

**OFFICE OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER
FOR HUMBERSIDE
DECISION RECORD**

Decision Record Number: **DR 30/2024**

Title: Commissioning and Procurement for the Children's Sexual Assault and Assessment Service Services (CSAAS).

Executive Summary:

This paper outlines the case for the commissioning and procurement of a hub and spoke model for the Humberside Children's Sexual Assault and Assessment Service (CSAAS). The Commissioner provides fifty percent of the funding for the existing service, for delivery of interventions in relation to child sexual assault, via force budget.

Decision:

That the request for commissioning and procuring the hub and spoke model for the Child Sexual Assault and Assessment Service Services (CSAAS) service is approved.

Background Report: Open

Police and Crime Commissioner for Humberside

I confirm I have considered whether or not I have any personal or prejudicial interest in this matter and take the proposed decision in compliance with my code of conduct. Any such interests are recorded below.

The above request has my approval.

Signature



Date 24/09/2024

**POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER
FOR HUMBERSIDE**

**DECISION RECORD
OPEN**

Title: Commissioning and Procurement Exercise for the Children's Sexual Assault and Assessment Service Services (CSAAS).

1. Executive Summary

This paper outlines the case for the commissioning and procurement of a hub and spoke model for the Humberside Children's Sexual Assault and Assessment Service (CSAAS). The Commissioner provides fifty percent of the funding for the existing service, for delivery of interventions in relation to child sexual assault, via force budget.

2. Recommendation(s)

That the request for commissioning and procuring the hub and spoke model for the Child Sexual Assault and Assessment Service Services (CSAAS) service is approved.

3. Background

- 3.1. Humberside office for the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) has an arrangement in place for commissioning the Child Sexual Assault and Assessment Service (CSAAS) with Humberside Police and NHS England Yorkshire & Humber Health and Justice team (NHSE).
- 3.2. The current contracts have previously been commissioned as four separate contracts with NHS England Yorkshire & Humber Health and Justice team.
- 3.3. Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust (SCFT) and Hull University Teaching Hospital's NHS Trust (HUTH) are two of four Child Sexual Assault Assessment Services being delivered across the Yorkshire and Humber Region. Currently, both services provide forensic medical services, non-recent medical assessments, crisis support and ongoing referral to other health services as appropriate, for all cases of child sexual assault.
- 3.4. In February 2024 SCFT and HUTH responded to a Request for Information (RFI) from NHS England and the OPCC's, whereby commissioners signalled their intention to consider a single Children's SARC service for the whole of the Yorkshire & Humber Region from April 2025 on a 3+2-year contract. This would be a 'hub and spoke' model whereby the hub would need to be accredited to continue delivering the acute forensic examination element of the service, with the spokes delivering the non-acute examinations and ongoing care.
- 3.5. HUTH signalled their interest in delivering the hub as well as the spoke service as part of their response.
- 3.6. The preferred overall model for sexual abuse referral services, is outlined in Specification 30 is a 'hub and spoke', with a central hub, a paediatric SARC or equivalent, seeing all acute forensic cases for a defined geographical and demographic population). "A central hub, a paediatric SARC or equivalent, sees all acute forensic cases for a defined geographical and demographic populations and the

service may also have 'spokes' which will consist of local community paediatric or other health services (where local expertise is available) which link to the central hub." PRN00577-national-service-specification-sexual-assault-referral-centres-updated.pdf (england.nhs.uk).

3.7. Both the hub and spoke will work in partnership with police and children's social care, and co locate with ISVA services. Historical cases may be seen in the 'hub' or the 'spoke' depending on forensic requirements and local resources. Where there is a need for intimate body samples the child should be seen in the paediatric SARC or equivalent (hub), place of follow up (spoke) will depend on the service and where the child lives. The combined service will:

- Provide a rapid response when a child requires acute forensic medical assessment, including the provision of crisis workers and/or other similarly trained professionals.
- Provide a timely response to requests for historic CSA medical assessments.
- Provide follow up appointments for both acute and historic CSA.
- Refer to other assessment and therapeutic services as required (both immediate and long term).

3.8. **Change in Forensic Requirements:**

3.8.1 From October 2025, there is an expectation that all SARC services will achieve forensic accreditation in relation to ISO 15189-this relates to general requirements for competence and quality that are particular to medical laboratories.

3.8.2 SARC services are essential to patient care and therefore must be available to meet the needs of all patients and the clinical personnel responsible for the care of those patients. Such services include arrangements for examination requests, patient preparation, collection of samples, transport, storage, examination of patient and collection of clinical samples, together with subsequent interpretation, reporting and advice, in addition to the considerations of safety and ethics.

3.8.3 Unfortunately, this accreditation has implications for the structural clinical environment and following review it is apparent that whilst Sheffield Children's Foundation Trust (SCFT), clinical environment would be fit for purpose, Hull University Teaching Hospitals (HUTH) clinical environment would not be.

3.8.4 The required investment is not available from NHS England budget. HUTH estimated a minimum for £500,000 would be required to relocate their SARC service into another location that would meet the required standard. NHS England confirmed that they would not fund this refurbishment.

3.8.5 Following this decision, HUTH were informed by NHS England that as they would not achieve ISO 15189 accreditation, they would not be able to deliver a forensic service in relation to acute child sexual assault. In effect they would not be able to act as the 'Hub' only as a 'Spoke' in any future SARC plans.

3.8.6 The resulting procurement process for the new service is to be undertaken jointly with NHS England Yorkshire & Humber Health and Justice team and directly with the Office for the Police and Crime Commissioner for Humberside. The

service is to be jointly funded between NHS England Yorkshire & Humber Health and Justice team and the Offices for the Police and Crime Commissioner for Humberside with table 1 below in section 5 showing the costs allocated to the service.

4. Options and Risks

4.1. Please see options appraisal below, option 1 is considered as the preferred option based on least risk and most benefit:

- **Option 1**

Progress procurement with NHSE as lead commissioner on a hub and spoke model for Humberside.

- **Option 2**

Do not progress procurement of Hub and Spoke Model for Humberside, continue to deliver acute forensic service for Humberside.

4.2. Areas for consideration:

- There is a justification for improved effectiveness and considerable efficiencies in proceeding with option 1, the budget requirement to upgrade Humberside suite to meet accreditation is not available. Therefore option 2 may lead to reputational damage and ultimately no service for vulnerable victims.
- The demand for the additional site investment is not evidenced in Humberside with only 14 acute cases seen at the Humberside CSAAS during 2023/24. The demand for non-recent case support is significantly higher and a spoke model would enable additional opportunities for co-location, particularly in areas of low referral.
- SCFT has a site which is more amenable to upgrade for new forensic standards and will have ability to act as the South Yorkshire & Humberside hub, delivering the contract to include forensic medicals for both acute and non-acute cases across South Yorkshire and acute for Humberside.
- Following market testing (RFI process), SCFT have confirmed interest in taking on the role of the hub to provide acute forensic medicals for children residing in Humberside.
- HUTH, have an appetite to become a spoke to SCFT and continue to see non-acute cases in the Humberside spoke, as well as the follow up for acute cases who have initially been seen in South Yorkshire.
- HUTH have also expressed interest to see any non-acute cases in their spoke who live on the South Yorkshire/Humberside boarder, where travel is easier than getting to Sheffield.
- Humberside OPCC and NHS England have committed to work in collaboration with both Trusts to jointly develop a hub and spoke specification, where policies, SOPs and pathways align to the intended model.
- NHS England will co-ordinate a series of meetings between both organisations to achieve this. NHS England would be looking to directly award this contract to SCFT/Hull under the Most Suitable Provider route via the new Provider Selection Regime (PSR) regulations.

5. Financial Implications

5.1. There are anticipated savings within the procurement process from having no requirement to upgrade existing buildings (circa 500k), and from the delivery of spoke service only in Humberside. Should option 1 be agreed then the HUTH contract value will be amended accordingly, to cover the change in service model. The existing arrangement is as follows:

Table 1 CSAAS funding model:

| | Contribution | Breakdown |
|--|--------------|--|
| NHS England | 50% | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crisis support and SARC management elements and associated non-pay costs • Management overheads • Premises costs |
| Police and Crime Commissioner contribution | 50% | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crisis support and SARC management elements and associated non-pay costs • Management overheads |
| Total Service Threshold | 100% | |

6. **Legal Implications:** NHS England will lead the procurement under new legislation for provider selection regimes. (PSR)
7. **Equalities Implications:** An Equality Impact Assessment will be undertaken to support commissioning decision and procurement process.
8. **Consultation:** Market consultation has been thorough, via mode of survey, request for information to the market and in person consultation. There is significant appetite within the provider network to progress this model. Further community and stakeholder consultation must now follow.
9. **Media information:** Opportunities for re launch considering new service launch and co-location.
10. **Background documents:** None.
11. **Publication:** Open
12. **DPIA considered:** Consulted with Mike Richmond, this relates to Force and NHS data it will go through the respective DPIA screening process.