

Bexhill Man Sentenced For Violent And Coercive Offences Against Girl - 24.05.18

A young Bexhill man has been sentenced to a six months custodial sentence after being convicted of a series of violent and coercive offences against a young girl.

On Monday 14 May at Hastings Youth Court the 18-year-old man was convicted after a trial, of controlling and coercive behaviour and of three counts of assault by beating last year, all against his former partner, who is younger than him but also now 18.

He was sentenced to six months detention at a Young Offenders Institution and was given a five-year Restraining Order prohibiting him from contacting his victim.

Detective Constable Sally O'Shaughnessy of the Hastings Safeguarding Investigations Unit said; "This was a complex investigation which could not have gone forward without the immense bravery of the victim and with the support of her family. The defendant forced the victim into the trial process and denied his guilt throughout.

"What is of particular concern is that the offender was under 18 when he committed these offences upon a younger victim. The offences involved a serious level of violence inflicted including punching and kicking, with a pattern of coercive behaviour being established very quickly, including what the victim was allowed to wear, what she was allowed to eat, what make up she could wear. Everything was aimed at maximising her humiliation."

"Controlling and coercive behaviour is a pattern of behaviour which seeks to in effect take away the victim's liberty or freedom, to strip away their sense of self. Nobody should be subjected to such demeaning treatment.

"If you are suffering coercive or controlling behaviour, or know of anyone who is, please contact us online or by calling 101, and arrange to talk in confidence to experienced investigators."

For information on how to identify coercive behaviour and how to combat it, have a look online at the Sussex Police website.

Help Us Keep Sussex Safe

Seen something suspicious or have information about a crime or incident? Please [contact us online](#), email us at 101@sussex.pnn.police.uk or call 101.

Alternatively you can contact the independent charity Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555 111, or online at www.crimestoppers-uk.org