refer on and arrange meetings with other agencies/services as necessary, for instance, solicitors, Citizens Advice Bureau, etc.
- To support, promote and work in accordance with Freeva’s aims and objectives
- To promote and develop the service in accordance with Freeva’s policies, procedures and ethos and to liaise with other agencies as appropriate.
- Attend FreeVA meetings as appropriate.
- To undertake any other duties as may be required by the Board of Trustees from time to time, but which will be consistent with the role.
- Be committed to personal and professional development and undertake relevant training as appropriate.

Person Specification

Area	Criteria	Assessed by
Qualifications	<p>Essential A degree or recognised professional qualification in a related field (or alternatively a minimum of 3 years’ experience of working within the sexual violence or a related field).</p> <p>Desirable Recognised Accredited ISVA-Qualification or equivalent professional qualification</p>	Application
Work Experience / Knowledge	<p>Essential</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An understanding of the dynamics of sexual violence, including knowledge of impact of sexual violence on victims and children and of current legislation and good practice. • A minimum of two-year work experience in the field of working with victims of sexual violence or related field. • Understanding of safeguarding protocols including child protection issues and legal responsibilities. • Experience of monitoring and evaluation. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working knowledge of OASIS case management system 	
Other	<p><i>Essential</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post is subject to enhanced police check and applicant will be co-located in police buildings/SARC Full clean driving licence 	Interview