

## Regional Referral Pathway for Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) 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**.

Children/young people are seen via the Paediatric Forensic Network (PFN) at the Great North Children's Hospital, RVI for recent (within 7 days) cases and in a local service for non-recent cases (over 7 days- years). **Consideration should be given** for a forensic examination up to **10 days** in penile/vaginal penetration in a pubertal young person. **Advice can always be sought from PFN.**

- **A normal examination** is a neutral finding and doesn't exclude sexual abuse including penetrative abuse.
- **The swab is not the job:** Forensic evidence is injuries (fresh or healed), sexually transmitted infections AND DNA. Non-DNA forensic evidence can be found in both recent and non-recent cases.

**YP Information Video**  
**Children's Information Video**

**Ctrl + click:** [PFN Charlie Video](#)  
**Ctrl + click:** [PFN Doctopus Video](#)

### In both services the following apply:

- Patients are always seen by a female doctor.
- Pre-pubertal children **never** have an invasive examination.
- The carers & young people are **always** able to stop the assessment at any time & are distracted during the process, which is conducted in an unhurried, sensitive manner.
- Both services see children and young people (C&YP) from 0 to their 16th birthday.
- Young people may be seen up to 18yr if they:
  - Have learning disabilities.
  - Are fostered or in care (Children who are Looked After) and have special needs.
  - YP 16 years or older & not in the categories above, are seen by **Adult SARC** service.

[Adult cases ≥ 16 years old 24/7 - Cleveland Police, Durham Police & Northumbria Police: 03302230099](#)

Sexual abuse is likely to have occurred within **the last 7 days**  
*In pubertal YP if penile/vaginal penetration discussion with PFN should be considered up to 10 days*

**YES**



### Paediatric Forensic Service 24/7

- Child/young person should be referred to the local children's services or Police by telephone.
- They will then arrange the assessment.
- Will be seen on the **same day or the following day at the Children & Young People's clinic, GNCH, RVI, Level 3 Victoria Entrance, Victoria Rd, NE1 4LP.**
- Child/young person are accompanied by a social worker and/or Police officer.



### Paediatric Forensic Network

**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.



### Non Recent Sexual Abuse Service

**Durham** 0191 387 6371

**Newcastle & Gateshead** 0191 282 4753  
[tnu-tr.nepaediatricforensicservice@nhs.net](mailto:tnu-tr.nepaediatricforensicservice@nhs.net)

**Northumberland & North Tyneside** 0344 811 8111  
& ask for the **Child Protection consultant on call**

**Teesside area** 01642 854 348

**South Tyneside & Sunderland** 0191 569 9012  
[ststf.ccsunderlandreferrals@nhs.net](mailto:ststf.ccsunderlandreferrals@nhs.net)