

## **Children's Safeguarding Partnership Briefing**

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.

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 Coordinator in post, who has capacity to attend all strategy meetings.

**Number of Strategy Meetings, MHL invited to, by Wakefield Authority in July-September 2022: 5**

**Number of patients that attended for an examination in July-September 2022: 11**

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 MHL on 0330 223 0099.

Our clinic hours are Monday-Saturday (10-6pm) and Sundays/Bank Holidays (11-4pm). However, we are open 24/7 where a clinician will be available to provide advice.

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 [emily.callaghan2@nhs.net](mailto:emily.callaghan2@nhs.net).

Kindest regards,  
Emily Callaghan  
West & North Yorkshire Paediatric Services Lead