

NOTICE OF MOTION**GREEN GROUP****NATIONAL RAPE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT HOTLINE**

“This council notes:

1. Though under-reporting makes exact figures elusive, the Home Office estimates that more than five per cent of women and men are thought to be raped, and 21 per cent of women and 11 per cent of men are sexually assaulted, at some point in their lives (Cross Government Action Plan on Sexual Violence and Abuse [www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/ Sexual-violence-action-plan](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/Sexual-violence-action-plan))
2. Since the closure of *Brighton Rape Crisis Project* in 2002 survivors and victims of rape and serious sexual assault in the city have been able to access only limited specialist support services for a few hours a week, including those funded by this council and provided by the *Survivors Network*. There is no round-the-clock support available for victims of sexual crimes beyond that operated by Sussex Police. While Sussex Police provide a good service in dealing with reports of rape and supporting victims, many sexual crimes go unreported, and many victims do not choose to go to the authorities.

This council therefore resolves:

1. To ask the Cabinet to consider investigating outcomes for women and men who have been raped or sexually assaulted in Brighton and Hove – and to examine whether the council can improve them.
2. To request that the Community Safety Forum gives consideration to the calling for a report at the next available opportunity setting out existing Rape Crisis support provision in the City, and opportunities for addressing the gaps in service.
3. To ask the Cabinet to consider whether it would be possible to support calls for a National 24-hour Rape Crisis hotline, to provide round-the-clock, seven day a week access to immediate support and referral for victims of sexual crimes, directing callers to local services where possible.
4. To ask the Chief Executive to write to the Home Secretary and the city's three MPs seeking support for this Notice of Motion.

Proposed by: Cllr Ben Duncan

Seconded by: Cllr Amy Kennedy

Supported by: Cllrs Sven Rufus, Jason Kitcat, Georgia Wrighton and Bill Randall

