Non-Fatal Strangulation and Sexual Assault: Improving Identification and Management

Dr. Catherine White, Clinical Director, St Mary’s SARC

Background

There is growing evidence and awareness that non-fatal strangulation (NFS) is a greater problem than previously recognised.

In the summer 2016 St Mary’s SARC focussed on NFS as an issue. To date we have:

- Set up a regional monthly multi-agency NFS meetings
- Established a referral pathway involving ENT and radiology
- Created a NFS medical proforma and patient information sheet
- Commenced a NFS FAQs
- Commenced a NFS prevalence study

St Mary’s SARC NFS checklist

St Mary’s SARC gratefully acknowledges Alliance for HOPE International for allowing us to reproduce, the Signs and Symptoms of Strangulation document. The document was accessed through the online Resource Library hosted by the Strangulation Training Institute at www.strangulationtraininginstitute.com

Preliminary Findings of NFS Prevalence Study

- 39 NFS cases identified in the 8 month period (Jun 2016 - Jan 2017)
- DASH completed in 18 cases. Mean score 15.

![NSF information leaflet](image)

![St Mary’s SARC NFS checklist](image)

![Table 1: Demographics of clients identified as NFS cases (n=39)](image)