

Referral Process for The Ferns Paediatric SARC service (13-17 years old)

In emergency situations, if the young person does not feel safe and is at risk of immediate harm, please dial 999.

Clinical and forensic advice can be sought from Mountain Healthcare Nurses.
Tel: **0330 223 0099**

Concerns that a young person 13-17 years old has been sexually assaulted or abused (acute or non-recent)
(Any acute medical needs should be prioritised)

Assess immediate safety issues e.g. domestic abuse, child protection, mental health: refer as necessary. Post coital contraception should be given and BBV screen including HIV PEP/Hep B should be considered before attending the SARC. Please encourage the client to speak to the SARC regarding securing their evidence, prior to any swabs being taken by sexual health.

Does the young person wish to report to the police?

Contact the Police on:
101
Explain that you are reporting a sexual assault.

YES

NO

Explain what the SARC is and give the young person the SARC Leaflet.

Is there an acute forensic need?

NO

YES

Discuss with Mountain Healthcare Nurses to decide if there is a need for an immediate SARC Examination or if the examination could wait until after the strategy meeting.

Is the client happy to be referred or self-refer to the SARC?

YES

NO

For Self-Referral to the SARC,
Call: **0330 223 0099**

Remind them that they can contact the SARC at any time or the Police if they wish.

SARC Examination is recommended.

- Strategy discussion depending on concerns raised in referral to be conducted as soon as possible upon notification being received.
- To include Social Care, Police, Health and Mountain Healthcare Nurses and other relevant professionals
- **Outside of office hours:** The on-call Police Officer and Emergency Duty Social Worker should hold discussions with the Mountain Healthcare Nurses.
 - Mountain Healthcare telephone number **0330 223 0099**
 - The discussion will identify whether forensic evidence or medical examination is required and is in the best interests of the Young Person.
 - A Young Person aged 13 to 17 years can self-refer to the SARC, but a discussion should still take place between children's social care and the Mountain Healthcare Nurses.

Do forensic samples need to be taken?

YES

NO

Police should liaise with Mountain Healthcare to arrange a SARC appointment.

Police will need to attend an examination to support the process. A person who can provide parental consent should be available.

To arrange an appointment call The Ferns SARC on: **0330 223 0099**

A Social Worker or Police should liaise with Mountain Healthcare to arrange a SARC appointment.

A Social Worker or Police will need to attend the examination to support the process. A person who can provide parental consent should be available.

To arrange an appointment call The Ferns SARC on: **0330 223 0099**

**Professional disagreement
Individual and Safeguarding
Partnership escalation
policies to be followed.**

SARC Examination is not recommended.

If additional information or concerns about sexual abuse, then a further strategy discussion should be arranged.

Support needed for child/family. Consider best agency to offer support.

For info: Forensic Window

The nature of the assault will determine the collection of certain forensic samples. The below timeframes are for guidance and should **ALWAYS** be discussed with a sexual offence examiner.
Vaginal Penetration – 7 days
Anal Penetration – 72 hours
Oral Penetration – 48 hours
Digital Penetration – 48 hours
Injuries can be documented when present.
Clothing, tampons, toothbrushes, etc. can all be saved to provide evidence.
Therapeutic needs ALWAYS come before forensic samples.
Contact The Ferns SARC, if in doubt on **0330 223 0099** during office hours (9 am – 9 pm) and out of hours (for advice only).

If there is no referral to SARC or the Young person does not consent, then professionals should ensure that access to medical care and relevant support services is facilitated.

A Young Person (13-17 years) can be seen at The Ferns SARC (Monday – Sunday) (9 am – 9 pm) if in their best interests.