

Extract from Community Safety Crime Reduction and Drugs Strategy 2011 – 2014:

Sexual Violence, Abuse and Exploitation, the Sex Industry, and Trafficking

Outcome: Sexual violence and abuse is reduced

Sub-outcomes:

- Increased awareness and knowledge of sexual violence and its impact
- Improved physical safety and freedom from harm
- Increased knowledge and skills of children, young people and adults about forming healthy relationships
- Raised public awareness about risk factors and promotion of personal safety; and healthy relationships based on mutual respect
- Victims feel safe to disclose, are listened to, believed and not judged
- Victims of sexual violence and abuse are supported through the criminal justice process and post sentencing
- Re-occurrence of offending behaviour is minimised by the strengthening of mechanisms and procedures for assessing and managing the risk posed by sex offenders
- Enhanced assessment of risk and therapeutic support services for children
- Enhanced and better integrated support services for victims and survivors of sexual violence and abuse
- Better information on services available and how to access them
- Improved physical, emotional, social and personal well-being

Work in this area covers issues of sexual violence and abuse, as well as sexual exploitation, the sex industry and human trafficking.

Definitions:

Sexual violence and abuse is ***“any behaviour perceived to be of a sexual nature which is unwanted and takes place without consent or understanding”***.

This includes:

- Rape and sexual assault
- Sexual violence and abuse (by partners, family members and by strangers).
- Sexual Harassment
- Sexual Exploitation
- Child sexual abuse

The definition includes all of those affected by such violence, including women, men and children, but also recognises the strong associations between sexual violence and gender-based violence which represent a significant cause and consequence of inequality for women.

The sex industry includes prostitution, pornography and other commercial sex-based activities such as lap-dancing, often - but not solely - associated with the ‘night time economy’.

Trafficking into and within the UK is internationally recognised to be linked to prostitution; facilitating the movement of women for prostitution within (as well as across) borders constitutes trafficking. State agencies have a responsibility to tackle the demand for prostitution (UN Optional Protocol on Trafficking in Human Beings).

Why is this a priority?

Sexual violence and abuse has a devastating impact on victims, families and society as a whole. The effects of sexual violence and abuse can be wide-ranging and can include long-lasting physical, mental and sexual health problems.

Much rape and sexual violence occurs in families, where children and young people are the victims, and most rapes are carried out by someone the victim knows. Nationally, around eight per cent of all recorded rape cases is a rape of a man, and research shows that men find it less easy to identify as victims and ask for help. Although men, women and children can all experience sexual violence, women are disproportionately victims, and as such sexual violence is recognised as both a cause and consequence of gender inequality.

Nationally, 10,000 women will be sexually assaulted and 2,000 women will be raped in one week. Nearly a quarter of women have been stalked since the age of 16, and 18% of stalking leads to rape or sexual assault. Home Office research shows that 3.7 million women

Main Partners

Survivors Network
Mankind UK (Newhaven)
Sussex Police (Rape & Serious Sexual Assault Steering Group)
Crown Prosecution Service
HM Courts Service
Surrey and Sussex Probation Trust
Brighton & Hove City Council
(Children, Youth and Families Service;
Clermont Centre; Adult Social Care Service;
Housing Services)
NHS Brighton & Hove
Local Safeguarding Children Board
Adult Protection Board
Rise
Inspire Project
Brighton Women’s Centre
Brighton Oasis Project
Sussex Central YMCA
Sexual Violence Reference Group
Sex Workers Strategy Group
Sexual Exploitation Steering Group
Domestic Violence Commissioners Group
Domestic Violence Forum
Alcohol Strategy Group

in England and Wales have been sexually assaulted since the age of 16; and across the UK there are upwards of five million adult women who experienced some form of sexual abuse during childhood. Home Office research into prostitution also shows that 85 per cent of women in prostitution report physical abuse in the family, and 45 per cent report familial sexual abuse. Between 50-75 per cent of women in prostitution entered before they were 18; the average age women become involved in the sex industry is 12 years old. Other research into trafficking across Europe found that 95 per cent of women trafficked into prostitution suffered physical and sexual abuse, with the same number experiencing symptoms of trauma similar to those suffered by torture victims.

Research tells us that women have a greater fear of rape or sexual assault than any other crime, and this can significantly limit and constrain their lives. Women's routine decision making is organised around personal safety; and women of all ages spend their lives avoiding and minimising the risk of rape and other forms of violence which restricts women's ability to fully participate in society.

Locally, the 2010 Citizens Panel survey showed that 13% of women, compared with 2% of men in Brighton and Hove are very or fairly worried about being sexually assaulted. Preventing and reducing the incidence of sexual violence and abuse is therefore essential if we are to comply with gender equality duties.

The individual, economic and social cost of sexual offences is higher than any other type of crime. The overall cost of sexual offences in Brighton and Hove in 2009/10 was estimated to be in excess of £61 million.

As a Community Safety Partnership we have an important role to play in the prevention of rape and sexual violence, in providing services to better protect victims, and in bringing perpetrators to justice.

Local picture

In 2009/10 there were 328 police recorded sexual offences in Brighton and Hove. However, sexual violence and abuse is significantly under-reported to the police. In Brighton & Hove during 2008 and 2009 45% of police recorded sexual violence offences against women were committed against 15-24 year olds. The 2007/8 British Crime Survey found that just 11% of victims who had experienced serious sexual assault since the age of 16 had reported their most recent experience to the police and 40% had told no-one at all about it. Research suggests that those who have suffered rape are less likely to report than those who have suffered a sexual assault, those victimised by partners are less likely to report, as are men, disabled people, people from Black and minority communities, and those working in the sex industry. The actual number of sexual offences in Brighton and Hove is therefore likely to be far greater than police recorded statistics show.

In Brighton & Hove, it is estimated that nearly 55,000 women will at some point in their lives be a victim of violence including rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, trafficking and sexual exploitation. In 2009/10, 2,736 women and girls locally aged 16-59 years experienced sexual assault, and 6,682 women were victims of stalking (extrapolated from British Crime Survey data). This number would be higher still if all the city's population is considered.

Nationally and locally, there is a strong correlation between sexual violence and alcohol. Victims of rape and sexual violence may experience problematic alcohol use as a response to the violence and as an early predictor of post-traumatic stress disorder development. Although rape and sexual violence happens at any time of day, local data of reported rape and sexual violence indicates links to the night time economy both in

terms of a city centre geographical hotspot and peaks in offences occurring on Friday and Saturday nights. There may be a number of reasons for this association, one of those being that perpetrators use alcohol as an excuse, and they may target victims because they perceive their alcohol consumption makes them more vulnerable, less likely to be able to consent to sex, or remember details of the attack. However, rape and sexual assault survivors are never responsible for the attack or the perpetrator's behaviour, no matter how much alcohol was consumed. Responsibility lies with the perpetrator.

Nationally, conviction rates for sexual offences are too low. However, it should be acknowledged that they are at their highest level for ten years. The Sussex Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) (set up in September 2008) based in Crawley combines forensic and clinical services for people who have been raped or sexually assaulted as well as jointly delivering locally provided counselling and support services in the city. The integrated and victim focussed approach increases the quality of evidence collected, and victims' ability to support prosecutions against the perpetrators. In 2009/10, the SARC supported 71 Brighton & Hove clients. In November 2009, Brighton and Hove supported the development of an independent rape crisis centre – Survivors Network – which works with both current and childhood sexual abuse.

People working in the sex industry are amongst those who are at higher risk of victimisation of sexual violence and are less likely to report incidents. While Brighton & Hove does not have 'on street' prostitution, a significant number of women in prostitution are based in sex parlours in the city. A local survey revealed that of those surveyed, 58% of sex workers reported that they had experienced violence or abuse and, of those, only 13% had reported those incidents to the police.

Childhood sexual abuse and that experienced by young people is also included within the definition of sexual violence and abuse. 20% of all police recorded sexual offences in 2008 and 2009 were committed against children under the age of 16. This rises to 25% when including all historical reports to the police of childhood sexual abuse.

Current context

In November 2010, the Coalition Government launched their Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy, identifying sexual violence and abuse as a government priority. The strategy emphasises the importance of preventative work, challenging the attitudes and behaviour which foster violence against women and girls, and the importance of intervening at an early stage to prevent violence from occurring. The strategy's accompanying action plan emphasises the importance of partnership working so that the best outcomes for victims and families can be obtained.

As a response to the findings of the Barnardos Tipping the Iceberg Report 2007 and a University of Brighton Out on My Own Report, the WISE project has been funded to work with the safeguarding board to develop a support pathway, run assertive outreach with young people, train organisations and raise awareness in the local community about young people and sexual exploitation. It also runs the 'eyes and ears' campaign to enable young people to help communicate messages to other young people.

Sexual violence and abuse has been a priority for the Partnership since 2008. In June 2010, Brighton and Hove's overview and scrutiny panel investigated the level of support provided in the city for victims of rape, sexual assault and other serious sexual offences and highlighted gaps in the provision of support and it made a series of recommendations. Since this time, Sussex-wide joint commissioning arrangements have been put in place to establish a Sexual Assault Referral Centre and commission

counselling, rape crisis and Independent Sexual Violence Advisor services which provide improved outcomes for victims.

Where next?

This strategy and action plan seeks to sustain the progress made in the 2010 plan, which jointly commissioned the Sexual Assault Referral Centre and provided a local rape crisis and support service, while at the same time identified important additional areas of work to deal with the seriousness of sexual violence. Those new areas include initiatives which will reduce related risk factors, increase confidence to report, provide support through the criminal justice process, enhance services for children and young people, and increase knowledge about how to form healthy and not abusive relationships. Targeted work is also included for those at particular risk such as those working in the sex industry. There are also actions aimed at reducing fear, especially among women. We recognise the added value of co-ordinating actions across city services to provide holistic services which provide the best service to victims and which accord with good practice.

Links to other priority areas

Work around sexual violence and abuse links to a wide range of other areas in this Community Safety Strategy. There are clear links with domestic violence, alcohol misuse, drugs misuse, preventing reoffending, vulnerable children and families and the physical environment, infrastructure and quality of life strategies and action plans.

Partnership work around sexual violence and abuse also contributes to a number of the priorities in the Brighton and Hove Sustainable Community Strategy, including: reducing crime and improving safety; improving health and well-being; strengthening communities and involving people; and providing quality advice and information services.

The work to address sexual violence and abuse will also be incorporated within a new Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy for the city from 2011.

Implications for equalities and sustainability

Reducing the incidence of sexual violence and abuse, as well as the fear of victimisation, is essential to the physical and mental well-being of Brighton and Hove residents, and therefore the social and economic sustainability of the city.

Sexual violence is both a cause and consequence of gender inequality; women and girls are more likely to be victims than men and boys, and young women in particular suffer higher levels of victimisation. Work towards achieving the prevention and reduction of sexual violence and abuse must address existing gender inequalities which can give rise to the behaviour of perpetrators. Vulnerable and marginalised groups are often at increased risk and are less likely to report sexual violence and access help. This work is therefore central to the delivery of gender, as well as other equality duties.

Parallel plans

- Brighton & Hove Domestic Violence Needs Assessment and Commissioning Strategy 2011
- Brighton & Hove Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2011
- Brighton & Hove Alcohol Needs Assessment 2010/11
- Reports and Action Plans of the Adult Safeguarding Board
- Reports & Action Plans of the Local Children Safeguarding Board
- Sex Worker Strategy and Action Plan
- Brighton & Hove Sustainable Community Strategy

- Brighton & Hove Divisional Policing Plan 2010-13
- Sussex Police: Rape, Sexual Violence and Serious Sexual Offences Strategy
- National Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2011

Key performance indicators (to be confirmed)

- Number of police recorded sexual offences
- Percentage of victims of a police recorded serious sexual offence receiving services at the SARC
- Percentage of SARC referrals to independent support services who receive support
- Percentage of finalised court cases with a successful outcome
- Percentage of referrals to i) the SARC or ii) other specialist agencies who are repeat clients

Sexual Violence, Abuse and Exploitation, the Sex Industry, and Trafficking Action Plan	
Area of work 1	
Achieve an understanding of the nature and prevalence of sexual violence in Brighton & Hove and of actions that will decrease attrition rates	
Actions	
1.1 Continue to identify the nature and prevalence of sexual violence in Brighton & Hove, recognising the variety of contexts in which it can take place and the different profiles and circumstances of victims and offenders. Analytical and summary reports to be regularly updated from the six monthly Strategic Assessments of Sussex Police as well as drawing on the findings of the Sussex and Glasgow Caledonian Universities Research (2010)	
1.2 Strategies, working groups and services to gather information about the nature and prevalence of sexual violence within their domain and information to be aggregated within central Partnership analysis documents which inform service development.	
1.3 Implement a multi-agency data capture system that includes information from voluntary and statutory agencies including the police, sexual health and other appropriate services.	
1.4. Introduce integrated IT solutions which would enable extraction of information when a victim and offender is perceived 'Under the Influence' by the police.	
Area of work 2	
Prevent sexual violence through increased awareness of its nature and prevalence in all contexts and of the practical measures that can be taken to reduce risks and opportunities	
Actions	
2.1 Communications to perpetrators and potential perpetrators about the criminal justice penalties associated with rape and sexual violence, and incorporate the association between perpetrators drinking and sexual violence within alcohol prevention publicity/education programmes, which promote safe drinking practices and the message that alcohol is no excuse for perpetrating rape or sexual abuse.	

2.2 Raise awareness of rape and sexual violence and the help available amongst young women and on university campuses, including the consequences of rape in terms of sentencing, utilising 'student nights'; and fresher week events.	
2.3 All Strategy Groups, including those which are addressing domestic violence, to incorporate information about sexual violence in their publicity.	
2.4 Incorporate preventative measures, targeting potential perpetrators of rape and sexual violence, within the good practice initiatives which are led by the Licensing Strategy Group and Violent Crime & Alcohol Related Crime and Disorder Groups	
2.5 Develop improved outcomes for young people who display sexually harmful behaviours through commencing a series of activities which identify and disseminate a model of inter-agency working based on existing practices and available research evidence; examine the transition from child protection/youth justice arrangements to adult processes and ensure the effective implementation of appropriate mechanisms; identify inter-agency and multi-disciplinary training needs; and develop and disseminate best practice information.	
2.6 In recognition of the association between stalking and harassment and incidents of sexual violence and abuse, work with specialist third sector organisations and criminal justice partners to develop an effective community based response to incidences of stalking and harassment, which is linked with the domestic violence action plan.	
Area of work 3	
Increase reporting of sexual violence through improved public confidence in the criminal justice system and lower rate of attrition which is well publicised	
Actions	
3.1 Support Sussex Police in the delivery of their Rape, Sexual Violence and Serious Sexual Offences Strategy which aims to improve the investigation, detection and prosecution of cases, identifying appropriate partnership and support action for the Community Safety Partnership	
3.2 Raise awareness of the role of the police Sexual Offence Liaison Officers and develop integrated response services with the Sexual Assault Referral Centre and independent rape crisis, counselling and Independent Sexual Violence Advisor services.	
3.3 Publicising the revised national handbook: 'From Report to Court: a Handbook for Adult Survivors of Sexual Violence ' which meets the needs of victims and witnesses.	
3.4 Target information towards those groups who are most at risk and/or least likely to report, recognising issues such as gender and gender identity, ethnicity, sexuality, disability, age, religion and belief.	
Area of work 4	
Improved victim care and support services which meet survivor needs, and also assist police investigations and prosecutions and support improved attrition rates.	
Actions	
4.1 Jointly commission and participate in the Sussex Management Board of the Sexual Assault Referral Centre (in Crawley) and establish effective arrangements for the care and support of victims in Brighton & Hove. The joint commissioning and management arrangements also links with NHS sexual health strategies and public health delivery plans.	
4.2 In partnership with the Third Sector organisations, sustain support for the provision of local rape crisis services providing immediate care and support as well as provision for sustained support and access to related services.	

4.3 Sustain support to the Independent Sexual Violence Advisors who, together with SARC services, provide support, risk assessment and safety planning for victims of rape or other forms of sexual violence, whether as an adult or a child. Link with the specialist DV and criminal courts where appropriate and support clients through statement taking, pre-court visits and trials, also referring clients to health, housing and childcare services.	
4.4 Training for professionals who may come in to contact with victims, including those who may deal with first disclosures (GPs, A&E providers, Health Visitors, Mental Health providers, youth workers, voluntary sector agencies, community groups).	
4.5 Identify appropriate actions which will ensure compliance with Gender Equality duties, particularly those which require the provision of appropriate services for victims of crimes where the majority of victims are women. Also pilot a service to identify appropriate approaches for male victims of sexual crimes which is delivered in an accessible and appropriate environment.	
4.6 Local arrangements are in place so that those who report are linked in to independent support agencies; that the booklet CPS Policy for Prosecuting Cases of Rape should be widely available to all victims and should be given as a matter of routine to all rape complainants who have decided to report the rape to the police; that measures are introduced to routinely measure and review victim satisfaction with the CJS.	
4.7 Develop a holistic model for intervention for families with multiple and complex needs, which often involve historical or current sexual violence, ensuring specialist sexual violence (and domestic violence) services are central to that model, and clear identification and referral pathways to support services for survivors and criminal justice/offender programmes for perpetrators.	
Area of work 5	
To support the work programme of the Sex Workers Steering Group which seeks to reduce risks and provide routes out of prostitution and related circumstances.	
Actions	
5.1 Continue to support the Steering Group work programme which is delivered by the delivery organisations and which together further develop a strategic approach to rape and sexual violence.	
5.2 Support the police led Operations which seek to identify and respond to trafficked women and their traffickers, and aim to ensure that local victims of trafficking from within the UK and from abroad, have access to safety, support and protection.	
5.3 Encourage the active and increased use of the 'Ugly Mugs' or 'Dodgy Punter' schemes, and other national good practice initiatives, which include challenging demand for prostitution, increasing safety of and support for those in prostitution, providing safe routes out of prostitution, and identifying perpetrators and bring them to justice.	
5.4 Continue to target those most at risk, through maintaining relationships with individuals in the sex industry, ensuring they get increased access into drug and alcohol services, alternative housing and employment options in accordance with their needs.	
Area of work 6	
Reduce fear and raise awareness of the reality of rape and sexual assault for women, increase women's ability to report and/or seek help, and publicise any improvements in attrition rates and sentencing	
Actions	
6.1 All work aimed at improving public perceptions of levels of crime and disorder and reduced fear of crime, to particularly address those crimes of serious sexual offences, sexual assault and rape and others which are of most concern to women.	

Area of work 7	
Safeguard and build the resilience of children and young people to sexual assault and exploitation and respond to the threat of it	
Actions	
7.1 Continue the delivery of the Every Child Matters outcomes and in particular, deliver the work programmes of the 'Staying Safe' and 'Be Healthy' work programme which are overseen by the Local Safeguarding Children Board. These programmes include actions to reduce the risks associated with unsupervised internet use by children and young people.	
7.2 Implement a whole school approach to sexual violence prevention (linked with domestic violence prevention approaches in schools). Education programmes within schools and those targeted towards young people - which address alcohol and drug misuse, sex and relationship education, teenage pregnancy and other risks - to also include awareness raising of the association with sexual violence, issues of coercion and consent, the consequences of rape and sexual violence for perpetrators and the help available for victims.	
7.3 Reduce sexual and sexist bullying in schools -Work with schools to prepare for Ofsted inspections by working on the key area of inspection that focuses more strongly on behaviour and safety, including bullying. Inspectors will look for evidence of how much bullying there is in schools and how well it is dealt with.	
7.4 Implement the findings of the Joint Agency Audit into the Incidence, Recording and Outcomes of Child Sexual Abuse Investigations in Brighton & Hove.	
7.5 Identify appropriate and effective early interventions for young people who sexually abuse or are at risk of abusing and support the delivery of those interventions.	
7.6 Explore how agencies undertaking generic work with children and young people, such as CAMHS, include classifications of sexual abuse in their initial assessments.	
7.7 Continue to support the WISE project and further implementation of the findings of 'Tipping The Iceberg' – A Pan-Sussex Study of Young People at Risk of Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking	
7.8 Support compliance as appropriate with 'Special Measures' in courts (compliance with 'Speaking Up for Justice' and Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999) which offers enhanced protection for child witnesses	
Area of work 8	
Work towards the development of a holistic strategy for tackling rape and serious sexual offences and violence which accords to national good practice, builds on existing plans and expertise together with a structure which supports multi-agency delivery of an agreed work programme	
Actions	
8.1 Continue to support the multi-agency Sexual Violence and Abuse Reference Group which receives reports from and co-ordinates actions being taken forward by the individual working groups that are identified within this Strategy.	

