



Registered Charity No: 1172214

Independent Stalking Advocacy Service (ISAS)

To make a referral - Tel: **01268 729707** or email

isas@changingpathways.org

Referral forms can be found on our website: www.changingpathways.org

Stalking is defined as a pattern of repeat and persistent behaviour that is intrusive and engenders fear. One person becomes fixated or obsessed with another and the attention is unwanted. Stalking behaviour can be seen as unwanted communications, which are anything from telephone calls and various types of messaging to sending gifts or leaving graffiti. There are also unwanted intrusions, which include waiting for, spying on, approaching and entering a person's home. Additionally, the stalker may make complaints to legitimate bodies, use the Internet to facilitate their campaign (Cyber stalk), or make threats, damage property or even use violence. (**Veritas Justice Website**)

Even if there is no threat, stalking is still a crime.

Changing Pathways has been funded to run a specialist advocacy service for victims of Stalking and Harassment in the South Essex area, covering Basildon, Brentwood, Rochford, Castle Point and Thurrock. Working within a multi-disciplinary team enables us to offer a wide range of services, including 1:1 and group advocacy, case management, support and safety planning and digital art therapy courses for survivors starting in January 2018.

The service is run by a small team of Paladin accredited and trained ISACs (Independent Stalking Advocacy Caseworkers). Awareness raising sessions to other agencies are ongoing and it is hoped to raise awareness and upskill partner agencies in better understanding and how to better manage the risks associated with stalking.

Useful links: <http://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmic/wp-content/uploads/living-in-fear-the-police-and-cps-response-to-harassment-and-stalking.pdf>