



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

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**Yvonne Howarth**  
Young Person's Advocate  
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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 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

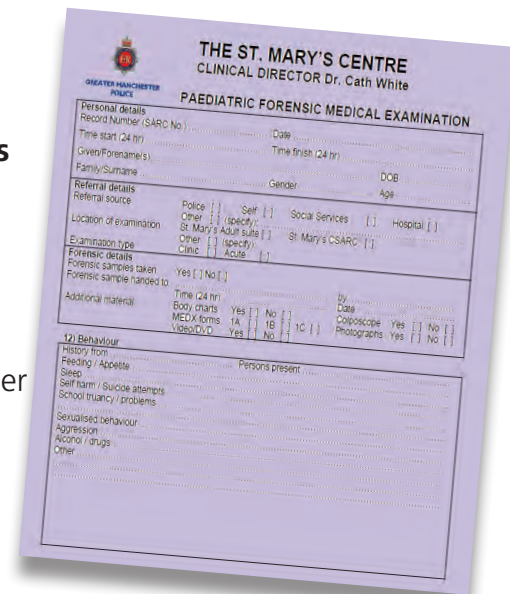
## SARC CSE cases are:

### 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