

# A unique partnership

Delivering Best Care,  
Preserving Best Evidence

The West Midlands Paediatric Sexual Assault Service is a unique partnership between the NHS, private sector and voluntary agencies, working together to bring specialist skills and experience to deliver best care and preserve best evidence.

We are:

- Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
- The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust
- Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust
- Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust
- G4S
- Rape Crisis Centres Consortium (WMRSASC and CRASAC)

The West Midlands Paediatric Sexual Assault Service can be reached through a single point of contact telephone number:

**Tel: 0800 953 4133**

## West Midlands Paediatric Sexual Assault Service

The Glade  
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[www.bhamcommunity.nhs.uk/PSAS](http://www.bhamcommunity.nhs.uk/PSAS)



The Royal Wolverhampton   
NHS Trust

Worcestershire Health and Care   
NHS Trust

Birmingham Community Healthcare   
NHS Foundation Trust

Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership   
NHS Trust

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# West Midlands Paediatric Sexual Assault Service

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The West Midlands Paediatric Sexual Assault Service offers holistic assessment and care for children and young people under 18 years of age who are victims of rape or serious sexual assault or where there is suspected sexual abuse, including:

- Physical examination
- Collection of forensic evidence
- Screening and treatment for Sexually Transmitted Infections
- Emergency contraception
- Counselling and support package

The service is available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, 365 days per year.

## Information for Clients

Birmingham Community Healthcare   
NHS Foundation Trust

**The West Midlands Paediatric Sexual Assault Service is a region-wide service which provides expert care for children and young people who have disclosed sexual assault, or who may have been subject to sexual abuse. Our service can be accessed by children and young people under 18 years of age.**

### **Where does the service take place?**

We offer a safe, welcoming and comfortable environment which focuses on the needs of the individual. We have four centres serving the West Midlands:

- **New Cross Hospital**, Wolverhampton
- **Blue Sky Centre**, George Elliot Hospital, Nuneaton
- **Oasis Suite**, Birmingham Children's Hospital, Birmingham
- **The Glade**, Bransford, Worcester

### **Is the service confidential?**

Yes. We will treat all information that you share with us as confidential and store it safely and securely. However, there may be occasions when other agencies such as the police or social services will need to be informed if we think you are at risk of harm.

### **What happens when I am at the centre?**

#### **Crisis Worker Support**

A Crisis Worker will be available to support you throughout your time at our centre. The Crisis Worker will strive to ensure that your visit to the centre goes smoothly and will keep you informed of the procedures that will take place during your visit.

### **Paediatric Examination**

When attending our centre, you will be seen by an experienced Paediatrician who is a children's doctor with specialist training in forensic examination. They will carry out a full medical assessment. This will involve a number of questions being asked and you will be given the opportunity to ask questions too. A head-to-toe examination and samples for tests may be taken. You can say no to any part of the examination, and we will always respect your wishes.

### **Health Needs**

The doctor will see if you have any other health needs. This might include assessing whether you may benefit from emergency contraception such as the morning after pill or whether you may need any treatment to prevent infections.

### **What if I don't want to involve police or children's services?**

We do accept self-referrals, and are able to store forensic samples whilst you decide if you wish to make a police report. We will always look to ensure you are safe and this may include sharing information with other agencies.

### **What if I change my mind?**

If at any point you do not wish to carry on with the examination we can take a short break and discuss what part of the examination is left to do and see if we can get the most important information.

Even if the examination doesn't continue we will still make sure your health needs are met and that you can have aftercare support.

### **How long will I be at the centre?**

If you attend for a forensic examination the average time you will spend at the centre is approximately 2 - 4 hours.

### **Can I be tested for Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)?**

We strongly recommend that all young people who have been sexually assaulted or raped undertake a full STI test. We offer an STI screen at the time of the examination, where appropriate. For young people aged 13 years and above, we can also make an appointment for you to attend your local sexual health clinic or provide details for you to contact them directly.

### **What happens after the examination?**

You will be provided with an aftercare package which is tailored to suit you. You will be contacted to assess your needs for counselling and additional support.

### **Counselling Support**

Counselling provides a safe space to talk about what has happened to you. It is somewhere you can express your feelings and be believed, heard and accepted. You will never be pressured into talking about something you do not want to talk about. You choose what to say.

Counselling can include talking, playing and artwork, it depends what works best for you. We are specialist counsellors who are trained in talking to and supporting children and young people who have been sexually abused and understand how difficult it can be to talk about. We work with children and young people aged 5 - 17 years old and also parents and carers of children aged below 5 years old.

The counselling can take place in a number of different locations so that we can find a place that is comfortable and feels safe for you.