

Referral Process to Specialist Forensic Paediatric Service

Acute cases

Child Sexual Abuse (or suspected Child Sexual Abuse) reported where offence is current, with opportunity for Forensic Sampling or Documentation of Injuries.

Chronic Abuse cases

Child Sexual Abuse (or suspected Child Sexual Abuse) reported, with no opportunity for Forensic Sampling.



Strategy Discussion held within MASH (between 0800-2000 hours)

Conducted within best practice timeframes of notification being received.

Minimum agencies Children's Social Care, MASH Health Team, Police; and the current SARC/Forensic Paediatric service provider (Mountain Healthcare Limited).

The discussion will identify whether forensic evidence from a SARC referral is required and is in the best interests of the child/young person. If not, there should be a referral to the SPFSC unless there are specific reasons as to why this is not in the interest of the child or young person.

[Outside of MASH hours then Social Care Emergency Duty Team to hold strategy discussion with Police Lead at that time and the current SARC/Forensic Paediatric service provider (Mountain Healthcare Limited)].

Mountain Health Care switchboard contact number - 0330 2231202



SARC referral requested

- by Police (Joint agency investigation)
 - by Social Care (single agency)

Request must be authorised by MASH Detective
Sergeant (or where not available between 08001800 hours Public Protection Department
DI/DCI; between 1800-0800 hours on call
DI/DCI) in both cases before referral to SARC.

Referral to BCH Specialist Paediatric

<u>Forensic Service Clinic</u> (current contractor – Mountain Health Care)

<u>Cambridgeshire Clinic – Thursday or Sunday</u>

Bedfordshire Clinic - Tuesday or Friday

Hertfordshire Clinic – Monday or Wednesday

Cambridgeshire Phone - 0330 223 1202

Bedfordshire Phone – 0330 223 1012

Hertfordshire Phone - 0330 223 1561



If there is no referral or the child/young person refuses consent, then professionals should ensure the child knows how to access any additional medical or other services they may require.