

The North Yorkshire Paediatric Sexual Assault Referral Centre Service (SARC)

March 2021

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 - ***Feel free to use the chat for questions***
- ***Please mute your mic and turn off your camera***
- ***Make a brew, sit back and soak up the learning!***

The North Yorkshire Paediatric Sexual Assault Referral Centre Service (SARC)

Katie Lewis – Paediatric Service Manager



Definition

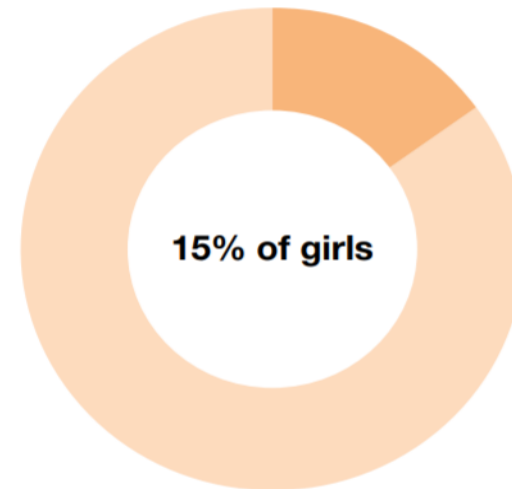
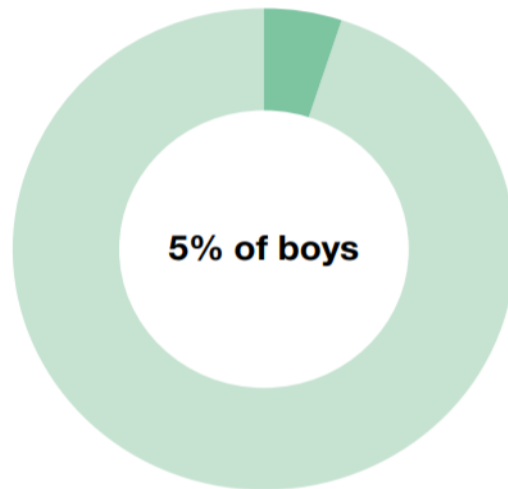
Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018): Child sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening.

The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse.

Sexual abuse can take place online, and technology can be used to facilitate offline abuse. Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

Statistics

An estimated 3.1 million people having experienced child sexual abuse in England and Wales – 700,000 men and 2.4 million women



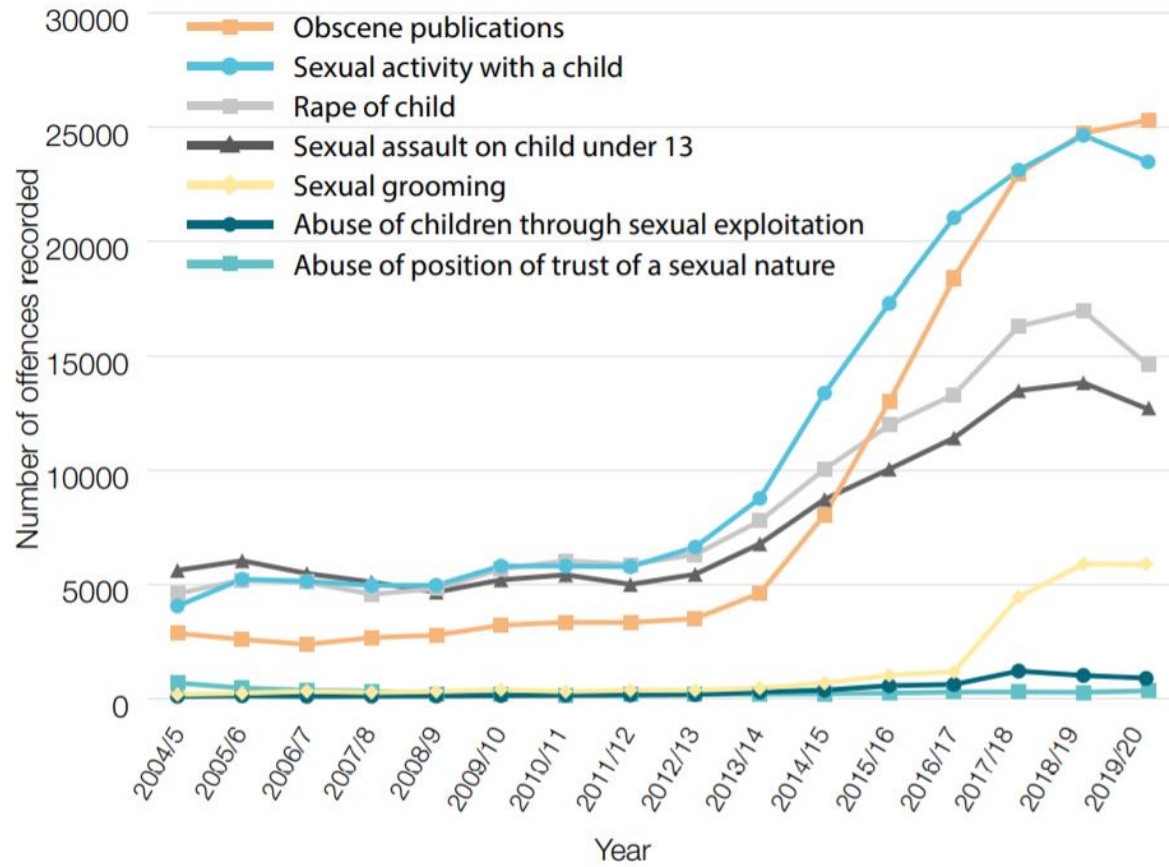
Child sexual abuse prevalence estimate drawn from CSA Centre: Measuring the scale and changing nature of child sexual abuse

Statistics cont

- We have seen steep increases in reporting of child sexual abuse to the police. Over 83,000 child sexual abuse offences were recorded by police in the year ending March 2020, an increase of approximately **267%** since 2013. Of these, around 58,000 would be considered contact offences, which have increased by **202%** in the same period.
- These figures do not capture certain sexual offences committed against 16 and 17-year-olds, such as rape, as well as sexual assault committed against children over the age of 13. Therefore actual figures are likely to be much higher.
- There were 5,116 charges for child sex offences in the year ending March 2020.
- In April 2020, the NCA estimated that a minimum of approximately 300,000 individuals in the UK pose a sexual threat to children, either through contact abuse or online.

Rising rates

Figure 5: Police recorded CSA offences in England and Wales, 2004/5 to 2019/20

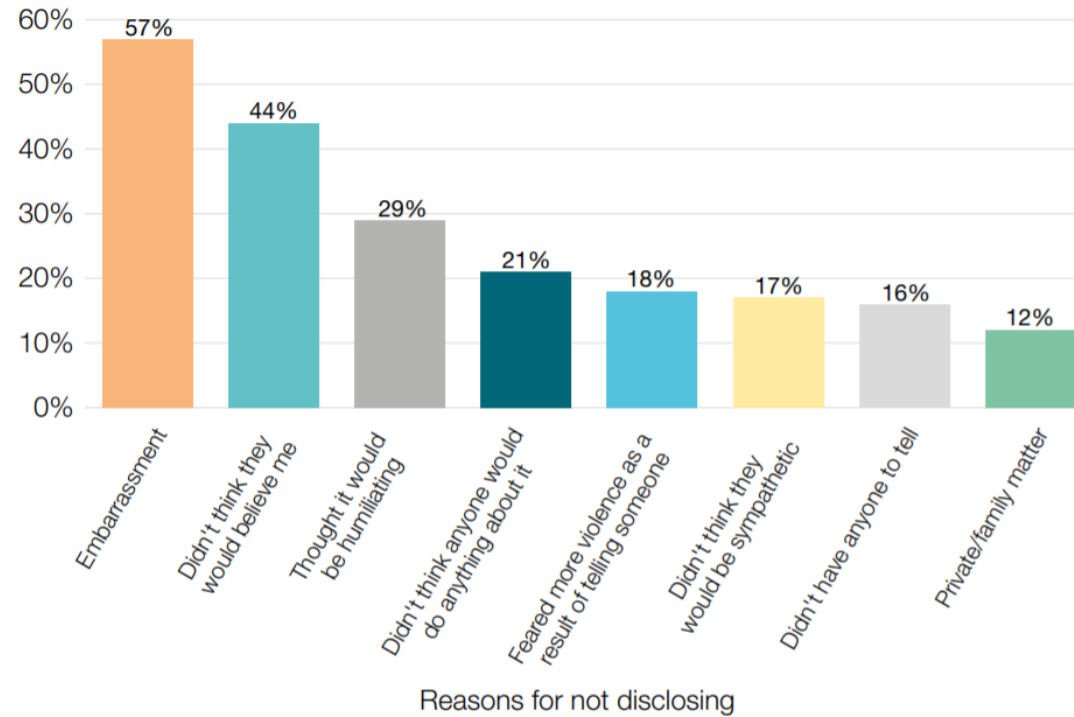


Reporting CSA

- The majority of child sexual abuse remains hidden and under-identified. Many cases victims and survivors disclose the abuse they have suffered decades later it is estimated that 76% of adults who experienced rape or assault by penetration as children did not tell anyone about their experience at the time.
- Non-recent cases (where the abuse occurred 12 or more months prior to being reported) accounted for 34% of all sexual offences against children recorded by the police in the year ending March 2019.

Reasons for not disclosing

Reasons for not disclosing abuse during childhood



Office for National Statistics: Crime Survey England and Wales
- Why adults who experienced sexual abuse before the age of 16 did not tell anyone at the time, year ending March 2019



Overview

- Mountain Healthcare are the largest SARC provider in the UK. Mountain have provided a paediatric service in West Yorkshire since 2016.
- North Yorkshire Paediatric Service:
 - Dr or nurse led service dependant on patient age. Each patient is supported by a Dr or nurse and a Crisis Worker
 - Supports patients aged from 0 to 15 years.
 - Offer an STI follow up service
 - Offer an acute and non-recent clinics

Service provision

- Acute and Non-recent clinics available
- Non-recent clinic held one day per week on a Friday (able to facilitate two appointments)
- Referrals are made the following working day. Unless urgent.
- Paediatric reports are completed
- Support ongoing Police and social care investigations

Who do we see?

- **We don't just do forensics!**
- We can offer:
 - Injury checks and documentation including body mapping
 - STI screening and follow up service
 - HIV PEPSE
 - Emergency contraception
 - Referrals to support services: Social Care, (Ch)ISVA, CAMHS, CSE support, paediatric assessment
 - Information sharing: School nurses, health visitors, GP, local paediatrician

SARC Acute or Non-Recent appointments

Acute (<14 days)

- Forensics to hand over to police (if required)
- Emergency contraception
- HIV PEPSE (<72 hours)
- General examination & documentation of injuries
- Recording of intimate area on forensic camera
- Holistic assessment
- Outward referrals
- Medical report or statement for police and/or social care.

Non-Recent / chronic (>14 days)

- General examination & documentation of injuries
- Recording of intimate area on the forensic camera
- Holistic assessment
- Outward referrals
- Medical report or statement as required

Inside the SARC – What happens?

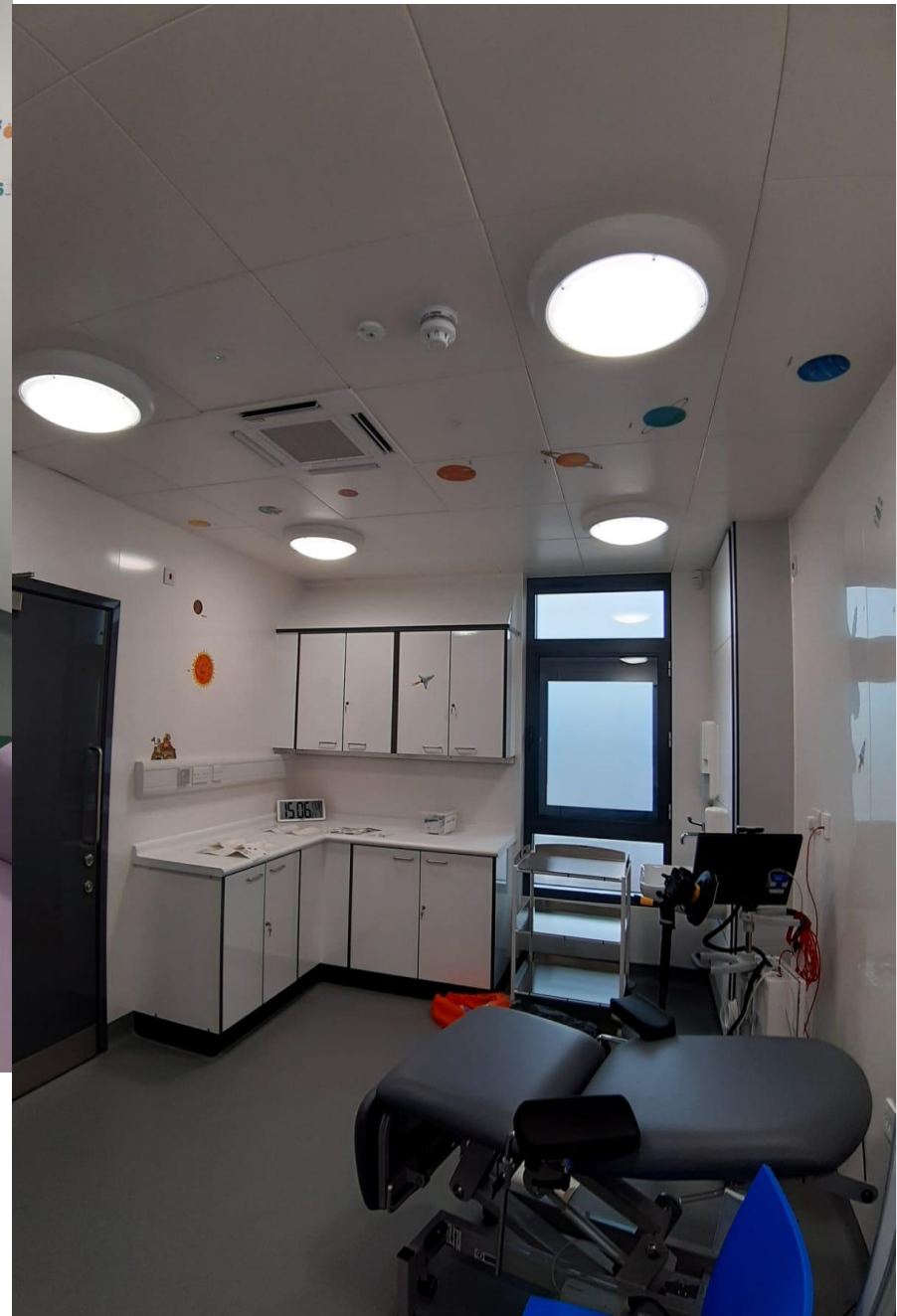
- Each patient is greeted by a Crisis Worker. They will be in child-friendly scrubs and will welcome them into a waiting room.
- The doctor or nurse will chat to the professionals present to determine what samples need to be taken/ imaging/ documentation of injuries.
- The examination will take place in the clinic room.
- An aftercare session takes place to outline referrals and complete any risk assessments.
- Handover of exhibits and/or paperwork to professionals.
- Patient can leave the SARC.
- An average appointment lasts around 4 hours.

Aftercare

- Packs made up for each client with paperwork outlining what we have done at the SARC (forensics/injury check/contraception etc), who was present in terms of professionals.
- General information – how to register with a GP/Dentist/key telephone numbers
- Stickers / pencils
- Charity donations: Lush bath bombs, pamper kits, mini beauty products, quilted blankets they can take home and keep, teddy bears to keep.

Safeguarding

- Due to the access pathways, children are usually involved with Social Services before they reach the SARC
- A strategy meeting/discussion takes place to gather key safeguarding information prior to attending SARC
- A call is made within 72 hours of the appointment to check they have been referred, and that social services are aware of SARC attendance (if attended with Police)
- 2 week holistic follow ups are completed with the family
- A medical report is sent to the allocated social worker via secure email
- Information sharing letters are sent to GP and community paediatricians



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NYSCP e-Bulletin

 **North Yorkshire**
Safeguarding Children Partnership

NYSCP e-Bulletin

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