

HELPING YOUR CHILD AFTER A CRIME

Information for parents and carers

If you or your child has been affected by crime, it can be a very frightening and traumatic experience.

We are here to help you and your family at this difficult time. We support hundreds of people of all ages every day to cope with the impact and effects of crime.

How crime may affect your child

Every child reacts to crime differently. You may notice a difference in their behaviour, sleeping or eating patterns may change, their anxiety levels may increase, and you may notice a lack of motivation to engage in school and leisure activities.

How we can help your child

VS is an independent charity, and your child does not have to report the crime to the police to get support from us.

We help children who have experienced all types of crime, including:

- Bullying and harassment
- Domestic abuse
- Online harm
- Sexual abuse and exploitation
- Burglary
- Hate crime
- Gangs and street violence.

Local services

At VS, we have a large number of local services providing specialist support to children across England and Wales.

These services provide high-quality support, designed to identify and reduce **risks**, recognise and build on **strengths**, and help young people increase their levels of **resilience**.

Our specialist support can be delivered both in person and through the use of technology. Our support may include one-to-one support sessions, access to group work programmes and peer support opportunities.

Indirect services

Some of our services provide indirect support to children. These services provide high quality specialist support to children through a safe parent/carer or trusted adult. We engage on a regular basis with the trusted adult, and provide them with a range of activities to complete with their child to help them cope and move forward from the harm caused.

To find out what support is available to children and young people in your area by visiting our website:

www.victimsupport.org.uk/support-near-you

Confidentiality

Our support for children is confidential, which means that information will not be shared outside of VS unless we are worried that your child may be unsafe or at risk of serious harm. When we need to share information, we will always try to explain clearly what information we need to share, who we need to share it with, and what may happen next.

More information

Our online resource, My Support Space, is also available for those supporting someone after they've experienced crime or trauma, and includes an interactive guide about talking to children after crime.

To find out more and sign up for your free account, please visit:

www.mysupportspace.org.uk

Other organisations that can help

Childline: www.childline.org.uk

Tel: **0800 1111**

Textphone: **0800 400 222**

A 24-hour freephone confidential helpline for children, run by the NSPCC.

NSPCC Child Protection Helpline

www.nspcc.org.uk

Tel: **0808 800 5000**

Textphone: **0800 056 0566**

Email: help@nspcc.org.uk

A 24-hour freephone service providing counselling, information and advice to anyone concerned about a child at risk of abuse.

How we can support you

It is important for you as a parent or carer to be able to share your concerns and fears, too.

You can contact Victim Support directly for advice and support on how to help your child if they have been affected by crime. Our contact details are on the back of this leaflet.

We have materials developed by specialists to help you support your child, and our specially trained supporters can help you learn how to use them.

Victim Support can also help you too if you have been affected by the crime, either directly or because of your child's experience.

Telling the police

We can support you regardless of whether or not you have reported the crime to the police and tailor our support to you.

Diversity matters and we value it

We are committed to supporting the needs of the diverse communities we serve. We can provide interpreters and information in alternative formats. If you have additional needs please let us know so we can put the right support in place.



Where to go for support:

We are an **independent** charity offering **free, confidential** support to people affected by crime and traumatic incidents.

For information and support, contact us by:

- calling: Supportline **08 08 16 89 111**
- using our 24/7 live chat service:
victimsupport.org.uk/live-chat
- using BSL: **victimsupport.org.uk/bsl**
- Online: **victimsupport.org.uk**

To find out how you can help us, visit
victimsupport.org.uk/get-involved

 @VictimSupport

 VictimSupport

 victimsupport_uk

 [Linkedin.com/company/victim-support](https://www.linkedin.com/company/victim-support)

Published by Victim Support
President HRH The Princess Royal

Victim Support, Ground Floor, Building 3, Eastern Business Park,
Wern Fawr Lane, Old St Mellons, Cardiff CF3 5EA
Telephone: 020 7268 0200

Charity registration: 298028 Company no: 2158780
Registered in England. Limited by guarantee.
Registered office as above.

