Hertfordshire University Beacon Drop-In

*If you have been affected by a crime, as a victim, witness, friend or family member, Hertfordshire Beacon Victim Care Centre will be offering monthly surgeries, in partnership with the Hertfordshire SARC, bookable by appointment or drop in.*

**Beacon** is run by a charity called Catch 22, and is funded by the Police Crime Commissioner. We are independent from Hertfordshire police, and offer a confidential service to all.

**Beacon** supports all victims and witnesses of crime, or those family members and friends who have been affected by a crime. Our service is free of charge, and is offered to you whether or not the crime has been reported to the police.

**Our Hertfordshire University Drop-in Service** is being held once a month, on a Wednesday. We will offer three morning slots of 50 mins for pre-booked appointments for an initial meeting with a trained Victim Case Manager. We will go through a brief needs assessment to look at how you have been affected and you will then have the opportunity to be offered a case manager from Beacon for further support. There will be a further 3 slots in the afternoons for which you do not need to book an appointment, simply drop in.

We provide practical/emotional support and advocacy with any other services that you need assistance with. If required we will refer or signpost you to suitable additional support services.

In the case of a sexual assault/rape, our partner agency **Hertfordshire SARC**, will have a member of staff on site to take that referral. **It should be noted** that if a rape or serious sexual assault is disclosed to a member of staff, the victim should be encouraged to visit the SARC as a matter of urgency and NOT wait for the next drop-in, so that any DNA can be recovered. This does not mean that they have to report the attack to police immediately (although it is advisable), but it does mean that, if; at a later date, they would like to do so, all forensic evidence is available to assist with the investigation. In this instance the **SARC** can be contacted on their **24/7 Helpline 0808 178 4448**

To refer a student or member of staff for a pre-booked appointment please complete the attached referral sheet, and return it to our dedicated Hertfordshire University email address: **Beacon.Dropln@catch-22.org.uk**

Alternatively; if a student would like to self-refer and book an appointment please do give them that email address for them to make contact directly.

They can also access support by calling 0300 011 55 55 Option 3, or by visiting the Website and completing the referral page **www.hertfordshirebeacon.org/**

If you have any further queries please contact Jackie Chambers on 01707 354071 or by email **Jacqueline.chambers@catch-22.org.uk**