

Referral Pathway for Sexual Abuse Which Service?

If in doubt, discuss with Paediatric Forensic Service at RVI (see below) to identify which service should see the patient; *so that the patient's health, sexual health, forensic needs or child protection needs are not missed*. All of these issues are addressed in each setting – the **timing** of the appointment is service dependant.

In both services

- Patients are always seen by a female doctor.
- Pre-pubertal children NEVER have an invasive examination.
- The carers and young people are always able to discontinue the assessment at any time and are well distracted during the process, which is conducted in an unhurried, sensitive manner which is health lead.

Age Range:

- Both services see children and young people from 0–16.
- Young people may be seen up to 18 if:
 - they have learning difficulties
 - are in the Looked After System (fostered)
 - there are specific circumstances in which a paediatric approach would be appropriate.

Young people >16, who do not fall into these categories, are seen by the adult service. Advice can still be sought from both services for these cases.

Acute Service

For cases of sexual abuse/assault where the abuse has occurred **within last 7 days** or for **immediate advice**. Children and young people will be seen on the **same day or the following day at the RVI**. Patients are usually accompanied by a Social Worker or Police officer (SOLO – Sexual Offences Liaison Officer). Forensic DNA swabs may be taken.

Paediatric Forensic Network RVI

Office hours: **0191 2824753**

Direct number to clinic

Out of Hours: **0191 233 6161**

Ask for Paediatric Consultant on call for sexual abuse.

Historical Service

For cases where the sexual abuse/assault has occurred **more than 7 days ago or for non-time sensitive advice**. Children and young people will be seen with a **few weeks at the Children's Centre, Durham Road**. The timing of appointments is negotiable, dependant on need. Patients usually attend with their carers.

Dr Kim Barrett (consultant paediatrician)
Dr Emma Cadamy (consultant paediatrician):
Secretary: Sue Morris

Mobile: **0782 3327770**
via SRH switch board
0191 569 9012