

**ENVIRONMENT AND
COMMUNITY SAFETY
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

Agenda Item 32C

Brighton & Hove City Council

**NOTICE OF MOTION NOTICE OF MOTION APPROVED BY COUNCIL
8 OCTOBER 2009
Agenda Item 24(k)**

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:

To ask the Environment & Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee to consider carrying out a review into the issues raised in this motion (including the outcomes for men and women, the extent of support available to residents and the possible benefits of a 24-hour hotline) and to use their new powers to invite external statutory and voluntary organisations to give evidence to the review.”

