



St. Mary's SARC Young Person's Advocate works with CSE clients

Yvonne Howarth, Young Person's Advocate, St Mary's SARC
Dr. Rabiya Majeed-Ariss, Research Associate, St Mary's SARC

Working in a multi-disciplinary team means we can discuss cases where CSE is suspected. In doing so, we can provide information and support, encouraging the client to access the services that they need.



Yvonne Howarth
Young Person's Advocate
at St Mary's SARC

- Yvonne has worked with circa 300 people who have experienced CSE since Dec 2012
- Yvonne is the only Young Person's Advocate (YPA) in the UK located in a Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC)
- At St Mary's SARC Yvonne can provide clients integrated support

5 Point Plan

Yvonne developed this to improve professional's knowledge, understanding and confidence

- **Persist in keeping in touch** a young person may not respond to the 1st, 2nd or 3rd call. Show you care by not giving up
- **Prepare for attitude** explore reasons for challenging behaviour
- **Provide information** give young people the facts so they can make informed choices
- **Prepare to be judged** friends, family, society might not support a young person to make a report. You might be their only friend.
- **Promote St Mary's SARC services** everyone who has experienced rape or sexual violence can access our services

SARC CSE cases are:

1) Identified by SARC staff

Who routinely ask questions
e.g. in purple form to
indicate CSE/
risk of CSE

2) Referred by other agencies

- Police
- Parents
- School staff
- Social worker
- Support worker
- Health professionals
e.g. GP, A&E

Good practice referral model

- Proactive and appropriate use of SARC YPA
- Local CSE teams signpost to SARC YPA
- Acting in best interest of child (not being precious)
- Recognise that YPA at St Mary's SARC offers specialist emotional and practical support regarding impact of assault as well as the criminal justice process

Types of CSE cases seen by SARC YPA include:

- **Abuse position of trust**
- **Peer on peer** School based or neighbourhood based
- **Perpetrator(s) linked to network of cases**
- **Gang-related culture** Young men linked with organised crime including grooming groups of young teens
 - Hyper violent sex crimes, punish females, initiate males