

# Sexual Violence Therapies

## Service procurement



July 2019



The new sexual violence psychological therapies service in Avon and Somerset is provided by The Consortium - a group of local specialist service providers made up of Somerset and Avon Rape and Sexual Abuse Support, with Bristol-based charities Womankind and The Green House.

The service specification was developed with feedback from professionals working in psychological therapies and sexual violence services. Our 'you said, we did' report has details about how the feedback was used to shape our service specification and develop services to meet the needs of local people.

You said	We did
----------	--------

The service needs to be easily accessible to people who have experienced sexual violence.

The service will operate a clearly defined and agreed referral process, ensuring that service users experience a seamless pathway. The service will monitor and work towards a reduction in waiting times for access to therapeutic services.

It would be helpful if there was a range of services available to people with different service needs.

The service will offer individual and/or group interventions based on clinical need. This will include a range of interventions, available to people of all different ages, genders and backgrounds, with appropriate support for different needs and requirements.

Children and young people often don't have the words to describe sexual violence and it can take years before sexual abuse is discovered.

The service will be available to all children, regardless of when the assault or abuse took place.

You said	We did
<p>It is important that the service plays a wider role in sexual assault pathways, health and social care economies and the criminal justice system.</p> <p>There should be a focus on agencies working together in partnerships.</p>	<p>The service will work collaboratively with other providers of sexual violence support services such as Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) services, Sexual Assault Referral Centres, health services, family services, statutory and voluntary agencies. The service will operate as part of the wider sexual assault pathway and should not be viewed in isolation. People will be supported to move through the system in accordance with their changing needs.</p>
<p>The service should also be available to provide support for families of children who have been sexually assaulted, rape or abused.</p>	<p>The service will offer a comprehensive assessment to ensure people are referred into the most appropriate model of intervention and support. This will include support for families and friends of the survivor where appropriate.</p>
<p>There should be a distinction between pre and post-trial therapies</p>	<p>A range of interventions, appropriate to different levels of complexity and need will be offered.</p>
<p>The service should be aligned with NICE Guidelines.</p>	<p>Interventions will comply with Crown Prosecution Service guidance relating to vulnerable victims and be compliant with National Institute for Health and Care Excellence guidelines.</p> <p>The service will reflect evidence-based practice relating to sexual violence and should be trauma-informed, with an understanding of the physical, social, and emotional impact of trauma on the individual person.</p>