



Safeguarding

People working in rough sleeping services have a key role to play in non-recent child sexual abuse (CSA) by working with survivors and preventing harm coming to others.

One of the best ways to provide support is to signpost people to an independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) who can support clients to report the crime to the Police.

Alternatively, if the individual agrees, you can report the crime directly to the Police calling 101 or online at <https://www.met.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/>

If the client discloses that they were sexually abused, and the perpetrator is currently living with another child, this needs to be reported even if the client does not wish it to be. Staff should call the Police on 101, or request a welfare check via <https://www.met.police.uk/partners/partner-services/wc/request-a-welfare-check/>. If the child lives in Westminster, you can also contact the Children’s Social services team for advice on **020 7641 6000**.

If you have any concerns about the safeguarding of a child outside of Westminster, you can call NSPCC via their helpline: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/our-services/nspcc-helpline/>

Following a disclosure where the survivor informs you that the alleged perpetrator is working in a position of trust with children you should refer to the

LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer) in the local authority area where the person works. If the alleged perpetrator is working in Westminster phone: **020 7641 7668** (and ask for the Duty officer) or email: LADO@westminster.gov.uk

If you are concerned that any adults with care and support needs may currently be at risk, please contact Westminster City Council on 020 7641 2176 or at adultsocialcare@westminster.gov.uk

Principles of confidentiality

Be open and honest with the person from the outset about why, what, how and with whom information will, or could be shared. It is always best practice to share information with the client’s knowledge and consent.

If you are in any doubt, seek advice, without disclosing the identity of the person where possible. Keep a record of your decision and the reasons for it – whether it is to share information or not.

How to manage a disclosure

Talking about CSA **does not** make it worse and when managed skilfully can be an essential first step on the road to recovery. Because of their experiences of CSA many survivors are very sensitive to how people react. If you want to check what constitutes CSA

have a read <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/child-sexual-abuse/#what>

These Dos and Don’ts provide guidance on how to manage disclosures.

DO

Listen, be patient and validate the person for sharing their thoughts and feelings.

Empathise with the pain and suffering with compassion and warmth.

Suggest grounding and emotional regulation techniques.

Make leaflets and posters about support services available in your project.

Be aware of your own feelings and careful not to try to resolve any unaddressed issues through survivors you are working with.

Seek supervision and support.

DON’T

Shut the person down abruptly or appear shocked or disgusted.

Elicit unnecessary detail or ask leading questions about what happened.

Tell people to “get it all out”. Emotional discharge is often not the best thing.



Stabilisation and Physical Security

Often people who have experienced CSA experience overwhelming feelings that can be triggered by cues that might appear neutral, e.g., the sound of a door opening or particular smells.

Refer to page 10 in the HHCP's [Working with clients that have experienced trauma](#) toolkit for stabilisation techniques that can be used to help clients when they are feeling overwhelmed.

One in Four: The Warrior Within by Christiane Sanderson is an excellent guide to emotional regulation and grounding techniques.

Support services

For further information on Westminster services available to support victims of domestic or sexual abuse please visit <https://groundswell.org.uk/westminster-hhcp/health-directories/> and select the Domestic and sexual abuse services directory.

For clients wanting to explore whether counselling is right for them, the informal Counselling Drop-In with John Connolly at Great Chapel Street is a good place to start: Info@greatchapelst.org.uk



Other Sources of support and help

The National Association for People Abused in Childhood (NAPAC)
Phone: 0808 801 0331
Email: support@napac.org.uk
Website: <https://napac.org.uk/>

LGBT Domestic Abuse Helpline (also working with survivors of CSA)
Phone: 0800 999 5428
Email: Help@galop.org.uk
Website: <https://galop.org.uk/>

Angelou Project (for women)
Phone: 0808 801 0660
Email: angelou@advancecharity.org.uk
Website: <https://www.angelou.org/>

Women's Trust Counselling Service
Phone: 020 7034 0303/0304
Email: admin@womanstrust.org.uk
Website: <https://womanstrust.org.uk/>

Survivors UK (for men)
Phone: 020 3598 3898
Email: help@survivorsuk.org
Website: <https://www.survivorsuk.org/>



MANAGING DISCLOSURES OF CHILDHOOD SEXUAL ABUSE (CSA)