



Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Safeguarding Children Boards

Child Protection Medical Briefing March 2018

New arrangements for Child Protection Medicals effective from

April 1st 2018

Child Protection Medical Arrangements for North and South Staffordshire including the Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC)

As of the 1st April 2018, a new hub and spoke model will be operating across Staffordshire, the West Midlands, West Mercia and Warwickshire for those children who either disclose rape or sexual assault, or where there is reason for concern about possible sexual abuse.

The **West Midlands Paediatric Sexual Assault Service** provides a holistic medical assessment and care for children under the age of 18 who either reside in the area, are a looked after child in the care of the Local Authority within the area or are a victim of an offence committed in the area.

The service includes:

- Physical examination by specialist Paediatrician
- Collection of forensic DNA evidence
- Screening and treatment for Sexually Transmitted Infections
- Emergency contraception, HIV PEPSE and Hep B immunisation
- Counselling and support package
- A detailed safeguarding report in every case
- Crisis worker support
- Bespoke counselling referral offered

The service is available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, 365 days per year, includes telephone advice for professionals and input Strategy discussion.

Where is this service available?

The revised model will consist of 1 Acute hub and 5 spokes. The Acute hub is located in the [Horizon Centre](#), Ida Road, Walsall and the 5 spokes are located as follows:

- [Grange Park](#), Cobridge, Stoke-on-Trent (see contact details below)
- [New Cross Hospital](#), Wolverhampton

- [Blue Sky Centre](#), George Eliot Hospital, Nuneaton
- [Oasis Suite](#), Birmingham Children's Hospital, Birmingham and;
- [The Glade](#), Bransford, Worcester.

The Acute Hub will operate on a 24/7 basis with a 90 minute rapid response, with experienced forensic paediatricians concentrating on cases where rape has occurred within the last 7 days; where oral/digital penetration has occurred within the last 3 days or where the multi-professional strategy discussion indicates a more immediate assessment is in the best interests of the child.

The non-acute spoke clinics (non-forensic) will provide medical examinations and holistic care for children where there is a concern about possible sexual abuse, but the concern is not deemed to be within the forensic window (non-recent). Appointments are offered on set weekdays between 9am and 5pm.

- Oasis Suite – Monday (Friday if a bank holiday)
- The Glad – Tuesday
- Blue Sky Centre – Wednesday
- Grange Park – Thursday
- New Cross Hospital Friday

Furthermore, each child is offered a holistic package of counselling and emotional support.

How to arrange a sexual abuse medical examination.

Anyone can make a referral/ ask for advice to the Paediatric Sexual Assault Service through the single point of contact call centre on 0800 953 4133. This applies to all of Staffordshire and Stoke- on-Trent.

Local Safeguarding Children Board policy and procedures should be followed where there are concerns about the safety of a child. This briefing sits at the back of those procedures:

Staffordshire: [Section 3C Undertaking Investigations and Assessments](#)

Stoke-on-Trent: [C02 Undertaking Assessments and Investigations](#)

If a child requires urgent medical attention for a physical injury please refer to the process set out below.

If a clinician/practitioner wishes to talk through a case (e.g. unsure if a child's actions represent sexualised behaviour or physical symptoms are of concern) the PSAS paediatricians are available 24/7 to give advice via the single point of contact telephone number: 0800 953 4133 for referrals from professionals or agencies.

Referral criteria

ALL four points must apply:

- The child is under the age of 18 years OR with a vulnerability (such as a learning difficulty, aged 18-20 with significant learning difficulties AND in full-time education

- The child is resident, looked-after child or victim of offence within catchment (area served by West Mercia, Warwickshire, Staffordshire or West Midlands Police)
- The child will have been referred to children's social care/Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)
- The child must be aware of referral and consent.

One of the following must also apply:

- The attendance of a person with parental responsibility and Police/Social worker is required to attend historic clinics or be available for a telephone consultation with the doctor on that day
- a court order with directive to examine in place
- the child is likely to be 'Gillick' competent

Contact Details for Grange Park, Cobridge. S-O-T

The office telephone number for the SARC from the 1st April is 01782 980380 – this number can be used by professionals for advice, booking video interviews, deliveries etc. There will no longer be an internal extension numbers in use in the SARC.

There will continue to be two referral routes to access the SARC service, access via the police or the self-referral route for over 18s. Those who are aged 16 and 17 self-referrals will be considered by the clinician after initial discussion with the client.

Adults who want to speak to someone about accessing the SARC can call the Self-referral line which is available 24 hours a day. The self-referral line will take the client through to our call centre where a trained call handler will re-direct the call as required. The Self-referral Line is 0800 970 0372

SARC Staff emails are as follows:

Claire Clemson SARC MANAGER: Claire.Clemson@uk.g4s.com

Amanda Broad SARC CO ORDINATOR Amanda.Broad@uk.g4s.com

Karen Finney CRISIS WORKER Karen.Finney@uk.g4s.com

Information leaflets/Flow Charts:

In order to help professionals, the latest child protection medical investigation leaflets for children, young people, parents and carers have been placed on the respective LSCB websites for you to use in your practice. The New West Midlands Paediatric Sexual Assault Referral Service leaflet also sits on both LSCB websites.

Staffordshire: [Publications](#)

Stoke-On-Trent: www.safeguardingchildren.stoke.gov.uk

Leaflets designed for children and young people can be found on the LSCB web pages using the links above.

To reference the **Staffordshire Police Sexual Offences Examination Services** Flow Chart please refer to the LSCB websites, using the links above.

HOW TO ARRANGE A PHYSICAL ABUSE MEDICAL EXAMINATION

For North Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent:

For all cases requiring a physical abuse medical examination the paediatrician on call for child protection should be contacted by Children's Social Care Services or the police via the child protection administrator on 01782 679802 between 9am-5pm Monday to Friday or through the University Hospital North Midlands (UHM) Royal Stoke University Hospital (RSUH) switch board 01782 715444.

All suspected physical examinations are conducted at the RSUH. Children who do not need urgent medical treatment, and whose safety can be assured, should ideally be seen within one of the weekday afternoon clinics, usually within 24 hours of the referral to the RSUH. There is a rota of community paediatricians who will oversee the process during normal working hours.

Out of hours:

If advice is required or it is considered that a child protection medical is required out of hours (after 5pm and at weekends and bank holidays) social workers and police officers should first contact the 1st on call for child protection, this will usually be Paediatric on call Registrar, via the hospital switchboard on 01782 715444. Child protection medicals should usually only be undertaken out of hours if the child requires medical treatment as the priority need

For South Staffordshire:

All examinations relating to physical abuse should as far as possible, take place between 9.00am and 5.00pm. Obviously, if a child needs urgent treatment or if there is a possibility of losing evidence, a child may need to be seen outside of these times.

During working hours (9am to 5pm - Monday to Friday):

A Community Paediatrician is available by calling the co-ordinator on: **01543 441423**.

They will provide the phone number/s of the doctor on call. The paediatrician on call carries a mobile phone and will be able to talk directly or return the call as a matter of urgency. The examination will usually take place either in Stafford (The Bridge) or Burton (East Staffordshire Children's Centre) depending on which paediatrician is on call. At the strategy discussion and by mutual agreement between the paediatrician and social worker, examination at other venues may also be possible.

During out of hours (5pm to 9am, weekends and bank holidays)

Cover is provided by the Paediatric Departments for each safeguarding locality teams as follows:

- Burton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust – for Burton, Lichfield, Tamworth
- Royal Stoke University Hospital – for Stafford and the surrounding area
- Royal Wolverhampton– for Rugeley, Cannock and South Staffordshire (Codsall) locality.

Under no circumstances should a child be taken to or sent directly to the paediatric ward or A&E department without prior communication with the doctor who will be carrying out the examination. Please ask the switch board operator to contact the registrar on call for Paediatrics / Child Protection to discuss the case and arrange an examination at:

- **Burton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust – 01283 566333**
- **Royal Stoke University Hospital - 01782 715444**
- **Royal Wolverhampton Hospital – 01902 307 999**