



One Minute Guide: Trauma Aware Planning For Child Sexual Abuse

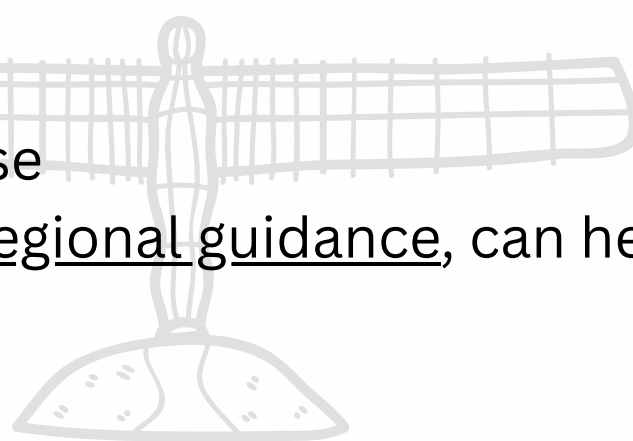
What to do if a child discloses sexual harm

Many children and young people do not recognise themselves as victims of sexual abuse. A child may not understand what is happening, and may not realise it is wrong.

Perpetrators often reduce the likelihood of disclosure by:

- Threatening the child
- Telling them they will not be believed
- Making them feel responsible for the abuse

Tools, such as [Signs and Indicators](#), and our [regional guidance](#), can help you reflect on and explore the young person's experience.



Remember:

- A multi-agency response is essential.
- Sharing information is everyone's responsibility.
- Each agency may hold a piece of the child's story that would otherwise be missed.

What to do if a child discloses sexual harm

More [detailed guidance](#) is available here.

Whenever there are indications that a child is suffering or has suffered significant harm through sexual abuse, practitioners should:

- Listen carefully to what the child says
- Observe the child's behaviour and circumstances
- Clarify concerns without questioning
- Offer reassurance about how the child will be kept safe
- Explain what action will be taken and in what timeframe



A child must not be:

- Pressed for information
- Led or cross-examined
- Given false assurances of confidentiality

This is crucial to avoid prejudicing any police investigation.

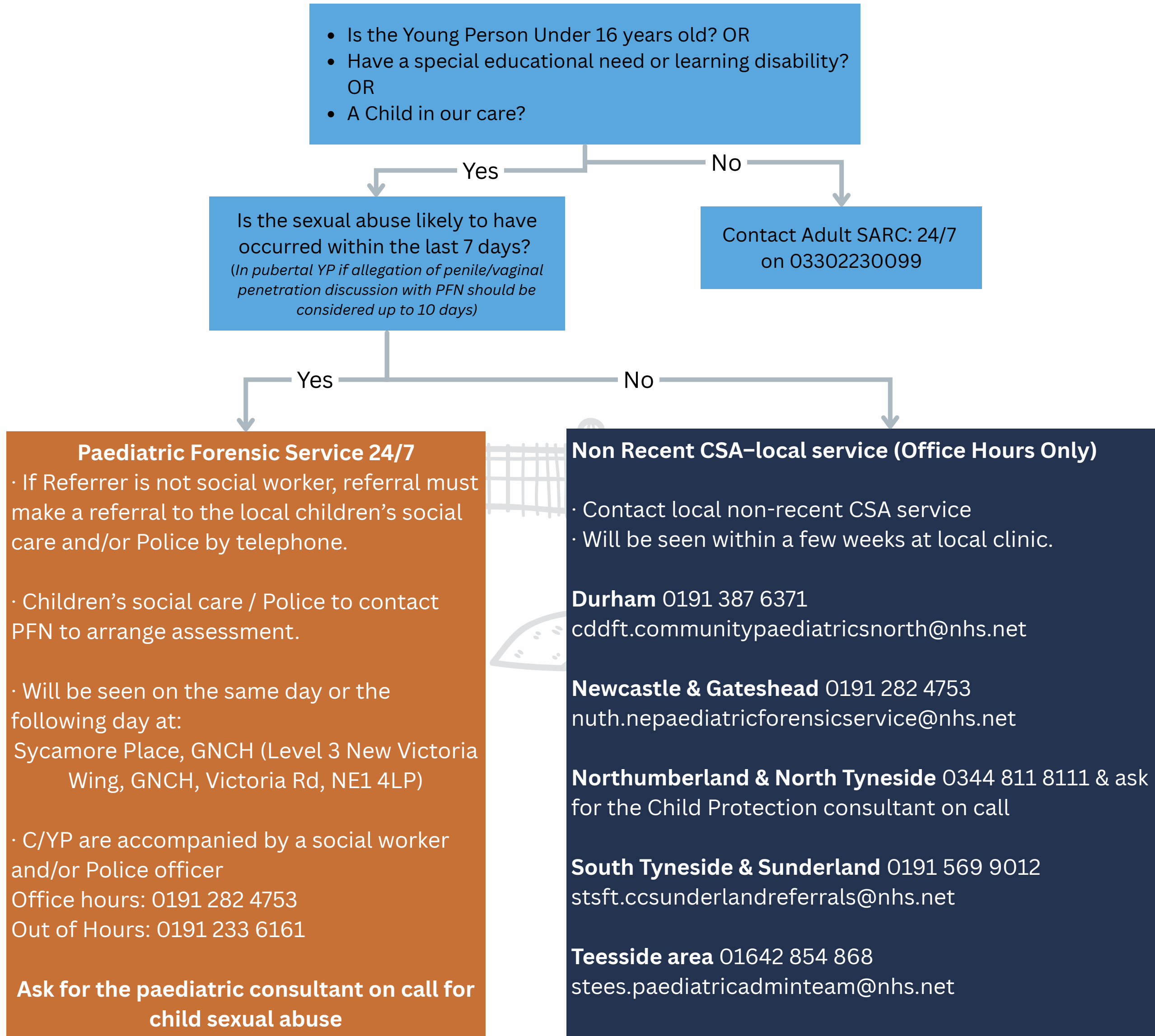
As with all disclosures of harm, follow our [safeguarding guidelines outlined here](#)



Sexual Abuse Referral Centres and Pathway

[Click here for more detail](#) around our Referral Pathway and Process

The following should be discussed in your Strategy Discussion and then actioned:



Links to Additional Resources:

- [Child Sexual Abuse Centre for Excellence](#)
- [Gateshead Safeguarding Children Partnership - Sexual Abuse](#)
- [Gateshead Safeguarding Children Partnership - Bitesize Briefing](#)
- [Northumbria Police Victim's Services Directory](#)
- [North East Regional Safeguarding Procedures - Child Sexual Abuse](#)
- [Our Practice Being the Difference: Discrepancy Matrix](#)
- [Regional Referral Pathway for CSA Forensic Assessment](#)

