Concern about child sexual abuse (CSA) identified

Contact children’s services by telephone and submit SAFER referral form the same day

 Referral received by first contact officers / (EDT out of hours)

**INITIAL STRATEGY DISCUSSION**

Initial strategy should include practitioner that made referral, consider indicators of CSA, timeframe, next course of action, supervision of child. **All suspected cases of FGM to be referred to the Great North Children’s Hospital (GNCH, within the RVI).**

**Where there is professional disagreement of any actions from strategy follow escalation processes**

Alternate course of action in relation to CSA/FGM, see Tess procedures [FGM](http://www.teescpp.org.uk/female-genital-mutilation)

**Acute cases** (disclosure <7days) social worker/police to contact GNCH to arrange medical

**Historical Abuse** (> 7days following disclosure) refer to identified hospital (South Tees) and social worker /police contact nominated paediatrician to arrange medical

Children to be seen by paediatrician up to 16th birthday. Where vulnerable ie; Looked after child, learning disabilities this can include children up to 18yrs. Over aged 16 years may choose to be seen in adult SARC.

Arrange to attend Clinic
for medical assessment. Refer on to appropriate support services via the Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC). Follow up as required with medical services

MEDICAL PRACTITONERS

Role of A&E, other medical staff and general paediatrician is to assess immediate health needs of child-NOT to provide forensic opinion as to whether the child has been abused.

Child presents to A&E

* A&E Consultant to refer to Paediatric Consultant who will take appropriate action

Child presents to GP, concerns about genital symptoms/ injury, no disclosure of sexual abuse

* Should contact the local paediatrician for advice and same day assessment to the paediatric day unit where appropriate
* Can contact the Paediatric Forensic Network tertiary referral centre by telephone for advice

**SIMULTANEOUS REFERRAL TO SOCIAL SERVICES**

**PFN-GNCH WITHIN RVI: 0191 282 4753 (8.30-5PM), 5PM-8.30AM ring switchboard 0191 261 6161 ask for on call doctor for PFN**

**HISTORIC MEDICALS: Consultant Community Paediatrician Catie Hiley, South tees: 01642 850850 ext 54348**