

St Mary's Sexual Assault Referral Centre Annual Report

April 2012-April 2013



St Mary's Centre



Sexual Assault Referral Centre

Contents

	Page
Service profile	2
Mission statement	2
Welcome	3
SARC activity at a glance	4
VIP visits and international guests	5
What do our clients think of our service?	6-7
Counselling service feedback	8
St Mary's Centre in the media	9
Spotlight on children	10-11
Learning lessons from abroad	12
What is a Crisis Worker?	13
Sexual violence in the context of domestic abuse	14
Reaching for STARS	15
Education programme	16
Training and events programme 2013-2014	17
Conference success 2013	18
Meet the team	19

SERVICE PROFILE

St Mary's Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) provides a comprehensive and co-ordinated forensic, medical, counselling and aftercare service to men, women and children living in Greater Manchester and Cheshire. The service is available to those who have experienced rape or sexual assault, whether this has happened recently or in the past. In recent years, the SARC service has extended geographically.

Our Centre comprises a team of experts with a wealth of knowledge and experience in advising, supporting and treating anyone who has been raped or sexually assaulted.

St Mary's Centre places its clients' needs at the heart of its service. It is committed to ensuring that people are treated with respect and dignity and are able to assert their choice and control over the services they receive. The team provides a high quality, professional and confidential service with highly trained and skilled staff who will support clients and their significant others for as long as they need.

Our services can be accessed without having to report the assault to the police or we can support you make a report to the police.

St Mary's SARC Mission Statement

St Mary's Sexual Assault Referral Centre will care for complainants of rape and sexual assault in a manner that will address their individual therapeutic and forensic needs.

We will raise awareness around the issues of sexual violence aiming to increase understanding and consequently decrease its prevalence.



Welcome

to the St Mary's Sexual
Assault Referral Centre's

Annual Report

April 2012-April 2013.

Much of the year has been characterised by the need to respond to the opportunities and challenges that the new commissioning arrangements are starting to bring. Like many other SARCs across the UK we have been involved in discussions about these new arrangements and how we can best maintain quality and standards for victims of rape and sexual violence while at the same time recognising that funding resources are limited.

Over the year we have delivered a broad and comprehensive training and awareness raising programme for practitioners working in the field of rape and sexual assault. Police officers, forensic physicians, health professionals,

social workers and those working in the voluntary sector have all gained from the knowledge and experience of St Mary's SARC staff.

Our service has evolved too. We have a newly extended child service team, which includes a young person's advocate who specifically works with young people at risk of being sexually exploited. We have also bolstered our counselling service and recruited more crisis workers.

We hope this report will reflect some of the key developments, events and activities that have taken place over the year and give you a valuable insight into the work at St Mary's SARC.

St Mary's SARC activity 2012-2013 at a glance

This year St Mary's Centre has seen an increase in demand for our services from other areas.

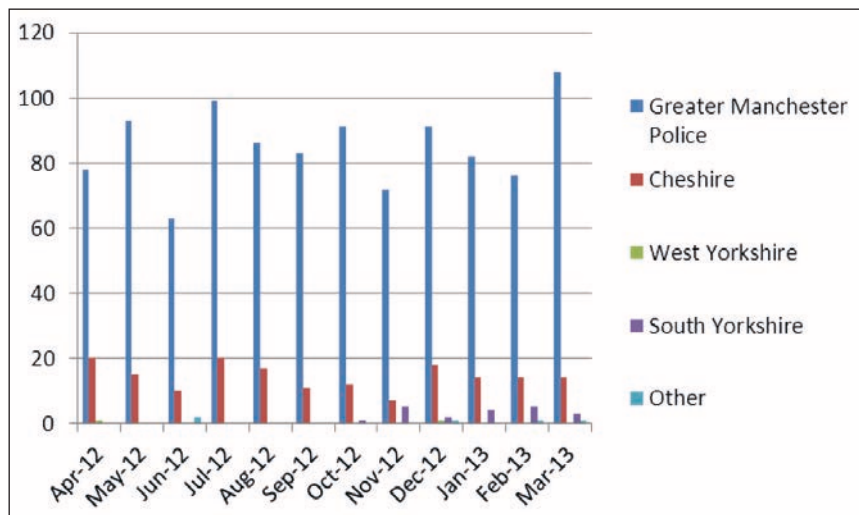
In January 2012, West Yorkshire

commissioned St Mary's Centre to provide an out-of-hours service for children living in the Leeds area. South Yorkshire commissioned a service for all children in August 2012. Derbyshire are looking to commission a service for those living in the High Peak area of the county.

We have received a small number of additional requests from other regions when there has been limited access to services in their own region, particularly in relation to paediatric cases.

St Mary's provides a range of services designed to support individuals through the initial reporting stage, criminal justice proceedings and associated issues with the aim of assisting in the long-term recovery from sexual violence.

Activity 2012-13



In this period we provided a service to 1221 men, women and children

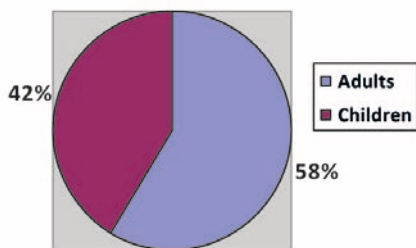
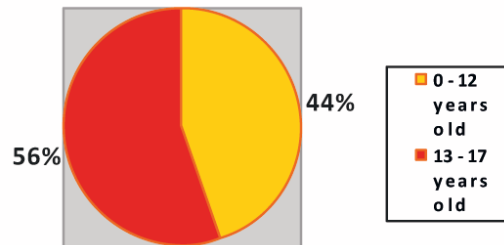


Figure 1 All Ages



Child Cases

Support includes:

- Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) support helping people through the criminal justice process and assisting in access to health and other social care services
- Those clients aged 13 and over who reside in Cheshire access the ISVA and counselling service via the Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre (RASASC). Under 13s are supported by the child advocate at St Mary's SARC and the NSPCC in Cheshire
- Counselling: The counselling service is available to children, young people and adults who have experienced sexual violence. This includes access to pre-trial therapy which meets the requirements of the criminal justice system whilst allowing victims to talk through the psychological impact of assault
- Child Advocacy support to children and families affected by sexual assault/abuse
- Young Persons Advocate working with young people who have been or are at risk of child sexual exploitation

Opening our doors to special guests

Raising awareness of the service that we offer forms part of everyday life at St Mary's SARC.

It might be that we invite prominent local politicians, specialist practitioners or people who are looking to learn more about how we run our service in order that they can improve theirs.

This year we were pleased to host a visit from Stockport MP, Ann Coffey. We invited Ann to take a look around the Centre and spend some time with us to understand how we help young people in particular. Ann has campaigned and lobbied the Government and the legal profession on the subject of child sexual exploitation which has been a key issue in her constituency.

Joining Ann was Ellen Broome, Chief Policy Officer at the Children's Society who works closely with Ann on the All Party Parliamentary Group for Missing and Runaway Children. The visit to SARC was hugely beneficial for the St Mary's team in raising awareness of the service as well as creating a positive link with both Ann and Ellen and their work with children who are at risk of being sexually exploited.

Greater Manchester's Police and Crime Commissioner Tony Lloyd, also came to visit St Mary's SARC to find out first hand how the service runs and understand some of the challenges the Centre faces in terms of resources.

He was very impressed by the service provided and continues to the support the work of the Centre.



Centre Manager, Bernie Ryan talks to Ann Coffey MP for Stockport.

International visitors

Dr Rosemary Isaacs, a recently appointed Medical Director for a sexual assault service in Sydney, Australia, spent a week with the St Mary's SARC team to understand more about the service and how it operates day-to-day.

The purpose of her visit was to gain a greater understanding of the SARC operationally so that she could help shape and inform the service in Sydney.

During her visit Dr Isaacs complemented the work of the staff and how the service was delivered. She said: "I found my time at St Mary's SARC really illuminating and incredibly useful. There are plenty of learning points that I will take back to Australia that will be extremely valuable."

Client view of the St Mary's Service

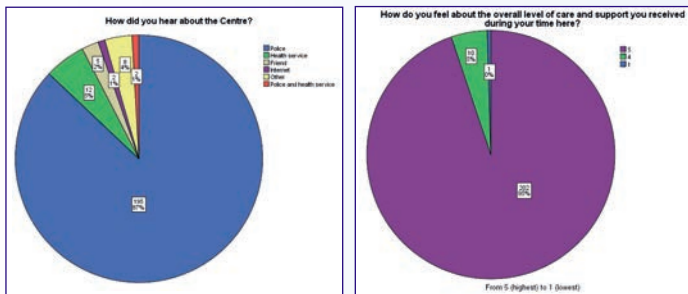
Attending the St Mary's Centre for a forensic examination following a rape or sexual assault can be daunting for clients and ensuring that the Centre is welcoming, reassuring and responsive to clients' needs is extremely important to the service.

To help measure its effectiveness and look at how improvements might be made, we asked clients to complete a feedback form at the end of their time at the Centre.

St Mary's Centre Crisis Worker, Elaine Farrell, analysed the completed feedback forms for 2012 to see what clients thought of the service. During the year, the Centre saw more than 1200 men, women and children. Of those receiving a forensic examination, 289 feedback forms were received from adults, 150 forms from children and young people and 45 forms from parents or carers.

Elaine said: "As you can imagine, the forensic examination does cause some anxiety and we all do our best to reassure clients and ensure that they feel in control and fully understand what is happening to them and why. The client feedback sheets help us to see whether we are in fact achieving this and whether we need to make any changes to make the experience more positive for people that attend."

The feedback forms showed high levels of satisfaction with the service delivered not just by Crisis Workers and Doctors but also partner agencies including the police.



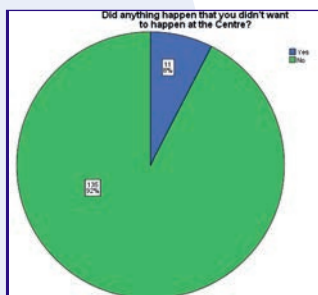
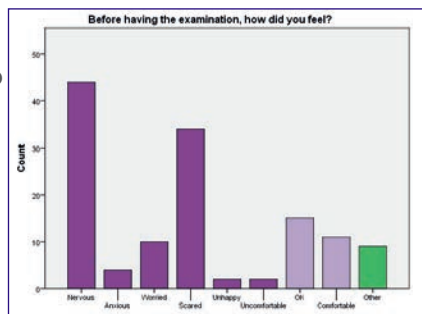
Key highlights of the responses include:

Adult respondents:

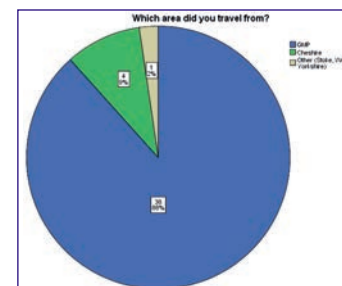
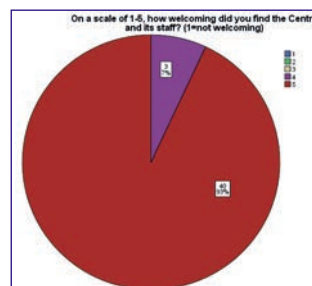
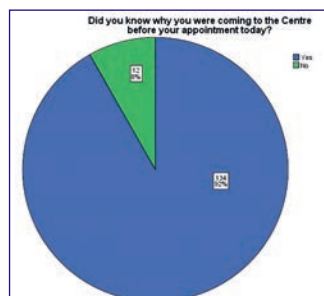
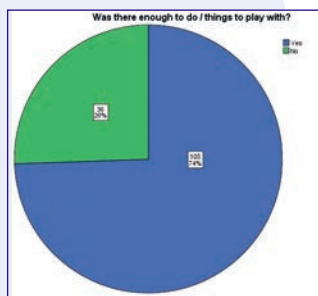
- 97 per cent said they were satisfied with the communication with the crisis worker
- 93 per cent said they were satisfied with the communication with the police officer
- 98 per cent said they were satisfied with the communication from the doctor
- 95 per cent said they were satisfied with the sensitivity shown by the crisis worker
- 92 per cent said they were satisfied with the sensitivity shown by the police officer
- 97 per cent said they were satisfied with the sensitivity shown by the doctor
- 97 per cent said they were satisfied with the information provided by the crisis worker
- 94 per cent said they were satisfied with the information provided by the police officer
- 99 per cent said they were satisfied with the information provided by the doctor
- 100 per cent said they felt they were given adequate information about the forensic medical examination
- 99 per cent said they felt they were given adequate information about sexual health
- 99 per cent said they were given adequate information about follow on services
- 95 per cent recorded high levels of satisfaction in the overall level of care and support received at St Mary's

Children's service respondents

- 100 per cent said they found the Centre welcoming
- 100 per cent said they thought the staff were friendly
- 99 per cent said the staff at St Mary's listened to them
- 99 per cent said that staff at St Mary's explained what was going to happen
- 100 per cent said that staff at St Mary's answered all their questions
- 97 per cent said they had choice and control over what happened at the Centre.

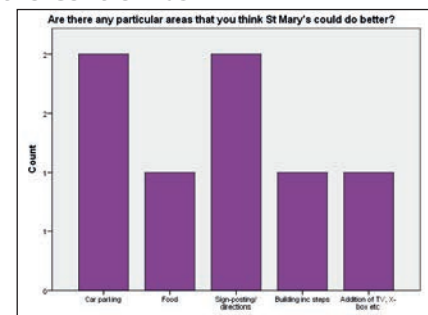


- Approximately a third of children felt nervous and scared prior to the examination taking place but just under half said they felt better afterward and 99 per cent said they were able to talk about their feelings with St Mary's staff.



Parents and carers attending with children and young people also recorded high levels of satisfaction both in the attitude of staff and the St Mary's environment.

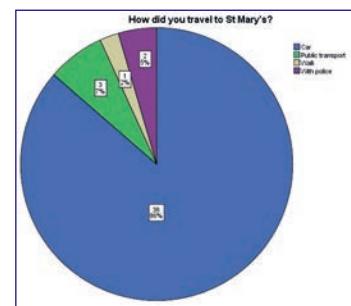
- 93 per cent recorded high levels of satisfaction in how welcoming the Centre was
- 98 per cent recorded high levels of satisfaction for the care and support received while at the Centre



Elaine continued:

"We are always looking at ways to improve the service and suggestions from clients did include better sign posting to the Centre and improved parking outside, a reduction in waiting times and making the Centre less clinical and daunting.

"We are addressing what we can and signage has improved and we are currently working on making the reception more welcoming to both clients and visitors."



See full report on our website visit [www.stmaryscentre.org/research and publications](http://www.stmaryscentre.org/research-and-publications).

Counselling service feedback at St Mary's SARC

The St Mary's Centre's team of four counsellors work with a significant number of clients throughout the year to help them overcome their experience of rape and sexual assault.

In 2012 more than 400 new clients were referred for counselling and the demand for counselling is always high.

The counselling team sought feedback on its service in order ensure it was meeting the needs of clients but to also identify ways to reduce waiting times.

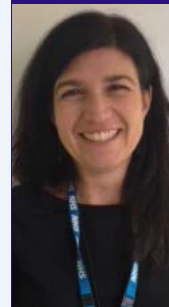
Between July 2011 and July 2012 clients at the end of their counselling sessions were asked to complete a client feedback sheet giving them the chance to provide valuable feedback on the service.

A total of 38 forms were completed and analysed. The results showed that 86% were satisfied with the service they received from their counsellor and 100 per said that counselling had helped them. The majority heard about the service either via the Police or through their GP. The internet and the SARC website were also sources of information.

Suggestions made in the feedback for improving the service included:

- Different waiting areas for men and women
- Assessment before placing on the waiting list
- Greater awareness of the service

As a result the Centre has introduced assessments for individuals which has helped to reduce the waiting times for potential clients. We are making improvements to the reception area for SARC although there is no potential for separate men and women waiting area. The Centre also works hard to improve general awareness of the services available.



Nicky
Paris



Lisa
Whitehead



Lisa
Waters



Joanne
Muccio

BBC1 DOCUMENTARY provides powerful insight into SARC services.

St Mary's SARC staff, partners, services and clients were the focus of a one-hour long BBC1 documentary that was broadcast in June 2013.

The broadcast followed almost two years of extensive research and sensitive filming of both clients and staff as they carried out their day-to-day work of supporting and helping victims of rape and sexual assault.

The film company, Goldstar Productions, was given unprecedented access to St Mary's SARC to make their film. They worked closely with the St Mary's team to ensure the documentary reflected the



Dr Catherine White and Juliet with the 'Morning' team discussing the documentary.

services available as well as providing on-going support to those who chose to tell their stories on camera.

The decision to allow such intimate access was not taken lightly by St Mary's SARC. It followed detailed consultation with staff and partners and right from the start key objectives for the film were agreed with all those taking part.

Centre Manager Bernie

Ryan explained: "We knew that this was a major opportunity for us to generate more awareness of the services available, not just in

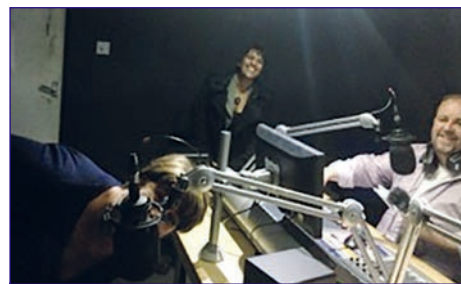
Manchester but across the UK.

However we were also mindful of the sensitivity around including clients in the film and the added complexity of any court cases that might be pending.

"On-going consultation, discussion and close liaison with the film company together with our clearly stated objectives meant we were able to address these key concerns. We had the chance to properly inform the process and the result – indeed one of our key objectives – was a film that we could all be proud of."

Following its broadcast and ensuing media coverage, the documentary received overwhelming positive response from politicians, the legal profession, commissioners, other SARCs and the general public. The film is now being used for training conducted by the Crown Prosecution Service, those working with people who have been raped and sexually assaulted and other police forces across the UK.

- At the time of going to press we have heard that the documentary has been shortlisted for the **Community Relations Campaign of the Year** in the Public Sector Communications Awards. Well done to the St Mary's SARC team, its partners and the production team, Goldstar Productions, on the nomination.



Bernie Ryan, Centre Manager, is put through her paces in a media training session with Charlotte Batra, SARC training and development officer and John Ryan, ZZY, media training (no relation).

Rape Shatters Lives Campaign Cheshire

In January 2013, St Mary's SARC helped to launch an awareness campaign in Cheshire 'Rape Shatters Lives' to encourage more people to come forward and report rape in the area.

St Mary's SARC has been delivering a Sexual Assault Service in Cheshire since April 2011 together with the Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre (RASASC). St Mary's SARC provides the forensic examination for adults and children of all ages while RASASC provides aftercare services for those aged 13 and over. This includes counselling, support and access to an Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) who provides support through the criminal justice process. Aftercare services for the under 13s is provided by St Mary's SARC. The awareness campaign by Cheshire Police

follows not just the establishment of the SARC but also the creation of its own Dedicated Rape Unit where specialist police officers have been working closely with the Crown Prosecution Service to help victims of rape and sexual abuse.

Helping to get the message across to encourage people to come forward and report rape was one victim who told her personal story of how the rape services in Cheshire helped her.

You can read her story by clicking the following link:

<http://www.cheshire.police.uk/news--appeals/latest-news/2013/01/victim-speaks-out-for-rape-cam.aspx>

Bernie Ryan, St Mary's Centre Manager, said: "Since the Cheshire SARC service opened we have seen a total of 280 cases and had an extremely positive response, not just from Cheshire residents but also from the partners that have helped develop service. "We continue to work hard to promote the service not only to partner agencies but to health professionals and those who have been raped or sexually assaulted."



Focus on the children's service

Top row: left to right, Lisa Waters, Child Service Lead and Yvonne Haworth, Young Person's Advocate

Bottom row: left to right, Dr Denise Smurthwaite, Consultant Paediatrician and Maria Roberts, Child Advocate

Our children's service first opened its doors in 2006 when St Mary's SARC began laying the foundations to provide a fully integrated, comprehensive and child-focussed service for 0-18 year olds.

Seven years on and more than 2,500 children and young people have accessed services at St Mary's Centre. Last year alone the Centre saw more than 500 children, while the majority were aged between 13 and 17, 225 were 12 and under.

In the same period the service has evolved to meet the varying demands of the children that use the Centre and, in particular, their families or loved ones.

Day-to-day management and clinical supervision of the children's service is undertaken by the Child Service Lead, Lisa Waters along with Consultant Paediatrician, Dr Denise Smurthwaite. Together they lead a team comprising a Child Advocate, Young Person's Advocate and Child Crisis Workers who all work closely together to provide an integrated service to children and young people.

As well as meeting the forensic and medical needs of the child and undertaking full medical health screening, the children's service also provides access to support and follow on services.

The Child Crisis Workers, Nicola Kharadi and Claire Fawcett and the Child Advocate, Maria Roberts, provide pivotal roles within the team. In non-acute cases Nicola and Claire contact children and their families prior to their visit to St Mary's SARC to answer any questions and explain what will happen when they arrive. They will greet them and remain with them for as long as required.

Lisa Water's Child Service Lead explained:
"As Crisis Workers, both Claire and Nicola are able to help allay any fears or anxieties that children or their families feel when they first come to the Centre. By speaking to them before they arrive and explaining what will happen when they get here, they make the experience less daunting."

Similarly, Maria Roberts, St Mary's Child Advocate, has a vital role to play in making

Our children's service first opened its doors in 2006 when St Mary's SARC began laying the foundations to provide a fully integrated, comprehensive and child-focussed service for 0-18 year olds.

sure the child's thoughts and feelings are being heard and acted upon. Maria will support the child and family in co-ordinating and accessing support from other services for example, school, social care or housing. She will also support a family through the criminal justice process if that is what they want.

In December 2012, St Mary's SARC appointed a Young Person's Advocate following funding from the Home Office – Violence against Women and Girls (Girls and Gangs Initiative). Yvonne Haworth's role centres on work with young people who have been or are at risk of being sexually exploited in the Manchester and Salford area. A key element of the role is preventative work with other agencies such as the Protect Team which brings together police, health and social care workers to recognise and respond to the needs of exploited children.

Yvonne commented: "This is challenging but rewarding work. It is a real privilege to meet young people, build a trusting relationship and for them to allow you into their world.

So far we have had really positive feedback from young people and will continue to ensure they have access to services that really meets their needs."

Meeting the therapeutic needs of children is Lisa Waters who provides counselling support for children aged 6-15. This is short term work that is also available pre-trial should it be required. Lisa says: ***"Research tells us that early and on-going counselling following rape or sexual assault, whether it has happened recently or in the past, is vital to the well being of the child later in life and we work hard to meet these needs.***

"We are also in a position to provide counselling and support to family members and loved ones of children through our adult team thereby ensuring the whole family's needs are accommodated. At the end we evaluate the children's experience of the SARC in order that we can continue to provide the very best service for children and young people."

International conference on child and family maltreatment



San Diego

In January 2013, Lisa Waters, St Mary's Centre's Child Service Lead and Maria Roberts, the Centre's Child Advocate attended the prestigious San Diego International Conference on Child and Family Maltreatment.

The San Diego Conference is a major International event and attracts

almost 200 speakers and 1500 delegates from across the globe. Nineteen conference halls, numerous lectures theatres and exhibitors give a flavour of the scale of the Conference. The range of sessions including trauma treatment, legal issues, child welfare, forensic interviewing and mental health all provided valuable insight for the pair during their five days at the conference.

Lisa Waters outlined her first impressions: "The enormity of the conference hit us like a ton of bricks. There were speakers from Venezuela, Norway, Ireland, the Netherlands, Canada and Israel.

"We attended as many sessions as we could but one that sticks in my mind was 'Missing Children – from Walt Disney Cartoons to the 21st Century' by Daniel Broughton and Ernie Allen. Daniel is the Director of the Mayo Child Clinic in Rochester, Maine and Ernie is the President of the International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children, USA. We emerged from our individual conference rooms to be met by placards and photographs of babies and children who had gone missing over a period of 15 years – it was a very emotional and thought provoking. Ernie gave a really informative lecture on how missing children are managed in USA and this was followed by Alicia Kozakiewicz and Jessica Mullenberg Christianson who talked about their experiences of being abducted, kept captive and then found years later. Daniel then took over with a very educational look at the subtle messages contained in Walt Disney cartoons – you could hear the 'oohs and ahhs' from the audience as he described how Walt Disney tried to give subconscious, educational messages to the children who watched his films such as Dumbo (bullying),

Cinderella (difficulties with step-families), Bambi (loss and bereavement) and Snow White (stranger danger, dangers or running away and prejudice)."

Maria attended sessions on the legal aspects including a St Mary's session with Paul Stern, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, Snohomish County Prosecutors Office, who highlighted a few ways of working that were very interesting. Maria said: "The American system allows the client to be introduced to the barristers and judge prior to the day in court so they feel more comfortable. There is also more than one pre-court visit and even playing games so it's not such a scary place to be. I have since utilised some of the ideas in a St Mary's centre case that had very positive results for the client and family."

Vicarious trauma was often discussed in the lectures. This is where the impact of what staff see and hear everyday has an impact on them. Lisa said: "Professor Jon Conte, of the University of Washington, was particularly fascinating and I will always remember him saying that we are dealing with the most difficult scenarios on a daily basis, therefore we need to give ourselves permission to do nice things for ourselves".

Though there was little free time during the Conference, Maria and Lisa did manage to squeeze in a little relaxation. Apart from some trips to nearby Fashion Valley, they explored the City's cuisine and on their final day spent a few hours in San Diego Zoo.

Maria concluded: "The Conference was a fantastic opportunity and we both benefited enormously from the experience."

One major benefit of attendance is that the St Mary's SARC Children's Service will be presenting original research at the 2014 San Diego Conference providing the Centre with the opportunity to showcase its work to professionals from all over the world.



Maria Roberts, Child Advocate in San Diego

Elaine Farrell and Claire Johnson are part of the team of Crisis Workers who work at St Mary's SARC.

Crisis workers are the first people that clients meet when they come to St Mary's SARC. Their role is vital in supporting clients through their experience at the Centre. Claire and Elaine took a short break from their busy days to outline what their role involves.

1. What is a Crisis Worker?

CJ: A friendly face to greet the client at what is usually a very scary time. The Crisis Worker explains the process of what happens at St Mary's and gives the client the opportunity to make choices as to how they want to proceed. They stay with the client throughout their time at the centre, making sure they feel in control at all times.

2. Why did you decide to become a Crisis Worker?

CJ: The job sounded interesting and unique, and a wonderful chance to help people feel better after experiencing something so awful.

EF: The role offered me a chance to make a difference to someone in a time of great distress for them.

3. How long have you been a Crisis Worker?

CJ: Eight and a half years.

EF: Three years

4. How do you help victims in the immediate aftermath of rape or sexual assault?

EF: It is important for a Crisis Worker to be able to slow the process down for clients who often feel like they are on a conveyor belt and unable to get

off. They can be confused and disorientated when they first arrive and need time and space to make informed decisions. It is important for Crisis Workers to be honest and transparent and listen to the choices that clients are making.

Empathy, kindness and compassion are all qualities which are necessary to support a client well.

5. Why do you think your role is important?

CJ: We put the client at ease and help them understand why they have come for a forensic medical examination. The support of a Crisis Worker and someone to hold their hand, can help them through the examination.

6. What question do you get asked the most by clients?

CJ: How long will it take! Most are also keen to know if anything at all has happened (in the cases where people think their drink was spiked).

EJ: What is going to happen? Will it hurt?



Claire Johnson (left) and Elaine Farrell

7. What do you like most about your job?

CJ: The way most clients come to St Mary's SARC looking anxious and apprehensive, but leave a few hours later with a smile, relieved it wasn't the awful experience that they might have been expecting. It's lovely to see the client starting the journey of recovery.

EF: The role is interesting, varied and never boring. You never know what to expect or what you will face when you open the door.

8. It is a challenging role, how do you unwind after work?

CJ: Playing with my children

EF: I like watching a good romantic comedy and large glass of wine!

St Mary's SARC investigates **SEXUAL VIOLENCE** in the home



Among the many myths and stereotypes that exist about sexual violence is the belief that perpetrators are often unknown to the victim. However, British Crime Survey results for 2012 stated that in almost 90 per cent of cases, the perpetrator was someone known to

the victim and this is something borne out by our experience at St Mary's SARC.

In 2012 we undertook some exploratory research into the area of sexual violence in a domestic context so that we could gain a better understanding of the relationship between sexual assault and domestic abuse, encourage more people to come forward and report and help us improve the services we provide.

The research we undertook involved reviewing the case notes for the 1209 cases that we saw between January and December 2012 to identify complainants aged 16 or over. With this group the alleged offenders were recorded as:

- 21 per cent partner or ex-partner
- 6 per cent a family member
- 50 per cent otherwise known ie friend or acquaintance
- 23 per cent strangers

132 of the 1209 cases were identified where the complainant was aged 16 or over and the alleged assailant was a partner or ex-partner.

These were compared with a matched control group of the same size and notes compared.

St Mary's research showed that of those who experienced rape or sexual assault by a partner or ex-partner:

- the victim had significantly higher injuries rates than those who had been raped by strangers or acquaintances, with almost 80 per cent having body injuries compared to 67 per cent in the control group.
- 81 per cent in the partner or ex-partner group experienced physical violence compared with 40 per cent in the control group.
- In addition, where there were children, the research revealed that in around 65 per cent of partner or ex-partner cases children were either in the same room or house when the sexual assault took place.
- 85 per cent of clients had been abused before by the same partner.
- Two out of three clients were deemed to be at high risk of further abuse or injury based on the Co-ordinated Action Against Domestic Abuse's Domestic Abuse and Stalking and Harassment (DASH) risk assessment.

St Mary's Sexual Assault Referral Centre's Clinical Director, Dr Catherine White, said: "The review of our cases has given us a valuable insight into this client group. It is well documented that the vast majority of those who experience rape or sexual assault are attacked by someone they know.

"We are now looking at these cases in more detail to see how they progressed, if at all, through the criminal justice process. We are also interested in trying to establish what triggered the victims to report their assault on that occasion given that many had suffered similar attacks previously and hadn't reported. If we can have a greater understanding of this it may help us respond more effectively to this particular groups' needs."

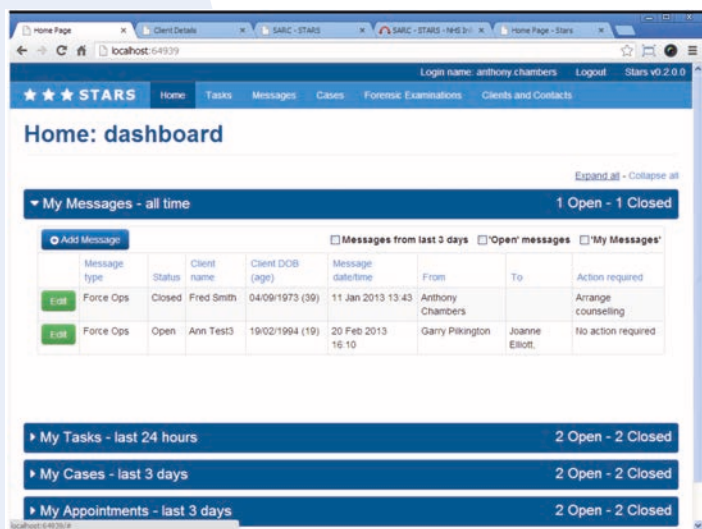
Reaching for STARS

Over the past year, St Mary's SARC has been working with CMFT's informatics team to develop a new secure, accurate and easy-to-use electronic patient management system that will help the service analyse patient information more effectively as well as reduce the amount of paper information stored.

The St Mary's Automated Record System (STARS) is the name of the system currently under development.

Dr Catherine White, Clinical Director at St Mary's SARC has helped to steer the project and explains: "Since the Centre opened we have seen more than 17,000 clients and each client has a full set of records that we store indefinitely. This presents us with challenges not only in terms of storage but also accessing and analysing data that can help shape and inform the service.

"We recognised that we needed to develop an electronic system that was more than just a data capture system.



A prototype page of the database using fictional information.

STARS benefits:

Enhanced patient experience

- Reduced need for repeated form filling will allow greater attention to be given to patient needs.
- Self populating forms and report generation will reduce time spent on paperwork during examinations.
- Reduce the number of times patients will be asked to give the same information.

Safety

- Information can be entered in real time and accessed securely from different sites allowing accurate transfer of information between practitioners.
- Web based therefore information safe from loss e.g. theft, fire.
- Patient/ case alerts can be added to clearly make practitioners aware of important factors that may impact on patient management, e.g. allergies, mobility limitations, need for interpreter, history of violence

Workflow management

- Clearly shows outstanding tasks that need to be addressed minimising risk of omission.
- Tasks can be allocated to specific team members with clear overview of workload.

Security

- Secure systems maintaining confidentiality
- Episodes of information input can be "locked down" in terms of time and user therefore allowing it to be both auditable but also admissible for court purposes.

Governance. Powerful search and report functionality making it an indispensable tool for;

- Research
- Reports

Storage. Digitalisation of records will relieve future storage issues

"Any system we develop needs to be able to fully integrate all aspects of SARC work, from the initial phone call, through to forensic examination, support services and counselling".

"Ultimately we want a system that will allow us to access information on clients quickly and efficiently, particularly in the present economic climate when we need to demonstrate the effectiveness, quality and value of our service to commissioners".

"The system is still in its infancy. We have worked closely with the informatics team to make sure it does what we want it to do and has the flexibility for change.

"We believe it will be a unique and valuable system that will be of use to other SARCs across the UK."



Education programme helps to raise standards

St Mary's SARC has developed an extensive and wide ranging training and education programme which has been specifically designed to improve the skills and knowledge of all those working in the field of rape and sexual assault.

Between April 2012 and April 2013, more than 300 individuals attended training courses developed, marketed and delivered by the St Mary's Centre. These courses and events range from general awareness raising on issues relating to rape, such as the Annual Conference, as well as the more specialist training for health professionals including the Manchester University recognised Forensic and Medical Examination for Rape and Sexual Assault (FMERSA) course.

Dr Catherine White, Clinical Director at St Mary's Centre, said: "There is an increasing need, particularly for those health professionals interested in working in the field of rape and sexual violence, to gain nationally recognised qualifications such as our FMERSA course which provides an excellent foundation for the DFCASA that is run by the Apothecaries and the more advanced MFFLM. We have had excellent feedback on all our courses which students have found invaluable in extending their knowledge and skill in the area.

Our training has attracted delegates from places as far a field as Saudi Arabia, the Turks and Caicos Islands and Portugal.

"Sharing our knowledge, experience and expertise with colleagues in the UK and abroad is very important to St Mary's Centre. We have over 26 years worth of experience and practitioners are keen to learn from us and we are equally keen to ensure that standards of care are the best they can be nationally and internationally."

As well as the range of training courses developed by St Mary's Centre, the SARC also responds to many requests for training from those working in safeguarding, specialist GPs, Paediatrics, counselling and therapeutic care.

Between April 2012 and April 2013 the Centre responded to requests for 17 tailored sessions aimed at professionals working in the field of rape and sexual assault. These included paediatricians, those working in safeguarding for local authorities and hospital trusts, GPs and registrars, police officers, Judges and the Crown Prosecution Service. We currently hold regular open mornings for those wanting to visit the SARC and find out more about our services.

To find out more about the DFCASA qualification visit the Apothecaries website www.apothecaries.org

To find out more about Membership of the FFLM visit the FFLM website www.fflm.co.uk

Find out more about our training visit www.stmaryscentre.org



Graduates from the 2012 FMERSA course celebrate their success with tutors.



TRAINING PROGRAMME 2013-14

(Dates maybe subject to change)

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE FORENSIC AND MEDICAL ASPECTS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT EXAMINATION AND THE ROLE OF THE SEXUAL ASSAULT REFERRAL CENTRE

This introductory programme offers an overview of the issues and procedures involved in the provision of services in relation to sexual offences. This course is aimed at sexual offences physicians, forensic nurse examiners, police officers and those working within or towards establishing a SARC.

**Saturday November 30 and
Sunday December 1 2013
(Children)**

**Saturday September 27 and
Sunday September 28 2014
(Adults)**

**Saturday November 29 and
Sunday November 30 2014
(Children)**

PRE-TRIAL THERAPY CONFERENCE

July 8th 2014

This one day conference will offer valuable insight into the do's and don'ts of pre-trial therapy. It will explore how counsellors at St Mary's SARC work with clients who are going through the criminal justice system. This course is aimed at all counsellors.

FORENSIC AND MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS FOR RAPE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT (FMERSA) 2014

This two-module course presents doctors and nurses with the opportunity to train towards conducting forensic medical examinations of rape and sexual assault victims, under the direction of the UK's longest established sexual assault referral centre.

Under the guidance of tutors Dr Catherine White, Clinical Director at St Mary's SARC, Dr Vicky Evans, President of the Faculty of Forensic and Legal Medicine (FFLM) and Dr Helena Thornton, Chief Examiner of the Faculty of Forensic and Legal Medicine, the course covers all aspects of rape and sexual assault from medical, psychological, social and legal issues. The focus is on the forensic examination, collection of evidence and testimony at court. The curriculum covered will help clinicians prepare to take the membership exam for the FFLM and also the Diploma FCASA qualification. St Mary's FMERSA course covers the syllabus for this and will provide an excellent study resource.

The course takes place over two modules in four blocks of three days each. Dates are:

Module 1 Block A

**Tuesday January 21st
Wednesday January 22nd
Thursday January 23rd**

Module 2 Block C

**Tuesday September 9th
Wednesday September 10th
Thursday September 11th**

Module 1 Block B

**Tuesday March 11th
Wednesday March 12th
Thursday March 13th**

Module 2 Block D

**Tuesday October 14th
Wednesday October 15th
Thursday October 16th**

ST MARY'S CENTRE 12TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2014

February 27th and February 28th St Mary's Centre 12th

Annual Conference theme is:

Rape under the microscope: Responding to the acute needs of rape victims.

For more information on this and all our courses please contact:

Charlotte Batra 0161 701 2322

Or email Charlotte.Batra@cmft.nhs.uk

Or visit www.stmaryscentre.org

Or follow us on twitter or facebook



@stmaryssarc

SARC national Conference success

More than 200 delegates from across the UK and abroad attended the St Mary's Centre 11th Annual Conference **'There's no place like home: Sexual violence in the context of domestic abuse'** which took place at Manchester Town Hall on February 28th and March 1st 2013.

St Mary's Centre Annual Conference has become a key annual event for practitioners and agencies working in the field of rape and sexual assault and attracts delegates from a range of disciplines within social care, the charities and voluntary sector, health and legal professionals and the police.

The conference explored a number of key issues including the psychological impact of prolonged sexual and domestic abuse; the challenges in bringing about successful prosecutions; understanding what the



Delegates and exhibitors at the 2013 conference



barriers to reporting sexual violence and abuse are for both male and female victims and examining how we can improve information sharing among agencies. There was also a session on support for those that

work with victims of abuse. In addition, the conference included an update session on the progress of National Commissioning Boards and provision of SARC services.

The theme of the Centre's 2014 conference is **'Rape under the microscope: Responding to the acute needs of rape victims'**.

The conference will take place on **February 27th and 28th 2014 at Manchester Town Hall.**

Visit www.stmaryscentre.org for more information.



Director of Public Prosecutions, Keir Starmer, at St Mary's SARC conference.

Meet the team

Clinical Director

Service Manager

Greater Manchester Police Liaison Officer

Administrators

Training and Development Officer

PR and Communications Officer

Consultant Paediatrician

Research Officer

Independent Sexual Violence Advisors

Young Persons Advocate

Child Advocate

Counsellors

Crisis Workers

Forensic Physicians

SARC Steering Board

Dr Catherine White

Bernie Ryan

Detective Constable Jonathan Chadwick

Joanne Elliott, Joanne Duxbury, Charlotte Adrian

Charlotte Batra

Charlotte Batra

Dr Denise Smurthwaite

Rachel Belk

Gail Morgan, Claire Kerman

Yvonne Howarth

Maria Roberts

Sue Young, Joanne Muccio, Lisa Waters, Nicky Paris,
Lisa Whitehead

Dianne Breakwell, Samantha Cauchie, Aimee Connelly, Natalie Boulton,
Anna Dopierala, Claire Kerman, Nashaba Ellahi, Elaine Farrell, Claire
Fawcett, Sharon Hanson, Deborah Haydock, Eve Horren, Nicola Kharadi,
Claire Johnson, Helen Lomax, Hannah Morowa, Jayne Noctor, Sara
Nugent, Denise Oleksy-McIntyre, Lisa Punton, Emma Taylor, Natalie
Towey, Sheila Pollitt, Lucy Smith, Emma Taylor, Becky Wyatt

Dr Alice Bird, Dr Kirstin Boyle, Dr Naomi Brown, Dr Michelle Carroll,
Dr Shirley Castille, Dr Sahar Dawson, Dr Michelle Evison, Dr Grace Edozien,
Dr Vicky Evans, Dr Carole, Gavin, Dr Yvonne Hindle, Dr Clare Hyland, Dr Sue
Lewis, Dr Jo Livingstone, Dr Michelle Mckintosh, Dr Tessa Malone, Dr Katina
Marinaki, Dr Helen Mills, Dr Louise O'Connor, Dr Raina Patel, Dr Amrin
Rahuf, Dr Sarah Redvers, Dr Emma Shakespeare, Dr Maggie Tasker, Dr Helena
Thornton, Dr Caroline Wright, Dr Farah Yusuf

Terry Sweeney, Greater Manchester Police

John Harris, Greater Manchester Police, Peter Elton, Bury NHS

Nicola Ellis, Louisa Sharples,

Helen Stapleton, NHS Greater Manchester

John Waring CMFT Manchester

Cathy Conchie, Greater Manchester Police Authority

Laura Cordwell, Greater Manchester Police Authority

Duncan Craig, Survivors Manchester

Lesley Daniels, Victim Support

Anne Stebbing, Manchester Rape Crisis, Steve Higgins, Jill Yates,
Manchester CPS, Ian Rush, Manchester Safeguarding Board, Rhona
Bradley, Non Executive member of CMFT Board, Dr Catherine White,
St Mary's SARC, Bernie Ryan, Centre Manager, St Mary's Centre



Dr Cath White



Bernie Ryan



@stmaryssarc



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