

HISTORIC CRIMES

Reporting an historic crime can be a daunting thought, but with the care and support of a Vulnerable Victim Case Manager from the Beacon, you will be guided through the process at your own pace. Most importantly we and the police will listen to you and you will be believed.

Many victims and survivors we have worked with have said that simply telling someone what happened to them, being heard and believed was a huge relief. The idea of reporting an historic sexual crime to police can feel scary, but Beacon will support you every step of the way.

The Police Service have recognised that in the past, victims were not always listened to, and they have worked hard to change their approach and to gain the trust of victims and survivors. You will be listened to; you will be believed, and an investigation will be launched. And each step of the way you will have the support of your Beacon Case Manager.

Sometimes victims and survivors might wait until the offender is either very elderly or dead before reporting, but it is important that you do report, even if this is the case. Your voice might give others the courage to come forward and report their own crimes. The offender might have been linked with other offenders who are still alive, and your courage could hold the key to crimes for other victims.

We often work with victims and survivors who have been referred to us having taken that first step already and reported the crime to police, but if that isn't you, that is not a problem, we can support you in reporting your crime to the police. When you report a historic crime, you will be asked to provide a "first account", this is a basic account of what has happened to you and who the offender is. It might be over the phone, or an officer might come to see you. Later, you will be invited to give a full statement, but the initial account will allow officers to start to investigate the crime, but also to safeguard other people who might currently be involved with that suspect.

Your bravery in reporting an historic crime, could make the difference to other people who have already been a victim of the same offender, or who are potential victims of that same person. Very often offenders will continue to offend into old age, so it is never too late to help to stop them.

Your VCM will be able to explain the process, offer you support and guidance, and be someone you can talk to throughout your journey. So, if you want to take your first step, we are here to help you.

Other support organisations

- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/non-recent-abuse/>
- <http://www.havoca.org/>
- <https://www.oneinfour.org.uk/>
- <https://www.thesurvivorstrust.org/>