

How to contact us:

Star Clinic,
Community Children's Health Partnership,
Unit 9, Eastgate Office Centre,
Eastgate Road, Eastville, Bristol, BS5 6XX

Tel: 0300 125 6910 or 0300 125 6900

To discuss a possible referral please ring
Dr Lindsey Mackintosh 01454 862433

<http://www.cchp.nhs.uk>



Community Children's
Health Partnership

This service is provided by Sirona care & health
as part of the Community Children's Health Partnership

Let us know what you think and get involved

T: 0300 124 5300* E: sirona.hello@nhs.net

W: www.sirona-cic.org.uk

*Calls from landlines are charged up to 10p per minute; calls from mobiles vary, please check with your network provider. This is not a premium-rate number.

This document can be provided in other formats and languages, please contact us for more information.

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Registered office

Sirona care & health CIC, 2nd Floor, Kingswood Civic Centre,
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Company Number: 07585003



Community Children's
Health Partnership



Star Clinic

Information for professionals

Service provided by

Sirona
care & health

The purpose of the clinic is to assess and examine:

- Children/young people who have disclosed a history of sexual abuse
- Children/young people who might otherwise be at risk of sexual abuse (including Female Genital Mutilation or cutting)
- Children who have genital conditions not relating to abuse

The incidents disclosed by the children and young people may be in the relatively recent past (a minimum of one week) or may be events that occurred several years prior to the time of disclosure.

Children who have disclosed a recent assault (less than one week) are managed under the acute child protection and forensic procedures.

The role of the clinic is to:

- In cases of abuse, to provide reassurance for child (and parent) that they are healthy and that no damage has been done
- Ascertain and document the extent of any injuries using a colposcope
- Ensure there is not an underlying medical condition or infection
- Provide a factual and independent statement for the police/court, a report for Children's Social care, or provide a letter for medical referrer

In order to do this it is necessary to:

- Take a general medical and social history of the child/young person – from them and their carer
- Undertake a full general medical examination
- Perform a detailed examination of the genitalia, perineum and anus with the aid of the colposcope

We will always be sensitive to the child/young person's needs and adapt the examination accordingly.

We do not examine children/young people without their consent, although most are able to be examined and do not find the process distressing.

A colposcope is an illuminated binocular microscope which magnifies the view of the genitalia. It is attached to a digital camera and so a permanent record can be made of any changes seen. This avoids repeated examinations in the cases of abuse or may document improvement when medical conditions are treated. We can still examine the child/YP but will not take photos if the carer or Fraser-competent young person does not wish this to be done.

In most cases nothing is inserted into the child or young person although a swab or fine catheter can occasionally be used (at the young person's discretion) to help view the hymen and to take samples.

There are usually two doctors and a very experienced nurse who see the children/young people at the Star clinic. We will always try to accommodate a young person's wish if there is an issue about the gender of the examiner (most regular doctors are women).

Referrals

Children are seen from the Bristol, North Somerset & South Gloucestershire (BNSSG) area.

A multi-agency Strategy discussion, including a paediatrician, **must** have been held **before** referrals are accepted for those children with suspected sexual abuse.

This is not the case for those referrals for gynaecological skin conditions eg Lichen Sclerosus, vulvovaginitis.

Referrals are received from:

- Police – Child Abuse Investigation Team (CAIT) Sexual Abuse Investigation Team (SAIT),
- Children & Young People's Services (CYPS) / Social care,
- GPs
- * Consultants/Doctors from any Trust.

Referrals are made either by telephone (0300 125 6910 or 0300 125 6900) or a letter sent direct to the Star Clinic, to Lead Clinician for Star Clinic, Community Children's Health Partnership, Unit 9, Eastgate Office Centre, Eastgate Road, Eastville, Bristol, BS5 6XX.

If a video interview has been undertaken by the police it is necessary to have a written summary of this before the child is seen. Similarly if CYPS have undertaken an assessment it is important to have a copy of this prior to the appointment.

Following the clinic

A written report, police statement or letter (depending on the reason for referral) will be provided to the referrer with copies being sent to relevant professionals with the knowledge of the young person or carer.

Carers are made aware disclosure of information and photos obtained at the clinic may be required for subsequent legal processes.

The young person may be seen again if there are particular health issues.

The young person or family may be referred on for ongoing support or local follow-up.

References and further information

NHS Constitution. Information on your rights and responsibilities.

Available at **www.nhs.uk/aboutnhs/constitution**

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