

Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs)

Definition:

A dedicated facility to provide immediate and on going victim care within the context of a partnership arrangement between police, health and the voluntary sector.

The SARC will provide:

- 24 hour access to forensic medical examination and crisis support.
- Appropriately qualified and trained examiners either doctors or forensic nurse examiners supervised by a forensically qualified and experienced forensic physician/doctor.
- Where forensic nurse examiners are employed, a suitably trained and experienced forensic physician should provide an opinion and interpretation of injuries
- A choice of gender of examiner where ever possible.
- Appropriately trained crisis workers to provide immediate support to the victim and significant others where relevant.
- Immediate access (within 72 hours) to emergency contraception and Post Exposure Prophylaxis (where indicated) either on site or via clear pathway to sexual health services.
- Integral follow on services to include psycho-social support, counselling, access to sexual health screening and treatment and support through the criminal justice process (ISVA role)
- Evidence of Operational and Management policies and procedures
- Infrastructure to support on going victim care, decontamination of examination facility, adequate levels of appropriately trained staff, staff support, training and development and quality assurance.
- Provision of joint agency training in relation to the role of SARC and services provided.

Existing SARCs must be able to demonstrate the following:

Operational policies and procedures

Existing SARCs will demonstrate the following:

Clear partnership arrangements to include:

- Evidence of existing and sustainable funding streams
- Clear management and organisational structure

Evidence of quality assurance measures