

Press Release

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For Immediate Release

Escaping the violence

Survivors of domestic abuse can now access a countywide 'floating support service,' thanks to joint funding from the 'Supporting People Programme' and the 'Safer Communities Fund'.

Managed by CRI -a national provider of support and rehabilitation programmes - this new service helps the individual to resettle in a new home, after the trauma and instability of past experiences.

Some of the people that access the service will never have lived independently before, and lack the social and/or family networks which might otherwise have supported them. That's why additional support from CRI, early on in a person's tenancy, increases the likelihood that the person will remain there, and start to rebuild their life.

'Supporting People' is a government funded programme that supports people who have specific housing-related needs to live independent lives. The grant is managed by East Sussex County Council in partnership with a range of other organisations, including the five local district and borough councils, health and probation services.

CRI supports this goal of independent living by its clear focus on working with the victims of domestic violence to facilitate change, encourage peer support and develop the skills that promote independent living.

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If you would like to get in touch with the CRI Domestic Abuse Service - please contact one of the following hotlines, according to where you live:

Hastings & Rother: (01424) 716629

Eastbourne, Wealden & Lewes: (01323) 414224

Notes for editors

- CRI's Domestic Abuse Service provides free and confidential information, advice, advocacy and support to women and men who are living with domestic abuse in East Sussex. It works closely with other voluntary and statutory services to support the people that use its services with a range of issues including; housing, health, legal issues and benefit entitlements and can make referrals to other specialist providers including refuge accommodation.
- CRI have been delivering services to victims of domestic abuse in Hastings and Rother for almost 10 years. This provision has increased and now also operates in Eastbourne, Wealden and Lewes, with an additional service based at Eastbourne District General A&E Department. Specialist support for children who have been victims or witnesses of domestic abuse is also offered.
- The CRI Service does not pressurise people into taking action but aims to provide support and information so that people can make informed choices. Should an individual want to pursue a prosecution, they will be supported to do so through the court process.
- More information on CRI can be found at <http://www.cri.org.uk/index.php>
- More information on the Supporting People programme <http://esccewebsite/socialcare/adults/housing/supportingpeople/>
- Organisations providing services for Supporting People are paid under contract, which means that factors such as quality and value for money can be closely monitored. The team also give support and advice to other organisations in promoting new projects and ideas.
- More information on the 'Safer Communities Fund' - from East Sussex Safer Communities Partnership can be found at www.safeineastsussex.org.uk

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