

North West Sexual Violence Awareness Week

8–14 November 2021

Supporter Pack



North West Sexual Violence Awareness Week

Statistics

- It is estimated that **3.8% of adults aged 16 to 74 years** (1.6 million) have experienced sexual assault by rape or penetration (including attempts) since the age of 16 years (7.1% for women and 0.5% for men).
- At least **1 in 6 men** have experienced sexual abuse or assault, whether in childhood or as adults.
- Only around **15% of those who experience sexual violence report** to the police.
- **A third of people believe women who flirt are partially responsible** for being raped.
- Approximately 85,000 women and 12,000 men (aged 16 – 59) experience rape, attempted rape or sexual assault by penetration in England and Wales alone every year; that's roughly 11 of the most serious sexual offences (of adults alone) every hour.

Campaign Overview

[North West Sexual Violence Awareness Week](#) aims to raise awareness of sexual violence and the support services available to survivors.

The phrase sexual violence is an umbrella term that refers to crimes like sexual abuse and assault. It refers to any unwanted sexual act or activity such as rape, sexual abuse, sexual assault, sexual harassment etc.

Statistics show that there is an increase in sexual offences but the number of people reporting or seeking support is very low in comparison. There can be several reasons as to why a survivor chooses not to speak out, such as fear of not being believed, not knowing where to go etc. All of these feelings are normal.

This awareness week aims to reassure survivors, and anyone supporting them, that they will be listened to and how they can access support. Whether you choose to report to the police or not is your choice. Regardless, you can still access free counselling, support and even have a forensic medical so that evidence can be collected if ever it's needed.

This campaign targets all demographics across the North West and will run across various outputs such as radio, print, social media, PR and digital. Particular activity will be aimed at ethnic minority groups, men, young people and LGBTQ+ groups as these are significantly under-represented.

Throughout the week (8-14 November 2021), each county within the North West is hosting a dedicated event/activity within their communities. Supported by North West Police Crime Commissioners, NHS England, and Sexual Assault & Abuse Services, these events will highlight the support services available, and empower survivors to speak out.

- Monday 8 November = Cumbria
- Tuesday 9 November = Lancashire
- Wednesday 10 November = Greater Manchester
- Thursday 11 November = Merseyside
- Friday 12 November = Cheshire

Key objectives

- Increase public insight and information on sexual violence and the support services available to survivors across the North West.
- To raise awareness of sexual violence and what it is across the North West.
- To raise awareness of the services available to sexual violence victims within the North West.
- To ensure that each contact point for a survivor to report is streamlined and access to information similar.
- To make the information on sexual violence services easily accessible and concise.
- To educate communities of the freedom of choice when reporting a sexual offence.
- To promote the inclusivity of services and that they are there for you no matter your age, gender or ethnicity.

Cumbria – Monday 8 November

Where?

[University of Cumbria, Fusehill Street, Carlisle, CA1 2HH.](#)

What's happening?

On Monday 8 November organisations across Cumbria are coming together to host a series of events at the [University of Cumbria, Fusehill Street campus.](#)

9.30am – 10.30am: An inter-religious event led by the university's chaplaincy team offering a moment of reflection and safe space.

11am – 11.30am: A vigil in remembrance and solidarity for survivors of sexual violence.

11.30am – 4pm: A stalled event and art unveiling featuring representatives from local services and community groups. The event will offer a safe space for disclosures, the opportunity to have open discussions with professionals, and to learn about local support. The art project is led by the Director of the Art Institute and students from the university's art forum.

Other events?

In addition to the main events above, buildings across the county will be lighting up purple in support of the awareness week and in solidarity for survivors.

[The Birchall Trust](#) is also holding their AGM on Saturday 13 November.

Lancashire – Tuesday 9 November

Where?

The Flag Market, Preston, Lancashire.

What's happening?

Using art, music, stalls and survivor stories, Tuesday 9 November sees a Lancashire-wide event to raise awareness of sexual violence. Led by a cross-sector working group, all statutory and voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise sector organisations are invited to join this in-person event.

11am – 4pm: A stalled event to raise awareness of sexual violence, inform survivors of the services and support available to them, and empower people by offering a space to share their stories. There will also be an art unveiling from university students and survivors from across the county.

5pm – 6pm: A moment of reflection and remembrance for survivors of sexual violence with spoken-word poetry. Attendees are encouraged to bring a torch or LED light and wear purple.

Other events?

In addition to the main events above, buildings across the county such as [Blackpool Tower](#) will be lighting up purple in support of the awareness week and in solidarity for survivors.



Greater Manchester – Wednesday 10 November

Where?

Various university campuses across Manchester.

What's happening?

Universities across Greater Manchester are creating their own campus events to support the awareness week. Activities include art installations and vigils.

[The University of Manchester](#) is hosting an exhibition to tackle harassment and sexual misconduct across its campuses. The aim of their events is to create open discussions around sexual violence, release the results of the Resist Rape Culture survey and announce the commitments that the University will be putting in place.

The exhibition will involve a variety of media intended to provoke thoughts, feelings and actions within its visitors, allowing the public into the centre of what women and other marginalised genders experience day to day.

There will also be an open panel discussion in the evening between 7pm-8.30pm for those within the University community to ask questions.

[Manchester Metropolitan University](#) will be inviting staff and students to sign a pledge board to show their commitment to stamping out sexual harassment and violence in our communities. Several pledge boards will be located at key locations around campus, and staff and students will be encouraged to sign the pledge and take a photo to post on social media. By signing the pledge board they will commit to calling out all forms of harassment, educating themselves on the topic and keeping the wider community safe.

[UA92](#) is hosting a NWSV week stall where students can access Survivor Support Packs, information on specialist support organisations, guidance on reporting and free personal attack alarms.

Merseyside – Thursday 11 November

Where?

[Liverpool Guild of Students](#), 160 Mount pleasant, Liverpool, L3 5DR
[St Johns Beacon](#) (under the RADIO City Tower)

What's happening?

Organisations across Merseyside are working together to offer two events on Thursday 11 November.

11am – 4pm: Residents are invited to meet local organisations and community groups who support survivors of sexual violence at the [Liverpool Guild of Students](#).

5pm – 6pm: Take part in a moment of reflection to honour and remember those who have experienced sexual violence at [St Johns Beacon](#). Please help us shine a light on the issue and bring the community together to stand up to abuse. Don't forget to wear purple and bring a torch or LED light.

Other events?

In addition to the main events above, buildings across the county will be lighting up purple such as the [Greystone Footbridge](#) in support of the awareness week and in solidarity for survivors.

Panel Q&A sessions are being held across various radio stations in the run up to the event and on the day. This will feature professionals working in the sexual violence support sector and offer residents the opportunity to ask questions.

Cheshire – Friday 12 November

Where?

[University of Chester, Exton Park campus](#)

[The Cross in Chester City Centre](#)

What's happening?

Organisations across Cheshire have come together to arrange a day of events in support for the awareness week.

11am – 12pm: A live Q&A will be hosting via [Cheshire Police's Facebook page](#) giving the option to ask questions or disclosure. Professionals from the support services will be on hand to offer advice and guidance.

12pm – 3pm: A stalled event at the [University of Chester](#) campus featuring representatives from local support organisations.

8pm – 9pm: A vigil is being held at [The Cross in Chester City Centre](#) for people to take a moment to reflect and remember those who have experienced sexual violence. The Chester Clock Tower will also light up purple in solidarity.

Other events?

The [University of Chester](#) may be presenting an art installation across all campuses on harmful behaviours.

As part of the [Safer Streets 3 funding announcement](#), disclosure and bystander training will be given to university students and staff as part of an ongoing project.

Press release

This week, organisations across the North West are coming together to raise awareness of sexual violence and the support services available to survivors.

The initiative, led by North West Police and Crime Commissioners, police authorities, and sexual assault and abuse services, will take place from 8-14 November 2021.

Each day throughout the week a county will be hosting their own dedicated event/activity to raise awareness within their communities. These range from art installations from university students to moments of reflection in the form of vigils, all of which aim to engage local communities and promote the support available to survivors of sexual violence.

In addition, iconic buildings such as the Blackpool Tower, Chester's Clock Tower and Merseyside's Radio City tower will all be lit up purple in solidarity for survivors of sexual violence.

Rebecca Williams, project lead and Sexual Violence Communications and Engagement Manager said: "This week we are encouraging people across the North West to talk openly about sexual violence and their experiences, whether that be to a friend, family or one of the specialist organisations. "Sexual violence can happen to anyone at anytime and anywhere. You are not alone!

"Previously finding a local specialist service may have been difficult or overwhelming due to the vast amount of information online. Working with survivors and local organisations, we have launched a new website <https://sexualviolencesupport.co.uk/> that will help you find the service that is right for you.

"In addition, we have created 'support packs' which provide explanations of what sexual violence is, how you can seek help, how you can support others and a simplified guide on report to court."

According to the World Health Organisation, one in three women endure physical or sexual violence and one in four adolescent girls ages 15-19 who have had a relationship have been subjected to either physical or sexual...

violence. But it is not just females who are victims!

Approximately 12,000 men (aged 16–59) are raped in the UK every year and more than 70,000 are sexually abused or assaulted.

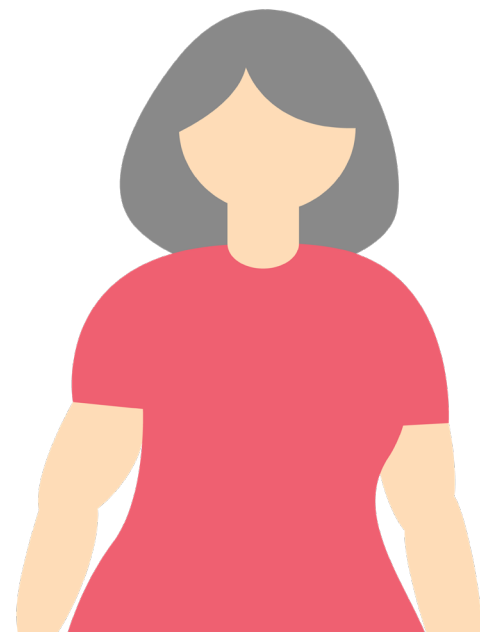
Police Crime Commissioners, police forces, local authorities, and NHS England all fund sexual violence support services. These services may vary across localities but together they aim to offer the same level of care no matter where a survivor lives.

From specialist forensic and medical sites called Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) to aftercare provisions like counselling, group therapy and Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs), these services aim to work in unison to give every victim of sexual violence the support they need.

If you or someone you know is a victim of sexual violence you can contact the police direct on 101, or in an emergency call 999.

If you do not wish to contact the police, you can self-refer to a specialist organisation directly. To find your local organisation, visit our website <https://sexualviolencesupport.co.uk/>

To join in with the campaign or find out more information, visit <https://sexualviolencesupport.co.uk/campaigns/nwsvweek/> or email becky@rapecentre.org.uk



Social Media – #NWSVweek

Please support the campaign by sharing content across your social media channels using the hashtag #NWSVweek.

You can create your own content, post pictures of buildings lit up purple or use some of the example posts below:

We are proud to be supporting North West Sexual Violence Awareness Week #NWSVweek

Organisations across the North West have come together to raise awareness of sexual violence and the support services available. #NWSVweek

If you or someone you know is a victim of sexual violence, you can find local support and information via sexualviolencesupport.co.uk #NWSVweek

Sexual violence support services are free and inclusive. Don't suffer in silence, find your local support organisations here: sexualviolencesupport.co.uk #NWSVweek

It's your personal choice as to whether you want to report an incident of sexual violence to the police. If you choose not to, you can still access free support and information via a specialist organisation sexualviolencesupport.co.uk #NWSVweek

Find your local #NWSVweek event and stand up to sexual violence <https://sexualviolencesupport.co.uk/campaigns/nwsvweek/>

Resources

Download the campaign resources via the website:
sexualviolencesupport.co.uk/campaigns/nwsvweek/

Here you will find posters, social media headers, images etc.

For any further information or specific media enquiries, email
Becky@rapecentre.org.uk

