FINAL
11.8.2011

PATHWAY (1) FOR ARRANGING FORENSIC MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS FOR LEEDS CHILDREN WHO ARE SEXUALLY ASSAULTED OUTSIDE NORMAL WORKING HOURS (Working Together 2010 para 2.117)

Child sexually assaulted in the community.
Police are called.

Police Investigating Officer determines:
- Whether forensic medical examination is required.
- Whether child is well enough to be taken directly to Shaw Cross or whether the child is injured or unwell and requires hospital assessment.
- PIO to consider whether a place of safety is required, in liaison with CYPSC Emergency Duty Team
- PIO to check with the CYPSC Emergency Duty Team if the child is known and if a strategy discussion/meeting is required

MOST CASES

Child not seriously injured or unwell:
- Police transport child directly to Shaw Cross
- Police contact SERCO to arrange full child protection forensic medical at Shaw Cross
- SERCO and Police transfer information to LCH for appropriate follow up (see pathway 2)

INFREQUENT CASES

Child presents directly to A&E Department out of hours with history of sexual assault:

- A&E staff perform triage and take initial history.
- A&E staff make initial assessment of child to determine whether there is immediate serious injury or risk to life. If so, appropriate medical management should commence immediately to stabilise the child.
- A&E staff contact on-call Paediatric SpR.
- A&E staff contact Police to request attendance as soon as possible.
- Paediatric SpR and Senior Investigating Officer follow algorithm.

Note: Physical injury with sexual abuse:
Pure physical abuse will continue to be managed by the hospital. However, if other sexual abuse is uncovered during examination for physical injury, the SpR should contact the PIO to determine whether swabs are needed within 6 hours or whether forensic examination can wait until referral to the LCH service next day.

Child appears to have immediate medical needs eg bleeding or seriously injured:
- Police arrange ambulance transport for child to hospital
- PIO attends A&E Department
- A&E Department contact on-call SpR to assess child
- ***Paediatric SpR assesses child to determine whether immediate medical or surgical intervention is required***

Child physically well:
- PIO determines whether skin swabs within 6 hours are needed for forensic purposes

6 hour skin swabs required:
- Police transport child to Shaw Cross
- Police contact SERCO to arrange full child protection forensic medical at Shaw Cross
- SERCO & Police transfer information to LCH for appropriate follow up (see pathway 2)

6 hour skin swabs not required:
- SpR and PIO agree child can remain in a hospital bed overnight

SUNDAY NIGHT OR WEEKDAY NIGHT:
- SpR refers child to LCH next day for forensic examination and follow up

FRIDAY NIGHT, SATURDAY OR SUNDAY:
- If day time, Police arrange transport to Shaw Cross for forensic medical by SERCO FME.
- If late at night, SpR and PIO may agree child can remain in hospital bed overnight or Police may arrange for child to go home if safe or to be accommodated elsewhere. Police to arrange transport to Shaw Cross next day for forensic medical exam by SERCO FME.
- SERCO & Police transfer information to LCH next working day for appropriate follow up (see pathway 2)

Child requires immediate surgery:
- PIO contacts SERCO
- SERCO FME undertakes forensic exam in theatre at LTHT
- SERCO FME considers need for PEPSE, PCC and Hep B immunisation, makes a record in the hospital notes, and hands over responsibility for arranging these to SpR. The SpR can seek further telephone advice from LCH next day, if needed.
- Paediatric SpR hands over to FME, but does not attend forensic exam
- SERCO and Police transfer information to LCH for appropriate follow up (see pathway 2)

Child requires urgent admission for medical care or observation, but not surgery:
- Child is admitted to hospital in-patient bed
- PIO determines whether skin swabs within 6 hours are needed for forensic purposes

6 hour skin swabs required:
- PIO contacts SERCO FME to attend hospital urgently and perform forensic medical on the ward
- SERCO FME considers need for PEPSE, PCC and Hep B immunisation, makes a record in the hospital notes, and hands over responsibility for arranging these to SpR. The SpR can seek further telephone advice from LCH next day, if needed.
- Paediatric SpR hands over to FME, but does not attend forensic exam
- Police officer assists FME with forensic exam. Paediatric nurse should remain nearby to facilitate exam.
- SpR refers child to LCH next day for clinical follow up
- SERCO & Police transfer information to LCH for appropriate follow up (see pathway 2)

6 hour skin swabs not required:
- SpR refers child to LCH next day for forensic examination and follow up

ACRONYMS

A&E	Accident and Emergency
CYPSC	Children & Young People's Social Care
FME	Forensic Medical Examiner
LCH	Leeds Community Healthcare
LTHT	Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust
PCC	Post coital contraception
PEPSE	Post-exposure prophylaxis following sexual exposure
PIO	Police Investigating Officer
SpR	Specialist Registrar