

"I was very concerned, but everyone was so nice and my daughter was so relaxed that it put me at ease."

"It was good to see my grandson happy and playing. The assessment was stress free for him."

"You made an awful situation easier to cope with."

"We were given the opportunity to talk and ask questions which is what we needed. They explained everything and were so kind."

"I did not expect to be given the time and was so grateful to be able to discuss everything as it has been so difficult for us."

"It was good to have support with contacting other services afterwards."

"It was all a whirlwind from finding out about what happened to my daughter, the day before we attended for the assessment. I had so many questions running through my head, but you seemed to answer them before I had to think about asking them."

"My daughter was really pleased to have had the time to talk and ask questions. She was made to feel comfortable and not judged."

"We realised that you all cared. You were all very professional but also lovely in how you approached us altogether throughout the experience."

"It was reassuring to know that my child was physically alright."

Information for Professionals

SEXUAL ABUSE ASSESSMENT SERVICE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The Oak Centre
Sexual Assault Referral Centre
Hawkins House
Pynes Hill
Rydon Lane
Exeter
EX2 5SS

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Torbay
Care Trust



Who is the service for?

The Sexual Abuse Assessment Service for Children and Young People is available to all individuals aged 17 and under who may have suffered sexual assault or abuse.

What is a forensic medical assessment?

The forensic medical assessment is to look after therapeutic needs as well as collecting forensic evidence for court proceedings.

An **acute assessment** is provided for sexual assault which may have taken place in the last 7 days. In cases when sexual abuse may have taken place after this time an **historic assessment** can be provided.

The assessment may include:

- Answering questions and talking about concerns
- Discussing the risk of sexually transmitted infection, such as Chlamydia and Gonorrhoea, together with HIV and Hepatitis B infection from the assault/abuse
- Checking for injuries
- Considering if any forensic samples are required
- Considering if any samples are necessary to look for infection
- In females, considering emergency contraception, such as the 'morning after pill'

The assessment can seem frightening, but we allow families to take it at their own pace, providing a secure and supportive environment. The assessment can be stopped at any time.

Who does the assessment?

We are a team of forensic medical examiners, paediatricians and specialist nurses.

It can be difficult to talk about what has happened. We help and support children, young people and families, spending time getting to know all involved, gaining trust and help ensure the experience is both positive and reassuring.

What happens after the assessment?

The assessment involves development of a plan for ongoing care, with onward referral to other appropriate professionals and agencies.

As part of ongoing care we will arrange follow-up approximately two weeks after the initial assessment. This may either be a face-to-face appointment if clinical review is required or by telephone call with the Specialist Nurse as a general welfare check.

Where will assessment take place?

They take place at The Oak Centre, a Sexual Assault Referral Centre in Exeter. It is in a discrete location and provides young person-friendly facilities.

When is the service available?

Acute assessments take place five days a week, Monday to Friday 9am – 5pm (including Bank Holidays). Historic assessments take place in weekly clinics. All assessments are by appointment only.

Outside of these hours if there are acute medical needs, such as injury, general practitioners or the local accident and emergency department should be contacted.