



# **Saint Mary's Centre 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference 2026**

## **A Shared Vision: Reflecting on 40 Years of SARCs, Responding to Sexual Violence and Shaping the Future Together**

**Tuesday 21 – Wednesday 22 April 2026**

**Location: Bridgewater Hall, Manchester**

**Programme – Tuesday 21 April – Morning**

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|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9.30am        | <b>Welcome and Introduction</b><br>Lisa Waters, Head of Operational Performance and Strategic Partnerships, Saint Mary's Centre & SAFEPlace Merseyside                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 9.35am        | <b>SARCS – Looking Back (Working Title)</b><br>Dr Michelle Carroll, Clinical Director, Saint Mary's SARC & SAFEPlace Merseyside                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Chair:</b> | <b>Kathy Cowell OBE DL, Chairman, Manchester University Foundation Trust</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 10.00am       | <b>Claire Waxman OBE</b><br>Victims Commissioner for England and Wales                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 10.20am       | <b>D.Supt Phil Key</b><br>Greater Manchester Police                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 10.45am       | <b>TBC</b><br>United Kingdom Accreditation Service                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 11.10am       | <b>Questions</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 11.20am       | <b>BREAK</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Chair:</b> | <b>Ursula Martin, Chief Executive, Specialist Hospitals Clinical Group, University of Manchester NHS Foundation Trust</b>                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 11.50am       | <b>Art and Advocacy</b><br>Lorien Haynes, Film maker / Writer / Survivor Advocate<br>TBC, Refuge Domestic Abuse Organisation                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 12.15pm       | <b>Panel Discussion – The Media's Depiction of Rape and Sexual Violence: Then, Now and Looking Forward</b><br>Dr Sally Penni MBE, Barrister at Law, Kenworthy Chambers<br>Isabelle Smith, Actress<br>Prof Karen Boyle, Professor of Feminist Media Studies/ Head of Department of Humanities, University of Strathclyde |
| 12.50am       | <b>Questions</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 01.00pm       | <b>LUNCH</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |



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**Programme – Tuesday 21 April – Afternoon**

<b>Chair</b>	<b>HHJ Nicholas Dean KC, Hon. Recorder of Manchester</b>
<b>02.00pm</b>	<b>The Impact of Disclosing Childhood Sexual Abuse as a Child: The journey of disclosure and service responses - how far have we come?</b> Michelle Wright, NHS Scotland
<b>02.25pm</b>	<b>Reframing Vulnerability: Towards Empowerment and Accessible Support for Women with Learning Disabilities and Neurodivergent Women</b> Penni Charteress, Service Lead: Learning Disabilities and Neurodivergent Women, The Women's Centre Cornwall
<b>02.50pm</b>	<b>The Dutch multidisciplinary Sexual Assault Centres: from research to practice</b> Iva Bicanic PhD, Director Knowledge Building, Sexual Assault Centres, The Netherlands
<b>03.15pm</b>	<b>Questions</b>
<b>3.45 – 5.50pm</b>	<b>Workshops</b>



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**Programme – Wednesday 22 April**

<b>Chair:</b>	<b>Janet Potter, Deputy Chief Crown Prosecutor, Crown Prosecution Service</b>
09.00am	<b>Kate Green OBE, Deputy Mayor of Greater Manchester, Safer and Stronger Communities</b>
09.25am	<b>Forty years on: the CPS approach to prosecuting sexual offences</b> Stephen Parkinson, Director of Public Prosecutions, Crown Prosecution Service Rebekah Tomlinson, District Crown Prosecutor, Crown Prosecution Service
09.50am	<b>The Emerging Threat of AI in Digital Sexual Offences</b> Garry Pilkington, Digital Forensics Operations Supervisor, Greater Manchester Police Alex Mulhall, Detective Constable, Greater Manchester Police
10.15am	<b>Questions</b>
10:30am	<b>BREAK</b>
<b>Chair:</b>	<b>ACC Stephanie Parker, Protecting Vulnerable People, Greater Manchester Police</b>
11.00am	<b>Bridging the Gap: Because Healing Can't Wait</b> Emily Jacob, Founder, ReConnected Life
11.25am	<b>(Mock) Jury Decision Making in Cases of Male Sexual Victimization</b> Dr Siobhan Weare, Reader in Law, Lancaster University Dr Dominic Willmott, Reader in Legal Psychology, Loughborough University Madeleine Millar, Research Associate, Lancaster University
11.50pm	<b>Facilitating Constructive Dialogues with Boys and Young Men: the 'Why' and the 'How'</b> Michael Conroy, Founder/Director, Men at Work CIC

12.15pm	<b>Questions</b>
12.30pm	<b>LUNCH</b>
<b>Chair:</b>	<b>Dr Helen Mills, Sexual Offence Medicine Lead for the Faculty of Forensic and Legal Medicine</b>
01.30pm	<b>Title TBC</b> Slater and Gordon Lawyers
01.55pm	<b>Minister Jess Phillips MP</b> Minister for Safeguarding and Violence Against Women and Girls, Home Office
2.20pm	<b>Questions</b>
2.30 - 2.35pm	<b>Closing Remarks</b> Lisa Waters, Head of Operational Performance and Strategic Partnerships,, Saint Mary's Centre & SAFEPlace Merseyside
2.45 - 4.50pm	<b>Workshops</b>

Tuesday: 3.45pm – 4.45pm	<b>WORKSHOP A</b>	<b>WORKSHOP B</b>	<b>WORKSHOP C</b>	<b>WORKSHOP D</b>
	<b>Evolution of the Saint Mary's SARC ISVA Role</b>	<b>DIVAS; Experts by Experience</b>  Sharing our experiences of how we speak out against gender-based violence and inequality	<b>Mapping memory: Exploring how memory for sexual violence is understood and treated along the reporting pathway</b>	<b>Child Protection Medical Examinations in SARC</b>
	Dana Clarke, ISVA Gail Morgan, ISVA Shelby Coghlin, Child and Young Person's ISVA – CSE Joanne Watton, ISVA Megan Kay, ISVA	The DIVAS Group, Cornwall	Professor Heather Flowe, Professor of Psychology, University of Birmingham Madeleine Ingham, PhD Student, University of Birmingham	Dr Helen Mills, Joint Clinical Director, Saint Mary's SARC & SAFEPlace Merseyside
Tuesday: 4.50pm – 5.50pm	<b>WORKSHOP E</b>	<b>WORKSHOP F</b>	<b>WORKSHOP G</b>	<b>WORKSHOP H</b>
	<b>Forensic Sampling: Update, Q&amp;A and FFLM recommendations</b>	<b>Reflecting on 40 years of therapy at SARC</b>	<b>Parallel, connected and independent journeys with &amp; outwith Saint Mary's SARC: Forty years of sexual violence activism in Manchester and beyond</b>	<b>From Regulation to Reality: How Regulation, Risk and Complexity are Changing the Response to Sexual Violence and Misconduct - an LJMU perspective</b>
	Rachel Morgan, Forensic Reporting Scientist and Sexual Offences Scientific Lead, Cellmark Forensic Services  Dr Bernadette Butler, President, The Faculty of Forensic & Legal Medicine of the Royal College of Physicians	Saint Mary's SARC Counselling Team	Dr Sam Warner Consultant clinical psychologist, honorary senior lecturer at Salford University and chair Association of Child Protection Professionals	Yvonne Waring, Sexual Violence Liaison Officer Aine McLaughlin, Sexual Violence Liaison Advisor Jo Bleasdale, Inclusion Services Manager  Liverpool John Moores University

Wednesday: 2.45pm – 3.45pm	<b>WORKSHOP A</b>	<b>WORKSHOP B</b>	<b>WORKSHOP C</b>	<b>WORKSHOP D</b>
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