

The Kent & Medway Children's Independent Sexual Violence Advisor



The Kent and Medway Children's Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (CISVA) service is based at Family Matters in Gravesend, Kent.

Family Matters is the UK's largest charitable, specialist service provider for child and adult survivors of sexual abuse and rape.

My role as Advisor is to offer practical and emotional support to children under the age of 13 who have been victims of rape, sexual assault, or sexual abuse and live in the Gravesham, Dartford, Sevenoaks, Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells, Medway and Maidstone areas.

Children and their parents/carers can have an assessment to assess their needs and discuss how our service can help. Impartial advice is provided to inform and empower victims and their family to help make decisions, even if you have not reported anything to the police. CISVA's provide support to victims by helping them to move forward with their lives and to access the services they need during their experience and afterwards.

The following are some of the ways in which the CISVA service can help you;

- Provide emotional support
- Communicate with the Police, if you wish to
- Access Health and other related services
- Liaise with other Agencies, including Counselling services
- Support you with the Court process, CPS
- Develop your support network
- With Housing needs where appropriate
- Provide information and support with the Criminal Justice System, CJS
- Help parents better understand their children's needs, feelings and behaviours
- Provide information and support with Criminal Injuries Compensation applications, CICA
- Create a family safety plan to help protect children

Family Matters understand that this is a very difficult time, please do get in touch with us if you would like some more information on this service, or have any questions.

Dolores Fernandez

Kent and Medway Children's Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (CISVA)

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