

Regional Referral Pathway for Child Sexual Abuse / Assault Forensic Medical Assessment

The aim of a medical assessment is to meet the **medical/sexual health and forensic needs** of the child/young person. If there are concerns about sexual abuse, sending patients to the Emergency Department (A&E dept) or GP is **never** appropriate **unless they are medically unwell**. See flow chart below for appropriate service.

Patient Information Video Ctrl + click: [PFN Charlie Video](#)

Patient and User information: <https://www.newcastle-hospitals.nhs.uk/services/great-north-childrens-hospital/children-and-young-peoples-clinic/>

In paediatric services:

- Patients are always seen by a female doctor.
- They are rarely seen in the middle of the night as this is not in their best interests (FFLM RCPCH guidance).
- Pre-pubertal children **never** have an invasive examination.
- The children/ young people & carers are **always** able to stop the assessment at any time & are distracted during the process, which is conducted in an unhurried, sensitive manner.
- Young people may be seen up to 18 years old if they:
 - Have learning disabilities.
 - Are fostered (Children in Care / Looked After) **and** have special needs.
- Young people 16 years or older, & not in the categories above, are seen by **Adult SARC** service.

Concerns that child /young person (CYP) has been sexually abused/ assaulted.

YES

Child/ young person less than 16 years old?

NO

Sexual abuse is likely to have occurred within the last 7 days

In pubertal YP if allegation of penile/vaginal penetration discussion with PFN should be considered up to 10 days

YES

Paediatric Forensic Service 24/7

- Referrer to make referral to the local children's social care and/or Police by telephone.
- Children's social care / Police to contact PFN to arrange assessment.
- Will be seen on the **same day or the following day** at **Sycamore Place, GNCH (Level 3 New Victoria Wing, GNCH, Victoria Rd, NE1 4LP)**.
- C/YP are accompanied by a social worker and/or Police officer

Office hours: **0191 282 4753**
Out of Hours: **0191 233 6161**

Ask for the paediatric consultant on call for child sexual abuse

NO

Non Recent CSA-local service – Office hours

- Contact local non-recent CSA service
- Will be seen **within a few weeks** at local clinic.

Durham 0191 387 6371

cddft.communitypaediatricsnorth@nhs.net

Newcastle & Gateshead

0191 282 4753

nuth.nepaediatricforensicservice@nhs.net

Northumberland & North Tyneside

0344 811 8111 & ask for the Child Protection consultant on call

South Tyneside & Sunderland

0191 569 9012

stsft.ccsunderlandreferrals@nhs.net

Teesside area 01642 854 868

stees.childprotectionreferrals@nhs.net

16 – 18 years old

Contact Adult SARC 24/7 on 03302230099