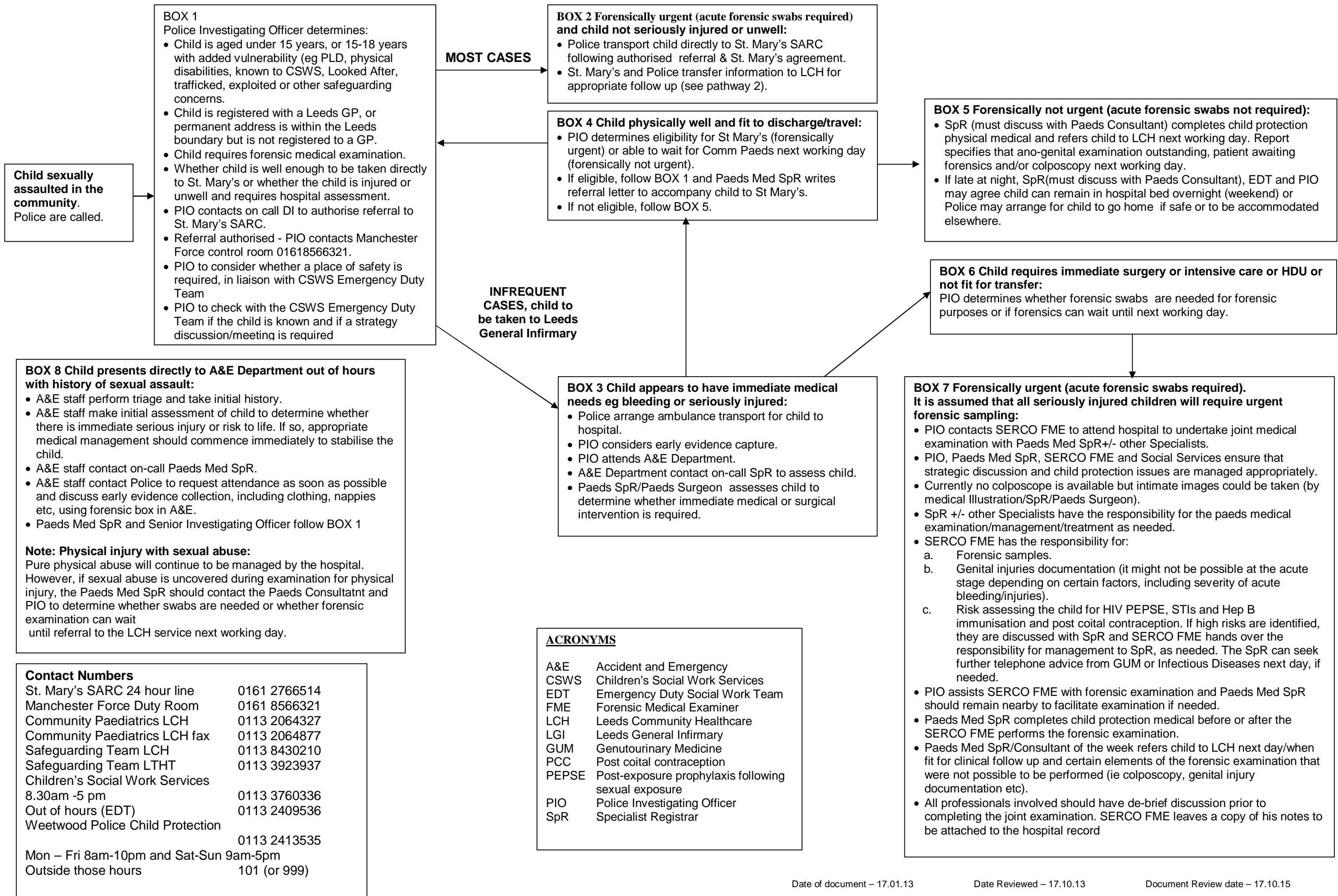


Pathway (1) for arranging forensic medical examinations for leeds children who are sexually assaulted outside normal working hours



BOX 1
Police Investigating Officer determines:

- Child is aged under 15 years, or 15-18 years with added vulnerability (eg PLD, physical disabilities, known to CSWS, Looked After, trafficked, exploited or other safeguarding concerns).
- Child is registered with a Leeds GP, or permanent address is within the Leeds boundary but is not registered to a GP.
- Child requires forensic medical examination.
- Whether child is well enough to be taken directly to St. Mary's or whether the child is injured or unwell and requires hospital assessment.
- PIO contacts on call DI to authorise referral to St. Mary's SARC.
- Referral authorised - PIO contacts Manchester Force control room 01618566321.
- PIO to consider whether a place of safety is required, in liaison with CSWS Emergency Duty Team
- PIO to check with the CSWS Emergency Duty Team if the child is known and if a strategy discussion/meeting is required

BOX 2 Forensically urgent (acute forensic swabs required) and child not seriously injured or unwell:

- Police transport child directly to St. Mary's SARC following authorised referral & St. Mary's agreement.
- St. Mary's and Police transfer information to LCH for appropriate follow up (see pathway 2).

BOX 4 Child physically well and fit to discharge/travel:

- PIO determines eligibility for St Mary's (forensically urgent) or able to wait for Comm Paeds next working day (forensically not urgent).
- If eligible, follow BOX 1 and Paeds Med SpR writes referral letter to accompany child to St Mary's.
- If not eligible, follow BOX 5.

BOX 5 Forensically not urgent (acute forensic swabs not required):

- SpR (must discuss with Paeds Consultant) completes child protection physical medical and refers child to LCH next working day. Report specifies that ano-genital examination outstanding, patient awaiting forensics and/or colposcopy next working day.
- If late at night, SpR(must discuss with Paeds Consultant), EDT and PIO may agree child can remain in hospital bed overnight (weekend) or Police may arrange for child to go home if safe or to be accommodated elsewhere.

BOX 6 Child requires immediate surgery or intensive care or HDU or not fit for transfer:
PIO determines whether forensic swabs are needed for forensic purposes or if forensics can wait until next working day.

BOX 3 Child appears to have immediate medical needs eg bleeding or seriously injured:

- Police arrange ambulance transport for child to hospital.
- PIO considers early evidence capture.
- PIO attends A&E Department.
- A&E Department contact on-call SpR to assess child.
- Paeds SpR/Paeds Surgeon assesses child to determine whether immediate medical or surgical intervention is required.

BOX 7 Forensically urgent (acute forensic swabs required). It is assumed that all seriously injured children will require urgent forensic sampling:

- PIO contacts SERCO FME to attend hospital to undertake joint medical examination with Paeds Med SpR+/- other Specialists.
- PIO, Paeds Med SpR, SERCO FME and Social Services ensure that strategic discussion and child protection issues are managed appropriately.
- Currently no colposcope is available but intimate images could be taken (by medical Illustration/SpR/Paeds Surgeon).
- SpR +/- other Specialists have the responsibility for the paed's medical examination/management/treatment as needed.
- SERCO FME has the responsibility for:
 - a. Forensic samples.
 - b. Genital injuries documentation (it might not be possible at the acute stage depending on certain factors, including severity of acute bleeding/injuries).
 - c. Risk assessing the child for HIV PEPSE, STIs and Hep B immunisation and post coital contraception. If high risks are identified, they are discussed with SpR and SERCO FME hands over the responsibility for management to SpR, as needed. The SpR can seek further telephone advice from GUM or Infectious Diseases next day, if needed.
- PIO assists SERCO FME with forensic examination and Paeds Med SpR should remain nearby to facilitate examination if needed.
- Paeds Med SpR completes child protection medical before or after the SERCO FME performs the forensic examination.
- Paeds Med SpR/Consultant of the week refers child to LCH next day/when fit for clinical follow up and certain elements of the forensic examination that were not possible to be performed (ie colposcopy, genital injury documentation etc).
- All professionals involved should have de-brief discussion prior to completing the joint examination. SERCO FME leaves a copy of his notes to be attached to the hospital record

BOX 8 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 Paeds Med SpR.
- A&E staff contact Police to request attendance as soon as possible and discuss early evidence collection, including clothing, nappies etc, using forensic box in A&E.
- Paeds Med SpR and Senior Investigating Officer follow BOX 1

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

Contact Numbers

St. Mary's SARC 24 hour line	0161 2766514
Manchester Force Duty Room	0161 8566321
Community Paediatrics LCH	0113 2064327
Community Paediatrics LCH fax	0113 2064877
Safeguarding Team LCH	0113 8430210
Safeguarding Team LTHT	0113 3923937
Children's Social Work Services	
8.30am -5 pm	0113 3760336
Out of hours (EDT)	0113 2409536
Weetwood Police Child Protection	0113 2413535
Mon – Fri 8am-10pm and Sat-Sun 9am-5pm	
Outside those hours	101 (or 999)

ACRONYMS

A&E	Accident and Emergency
CSWS	Children's Social Work Services
EDT	Emergency Duty Social Work Team
FME	Forensic Medical Examiner
LCH	Leeds Community Healthcare
LGI	Leeds General Infirmary
GUM	Genourinary Medicine
PCC	Post coital contraception
PEPSE	Post-exposure prophylaxis following sexual exposure
PIO	Police Investigating Officer
SpR	Specialist Registrar