

but you should discuss this with the doctor and social worker. It may mean that the original concern cannot be properly investigated, leave unanswered questions about your wellbeing and leave you with untreated problems.

### For parents

It is helpful if you are positive in your encouragement of the examination. Whilst the assessment may be upsetting for you, your child needs your support. The examination will be done in a patient, caring and sensitive manner at their pace.

Other children in your family may also be asked to attend for an examination.

### What next?

The doctor will discuss their findings with you, your parents and the social worker and answer any questions. They may make a follow up appointment to discuss any results. After the medical, further discussion will take place between the social worker and the police and you will be informed about this.



The wording in this publication can be made available in other formats such as large print and Braille.

Please call 01274 434361.



# Child Protection Medical Examination

Your questions answered



## Introduction

In Bradford we are committed to working in partnership with young people and their parents and carers. This leaflet will help you to understand the child protection medical assessment, part of a child protection investigation involving Bradford Social Care, police and health working together to help you.

We know from studies and experience that most young people find the medical assessment reassuring and helpful. They cope best when they are well supported by carers who are calm and encouraging.

### Why do I need an examination?

A concern has been expressed about your well being or an injury. A paediatrician (a specialist child and adolescent doctor) has been asked to see you to review these concerns. This specialist doctor will try to make a full assessment on the day of the examination.

### What happens?

A social worker or police officer will normally bring you to the hospital - Children's Outpatients St Luke's Hospital, Ward 2 at BRI or Outpatients at Airedale General Hospital. On arrival a receptionist will confirm your name and details.

A nurse may weigh you and take a sample of urine if possible. You can ask the nurse any questions you have about the examination.

### What happens during the examination?

The doctor will ask you about what happened. This is a chance for you to express how you have been affected. They may ask you to describe how you feel about the concerns that have been raised and tell them what happened in your own



words. The questions may seem embarrassing but all teenagers are asked these same questions. We will never judge or disrespect you.

Once you feel you have said all you need to, the doctor will pull a curtain around the bed and begin a general medical examination. This involves assessing your eyes, ears, teeth, chest, arms, legs in the same way as your own GP may examine you.

With your consent, the doctor will also need to examine your private parts. This involves looking first at the vagina or penis and then looking at your anus (bottom). This should not hurt so you will not need painkillers or to be put to sleep. If you are sore this may be due to an infection or injury. The examination is important to decide if you need treatment.

The doctor may take samples using cotton wool swabs (cotton buds). These swabs will then be sent to a laboratory to test for infections.

### What is a colposcope?

It is usual in such an examination for a colposcope to be used. This is a medical instrument which allows the doctor to look

more closely at your private parts without moving closer to you.

The colposcope looks like a microscope. It has a very bright light magnifier and a DVD recorder.

The colposcope does not touch you or go inside. The doctor will stand at the end of the bed and look at a screen on the side.

### Recording

The doctor will make notes or drawings. With your permission they will take a DVD recording of the examination to keep as a record for evidence. It is normally only seen by other doctors for further opinions and can reduce the need for re examination. All recordings are kept securely.

Any injuries may be photographed by a hospital photographer, the doctor or a police civilian. You will be asked for written permission.

### Who else will be in the examination room?

During the examination a nurse will be present. You may want an adult who you trust to come along with you to the appointment. During the examination the doctor will pull curtains around you for privacy. The social worker will stay in the room, but behind a curtain for the examination. A police doctor may be present to give an opinion and take any special swabs for their investigation.

### Do I have to be examined?

You are never forced to have an examination and can refuse at any time. If you wish to pause or stop at any point tell the doctor or nurse and they will respect this. It may be possible to come back another day or take time out before continuing