Sexual Abuse Support Services for Children and Young People / Families – Briefing Paper

**Sexual Assault Referral Service (SARC) – West Midlands Region**

Mountain Healthcare service commenced 1st January 2020 as the interim solution to the  
West Midlands Children and Young Person Sexual Assault Referral Service. Therapeutic support is provided by the counselling team who will explain the services available. Counselling will be delivered by a specialist CYP counsellor and will be tailored to the needs of each CYP. Counselling provides

an initial telephone call by a CYP counsellor (within 72 hours) to gain a full understanding of the CYP needs. This may require information gathering from other professionals involved with the CYP.

Follow up on any identified or outstanding safeguarding by contacting relevant professional’s sessions which are delivered using a Pre-Trial Therapy model. This allows the CYP to access counselling for emotional support when there is an ongoing police investigation. Sessions are provided in bespoke CYP counselling rooms.

NHS England and NHS Improvement went out to tender in March 2020. The aim is to secure a new contract provider from February 2021 for a minimum of four years. The service provided will be the same as the current model, with a single service continuing to cover the whole of the West Midlands region. NHS England and NHS Improvement and its co-commissioning partners (the four offices of the Police and Crime Commissioner) considered dividing the region into multiple contracts but this was discounted due to significant risks including:

• Challenges in staffing a 24/7 service; an issue experienced in 2019 which led to a temporary change in service provider

• Contracts outside the West Midlands police force area (which represents 50% of activity) might not attract any bids

• Staff working on contracts outside the West Midlands police force area might not see enough activity to maintain their skills.

This service will continue to operate a hub and spoke model in the same locations as now. Acute services will continue to be delivered from the hub in Walsall. Non-acute services will continue to be delivered from local SARC units in Birmingham, Nuneaton, Stoke-on-Trent, Wolverhampton and Worcester. NHS England and NHS Improvement are proposing that a review of service locations is undertaken once the new contract provider is in place and established. This will enable them to be fully engaged in all discussions and will also include engagement and consultation with co-commissioners, stakeholders and service users.

Acute services will continue to be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week and non-acute services from Monday – Friday between 9am and 5pm. The service will continue to deliver integrated forensic and clinical care. **CYP SARS-funded psychological therapies will also be available for all service users accessing the service and will be delivered local to their homes.** Pathways for ongoing care and support will also continue to be through services local to the homes of service users.

**NSPCC**

The NSPCC provide national support for children & young people who have experienced sexual abuse via a number of means. Childline is a telephone and web chat service where trained counsellors are accessible 24 hours a day, every day of the year. The ‘Hear and Now’ programme has been integrated into the ‘Let the Future in’ programme. This is a new approach that provides therapeutic support to children and young people who may have been affected by sexual abuse. The service aims to help address the behavioural and emotional difficulties faced by children and young people who are displaying worrying signs that something is wrong and sexual harm is a background feature.

This also includes support for children who have sexually abused someone else and for those individuals who think they might sexually abuse a child or young person.

The NSPCC also provides a range of support services by Mosac for non-abusing parents of children who have been sexually abused. This is through a national helpline, counselling services, workshops and advocacy service.

In Stoke-On-Trent and Staffordshire, the NSPCC work streams focus on ‘Turn the Page’: assessment and direct work with children and young people who have displayed harmful sexual behaviour; ‘Inctrl’: a group work or individually focused work enabling children to work through the risks and benefits of social media and the WWW; and ‘Together for Childhood’: a community based preventative model that aims to work with the community and other partners to help prevent child sexual abuse.

**Sexual Abuse Rape Advice Centre (SARAC) – South / East Staffordshire / South Derbyshire**

This service is for males and females over 11 years old who have experienced sexual assault and/or rape at any time in their lives who live in Burton, Lichfield, Tamworth, Uttoxeter, Swadlincote and South Derbyshire. Assessment is completed on each individual’s level of need.

Emotional support is offered for non-offending family members and friends, a de-brief for professionals after assisting someone who has experienced sexual assault, and specialist support is available in a number of schools and community venues throughout East Staffordshire & South Derbyshire providing a medium to long term one-to-one support for males and females who have experienced or are at risk of sexual abuse. SARAC also offers the specialist Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA)support.

**SAVANA – Stoke On Trent**

Savana provides free counselling and support for anyone from the age of 4 who have been affected by sexual violence and abuse. Counselling service provides weekly 50 minute one to one sessions. Savana also offers the ISVA service and Youth Support Worker.