



## **Expressions of interest sought for Rape Crisis National Service Standards External Verifier role**

Rape Crisis Scotland (RCS) invites expressions of interest for an individual to work as an external verifier as part of the Rape Crisis National Service Standards (RCNSS) assessment process, across the Rape Crisis Scotland membership.

### **The deadline for expressions of interest is:**

Wednesday 16 July, 9am

### **About the organisation**

Rape Crisis Scotland works to transform attitudes, improve responses and ultimately to end rape and sexual violence in all its forms. We:

- Work to improve societal, legislative and organisational responses to sexual violence
- Work in partnership with independent local Rape Crisis Centres across Scotland
- Co-ordinate the National Advocacy Project supporting survivors engaging with the criminal justice process
- Work to prevent sexual violence, coordinating the National Prevention Programme with young people as well as specific prevention programmes with schools, Universities & Colleges
- Run the National Rape Crisis Scotland National Helpline
- Work in partnership to deliver the Scottish Women's Rights Centre

### **Background: Rape Crisis National Service Standards**

The Rape Crisis National Service Standards (RCNSS) are a quality assurance framework for Rape Crisis member centres across Scotland, England and Wales.

The RCNSS aim to enable specialist Rape Crisis services to demonstrate the quality and professionalism of each of the services their Centre provides, whether this be



Support or Advocacy Workers, Prevention, Helpline, training, outreach, policy work or awareness raising activities. They provide an assurance of quality alongside a benchmark for excellence in the delivery of specialist services for survivors of sexual violence.

The National Service Standards are underpinned by the requirement for services to demonstrate that they are Rape Crisis specialist services that are independent and community-based which work from a trauma informed perspective to provide confidential specialist service provision to survivors of all forms of sexual violence.

Furthermore, the RCNSS set out what it is that makes specialist services different from generic support services. Much of what distinguishes a Rape Crisis approach relates not only to the quality of the services provided, but to the value base and ethos which underpins all of our work. Values and principles are crucially important to our model for working with survivors of sexual violence and sexual abuse.

A full copy of the standards can be found [here](#).

Assessment of the RCNSS comprises of a number of stages:

1. **Assessment** - Reviewing evidence that centres meet the NSS. This will be carried out via self-assessment by centres and further evidence review by an Assessor.
2. **Verification**– To ensure the assessment process is robust, an external verifier will be responsible for overseeing the assessment process.
3. **Ratification** – The decision to award/withhold the award of NSS.

### **Specification for external verifier**

We are inviting expressions of interest to carry out the following role: Rape Crisis National Service Standards external verifier.

The assessor will be responsible for overseeing the RCNSS assessment process for RCS member centres. This will involve:



- Ensuring assessment requirements and conditions are applied properly at the assessment stage
- Confirming and clarifying evidence through site visits and interviews to RCS member centres
- Participating in reviews of the assessment process and planning improvements.
- Making recommendations on any identified gaps for development plans
- Prepare final reports to the ratification panel
- Reporting to the ratification panel and endorsing assessment approach

Please note that part of the role will include travel across Scotland to RCS member centres in order to carry out the site visits.

**Key outputs:**

- Ensuring the RCNSS assessment process is carried out through a process of oversight and sampling
- Carrying out site visits to RCs member centres confirm and clarify evidence
- Produce reports and recommendations, and if necessary, development plans to the ratification panel

**Key outcomes:**

- The RCNSS assessment process is carried out to a consistent and high standard, within the identified timeframes

**Intellectual property**

Intellectual property for the work will reside with Rape Crisis Scotland.

**Indicative project timescales**

We would like to identify an individual to carry out this role across 2025/26. We envisage the project being concluded by the end of April 2026. Timescales for the project are as follows:



Deadline for expressions of interest	Wednesday 16 July, 9am
Interviews	Tuesday 5 & Wednesday 6 August
Start-up meeting, planning agreement of key milestones	August 2025
Cohort 1 external verification	Assessment – June/July Site visit – August/September Report produced – September Ratification panel - October
Cohort 2 external verification	Assessment – August/September Site visit – October/November Report produced – November Ratification panel - December
Cohort 3 external verification	Assessment – October / November Site visit – December 2025 / January 2026 Report produced – February 2026 Ratification panel – March 2026
Cohort 4 external verification	Assessment – February/March 2026 Site visit – March 2026 Report produced – March 2026 Ratification panel – April 2026
Conclusion of project	April 2026

### **Submitting an expression of interest**

Please include with your quotation:

- Background information on yourself and relevant skills/experience
- Costs for all key components within your quotation as well as a structure for payment



- Please outline your relevant experience and capabilities to undertake the project as described above
- Your ability to work according to the timescales set out above
- Examples of any relevant previous work

Please note:

- All quotations shall be considered by RCS in line with internal policies, budget and specific requirements
- RCS is not bound to accept any quotation
- RCS is not obliged to provide reasons for its decision, which will be final

### **Additional information**

As per the terms of the funding, all applicants are expected to give regard to the [Fair Work Framework](#).

### **Cost**

A maximum of £15,000 (including all costs, expenses and VAT) is available for completion of this project. Travel and accommodation for centre visits from the central belt will be covered in addition to the above and arranged by RCS, however any additional associated costs will be met from the above budget.

A schedule of payments will be agreed with the offer of contract.

### **Contact details**

To submit bids, or to discuss this specification in more detail, please contact:

Sarah Gurney, Director of Operations

Rape Crisis Scotland

Email: [recruitment@rapecrisisScotland.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@rapecrisisScotland.org.uk)