

West Midlands Adult Sexual Assault Referral Centre Services

NHS England (Midlands) jointly commission Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) in the West Midlands region which cover:

- 6 [Integrated Care Systems](#) (ICSs)
- 14 top tier local authorities
- 4 police force areas.

Adult services are currently commissioned under two separate standalone contracts. Services are provided at named SARC locations across the region:

- Adult SARC contract for West Midlands and Staffordshire police force areas
 - Hodge Hill SARC
 - Grange Park SARC
- Adult SARC contract for West Mercia and Warwickshire police force areas
 - The Glade and Telford spoke
 - The Blue Sky SARC

Services for Children and Young People (up to and including 17 years of age) are delivered through a separate contract. This operates as a Hub and Spoke model

- acute forensic cases are seen at the *Hub* in Walsall
- non-recent cases are seen at in reach *Spoke* clinics at the
 - Grange Park SARC,
 - The Glade SARC,
 - The Blue Sky SARC
 - standalone site Oasis Suite at Birmingham Children Hospital

Commissioning and contracts

SARC services are co-commissioned with the four West Midlands Office of Police and Crime Commissioners (OPCCs) and Police Forces, with NHS England taking a lead role on the development of procurement strategy and contract management. The roles and responsibilities of the commissioning authorities are outlined in a SARC Partnership Agreement.

All SARCs are contracted using the NHS Standard Long Form Contract, General Conditions and Service Conditions.

Commissioners hold quarterly contract meetings for each contract which review Sexual Assault Referral Centre Indicators of Performance (SARCIPs), quality reports and schedule 6 reporting requirements. Additional meetings are called by exception as and when required.

What do SARCs offer?

The SARC service commissioned is an integrated clinical and forensic medical model, which provides the following benefits:

- seamless service from point of referral, through to exam, after care and follow up;

- during the medical examination, examiners complete a holistic assessment including the emotional health and wellbeing of service users, suicide risk assessment, CSE, FGM, Domestic Violence etc.
- full clinical and quality oversight and regulatory activity registration is the sole responsibility of one organisation e.g CQC and FSR which ensures governance is robust.

The majority of SARCs also have police video interview suites which enable survivors to undertake Achieving Best Evidence (ABE) interviews with the police at the SARC rather than attending a police station.

SARCs in West Midlands collaborate with the specialist sexual violence sector to commission 6-10 sessions of fast track sexual violence counselling for service users accessing their service.

The 6-10 sessions offers:

- stabilisation focused on minimising the stress of the event,
- providing emotional support
- improving coping strategies in the here and now.
- assessment, planning, and developing coping strategies
- focuses on the immediate situation including factors such as safety and immediate needs.

It is designed to be compliant with pre-trial guidance, to stabilise the survivor and where appropriate support their family members or significant others.

SARCs work closely with the Sexual Violence leads within the police force areas and safeguarding teams. They provide regular updates and training to a range of stakeholders across the region. There are various sexual violence forums across each area with SARCs and commissioners feed into.