MOUNTAIN HEALTHCARE

West Midlands Regional CYPSAS

West Midlands Child & Young Person's Sexual Assault Service (CYPSAS)

Delivered by Martyne Roberts Engagement Officer

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ABOUT US

West Midlands CYPSARS offers 24/7 access to specialist advice, holistic assessments, medical care & forensic examinations for children and young people in the West Midlands, up to 18 years old who have experienced recent or non-recent sexual abuse.

We also support young adults up to 25 years that present with complex/ additional needs.

We operate a central (Acute) clinic, as well as (Non-Recent) clinics located across the West Midlands region.

We deliver our service jointly with various agencies across the region, this includes 14 Local Authorities, 4 Police Force areas and 6 Integrated Care Systems (ICS)

Our single point of contact is Mountain Healthcare's Pathway Support Service (PSS) which operates 24/7

0808 196 2340 or 0330 223 0099

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MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT SARC…

- *A SARC examination is traumatising for a CYP*
- *A SARC examination is intrusive for younger children*
- *It's out of the forensic window period*
- *A SARC medical can confirm that a CYP has been sexually abused*
- *A SARC medical is always in the child's best interest*
- *SARC can see children who are under 13 for STI screening only*
- *SARC can provide an outcome on forensic evidence taken by police*
- *SARC can't refer children we don't see for therapeutic support*
- *Non-disclosure from a child cannot be discussed with the SARC*

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CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WE CAN SUPPORT…

We will see **any** CYP in the West Midlands region who has been exposed to sexual harm,

This includes:-

- ✓Suspicion of Sexual Assault
- ✓A CYP or their sibling that has made a disclosure of sexual assault such as digital, vaginal, oral or anal penetration, sexual kissing or touching
- ✓A CYP who has a Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) anogenital warts, herpes, chlamydia or gonorrhoea
- ✓Symptoms with a relevant history of concern
- ✓An anogenital injury which appears suspicious
- ✓Child Sexual Exploitation
- ✓Sexualised behaviour or any other behaviour changes with a relevant history of concern
- ✓Adults aged 18-25 who present with complex or additional needs.

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SARC REFERRAL PATHWAY

Initial report is made to police and/or Social Care

→

Strategy Meeting convened and attended by MHL to assess: -

- Urgency of examination/ forensic timeframes
- Need for CP medical
- Immediate health needs
- Pregnancy risk
- HIV, Hep B & STI & EHC

→

Appointment arranged in the Acute or Non-Recent clinic

→

Examination (with reference to the Faculty of Forensic & Legal Medicine guidelines for urgency). Attendance should be with police and or social care in ALL cases **except self referral (13 plus only).**

↓

All cases are audited and reviewed by MDT at SARC the following working day, and onwards referrals are completed

Additional information:

Under	-	13's & CYP's with complex needs will be seen by a forensic doctor (FME)
Over 13's	-	will be seen by a forensic nurse (FNE)
Non-recent	-	Clinics led by (FME) irrespective of age

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MEDICINE TIMEFRAMES

HIV

- HIV Pep can be given up to 72 hours post incident.
- BASHH guidelines are followed to assess whether the medication is required, however this is a case-by-case basis.
- The sooner the person starts the medication, the more effective it will be.
- The clinician will run through risk vs benefits with the young person and/or their family/carer

Hep B

- This is a course of 3 injection, the initial one needing to be given within 7 days post incident.
- Follow ups will be arranged with sexual health/GP depending on the age of the patient

Emergency Contraception

- There are two types of EC we can give on site, Ella One (ulipristal) and Levonelle (levongestral)
- Levonelle can be given up to 72 hours, or 96 hours off licence
- Ella one can be given up to 120 hours post incident.
- Neither have 100% efficacy – the IUD should always be considered as gold standard.

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SELF-REFERRALS

- Available 13 years + without Parental Consent (Gillick Competent)
- Will be offered the same opportunities and support that Police referrals receive
- Exhibits are anonymised and will be stored onsite for 2 years
- Initial account statement will be completed by the examiner
- SARC can support in reporting to Police at a later date
- Only seen during daytime hours usually 9-5
- All Self Referrals will be safeguarded in line with MHL policy

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WHY ITS IMPORTANT WE ATTEND STRATEGY MEETINGS…

- The decision to examine a child should be a multi-agency decision.
- The Strategy Meeting allows us to gather detailed background information relating to the disclosure or concern, agencies supporting the CYP, social care history, health history and needs, criminal history, education information and any presenting risks or vulnerabilities. This level of detail allows us to prepare and tailor the CYP's experience at SARC, and we can also be particularly vigilant where there are ongoing concerns.
- We can assess any urgent health needs that may need review prior to attendance or consider joint Child Protection & Child Sexual Assault medicals where indicated.
- By gathering all this information prior to attendance, it will streamline the referral and booking process and minimise the need for professionals to relay detailed information to SARC. It will also reduce the examination time..
- Supports internal safeguarding procedures and allows oversight of agreed safety plans.
- Being told timeframes and understanding them is essential to the advice we offer.
- The Strategy & Safeguarding Manager will attend all Strategy meetings convened Monday – Friday 9am-5pm, for evening or weekend meeting's the on call FME will attend. Could you please ring Mountain Healthcare first to notify us of the Strat and then send over the link as the email is not manned 24/7.
- The Strategy and Safeguarding role has had a positive impact on Multi-Agency working and ensuring that we can offer the best possible service for CYP's, we can also offer advice for cases that don't meet our examination criteria

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THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CP & CSA MEDICAL'S

- A **Child Protection (CP)** examination is carried out when there is concern or disclosure a CYP has been physically abused or neglected, and it aids in the assessment of the CYP's welfare. The paediatrician should briefly visualise the anogenital area but is not equipped or experienced to complete a specialist examination for sexual abuse or assault.
- A **Child Sexual Abuse (CSA)** examination is carried out where there is a disclosure or suspicion of sexual harm. A Forensic Practioner will gather any forensic evidence which is available, undertake STI screening for under 13's, provide emergency contraception, refer for emotional support and provide reassurance to the CYP and carers where possible.
- A (**CSA**) examination differs from a clinical examination, which aims to establish what is medically wrong with the CYP and what treatment may be required.
- We can offer joint examinations where there are concerns of sexual abuse and/or physical harm/ neglect, but it is essential that a strategy discussion is held beforehand
- Out of SARC examinations can be offered when a child is too unwell to be transported to SARC or in cases where there may be a welfare or security risk.

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FORENSIC TIMEFRAMES

“Every contact leaves a trace” **(Edmond Locard’s exchange principle)**

Each case will be considered individually, this is for guidance purposes only and is updated regularly by the Faculty of Forensic & Legal Medicine (FFLM).
It is always best practice to discuss with an examiner.

- **Mouth swabs and rinse – 48 hours**
- **Anal swabs – 72 hours**
- **Vaginal swabs (post-pubertal) 7 days**
- **Bloods for toxicology – 72 hours**
- **Urine for toxicology – 120 hours**
- **Skin if washed – 48 hours, if not washed up to 7 days**
- **Pre pubertal children – 48 - 72 hours**

More details can be found at:

https://fflm.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Recommendations-for-the-collection-of-forensic-specimens-FSSC-Jan-2022.pdf

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Our clinics…
(Acute) clinic 24/7/365 (up to 21 days post exposure)
(Non recent) clinics operate Monday- Friday (21 days plus post exposure - prebooked appointments only)

Willow Tree
CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S SARC

ACUTE CLINIC
Darlaston
Every day
24/7/365
90-minute turnaround

GRANGE PARK
Stoke
ST6 2JN
Thursday
09.00-17.00

Horizon
Birmingham
B36 8DB
Monday
09.00-17.00
Friday

the glade
Worcester
WR6 5JD
Tuesday
09.00-17.00

blue sky centre
Nuneaton
CV10 7DJ
Wednesday
09.00-17.00

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WILLOW TREE SARC (Acute)

Pre-Exam Room

Examination Room

Post Exam Room

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ABOUT THE EXAMINATION…

Each examination will take approximately 2-4 hours and can include...

- Medical & developmental history which is approximately 1 hour
- Holistic assessment including Top-to-toe examination, height/ weight & body mapping of any injuries
- Anogenital observation and examination, with the use of a colposcope
- Forensic sampling (Acute)
- STI screening (and follow up testing under 13's), we test for herpes, chlamydia, gonorrhoea, hepatitis B, syphilis and HIV.
- Assessment for Pregnancy, HIVPEP, EHC & Hep B
- Risk assessment (CSE, self-harm, mental health, domestic violence, non-fatal strangulation etc)
- Observation of interaction with caregiver and documentation of any concerns
- Assessment and referrals for ongoing health needs (urgent or routine)
- We will provide refreshments, a care pack and have shower facilities and replacement clothing is available
- Medical report will be provided for all under 13's within 21 days. For over 13's a report will be written if requested for court.

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HELPFUL TIPS BEFORE COMING INTO SARC

- We need to know who has Parental responsibility
- Parent and or Child Consent
- Social worker ideally will have some history of the child
- Ideally the SARC will be invited to join the Strat meeting to gather more information about the child before examination
- If CYP is sexually active and they are 16-17 they can attend the adult SARC
- We are not here for just STI screening
- We will not be able to say whether the patient has been abused
- In all self-referral cases an interpreter will not be provided by Police or Social Care but the SARC does have access to Language Line.

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ONWARD REFERRALS & CARE

Referrals that are made for all CYP's seen at SARC:

- Safeguarding (check social worker allocation)
- Designated paediatricians (information sharing)
- A three week follow up call from a clinician

Case dependent referrals: (Consent required)

- GP for outstanding medical needs (STI treatment, referrals to CAMHS etc)
- (Ch)ISVA
- Specialist Sexual Violence Counselling of 6-15 sessions
- GUM (routine screening for over 13's and urgent access for IUD's and STI treatment if symptomatic)

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THERAPEUTIC SUPPORT (Up to 15 sessions)

- Specialist counselling for CYP's or family members, commissioned directly by the CYP SARS to specialist sexual violence organisations in the West Midlands
- An initial telephone (within 72 hours) to gain a full understanding and the gathering of information about the CYP and family
- Follow up on any identified or outstanding safeguarding concerns by contacting the relevant professionals
- CYP and family can access counselling for emotional support when there is an ongoing police investigation (e.g. pre-trial).
- Sessions are provided in bespoke counselling rooms or virtually
- Referrals can be made to longer term therapeutic support following the completion based on individual assessment and needs (waiting lists will apply service dependant)

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RCCWM
Rape Crisis Consortium West Midlands

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HOW TO GET IN TOUCH

- Anyone can call our service, we have lots of calls from Healthcare Professionals, Young People and Families, however if the child is under 13, professionals must contact Children's Social Care to ensure the CYP is safeguarded and so they can refer into SARC for examination. If the child is in immediate danger or there is a clear disclosure, Police should also be called immediately
- If the CYP is 13 or over, you can still contact the Police and Social Care, but they can also self-refer
- Every child or young person that attends SARC will be referred to children's social care, as part of our safeguarding procedures.
- All acute cases **will** require a Multi-Agency Strategy Meeting, this is also best practice for non-recent cases.

24/7 number:

0808 196 2340

In the unlikely event of an issue with the telephone network, our backup telephone numbers are as follows:
Switchboard: **0330 223 0099/** Mobile: **07795901631/** Website: www.westmidscyps.co.uk

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FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- Please visit our website at https://westmidsregionalcypsas.co.uk/ you can download useful leaflets for professionals, children and families to help them to prepare for a visit to SARC.

- In acute cases where possible, please advise CYP's to refrain from washing or brushing teeth etc. Dependant on the type of assault, this will help to retain forensic evidence.

- Consideration should be given to clothing, sanitary wear, toilet tissue, bedding or any other items or objects that may support a forensic opportunity.

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Finally, Mountain Healthcare Ltd - who we are

- **Specialist healthcare provider for sexual offence services and police custodial healthcare including the West Midlands**
- **Largest SARC provider in the UK (All managed contracts are registered with the Care Quality Commission)**

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How to get in touch….

24/7/365 - 0808 196 2340 or 0330 223 0099

(Advice, Referrals, Strategy Meeting and Training Requests)

wmppaeds.sarc@nhs.net

website - https://westmidsregionalcypsas.co.uk/

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