

Making a difference to the lives of those affected by rape and sexual abuse

Position:	Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA)
Hours:	Full Time – 35 hours per week
Salary:	£25,026 raising to £26,026 on successful completion of training, probation and six-month review.
Location:	Based in Guildford and covering Surrey
Accountable to:	ISVA Team Leader
DBS check:	Yes
Closing on:	20th March 2020 12:00PM

Please note this post is open to female applicants only as being female is deemed to be a genuine occupational requirement under Schedule 9, Paragraph 1 of the Equality Act 2010

We are currently recruiting for an Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA), specialising in supporting survivors with mental health issues.

RASASC is a registered charity which has been providing support to male and female survivors of rape and sexual abuse (both recent and non-recent) and young people aged over 13, from across Surrey since 1992.

We provide an Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) Service. ISVAs support survivors to help them overcome the abuse they have suffered and to rebuild their lives. This service also includes supporting the survivor to seek justice through the judicial system, should they wish.

We also provide one-to-one counselling, youth counselling and family support programme, a national Telephone Helpline, and self-confidence and esteem programme.

Volunteers are an important part of the work we do. Volunteers staff our Helpline and our qualified counsellors work on a voluntary basis with survivors of rape and sexual abuse.

ISVA

ISVAs are survivor-focused advocates, who support survivors of recent and non-recent rape and sexual abuse to enable them to access the services they need in the aftermath of the abuse they have experienced. An ISVA provides individual support and this will vary from client to client.

This role is based at the RASASC Guildford office and will work across Surrey. The ISVA must have a full driving license and use of a car that can be used for work purposes.

You will be part of a dedicated, experienced, and friendly team consisting of seven ISVAs. The ISVAs meet fortnightly for peer support and work collaboratively with each other to share knowledge. Each ISVA has a lead area of responsibility and this role will be leading on mental health issues, although you will have a caseload supporting a range of clients.

Due to the nature of this role, the ISVA will have a reduced maximum number of clients to accommodate the engagement with other agencies and supporting a higher number of clients who have presented with complex mental health issues.

You will be provided with fortnightly clinical supervision and attend monthly one-to-one meetings with the ISVA team leader.

Job Description

- To support survivors of rape and sexual abuse.
- To train and support the existing ISVA team to become better aware of issues presented by clients with mental health issues so that they are more confident to support survivors who present with related issues.
- To deliver supportive outreach to mental health organisations within the community so that they are more aware of the risks of heightened rape or sexual abuse posed to their clients.
- It is the responsibility of the ISVA to impartially advise the client on all options open to them, such as the Criminal Justice System, SARC, GUM clinic and other local services.
- The ISVAs are expected to balance a caseload that includes survivors progressing through the criminal justice process as well as survivors that have decided not to report, or who are no longer in the criminal justice process.
- The ISVA will be based at Guildford RASASC but will be expected to travel throughout Surrey.
- The ISVA is expected to carry out other duties from time to time which are broadly consistent with those in this document, as the job description cannot cover every issue which may arise within the post.

Key Tasks

- The ISVA will provide a survivor-focused, independent service, distinct from the role of a crisis worker or counsellor.
- The ISVA will lead on supporting survivors who present with complex mental health issues.
- Undertake risk assessment and support needs analysis with survivor and develop a support plan for the survivor.
- To provide advice and support across a wide range of issues, such as housing, health and education, that will help to support the survivor and ensure their ongoing safety in the aftermath of the abuse.
- Manage caseload and maintain necessary case files and records including monitoring information as required under funding conditions and by RASASC.

- To provide expert advice and support in relation to issues and the impact of rape and sexual abuse on this client group to other members of the ISVA team as well as the wider RASASC team.
- To build links with, and work in partnership, with a range of local agencies, statutory and voluntary services to provide best support for survivors.
- The ISVA will be required to undertake accredited training specifically designed to support them in delivering this service. This training is held in Manchester and is delivered over six modules. Each module is taught over two consecutive days to minimise the amount of time ISVAs are away.
- Fulfil relevant monitoring processes as requested by the ISVA Team Leader or the Fundraising Manager.
- To attend monthly one to one supervision with team leader and fortnightly clinical supervision.

Personal Specification

Experience:

Essential

- Experience of working with clients who have mental health issues or attended relevant awareness training
- Experience of working with survivors of rape and sexual abuse and an understanding of the variety of issues affecting survivors
- Excellent interpersonal skills and communication skills
- Excellent organisational skills and a proven ability to prioritise workload, including time management skills
- Ability to work on your own and as part of a small team in a busy and challenging environment
- Knowledge and understanding of child and vulnerable adult protection procedures and information sharing protocols
- Full driving licence and car that can be utilised for work purposes.

Desirable

- Case Management skills – ability to accurately maintain records
- Crisis management skills – including risk management
- Knowledge and commitment to multi-agency partnership working.

In return, we can offer you 25 days' annual leave, eight public holidays, contributory pension scheme and reimbursement of travel expenses at 40p per mile.

If you are interested in joining our team or if you have any questions about the role please do give us a call as we would love to hear from you – contact Sally Hutton on 01483 568000 for more details or please complete the application form.

Closing date for applications is: Friday 20th March 12pm

How to Apply: Please complete the attached application form and return it to Liz Joyce admin@rasasc-guildford.org