

West Yorkshire Child's Safeguarding Partnership Briefing

West Yorkshire Paediatric CSAAS (Children's Sexual Abuse Assessment Service)

Dear whom it may concern,

I am contacting you from the West Yorkshire Paediatric CSAAS (Children's Sexual Abuse Assessment Service), also known to many professionals as the Paediatric SARC (Sexual Assault Referral Centre). As a service we see children and young people (aged 0-15 years old), or under 18 years old if complex needs, who have disclosed or there is professional concern of rape, sexual assault, or abuse.

We offer holistic examinations following acute and non-recent disclosures. In addition to holistic examinations, we also offer, and not limited to, CSE risk assessments, assessment of mental health, onward referrals to wider organisations and baseline STI screening. If an acute incident has occurred (0-14 days ago) and the child is aged 15 and under, they will be seen within our acute paediatric clinic. This is currently based at the Hazlehurst Centre in Morley, Leeds. Our clinic hours are Monday-Saturday (10-6pm) and Sundays/Bank Holidays (11-4pm). However, our Pathway and Support Service (PSS) is open 24/7 where a clinician will be available to provide advice.

We also offer a non-recent service. Our non-recent service is based at the Hazlehurst Centre, in Morley, Leeds. The clinic runs Monday-Friday (exception of weekends and Bank Holidays), where typically appointments are booked for 10am. Our non-recent services see children and young people who have disclosed rape, sexual assault, or abuse which has occurred post 14 days ago. It is important to note, we are not just about the forensics. We offer holistic examinations following an incident to ensure a child or young person's needs are met moving forward.

Please note, if at the time of a referral there are concerns of both physical and sexual abuse as well as neglect, we would advise for a joint examination to occur with local paediatricians alongside our SOEs (Sexual Offence Examiners) to ensure both a child protection medical assessment and a sexual abuse medical are conducted at the same time. We would encourage this to be completed jointly, to avoid a CYP having to endure two examinations. Please note a child protection medical assessment and sexual abuse medical are not the same.

I wish to create a strong relationship with all local Safeguarding Partnerships to ensure agencies are fully aware of our service and how we can best support children and young people, all whilst multi-agency working.

Given the nature of why a child or young person is attending our service and the safeguarding concerns that comes with that, we require a Strategy Discussion/Meeting to be held prior to a patient's attendance to SARC. Please can I highlight the importance of Mountain Healthcare Limited, MHL (provider of West Yorkshire Paediatric SARC) being involved in such strategy discussion/meetings when there has been a disclosure or professional concern of sexual abuse. We are fortunate enough in West Yorkshire to have a Strategy & Safeguarding Manager in post, who has capacity to attend strategy meetings.

PLEASE NOTE:

The inbox pss.paediatrics@nhs.net is no longer in use, please update your correspondence lists to hazlehurstcentre.paediatric@nhs.net, FAO Anjalee Riyat for any Strategy Meeting requests.



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When you are working with a child or young person who has made a disclosure or you have a professional concern that the child or young person has been sexually abused, please ensure to contact Mountain Healthcare on 0330 223 0099.

If you feel your local authority would benefit from further training from myself regarding the SARC/CSAAS service and how we support our patients, please do not hesitate to contact me on Anjalee.riyat@mountainhealthcare.co.uk or our Paediatric Services Lead on Emily.callaghan@mountainhealthcare.co.uk.

Sincerely,

Name: Anjalee Riyat

Position: West & North Yorkshire Strategy and Safeguarding Manager

Email: Anjalee.riyat@mountainhealthcare.co.uk

Phone number: 0330 223 4662 (Monday-Friday 9am-5:30pm) / 0330 223 0099 (Monday – Sunday 24/7).