

St Mary's Sexual Assault Referral Centre Annual Report

April 2011-April 2012



St Mary's Centre



Sexual Assault Referral Centre

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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, Cheshire and children living in Leeds (out of hours only), who have experienced rape or sexual assault, whether this has happened recently or in the past.

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 right 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. We provide a high quality, professional and confidential service with highly trained and skilled staff who will support clients for as long as they need.

You can use our services without having to report the assault to the police or we can support you in making 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

Welcome to the St Mary's Sexual Assault Referral Centre's Annual Report which highlights the activity undertaken by the Centre between April 2011 and April 2012.

It has been a busy year for St Mary's SARC. We have moved to our new accommodation within St Mary's Hospital and formally expanded our services for the population of Cheshire and children up to the

age of 15 living in Leeds (out of hours).

St Mary's SARC has provided a number of successful training and networking events to increase the skills, knowledge and experience of people working in the rape and sexual assault field and hosted a number of visits for organisations and individuals wanting to know more about the service.

St Mary's SARC expansion leads to increase in clients

The past twelve months (April 2011 to April 2012) has seen an overall increase in the number of people accessing the range of services available at the St Mary's Centre.

We continue to monitor information about service users through our comprehensive DASHBOARD system which enables us to identify and potentially understand trends thereby targeting resources more effectively.

The DASHBOARD allows us to see at a glance not only demographic information but also what services have been accessed and whether there has been additional follow up through aftercare services.

	GMP	Cheshire
Total referrals	1047	175
Adults	654	105
Children	393	70
0-12	158 (40%)	23 (33%)
13-17	235 (60%)	47 (67%)
Acute child cases	222 (56%)	47 (67%)
Non acute child cases	171 (44%)	23 (33%)
Police referrals	84%	100%
Self referrals	16%	0%
Male	8%	3%
Female	92%	97%
BME	15%	1%

The St Mary's Centre is a fully integrated SARC service for all age ranges. The move to our new accommodation in September 2011 to the 'Old St Mary's' building realised three forensic examinations

suites, a counselling suite and associated accommodation to support the service. To maximise the use of the examinations suites we have introduced a double rota of forensic physicians and crisis workers at peak times.

In 2010/11 the Centre provided a range of services to 1024 men, women and children. This year, 2011/12, the figure increased to 1222, 79% of whom received a forensic medical examination.

The St Mary's counselling and ISVA service is for Greater Manchester cases. The Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre RASASC provide ISVA and counselling services for Cheshire cases over the age of 13.

All under 13s (and their families) receive the support of the Child Advocate based at St Mary's Centre with referral to NSPCC services in Cheshire where indicated.

The counselling service received 409 new referrals, 44% being referred by the police, the remaining referred by other agencies or self-referrals.

The increase of police referrals for counselling and support has resulted from the SARC team providing training and raising awareness of the ISVA and counselling service in maintaining victim confidence in the criminal justice process and supporting the investigative and prosecution process.

St Mary's celebrates its 25 year anniversary with a move to new accommodation

St Mary's SARC moved to its new purpose-built accommodation in September 2011 which coincided with the Centre celebrating its 25 years of existence in November of that year.

Situated in the Old St Mary's Hospital site, the Centre's new accommodation now boasts a counselling suite and three forensic examination suites. It also includes offices and meeting space for support services.



Clinical Director, Dr Cath White, (second from left) with guests at St Mary's SARC 25 year anniversary celebrations.



Former St Mary's Centre client Linda Latchford unveils the plaque to mark the Centre's new accommodation.

National context and lobbying

The St Mary's team is working hard at a local and national level to meet the challenges and opportunities arising from the new commissioning framework that will affect how SARC services in England and Wales are delivered in the future.

Under the plans currently being introduced, commissioning of SARCs will sit with the NHS National Commissioning Board (NHSNCB), which is in shadow form until 2013. Concurrently the Department of Health (Offender Health team) is conducting the Early Adopter Programme of which Greater Manchester and Cheshire are two of the ten participating police forces. The programme is looking at the transfer of commissioning of offender health (prisons and custody) services from the Home Office to the NHS and SARCs are included in scope for this scheme in our region.

In addition to the changes in commissioning of SARC services, the abolition of Police Authorities and election of Police and Crime Commissioners in the autumn of this year will introduce some local changes and challenges. Regular contact and liaison with the prospective new Police Commissioners about the work of St Mary's SARC continues to be undertaken by the St Mary's team.

Both the Clinical Director and SARC Manager sit on national Boards representing the sector and regularly meet with ministers and civil servants to ensure there is no decline in service quality and that standards continue to be at the highest level.

VIP visits

In January of this year, the St Mary's Centre was host to a round table discussion on the impact of the Government's policies on women's safety.

The round table discussion was organised by The Everywomen Safe Everywhere Commission, which is chaired by Vera Baird QC and was launched by Shadow Minister for Women and Equalities Yvette Cooper MP.

A number of voluntary organisations, the head of Manchester's Crown Prosecution Service as well as the St Mary's Centre took part in the discussion which looked at a number of topics including how the current economic climate as well as the changes in commissioning services by the NHS was impacting on the safety of women.

Dr Cath White, Clinical Director at St Mary's Centre, said: "Like many organisations we are facing tough challenges ahead in terms of how our work is commissioned and whether there is funding available. We have to be aware of how this will impact on our service and how we can best meet the challenges we face."

In addition, during the year, the Centre hosted visits by the Chair of Greater Manchester Police Authority (GMPA), Cllr Paul Murphy, who was interested to see the new accommodation and discuss the work of the Centre.

Dr White continued: "GMPA have been extremely faithful supporters of St Mary's SARC since the very beginning and I was delighted to be able to show the Chair around our new accommodation.

"We regularly open our doors to visitors who want to look around the Centre and understand the service we provide. It is important for us to share our skills, knowledge and experiences with people working in the field of rape and sexual assault."

Art installation helps young children

In November 2011, the Centre unveiled the installation of an innovative art project designed specifically for young children using the Centre.

The 'Luna' is a portable interactive device which projects shapes onto the ceiling or wall that can be controlled and manipulated by the child client. The



Artist Ben Bradley (third from left) with members of the Soroptimists International of Manchester.

young person uses a stress ball to control the movement of shapes, colours and activity of the light projection depending on how the ball is squeezed and moved.

The artist behind the project is Ben Bradley, Lecturer in Graphic Design and Creative Director of design collective 29North. He explained more about the 'Luna': "The Luna has been a very interesting and challenging project to work on and develop. The light installation uses bubble images to give a calming and relaxing experience. Each bubble has its own life and set of rules relating to other bubbles around it and its positioning. These rules influence its behaviour and add unpredictability to

the work while still remaining in a clearly defined system to maintain some control of the look and feel.

The installation cost £8,000 and was funded entirely by Soroptimist International of Manchester. Soroptimist International is a worldwide organisation for women in management

and the professions, who work through service projects to advance human rights and the status of women. The Manchester club was chartered in 1926 and celebrated 80 years of service in the city by fundraising for the St Mary's Centre's Children's Service. Through their hard work and dedication they raised £12,000 that allowed the art project to come to life and helped in creating a suitable

environment for children and adolescents.

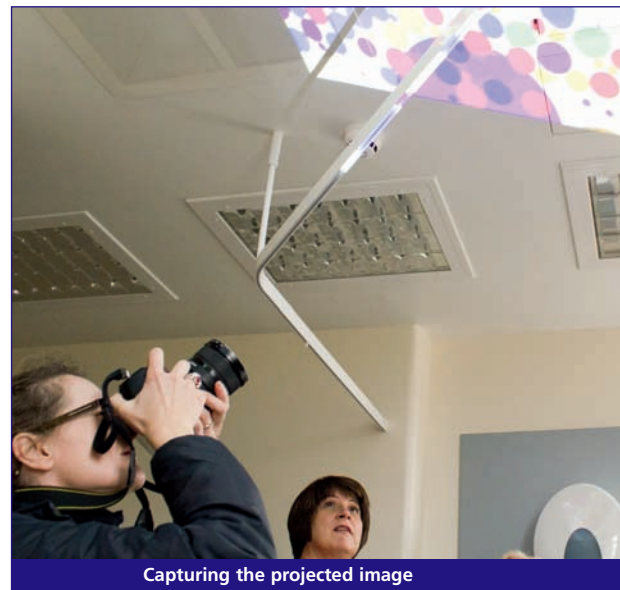
The President of Soroptimist International of Manchester, Val Moss, commented: "The club has supported St Mary's SARC for many years by donating toiletries, and the members were keen to do more when the service for child victims was inaugurated. The Luna art project uses modern technology to alleviate distress for the children and we are thrilled to be associated with it."

Dr Cath White, Clinical Director for the St Mary's Centre, said: "This installation provides a gentle but effective distraction and will



Centre Manager Bernie Ryan uses the Luna installation

encourage children to focus on taking control of the colours and shapes they see, thereby reinforcing our ethos of giving back control so often taken away when they are subjected to rape and sexual assault."



Capturing the projected image

Dr Denise Smurthwaite is the St Mary's Centre Consultant Paediatrician.

We asked Denise to tell us what her day might involve in working with the all the children who visit the Centre.

I, like lots of working mums, get up at the crack of dawn (around 6.30) so I'm showered and ready to wrestle the kids to school. After dropping them off I feel as though I've already done a day's work! I then drive to St Mary's SARC, where I am the (part time) Consultant Paediatrician. I arrive in time for the morning meeting where the team discuss, in detail, the cases we have had in during the preceding 24 hours. I am still waiting to, one day, review a straightforward case.

Some of our clients can be complicated, either medically, forensically, or socially. The team often has animated discussions regarding safeguarding issues, and this is a priority for us. There will usually be a job or two for me arising from that meeting, which I try to complete the same day. I will then check if I have any messages to deal with. These can be enquiries from the police or social care, or doctors, regarding children's cases. Most days I will be seeing children. Cases will vary. It may be a historic case where a child has made an allegation of abuse which has happened some time ago. Or it could be an acute case where the sexual assault is very recent. I also see children who return for follow-up, usually for screening for sexually transmitted infections. This usually takes the form of swabs, or if they don't feel up to that, just urine testing. Some of the appointments are for blood tests, testing for blood borne viruses such as Hepatitis B or HIV which we can now do just on blood spots with a finger prick. That's a great relief for a lot of children and families, and it means they can be on their way pretty quickly. Sometimes the children, but more often the mums, want to discuss how things are going for them. This can



range from problems with the child's behaviour, or difficulties liaising with the police, or problems within their extended family.

Luckily for me we have a well established and highly experienced team of counsellors, independent sexual violence advisors and Lynne, our child advocate. I can usually arrange for child and family to have some support, if they need that, or counselling, if that's more appropriate. Sometimes I like to think they've found it helpful just talking to me.

It's not uncommon for children to not attend our follow-up appointments. Lynne will contact families and offer her support

to those who struggle to attend. Sometimes we'll offer another appointment, sometimes I'll arrange for the testing to be done more locally to home, either by the local GUM clinic, or an accommodating Paediatrician in their local hospital. I'm sure I'm not the first person to think that dealing with the families who don't come often takes longer than seeing those that do! Later on I will try to get through my admin, signing results, writing letters or statements and answering emails. In between jobs I'll get some lunch and I often need to leave by 2.30 to go and get the kids from school. 'I am always available to answer any questions that might arise, but generally I look forward to facing my next busy day.'

CORONATION STREET RAPE STORY LINE

Producers of Coronation Street, the ITV soap set in Manchester, approached St Mary's SARC for advice in relation to a rape storyline they were considering.

Centre Manager, Bernie Ryan, met with the programme's writers and producers in the very early planning stages to discuss some of the myths and stereotypes around rape and how they could ensure their portrayal was as realistic as possible.

Bernie said: "Coronation Street producers were clearly keen to ensure that when they did portray the rape and its aftermath that they did so as responsibly as possible. We were keen to support them in doing that, but understood fully the need to balance that responsibility with the fact that it is drama. It is always a dilemma, but we were impressed by the time and care producers took in their portrayal of the character accessing the services of a SARC."

The Coronation Street storyline centred around the rape of character Carla Conner by her fiancé Frank. The programme left viewers in no doubt of Frank's guilt in relation to the rape and showed Carla reporting the rape to the police and subsequent visit to a Sexual Assault Referral Centre.

St Mary's provided advice to scriptwriters and producers on how to portray the actual rape as well as advising on what the character might expect in terms of services at a Sexual Assault Referral Centre. St Mary's was also on the set during filming providing advice so that the portrayal of SARC services was as accurate as possible.



Bernie continued: "The actual episode resulted in an eight fold increase in calls to rape crisis. We had a number of calls direct to the Centre wanting to access our services as a result of the programme.

"It is always a difficult decision about whether to take part in programmes like this, but it is important to be involved in order that you can ensure they are accurate and don't make assumptions that might potentially put people off reporting rape or sexual assault."

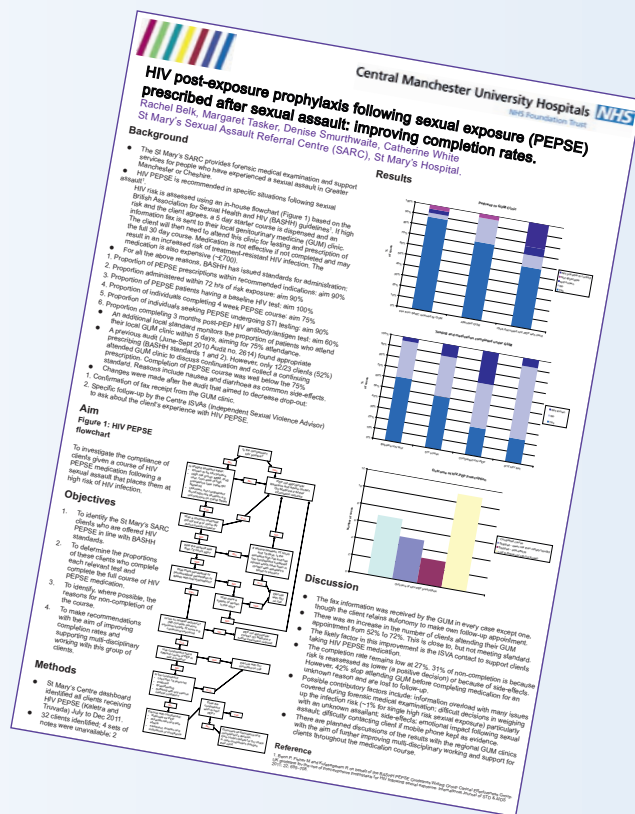
Research in the field of RAPE and SEXUAL ASSAULT

Providing a greater insight and understanding of all aspects of rape and sexual assault is a key part of the research work conducted by St Mary's SARC.

A number of research papers have been published in the past and this work is being built upon through the development of a broad research programme that is being conducted by recently appointed Research Officer, Rachel Belk.

Over the past nine months, Rachel has worked with the Centre's forensic physicians and other staff groups to share their experience and practice through peer-reviewed publications of case studies and internal audit projects.

As part of this work, Dr Sarah Redvers' case study on **A Child's 'Honest Mistake'** was presented as a poster at the St Mary's 2012 St Mary's Centre Annual Conference. In addition, Dr Maggie Tasker's audit following efforts to improve the completion rate of medication preventing HIV infection after high risk assault was presented as a poster at the Trust CARM (Clinical Audit and Risk Management) Fair in April 2012. The audit shows that there has been a sizeable increase in the proportion of clients who go on to attend a follow-up appointment at their local Genitourinary Medicine (GUM) clinic and suggests that the particular factor that may have caused this increase is the support from the Centre ISVAs who specifically ask about the client's experience with the medication if this has been prescribed to them.



Another of the Centre's physicians, Dr Amrin Rahuf, has recently completed an audit to check that the ethnic origin of clients seen in the Centre is reliably recorded – which it is. The audit has led into a larger piece of research investigating whether the proportions of different ethnic groups seen with the clients who come to the Centre is similar to those in the general population. It is planned that this work could lead to a more in-depth study of the reasons why some populations may be under-represented and people's attitudes towards sexual violence and SARC services and how these vary between cultures.

Over the coming months, Rachel will be working on a number of other medium to long term projects that will help provide valuable insight and understanding into rape and sexual assault. She sees the priority as being a close collaboration with all staff within the Centre so that research is informed by clinical need and, in turn, the clinical service has a strong evidence base.

New sexual assault service for Cheshire residents

The expansion of St Mary's SARC services for the population of Cheshire in April 2011 was marked at a formal launch that took place in March of this year.

The new Cheshire SARC is the result of discussions between key agencies as to how best to provide high quality care and services to victims of rape and sexual assault living in the area. The service is funded jointly between the Cheshire Constabulary, local authorities and Primary Care Trusts.

The Cheshire SARC service is being jointly delivered by the St Mary's SARC in Manchester together with Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre (RASASC) in Cheshire. St Mary's SARC provides forensic examinations for clients of all ages while RASASC provides aftercare services for those aged 13 and over including counselling, support and access to an Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) who provides support through the criminal justice system. Children under the age of 13 and their families receive support from the SARC Child Advocate and the NSPCC in Cheshire.

Susan Forster, Chair of the Cheshire SARC Commissioning Group, said: *"There is no doubt that we are now providing the best quality and standards of care for people living in Cheshire who require these services. Now these services are in place we can be sure that victims are benefiting from the knowledge and experience of experts working in this field."*



Raising awareness of the Cheshire SARC: Left to right, Moira Chapman of Cheshire Police Authority, Helen Ward, RASASC, Susan Forster, SARC Commissioning Group, Bernie Ryan, SARC Centre Manager, Dave Whatton, Chief Constable, Cheshire Constabulary.

Chief Constable of Cheshire Constabulary, Dave Whatton, said: *"The support and care for survivors of rape and sexual offences is absolutely vital to both their recovery and an opportunity to gather the best possible evidence to support a prosecution. By working together we are now able to provide some of the best care and support in the country."*

Bernie Ryan, St Mary's Centre Manager, said: *"Since the Cheshire SARC service opened we have seen a total of 175 cases and had an extremely positive response, not just from Cheshire residents but also from the partners that have helped develop and fund the service."*

"We continue to work closely with our partners in Cheshire to ensure victims' needs are being met and that the experience of the service is a positive one for all those involved."

Julie Evans, Operations Manager, RASASC Cheshire and Merseyside, commented: *"We are delighted to be part of this innovative approach to delivering SARC services in Cheshire. A total of 132 referrals have been made to us from St Mary's since the service started in April."*

"We are confident that this service will mean that people will be able to access the best quality care and support immediately following a rape or sexual assault."

SPOTLIGHT ON

St Mary's Centre's Counselling service

St Mary's Centre Counsellors work with a significant number of clients throughout the year to help them overcome their experiences of rape and sexual assault. One of our Counsellors, Joanne Muccio, provides an insight into what their work entails.

I am one of three counsellors at St Mary's Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC). The Centre provides a range of services to child and to adult victims of rape and sexual assault which includes counselling to both victims and their significant others. I have worked at the Centre in a variety of roles since 2002 so have experience at the crisis stage and understanding the distress that sexual violence brings for families and the range of support that is required to help them recover. This experience gives me a sound base to enter the counselling room. I have good knowledge and understanding of the process and issues that may be presented.

As my working day starts early I am often the first person at the Centre and occasionally meet with a crisis worker completing duties after seeing an acute case. I like to check out how they are and spend some time debriefing the crisis case. Working in this environment can have an impact on members of the team. I feel passionately about supporting colleagues and being available to support them. I am aware of the potential for vicarious traumatisation as a result of working in this field and therefore feel very strongly that access to support, supervision or therapy is available.

First task of the day is checking and responding to emails and admin. Each morning the whole team come together, which includes the Centre Manager, Clinical Director, forensic physician, paediatrician, administrator, counsellors, Independent sexual Violence Advisors (ISVA) and potentially doctors and students visiting the Centre on placement. This is a good time to connect with each other as a team and go through the diary for the day ahead. Another function of the meeting is to review case notes of new clients.

Clients present to the St. Mary's counselling service with a variety of issues, however there are commonalities between the clients I see. Some of the issues I work with clients on are blame, shame, low self-worth, not feeling believed, questioning their response to the assault and feeling inept. I enjoy the intensity and intimacy of one to one counselling and feel humbled and privileged clients have chosen me to talk to.

On an average day I will see four clients, although I can accommodate five clients if necessary. Typically gaps between clients are filled with writing up counselling notes from the sessions, inputting

information on the client database, attending to telephone calls and assisting with other enquiries from colleagues. Other responsibilities include training, reviewing policies and protocols, appraisals, staff support, crisis worker supervision, auditing and research. Sometimes completing the records can take some time depending on issues arising from the sessions with my clients.



SARC counsellors: (left to right) Lisa Waters, Sue Young and Joanne Muccio

I have often considered why the St Mary's SARC model works and the conclusion I have reached is a simple one; because of the range of services available to clients. Also the ability for professionals within the team to consult to provide the best response for individual clients and that clients can access the service at any point either in the crisis phase or many years after the event. An example would be that I may see a client that was raped many years ago and had at that point decided not to make a report to the police.

I feel there is considerable confusion around counselling and support and this is not surprising when I hear news reports on tragedies which suggest the significant others or victims are accessing

counselling. This is not counselling as I see it, but crisis management and emotional support to help with the turmoil of traumatic experiences. Counselling is usually more appropriate some time later. This is because counselling helps focus on the impact of an experience which can be difficult to achieve in the early aftermath of a trauma. My aim as a counsellor at St Mary's SARC is to see clients referred to therapy

within 8 - 10 weeks post-assault, as I believe access to therapy sooner can reduce longer term problems resulting from the sexual assault. Referrals in to the counselling service are made up of self and police referrals; we encourage other agencies to advise their client/patient to self-refer. The rationale for self-referral is an attempt to hand back some control to clients, as they can choose whether they want to access counselling or not. In some circumstances we would discuss referrals via other routes depending on the needs of a client.

At the end of the day I usually reflect on my way home, I can often feel a sense of powerlessness which would parallel my clients' experiences. Through reflective practice, my own internal supervisor and through counselling supervision I am constantly learning exploring my own responses and therapeutic approaches to help my clients best and achieving a place where I know I can instill hope and help my clients move on.

When not working I spend my time looking after my family, listening to the radio, walking the dog, reading, a glass of wine, nice food and cooking. I also enjoy spending time socialising with friends.

'Spreading the word overseas'

Saudi Arabia trip March 2012



Dr Osama with Dr Catherine White

St Mary's SARC has had a relationship with Saudi Arabia for a number of years now. Since January 2010 we have been hosting pairs of doctors from Saudi for three month attachments at a time. Saudi Arabia is very keen to develop in terms of the services they offer but also support the forensic training of their doctors in terms of sexual offences medicine.

Dr Cath White, Clinical Director at St Mary's SARC, was invited to become a member of the scientific committee for the first Saudi

International Conference of Forensic Medical Sciences.

Subsequently she was invited to attend the conference to give a presentation of the St Mary's Model.

The Conference took place over three days in Riyadh and comprised oral and poster presentations as well as workshops, and aimed to attract participants from around the world.

The Conference programme highlighted the importance of the Conference to the many of those attending. It stated: 'Over many years the forensic sciences have proved their effectiveness in solving criminal cases and are now an integral part of the criminal investigation process. With the easy spread of crime around the world and the constant innovations in criminal activity, it is imperative that forensic practitioners keep up to date with developments and learn from the experience of colleagues in other countries.'

'Specialised scientific conferences are one way of achieving this, with practitioners coming together to exchange expertise and experiences. Some will be internationally recognised experts in their field.'

Dr White gives us an insight into her experience of travelling and taking part in the Conference: "I found myself leaving behind grey Mancunian skies and travelling out to Riyadh to stay in a fantastic hotel housed within a Norman Foster designed building.

"I had done a fair amount of reading beforehand around the history of Saudi Arabia and of course I had chatted at length with the visiting doctors. Nonetheless I was still not really prepared for the cultural differences that I encountered. My hosts were very welcoming and extremely hospitable towards me. That said I found some of the traditions hard to comply with. I had bought myself an abaya (long black cloak that covers all from neck to ankle) but was under the impression that this only had to be worn when outside of the hotel. However at the opening ceremony of the conference not only did all women have to wear an abaya, but we had to use a different entrance to the conference venue, be screened away from view from the main body of the hall where the men sat and eat separately from them.

I was informed that this was because the Prince was attending. As the conference progressed over the next few days, it became clear to me that there were some very conservative views held by some delegates in terms of men and women mixing which I found very hard to comprehend.

"There were approximately 300 delegates. Most of these were either from Saudi or neighbouring countries with a few Westerners and even fewer Western women. I found delegates to be very enthusiastic to hear about St Mary's and appreciative of the benefits of a SARC service.

"The evenings had a busy itinerary of visits including a palace in the desert, camel riding, souk visiting and a tour of the National Museum. The highlight of this was a drive through a sand storm to a stable of Arabian horses and the opportunity to ride one."



Dr Catherine White (back row, fourth from right) with fellow female doctors in Saudi Arabia.



Client care key throughout court process

Over the past twelve months, the three Independent Sexual Violence Advisors (ISVAs) working at St Mary's have supported a number of clients through the police and criminal justice process.

ISVAs are widely regarded as having a pivotal role in supporting victims through legal proceedings. They provide a range of support but one of the major roles is helping clients deal with the anxiety and stress of their case being heard in court.

Naomi Davis, ISVA, explained: *"When a client is told their case is going to court it can cause a number of questions and anxieties about what to expect. It is our role to help alleviate some of these fears. We can meet and talk the client through what to expect, but we can also arrange for them to visit the court and familiarise themselves with who will be sat where as well as provide information on what the process is."*

In addition to face-to-face meeting and court visits, the ISVA team will also offer

support at court and stay with them while they are giving evidence.

Naomi continued: *"Clients*

have lots of questions about the court process. They worry about seeing the defendant and the defendant's family. We can reassure them that usually there is a separate entrance for them to help put them at ease. They may also have questions about whether they have to give evidence and be in the court. It is important that they understand that their video interview is played and they are then asked questions about it however there are a number of special measures which can be applied for on their behalf such as screens in the court room or video link. It is important that clients feel informed and able to make a



Claire Kerman



Naomi Davis



Gail Morgan

decision about what is best for them."

The criminal justice process can be a lengthy one and a key aim of the ISVA role is to liaise with the police, witness service and CPS on the progress of the case. They then keep clients updated of what is happening so they feel supported, empowered and engaged throughout the court proceedings.

Naomi concluded: *"We will keep in regular contact with the client and give them the support they need. Clients often feel reassured that they have a point of contact throughout their experience in court."*

A view from abroad

Building on our success of developing links with rape and sexual assault practitioners across the world, St Mary's SARC hosted a month long clinical attachment from Portuguese Medical Resident, Dr Tiago Costa.

Dr Costa joined two other doctors doing clinical attachments, Dr Hani Algurashi and Dr Mazen Misha both from Saudi Arabia.

All three have praised St Mary's SARC for providing a huge amount of insight into work and the inspiration to take what they learnt in the UK back to their own countries.

Dr Costa said: *"Thank you so much for shattering the feeling of gloom, chaos and defeat that somehow had permeated our work in sexual assault forensics back home. You have been an inspiration, doing so much good and heartfelt work with such a difficult subject. You gave us something to really aspire to."*

St Mary's has a ongoing commitment to sharing its knowledge and expertise. It continues to provide clinical attachments to forensic doctors in Saudi Arabia seeking to extend their skills in working in this field.



Dr Tiago Costa

Keeping in virtual touch

Our new website has started to attract a number of visitors and aims to give victims of rape and sexual assault information and advice on how to access our service as well as what to expect.

Packed full of advice and information, the website gives visitors a step-by-step account of services available, including the forensic medical examination, support from the Independent Sexual Violence Advisors and follow up counselling and aftercare.



There are links to external organisations and published research as well as a professionals' area that provides information on the training and events that coming up.

St Mary's SARC has also created a Facebook page and a Twitter account for you to find out more about the latest events and information.

Visit www.stmaryscentre.org
#StmarysSARC

Facebook: St Mary's Sexual Assault Referral Centre

NEW FACES

Naomi Davis joined St Mary's SARC as an Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) in September 2011 having started the training as a crisis worker earlier in the year. Naomi's role is to provide support for clients who are considering making a report to the police and through any subsequent criminal proceedings. She has supported clients with their video interview and given face-to-face support both to clients who have attended the centre for a forensic medical examination and those who have reported historic abuse. She has also seen a number of clients who have not made a report to the police. Earlier this year Naomi successfully completed the accredited programme for ISVAs.



Naomi Davis

Rachel Belk was appointed Research Officer at St Mary's Centre this year. Rachel has a clinical and research background in a different discipline so comes to the role with transferable skills, but an outsider's perspective as someone new to working in the area of sexual assault. She will be responsible for planning a broad research programme for the future.



Rachel Belk

Lynne Reilly joined St Mary's SARC as the Child Advocate in September 2011. Lynne's role is to support children who come to St Mary's and their families. She will ensure they receive support that is co-ordinated across all agencies, whether it is school, housing or health related. During her time at St Mary's she has been able to support a diverse range of adults, children and families. Earlier this year Lynne also began doing some on call Crisis Work, which she has found hugely beneficial in understanding the extended service.



Lynne Reilly

Joanne Duxbury joined St Mary's in October 2011 as a Secretary/PA. It is Joanne's role to organise and take minutes of meetings, issue GP referral letters and arrange client appointments as well as support the efficient running of the admin office.



Joanne Duxbury

Awards – we are proud of you

Gail Morgan, Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) was highly commended in the Trust We're Proud of You Awards as an unsung hero. Gail was originally appointed as a Centre Support Worker providing proactive support to victims of rape and sexual assault. Following successful evaluation of the post as part of Home Office research, the role of the ISVAs was rolled out nationally. Gail has supported thousands of men and women and their families at one of the most traumatic times in their lives.



Gail is one of a team of three ISVAs and two Child Advocates (a similar role for children) at the St Mary's Centre.

Clinical Director appointment



Dr Cath White

Dr Cath White received Fellowship of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologist. Cath is recognised for her significant contribution to the field of gynaecology in her role as a senior forensic physician and forensic gynaecologist.

Two new crisis workers also joined the team this year.



Yvonne Howarth

Yvonne Howarth and **Lisa Whitehead** will join the existing Crisis Worker team and play a vital role in initially welcoming clients to the Centre and explaining the services that are available to them. As Crisis Workers they will often stay with the victim throughout their initial visit and in the forensic examination, providing care and support from start to finish – if that is what the client wants.

The Crisis Worker service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



Lisa Whitehead

Ensuring the gold standard in examination of rape and sexual assault victims

Ensuring the highest standards in forensic examination and care of victims of rape and sexual assault is one of the key drivers for St Mary's SARC and why its course in Forensic and Medical Examination for Rape and Sexual Assault (FMERSA) is now one of the most prestigious courses available in the UK.

This year, a total of 20 students have enrolled on the two modular course (Principles and Practice) which give doctors and nurses valuable insight not just into best practice on techniques in conducting examinations but also the psychological, social and legal aspects of working with rape and sexual assault victims.

The course has proved popular with students and this year's intake has include International students from Saudi Arabia, Portugal and the Turks and Caicos Islands. Providing this valuable training to International colleagues will help to ensure the highest possible standards are secured for victims of rape.

The FMERSA curriculum helps clinicians prepare to take the member examination for the Faculty of Forensic and Legal Medicine and also the upcoming competency – based diploma FCASA run by apothecaries. The Department of Health is aiming for all clinicians in this line of work to have at least the Dip FCASA qualification.

The course is endorsed by the Faculty of Forensic and Legal Medicine and the Association of Chief Police Officers.

To find out more visit www.stmaryscentre.org/professionals-area



Practice guide provides practical resource for forensic physicians

Dr Catherine White's Sexual Assault: A Forensic Clinician's Practice Guide provides an authoritative, comprehensive and practical step-by-step resource for Forensic Physicians working with victims of rape and sexual assault.

The Practice Guide brings together aspects of all key services that victims should receive including medical examination procedures and court case preparation. As well as being a

reference text, it aims to be a practical resource with easy to follow checklists, template and key practice points that will ensure victims receive the highest standards in medical care.

Each SARC in the country has been provided with a free copy of the Practice Guide. Find out more by visiting www.stmaryscentre.org/professionals-area.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

puts spotlight on sexual exploitation

In February 2012, St Mary's SARC hosted another extremely successful conference with more than 150 delegates attending and learning about the issue of sexual exploitation and how to protect the vulnerable.

Delegates were given an insight into the latest guidelines and successful techniques in identifying sexual exploitation and how to best help victims. Key note speakers included the Children's Minister Tim Loughton MP, Chief Executive of Barnardo's and Chief Executive of Action on Elder Abuse. In addition delegates heard from Sheila Taylor from the National Working Group and Nazir Afzal OBE, Chief Crown Prosecutor for Manchester.

As well as the main sessions, delegates had the chance to attend workshops and plenary sessions that provided more detail on the subject of sexual exploitation. These included sessions on issues such as confidentiality, achieving best evidence in court and successful approaches to tackling sexual exploitation which was presented by Blackpool's Awaken Project.

The St Mary's annual conference is now a key event in the calendar for those working with rape and sexual assault victims. It provides delegates with the latest practical information on medical and ethical issues while at the same time providing giving an insight into the police and criminal justice process and allowing delegates to debate key issues relating to rape and sexual assault.

SARC Centre Manager, Bernie Ryan, said: ***"The conference gets a huge amount of very positive feedback. Not only are we able to provide delegates with access to some of the key decision makers in policy and strategy within government but we can also offer practical help and guidance so that people can introduce improvements to their every day work and ensure rape and sexual assault victims can access the best possible services."***





TRAINING PROGRAMME 2012-13

(Dates maybe subject to change)

GIVING EVIDENCE IN THE COURT ROOM

10th and 11th October 2012
Chancellors Hotel and Conference Centre

Increasingly, healthcare professionals may find themselves required to give evidence in the courtroom. This can be a demanding experience for which practitioners need to be prepared. This two day course is designed to equip practitioners with the skills and knowledge to deal with the evidence giving process confidently and professionally.

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE ROLE OF THE SEXUAL ASSAULT REFERRAL CENTRE AND THE MEDICAL AND LEGAL ASPECTS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT EXAMINATIONS

27th ,28th , 29th November
Chancellors Hotel and Conference Centre

This introductory programme offers an overview of the issues and procedures involved in the provision of services in

relation to sexual offences. The course is aimed at Sexual Offences Forensic Physicians, General Forensic Physicians, Forensic Nurse Examiners, Police Officers and those working within or towards establishing a sexual assault referral centre.

COUNSELLING CONFERENCE

31 January 2013

The St Mary's Centre Counselling Team will be holding a conference to highlight the specialist services that are available to client's who have experienced rape or sexual assault. This one day conference will explore the role of the counsellor in supporting the client's overall wellbeing and how the St Mary's Centre's holistic approach to counselling and other support services can help influence a client's recovery.

FORENSIC AND MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS FOR RAPE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT (FMERSA) 2013

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 and largest single-site university.

The course includes the medical, psychological, social and legal aspects of rape and sexual assault, focusing on the forensic examination, the 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.

Module 1, Block A: Jan 29, 30, 31

Module 1, Block B: March 12, 13, 14

Module 2, Block C: September 10, 11, 12

Module 2, Block D: October 15,16,17

ST MARY'S CENTRE 11TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

28th February and 1st March 2013

St Mary's Centre 11th Annual Conference will be discussing sexual violence in the domestic context.

For further information contact:

Charlotte Batra on 0161 276 6515 or email Charlotte.Batra@cmft.nhs.uk

Visit www.stmaryscentre.org

Meet the team

Clinical Director

Service Manager

Greater Manchester Police Liaison Officers

Greater Manchester Police Deputy Liaison officer

Administrators

Training and Development Officer

PR and Communications Officer

Consultant Paediatrician

Research Officer

Independent Sexual Violence Advisors

Child Advocate

Counsellors

Crisis Workers

Forensic Physicians

SARC Steering Board

Dr Catherine White

Bernie Ryan

Det Supt Phil Owen, Det Supt Sam Haworth

DCI Sharon Scotson

Joanne Elliott, Joanne Duxberry

Louise Goodwin

Charlotte Batra

Dr Denise Smurthwaite

Rachel Belk

Gail Morgan, Claire Kerman, Naomi Davis

Lynne Reilly

Sue Young , Joanne Muccio, Lisa Waters

Natalie Boulton, Claire Kerman

Anne-Marie Clayton-Scott, Naomi Davis, Nashaba Ellahi

Elaine Farrell, Claire Fawcett, Kaye Forsyth, Eve Horran

Claire Johnson, Hannah Kennedy, Rebecca McCabe,

Hannah Morowa,

Dr Christine Bassindale, Dr Alice Bird, Dr Kirstin Boyle,
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 Jo Livingstone, 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,

Pete 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

Dr Catherine White, St Mary's SARC

Bernie Ryan, Centre Manager, St Mary's Centre



Dr Cath White



Bernie Ryan



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