

Sexual Violence Liaison Officer (SVLO)

Main Purpose

Sexual Violence Liaison Officers (SVLO) provide survivor-led, trauma-responsive support and information to students of all genders who have experienced sexual violence (including sexual harassment) whilst studying at Newcastle University.

SVLOs are coordinated by the Hate Crime and Sexual Violence Prevention Lead within Student Health and Wellbeing Services. SVLO's will not act as a student advocate as such, but rather provide pro-active support and signposting to internal and external sources of professional support. Role holders will also offer reflective spaces in which students can safely talk and think through their options for support and/or reporting.

The voluntary SVLO roles are held by dedicated trained staff in addition to their substantive post. It is expected that the role will require approximately 3 hours work per week, although this may vary according to demand.

We particularly invite expressions of interest from colleagues who have expertise or experience in specific protected characteristics such as race and ethnicity, transgender and non-binary people, and supporting male survivors. Please note that successful applicants will undergo a DBS check.

Main Duties and Responsibilities

The SVLO's role will vary depending on individual students' needs, but may include:

1. Being a first point of disclosure for student survivors of recent sexual violence or harassment
2. Explaining the University's relevant policies and procedures relating to reporting and responding to sexual violence and harassment, and the potential action the university can take on behalf of reporters
3. Ensuring that students are aware of the support available to them from the University and from the community (including specialist sexual violence support and other mainstream services)
4. Supporting the student to make fully informed choices about their reporting and support options both from the University and community sources (including any required adjustments)
5. Supporting the student's decisions in relation to such areas as studies, finance, and accommodation
6. Identifying, monitoring, and managing the individual risk and needs of the student
7. Working in partnership with Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVA) services to support the student in accessing external sources of safety planning support
8. Managing a small caseload, in close working partnership with the Hate Crime and Sexual Violence Prevention Lead
9. Maintaining and updating records of support work, including initial referral, risk and needs assessments, and support plans, including any action taken
10. Maintaining awareness of evidence contamination prevention
11. Assisting with the development and delivery of training and awareness activities if desired
12. Attending monthly online team meetings
13. Attending termly clinical supervision as necessary
14. Committing to relevant ongoing continuous development – including annual refresher training and safeguarding training as needed

Role Description

Person Specification

The role holder will be expected to have knowledge and skills in the following areas, although the University will provide full training to gain expertise required.

Knowledge, Skills and Experience		Essential or Desirable
1	<i>Written confirmation that your manager supports your application, and approves of the time commitment to this role (approximately 3 hours per week, for a term of 2 years)</i>	E
2	Active self-care practice, and an understanding of care of the self as an integral part of working with survivors	E
3	Good knowledge, interest and understanding of the impact of sexual violence on survivors	E
4	Understanding of the barriers those from marginalised communities face in seeking support for sexual violence and harassment and how to work to reduce these	E
5	Understanding of the principles of risk assessment and support planning for survivors	D
6	Knowledge of the support available across the university and in the community, including adjustments available to individual survivors	D
8	Understanding of the Criminal Justice System and the options available for survivors	D
9	Ability to work safely and within professional boundaries	E
10	Strong crisis management skills	E
11	Ability and willingness to work in partnership and as part of a team	E
12	Ability to work independently in confidence, without close supervision	E
13	Ability to collect and share sensitive information, adhering to General Data Protection law	E
14	Understanding of legal and safeguarding responsibilities	D
15	Willingness to undertake external and internal training as required	E
16	Willingness and ability to assist with the development and delivery of training and awareness raising activities	D
17	Demonstrable ability to work in a fully inclusive way and willingness to undergo cultural competency training	E
18	Understanding of the importance of clinical supervision and peer reflective practice; including importance of attending group and individual supervision, and team meetings	D
Other		
19	Must be available to attend training on the following dates: Tuesday 27th April 2021 to Thursday 29th April 2021, and Tuesday 25th May 2021 to Thursday 27th May 2021. Location TBC closer in conjunction with government guidance on COVID-19.	E