



# Ten years on: stalking in Kirklees, policing and support for survivors

**Update Information June 2023**

## ▶ Background

Stalking offences were introduced into law in England and Wales over ten years ago in 2012. There has been a large increase in reports of stalking across West Yorkshire between 2020 and 2022, including in the Kirklees district, but convictions for stalking offences are low. There is no recent research on stalking in West Yorkshire nor have there been, until very recently, any specialist support provision for victims in Kirklees.

## What is stalking?

Stalking is defined by The Suzy Lamplugh Trust as; 'a pattern of fixated and obsessive behaviour which is repeated, persistent, intrusive and causes fear of violence or engenders alarm and distress in the victim'. The behaviours can be offline (such as visiting the victim's home or place of work, following the victim or leaving gifts), or online (such as unwanted social media communication, calls, texts, emails, hacking and spyware). [hud.ac/poq](http://hud.ac/poq)

## Who has funded the research and who will carry it out?

The [Secure Societies Institute](http://Secure Societies Institute) at the University of Huddersfield has been awarded a grant from the Economic and Social Research Council's program 'Partner with the police to tackle violence against women and girls' to carry out an action research project entitled 'Ten years on: stalking in Kirklees policing and support for victims'.



University of  
**HUDDERSFIELD**  
Secure Societies Institute

[Dr Rosie Campbell OBE](#) is the Principal investigator on the project, working with [Professor Jason Roach](#), the Co-Investigator. They hope the project will bring the issue of stalking from the margins to the centre in policy and practice addressing violence against women and girls in Kirklees.



Online stalking can include unwanted social media communication, calls, texts, emails, hacking and spyware.

## When is the project taking place?

The project started in early September 2022 and will be completed by the end of September 2023.

## What does the project aim to do?

Overall the project aims to establish a clearer picture of stalking in Kirklees, including how West Yorkshire Police are

▶ currently policing stalking and identifying gaps in support for survivors, so they can get the protection and support they need, as early as possible to ensure their safety and reduce trauma.

## The project specifically aims to;

- Set up a new stalking research, prevention and practice hub linked to the Secure Societies Institute: this will be a forum through which practice and academic learning from the project will be shared across West Yorkshire and beyond.
- Review police data on stalking and investigative decision making in stalking investigations.
- Identify current support for victims of stalking in Kirklees and reviewing best practice for stalking victims/survivors.
- Consult women who have been survivors/victims of stalking about their experiences of support, getting their views on improving support and policing.
- Codesign a plan for enhanced stalking support provision for women in Kirklees based on research findings, with women of lived experience of stalking, their advocates, domestic and sexual abuse services, women's and girls services and other organisations.

## Partners

The project was developed with a range of partners who will continue to be involved throughout the project, these are [West Yorkshire Police](#), [West Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit](#) (West Yorkshire Combined Mayoral Authority), [Safer Kirklees](#), Kirklees

Domestic Abuse Community Engagement Team (KDACET), [Pennine Domestic Abuse Partnership](#) and [Connect Housing](#).



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## Methods

We are using the following methods;

- Scoping current specialist support for stalking survivors/victims in Kirklees.
- Reviewing international research and practice literature on stalking, including best practice for support and policing.
- Consulting survivors, hosting a number of inclusion and co design events, working closely with Pennine Domestic

▶ Abuse Partnership, other partners and stakeholders.

- Analysing police stalking data.
- Carrying out interviews with survivors of stalking to seek their views on improving support and policing.
- Carrying out interviews with police officers.

**To enhance the project** West Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit have funded the researchers to carry out an online stalking awareness survey amongst young people age 16-24 who live work or study in Kirklees. Young people can carry out the survey by clicking the link [here](#).

The project has adopted a trauma informed approach to research and is informed by the principles of participatory action research.

## What are the project's outcomes so far?

**So far the researchers have;**

- Established a new multi agency, stalking research, prevention and practice hub linked to the Secure Societies Institute. Members act as advisors on the research project and it is a forum through which practice and academic learning from the project is shared across Kirklees. This will be expanded across West Yorkshire and beyond.
- Established an influencers group with PDAP, made up of women with lived experience of stalking who are acting as advisors on the project.
- Supported multi-agency training & awareness raising events including events for National Stalking Awareness Week #NSAW: [hud.ac/o8i](http://hud.ac/o8i)

## ▶ Support contacts

If you are experiencing stalking, or have in the past, and want to access support or information contact;

- **Pennine Domestic Abuse Partnership** on their 24 hour free helpline: **0800 052 7222**
- **West Yorkshire Independent Stalking Advocacy Service (West Yorkshire Victim Support)**: Tel: 0300 3730978, email: [WY\\_ISAC\\_Service@victimsupport.org.uk](mailto:WY_ISAC_Service@victimsupport.org.uk), National 24/7 support line tel: 0808 168 9111.
- **National Stalking helpline**: call on 0808 802 0300 during opening hours (*Weekdays 9.30-16.00 (untill 20.00 on Wednesdays)*). **The Suzy Lamplugh Trust** who run the help line have a lot of information about Stalking on their website: [hud.ac/nas](http://hud.ac/nas)
- **Paladin** - National Stalking Advocacy Service: [hud.ac/nar](http://hud.ac/nar)

## More information

- Follow @SecureSocieties on Twitter: [hud.ac/nat](http://hud.ac/nat)
- Look for updates on the SSI website: [hud.ac/nc3](http://hud.ac/nc3)
- Email **Dr Rosie Campbell** at [R.Campbell@hud.ac.uk](mailto:R.Campbell@hud.ac.uk)
- Email **Dr Kate Wood** at [Kate.Wood@hud.ac.uk](mailto:Kate.Wood@hud.ac.uk)
- Email **Professor Jason Roach** at [J.Roach@hud.ac.uk](mailto:J.Roach@hud.ac.uk)



**Young people in Kirklees: please help with important research**

If you are between 16-24 years old and live, study or work in Kirklees, please complete our short, confidential and anonymous online research survey.

What will I gain?

- When you complete the survey you can enter a prize draw and have the chance of winning a first prize of a £100 voucher or a second place £50 voucher (2 available).

We aim to learn about young people's awareness and understanding of stalking through the survey and the information collected will help shape future campaigns to improve the safety of young people in Kirklees.

The survey is being carried out by researchers at University of Huddersfield and is funded by West Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit.



Complete at [hud.ac/ofl](http://hud.ac/ofl) or scan:



**Methods include reviewing international research and practice literature on stalking, including best practice for support and policing.**

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