

# A longitudinal study of the health and wellbeing of survivors of sexual abuse, assault and rape attending Sexual Assault Referral Centres in England: the MESARCH study

<b>Submission date</b> 08/01/2019	<b>Recruitment status</b> No longer recruiting	<input type="checkbox"/> Prospectively registered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Protocol
<b>Registration date</b> 30/08/2019	<b>Overall study status</b> Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Results
<b>Last Edited</b> 21/10/2024	<b>Condition category</b> Mental and Behavioural Disorders	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data

## Plain English summary of protocol

Current plain English summary as of 18/09/2020:

### Background and study aims

Society has a duty to safeguard its citizens, and promote people's rights to live free of violence. Sexual violence refers to any unwanted sexual act or activity. There are many different kinds of sexual violence, including but not restricted to: rape, sexual assault, child sexual abuse, sexual harassment, rape within marriage or relationships, forced marriage, so-called 'honour'-based violence, female genital mutilation, trafficking, sexual exploitation, and ritual abuse. Each year there are 473,000 adult sexual offences in the UK, including 58,000 cases of rape. In 2014/15, there were 47,008 sexual offences against children. Sexual violence has devastating short- and long-term consequences for the wellbeing of victims and survivors. The negative effects can be seen across families and communities, affecting people's abilities to work and participate in family and social life. Estimates suggest that child sexual abuse alone costs £182m in health spending annually. Hence, sexual violence is very costly to society, both in terms of the suffering and emotional pain it causes but also in terms of lost work, and health, policing and legal costs. A victim of a sexual crime can find help from a Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC), either by making contact themselves or being offered a referral by another person or organisation like a doctor, nurse, school or member of the police. A SARC is intended as a place where individuals can receive medical care including a forensic medical examination if they consent to this, advice, counselling and support. There are over 40 SARCs across England, Wales and Scotland. SARCs are thought to bring benefits when a person who has experienced sexual assault or rape reaches out for help. However, the true impact of SARCs is largely unknown. The way things are done can vary from one centre to another, and it is not known what works best for different groups of people like men, members of the LGBT community, and people with particular vulnerabilities (e.g. those with disability, minority ethnicity, and children). This study takes an in-depth look at the work of SARCs and how they impact people's recovery journeys.

### Who can participate?

For the adult study, people who are aged 18 and above, have been a service user at a Sexual

Assault Referral Centre between 01/08/2019 and 31/12/2020 and can provide informed consent are eligible to join. Please take a look at the MESARCH participant video: <http://mesarch.coventry.ac.uk/join-1000-voices-for-change/>  
For the children and young people study, young people and children who are aged 13-17 and have attended participating sites (Sexual Assault Referral Centres) during a (yet to be) specified time period

What does the study involve?

This study is concerned with people's recovery journeys over time following assault, abuse or rape and, in doing so, gathers information about the range of services (including SARC services) and interventions that service users are offered/receive over time and asks people about the impact of these on valued aspects of their lives (e.g. relationships; work and education; emotional, sexual and physical health; safety and security). Interviews are conducted over the phone mainly using a range of questionnaires and follow-up at 6 months, one and two years. A participant doesn't have to complete each time point, everything remains voluntary and on the individual's terms. This approach was co-created with survivors of sexual abuse and violence, and charities to ensure the study will be conducted respectfully and ethically and will lead to relevant changes in practice and policy.

Hear more about the study on the website <http://mesarch.coventry.ac.uk/>

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?

The researchers' slogan is 'join a thousand voices for change'. Some people find it helpful to join with others who have had similar experiences and be a part of something that is focused on turning injustice into positive action. It may also be helpful to share their story with people they don't know and be signposted to different support agencies. Some people may perceive these as benefits. The research is also very important. Key stakeholders such as NHS England, Rape Crisis England and Wales and charities across the country are watching the research closely and are keen to have new and high quality research evidence to support planning services for the future. This is an opportunity for participants to have their say. The researchers have explored concerns that participating in this research could be triggering for people who have experienced sexual abuse or violence. Thus, they have developed their processes to be empowering for individuals (e.g. they are guided by the participant each step of the way; there is no pressure to participate, they only want participants to respond to questions they are comfortable with, the researchers don't ask about what happened or what brought them to the SARC; they are guided by frameworks of RCEW and the Survivors' Voices charter and their lived expertise group <http://mesarch.coventry.ac.uk/patient-and-public-involvement/>). The researchers can't always anticipate what might come up for a particular individual, but they are certainly ready to listen and offer support where possible, and in doing so, offer a safe space for research. They will protect participants' confidentiality and information in line with GDPR guidelines; they would explain this thoroughly for those interested in taking part. There is a small token of thanks for each survey, £10 for the baseline, 6 and 12 months and £20 for the final interview at 2 years.

Where is the study run from?

The study is hosted at Coventry University and the lead NHS partner is University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust. The study has grown to include 42 organisation (<http://mesarch.coventry.ac.uk/whats-our-project-creating/>) including police-led, charity- and privately-run and NHS-led SARCs, along with third sector and rape crisis organisations from all over the country.

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?  
September 2018 to November 2022

Who is funding the study?  
National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) (UK)

Who is the main contact?  
Dr Grace Carter  
mesarch@coventry.ac.uk

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#### Previous plain English summary:

##### Background and study aims

Society has a duty to safeguard its citizens, and promote people's rights to live free of violence. Sexual violence refers to any unwanted sexual act or activity. There are many different kinds of sexual violence, including but not restricted to: rape, sexual assault, child sexual abuse, sexual harassment, rape within marriage or relationships, forced marriage, so-called 'honour'-based violence, female genital mutilation, trafficking, sexual exploitation, and ritual abuse. Each year there are 473,000 adult sexual offences in the UK, including 58,000 cases of rape. In 2014/15, there were 47,008 sexual offences against children. Sexual violence has devastating short- and long-term consequences for the wellbeing of victims and survivors. The negative effects can be seen across families and communities, affecting people's abilities to work and participate in family and social life. Estimates suggest that child sexual abuse alone costs £182m in health spending annually. Hence, sexual violence is very costly to society, both in terms of the suffering and emotional pain it causes but also in terms of lost work, and health, policing and legal costs. A victim of a sexual crime can find help from a Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC), either by making contact themselves or being offered a referral by another person or organisation like a doctor, nurse, school or member of the police. A SARC is intended as a place where individuals can receive medical care including a forensic medical examination if they consent to this, advice, counselling and support. There are over 40 SARCs across England, Wales and Scotland. SARCs are thought to bring benefits when a person who has experienced sexual assault or rape reaches out for help. However, the true impact of SARCs is largely unknown. The way things are done can vary from one centre to another, and it is not known what works best for different groups of people like men, members of the LGBT community, and people with particular vulnerabilities (e.g. those with disability, minority ethnicity, and children). This study takes an in-depth look at the work of SARCs and how they impact people's recovery journeys.

#### Who can participate?

For the adult study, people who are aged 18 and above, have attended as a service user one of the participating sites (Sexual Assault Referral Centres) between 01/08/2019 and 30/06/2020 and can consent to participation. Please take a look at the MESARCH participant video:

<http://mesarch.coventry.ac.uk/getting-involved/>

For the children and young people study, young people and children who are aged 13-17 and have attended participating sites (Sexual Assault Referral Centres) during a (yet to be) specified time period

#### What does the study involve?

This study is concerned with people's recovery journeys over time following assault, abuse or rape and, in doing so, gathers information about the range of services (including SARC services) and interventions that service users are offered/receive over time and asks people about the impact of these on valued aspects of their lives (e.g. relationships; work and education; emotional, sexual and physical health; safety and security). Interviews are conducted over the phone mainly using a range of questionnaires and follow-up at 6 months, one and two years. A participant doesn't have to complete each time point, everything remains voluntary and on the

individual's terms. This approach was co-created with survivors of sexual abuse and violence, and charities to ensure the study will be conducted respectfully and ethically and will lead to relevant changes in practice and policy.

Hear more about the study on the website <http://mesarch.coventry.ac.uk/>

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?

The researchers' slogan is 'join a thousand voices for change'. Some people find it helpful to join with others who have had similar experiences and be a part of something that is focused on turning injustice into positive action. It may also be helpful to share their story with people they don't know and be signposted to different support agencies. Some people may perceive these as benefits. The research is also very important. Key stakeholders such as NHS England and Rape Crisis England and Wales are watching the research closely and will act on the findings. This is an opportunity for participants to have their say. One of the researchers' concerns is that participating in this research could be triggering for people who have experienced sexual abuse or violence. Thus, they have developed their processes to be empowering for individuals (e.g. they are guided by the participant each step of the way; there is no pressure to participate, they only want participants to respond to questions they are comfortable with, the researchers don't ask about what happened or what brought them to the SARC). The researchers can't always anticipate what might come up for a particular individual, but they are certainly ready to listen and offer support where possible, and in doing so, offer a safe space for research. They will protect participants' confidentiality and information in line with GDPR guidelines; they would explain this thoroughly for those interested in taking part. There is a small token of thanks for each survey, £10 for the baseline, 6 and 12 months and £20 for the final interview at 2 years.

Where is the study run from?

The study is hosted at Coventry University and the lead NHS partner is University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust. The study has grown to include police-led, charity- and privately-run and NHS-led SARCs, along with third sector and rape crisis organisations from all over the country. The study website is <http://mesarch.coventry.ac.uk/>

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?

September 2018 to May 2022

Who is funding the study?

National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) (UK)

Who is the main contact?

Dr Grace Carter  
[mesarch@coventry.ac.uk](mailto:mesarch@coventry.ac.uk)

## Contact information

**Type(s)**

Scientific

**Contact name**

Dr Lorna O'Doherty

**ORCID ID**

<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0816-9321>

## **Contact details**

Richard Crossman Building  
Priory Street  
Coventry  
United Kingdom  
CV1 5FB  
+44 (0)2477659130  
lorna.odoherty@coventry.ac.uk

## **Additional identifiers**

### **Clinical Trials Information System (CTIS)**

Nil known

### **Integrated Research Application System (IRAS)**

261455

### **ClinicalTrials.gov (NCT)**

Nil known

### **Protocol serial number**

CPMS 37956, 16/117/04, IRAS 261455, IRAS 265220

## **Study information**

### **Scientific Title**

Multi-disciplinary Evaluation of Sexual Assault Referral Centres for better Health (MESARCH)

### **Acronym**

MESARCH

### **Study objectives**

Current hypothesis as of 18/09/2020:

Sexual violence is any unwanted sexual act or activity, including though not limited to: rape, sexual assault, child sexual abuse, sexual harassment, rape within relationships, forced marriage, female genital mutilation, and sexual exploitation. Sexual violence affects people of all ages, backgrounds and genders, with recent figures suggesting that 1 in 5 women and 1 in 25 men have experienced sexual assault since the age of 16. Sexual violence has serious impacts on a person's health and well-being. A Sexual Assault Referral Centre (or SARC) offers 24/7 medical care and psychological support, and a first point of contact for victims of sexual violence, whether the police are involved or not. SARCs are set up to support the wide range of needs and wishes of individuals, which is vital in the aftermath of such a devastating experience. There are around 50 SARCs in England. However, the true impact of SARCs is largely unknown, with a lack of evidence at a national level about the extent to which SARCs bring benefit to survivors /service users.

The MESARCH project aims to evaluate whether the services provided through SARCs are effective in supporting them. It will pursue this aim using mixed approaches including service mapping, in-depth cases studies at 10 SARC sites, a longitudinal study of health and wellbeing with several hundred survivors attending 16 SARC sites and an embedded qualitative study of 55

service user and survivor experiences. This research will be critical to shaping future SARC service provision in England. The MESARCH project will also strengthen the international evidence base on interventions for sexual assault and abuse.

There are 4 planned workstreams. The current information mainly refers to the longitudinal study undertaken in workstream 3.

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#### Previous hypothesis:

Sexual violence is any unwanted sexual act or activity, including though not limited to: rape, sexual assault, child sexual abuse, sexual harassment, rape within relationships, forced marriage, female genital mutilation, and sexual exploitation. Sexual violence affects people of all ages, backgrounds and genders, with recent figures suggesting that 1 in 5 women and 1 in 25 men have experienced sexual assault since the age of 16. Sexual violence has serious impacts on a person's health and well-being. A Sexual Assault Referral Centre (or SARC) offers 24/7 medical care and psychological support, and a first point of contact for victims of sexual violence, whether the police are involved or not. SARCs are set up to support the wide range of needs and wishes of individuals, which is vital in the aftermath of such a devastating experience. There are now 47 SARCs in England. However, the true impact of SARCs is largely unknown, with a lack of evidence at a national level about the extent to which SARCs bring benefit to survivors/service users.

The MESARCH project aims to evaluate whether the services provided through SARCs are effective in supporting them. It will pursue this aim using mixed approaches including service mapping, in-depth cases studies at 10 SARC sites, a longitudinal study of health and wellbeing in around 1,000 survivors attending 15 sites and an embedded qualitative study of 55 service user and survivor experiences. This research will be critical to shaping future SARC service provision in England. The MESARCH project will also strengthen the international evidence base on interventions for sexual assault and abuse.

There are 4 planned workstreams. The current application refers to a pilot of the longitudinal study to be undertaken in workstream 3.

#### **Ethics approval required**

Old ethics approval format

#### **Ethics approval(s)**

Current ethics approval as of 18/09/2020:

1. Approved 30/07/2019, East Midlands Derby REC (Riverside Centre, Derwent Room, Pride Park, Derby, Riverside Court, Pride Park, Derby, DE24 8HY; +44 (0)207 1048109; NRESCCommittee. eastmidlands-derby@nhs.net), ref: 19/EM/0198
2. Approved 04/06/2020, West Midlands-Black Country REC (Village Urban Resort Dudley, 2 Castlegate Park, Birmingham Road, Dudley, West Midlands, DY1 4TB); +44 (0)207 104 8010; blackcountry.rec@hra.nhs.uk), ref: 20/WM/0097

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#### Previous ethics approval:

Approved 30/07/2019, East Midlands Derby REC (Riverside Centre, Derwent Room, Pride Park, Derby, Riverside Court, Pride Park, Derby, DE24 8HY; Tel: +44 (0)207 1048109; Email: NRESCCommittee.eastmidlands-derby@nhs.net), ref: 19/EM/0198

## **Study design**

Observational cohort study

## **Primary study design**

Observational

## **Study type(s)**

Treatment

## **Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied**

Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other conditions in victims of sexual violence

## **Interventions**

Current intervention as of 18/09/2020:

Steps through the study:

1. Service received from SARC (in person or remote care)
2. SARC staff member screens service user for eligibility. All eligibility information is anonymous and conveyed to the project team using secure sharing platform
3. At an appropriate time, eligible service users are approached by a SARC staff member or Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) and asked to consider being involved in the study. Consent is requested to pass contact details to the project team ('Level 1' consent completed)
4. Additional approaches for enabling recruitment include (i) placing a trained member of the project team at the SARC to respond to opportunities to invite service users as they visit the SARC for after care; (ii) having members of the project team ready to speak by phone or video link to a service user if the SARC worker believes this is an appropriate approach for a particular service user; (iii) showing a short video message of invitation co-produced with our Lived Experiences Group which could be used by SARC staff to explain about the project (available on the project website) (iv) exploring accepting service users who attended any SARC since August 2019 (via self-referral)
5. Once the contact information has been passed on, there is generally no more involvement of the SARC or ISVA except in circumstances such missing data or if the participant requires support and has agreed for us to notify the SARC
6. A trained project team member makes contact within 1 week of receiving the research referral consent form from the SARC or third sector worker, and contact is made in line with service user preferences for example by email, text or phone call
7. Once contact is made by the project team at baseline, the project team will follow recruitment and safety protocols, explain study purpose and gain full consent ('Level 2' consent)
8. When consent to take part in the study is established (using email or text or signed consent form), baseline data are collected mainly through a structured telephone interview, or there is the option of an interview in person or via Skype (or alternative). Those submitting baseline data will be considered 'enrolled' in MESARCH
9. Follow-up is undertaken according to the service users' preferences at 6, 12 and 24 months

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Previous intervention:

Steps through the study:

1. Service user is seen by SARC staff in person
2. SARC staff member screens service user for eligibility. All eligibility information is anonymous and conveyed to the project team using secure sharing platform

3. At an appropriate time, eligible service users are approached by a SARC staff member or Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA) and officially invited to consider being involved in the study. Consent is requested to pass contact details to the project team ('Level 1' consent completed)
5. Additional approaches for enabling recruitment include (i) placing a trained member of the project team at the SARC to respond to opportunities to invite service users as they visit the SARC for after care; (ii) having members of the project team ready to speak by phone or video link to a service user if the SARC worker believes this is an appropriate approach for a particular service user; (iii) showing a short video message of invitation co-produced with our Lived Experiences Group which could be used by SARC staff to explain about the project (available on the project website)
6. Once the contact information has been passed on, there is no more involvement of the SARC or ISVA except in circumstances such as the participant requires support and has agreed for us to notify the SARC
7. A trained project team member makes contact within 1 week of receiving the research referral consent form from the SARC or third sector worker, and contact is made in line with service user preferences for example by email, text or phone call
8. Once contact is made by the project team at baseline, the project team will follow recruitment and safety protocols, explain study purpose and gain full consent ('Level 2' consent)
9. When consent to take part in the study is established (using email or text or signed consent form), baseline data are collected using a range of options. These include offering a structured telephone interview, a weblink to complete the data collection online, an interview in person or via Skype (or alternative). Those submitting baseline data will be considered 'enrolled' in MESARCH
10. Follow-up is undertaken according to the service users' preferences at 6, 12 and 24 months

## **Intervention Type**

Behavioural

## **Primary outcome(s)**

Presence and severity of PTSD symptoms in the last month assessed using the PTSD Checklist for DSM-5 (PCL-5) at baseline, 6, 12 and 24 months

## **Key secondary outcome(s)**

Current secondary outcome measures as of 18/09/2020:

1. Depression symptoms measured using the Centre for Epidemiologic Studies-Depression Scale (CESD-R-10) at baseline, 6, 12 and 24 months
2. Quality of life measured using WHOQoL-Bref at baseline, 6, 12 and 24 months
3. Sexual health measured using bespoke measure for sexual health at baseline, 6, 12 and 24 months
4. Sexual abuse and violence re-victimisation measured using bespoke measure for sexual violence at 6, 12 and 24 months
5. Alcohol use measured using AUDIT-C at baseline, 6, 12 and 24 months
6. Drug use measured using DUDIT at baseline, 6, 12 and 24 months
7. Eating behaviours measured using SCOFF measure and Binge Eating Disorder Screener-7 (BEDS-7) at baseline, 6, 12 and 24 months
8. Resource use measured using bespoke measure at baseline, 6, 12 and 24 months
9. Health-related QoL measured using EQ5D-5L at baseline, 6, 12 and 24 months
10. Capability measured using ICECAP-A at baseline, 6, 12 and 24 months
11. Adverse Childhood Experiences measured using WHO ACE International Questionnaire at baseline only



12. Intimate partner violence measured using ACTS screen (baseline only) and Composite Abuse Scale at 6, 12 and 24 months
  13. Suicidality and self-harm measured using the Adult Psychiatric Morbidity Study (APMS) items at 6, 12 and 24 months
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Previous secondary outcome measures:

1. Depression symptoms measured using the Centre for Epidemiologic Studies-Depression Scale (CESD-R-10) at baseline, 6, 12 and 24 months
2. Quality of life measured using WHOQoL-Bref at baseline, 6, 12 and 24 months
3. Sexual health measured using bespoke measure for sexual health at baseline, 6, 12 and 24 months
4. Sexual abuse and violence re-victimisation measured using bespoke measure for sexual violence at 6, 12 and 24 months
5. Alcohol use measured using AUDIT-C at baseline, 6, 12 and 24 months
6. Drug use measured using DUDIT at baseline, 6, 12 and 24 months
7. Eating behaviours measured using SCOFF measure and TFEQ-R21 (select items) at baseline, 6, 12 and 24 months
8. Resource use measured using bespoke measure at baseline, 6, 12 and 24 months
9. Health-related QoL measured using EQ5D-5L at baseline, 6, 12 and 24 months
10. Capability measured using ICECAP-A at baseline, 6, 12 and 24 months
11. Adverse Childhood Experiences measured using WHO ACE International Questionnaire at baseline only
12. Intimate partner violence measured using ACTS screen (baseline only) and Composite Abuse Scale at 6, 12 and 24 months

### **Completion date**

30/11/2022

## **Eligibility**

### **Key inclusion criteria**

Current participant inclusion criteria as of 18/09/2020:

1. Individuals aged  $\geq 18$  years who have accessed services at a SARC
  2. A small, non-representative sample of children (aged 13-15 years) who have accessed services at two paediatric SARCs
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Previous participant inclusion criteria:

1. Individuals aged  $\geq 16$  years who have accessed services at a SARC
2. A small, non-representative sample of children (13-15 years) who have accessed services at one paediatric SARC

### **Participant type(s)**

Mixed

### **Healthy volunteers allowed**

No

**Age group**

Mixed

**Sex**

All

**Total final enrolment**

337

**Key exclusion criteria**

Current participant exclusion criteria as of 18/09/2020:

1. Whilst every effort will be made to ensure inclusivity, service users may be excluded if in exercising judgement the responsible member of SARC staff anticipates that the service user would likely encounter difficulties in providing informed consent or responding to or understanding the content of surveys or interviews used in data collection due to significant mental health issues (psychosis or high risk of suicide), cognitive impairment, or learning disability
  2. People who view information on the SARC website only
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Previous participant inclusion criteria:

1. Whilst every effort will be made to ensure inclusivity, service users may be excluded if in exercising judgement the responsible member of SARC staff anticipates that the potential participant would likely encounter difficulties in providing informed consent or responding to or understanding the content of surveys or interviews used in data collection due to significant mental health issues (psychosis or high risk of suicide), cognitive impairment, or intellectual disability
2. People who access information or support from the SARC by telephone or email only
3. People who view information on the SARC website only

**Date of first enrolment**

01/08/2019

**Date of final enrolment**

02/11/2021

**Locations****Countries of recruitment**

United Kingdom

England

**Study participating centre**

**Blue Sky Centre (G4S)**

Nuneaton

United Kingdom

CV10 7DJ

**Study participating centre**

**Horizon (G4S)**

Walsall

United Kingdom

WS2 9SR

**Study participating centre**

**Hope House (Gloucestershire Care Services NHS Trust)**

Gloucester

United Kingdom

GL1 3NN

**Study participating centre**

**Avon and Somerset SARC (University Hospitals Bristol NHS Trust)**

Bristol

United Kingdom

BS2 0JD,

**Study participating centre**

**Oakwood Place (Mountain Healthcare)**

Brentwood

United Kingdom

CM15 8DR

**Study participating centre**

**The Herts SARC (Mountain Healthcare)**

Hemel Hempstead

United Kingdom

HP1 1JQ

**Study participating centre**

**Saturn Centre (Mountain Healthcare)**

Crawley

United Kingdom

RH11 7DH

**Study participating centre**  
**The Elms (Mountain Healthcare)**  
Huntingdon  
United Kingdom  
PE29 6NT

**Study participating centre**  
**Swindon and Wiltshire SARC (First Light)**  
Swindon  
United Kingdom  
SN3 4RB

**Study participating centre**  
**The Harbour Centre (Norfolk Constabulary)**  
Wymondham  
United Kingdom  
NR18 0WW

**Study participating centre**  
**Northumbria SARC (Safe in Tees Valley)**  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
United Kingdom  
NE1 6ND

**Study participating centre**  
**Safe Link**  
Bristol  
United Kingdom  
BS1 4JQ

**Study participating centre**  
**Safeline**  
Warwick  
United Kingdom  
CV34 4RX

**Study participating centre**  
**Rosa**  
Rugby

United Kingdom  
CV21 3WR

**Study participating centre**  
**Coventry Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre (CRASAC)**  
Coventry  
United Kingdom  
CV1 1ZA

**Study participating centre**  
**Gloucestershire Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre (GRASAC)**  
Gloucester  
United Kingdom  
GL4 0RU

**Study participating centre**  
**Essex Partnership of Rape Crisis Centres (Synergy)**  
Grays  
United Kingdom  
RM17 6LL

**Study participating centre**  
**RSVP**  
Birmingham  
United Kingdom  
B2 5RS

**Study participating centre**  
**Black Country Women's Aid**  
Walsall  
United Kingdom  
WS4 2HT

**Study participating centre**  
**Splitz**  
Trowbridge  
United Kingdom  
BA14 0XG

**Study participating centre**  
**Cambridge Rape Crisis Centre**  
Cambridge  
United Kingdom  
CB1 2AD

**Study participating centre**  
**Peterborough Rape Crisis Centre**  
Peterborough  
United Kingdom  
PE3 6LW

**Study participating centre**  
**Serenity SARC (Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust)**  
Northampton  
United Kingdom  
NN1 5BU

**Study participating centre**  
**Umbrella (University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust)**  
Birmingham  
United Kingdom  
B4 6DH

**Study participating centre**  
**Teesside SARC (Safe in Tees Valley)**  
Stockton on Tees  
United Kingdom  
TS18 3TX

**Study participating centre**  
**ARCH North East**  
Middlesbrough  
United Kingdom  
TS4 3JL

**Study participating centre**

**Victims First**  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
United Kingdom  
NE27 0QJ

**Study participating centre**  
**West Sussex County Council**  
Chichester  
United Kingdom  
PO19 1RQ

**Study participating centre**  
**Changing Lives**  
Gateshead  
United Kingdom  
NE11 0RU

**Study participating centre**  
**The Glade SARC (G4S)**  
Bransford  
United Kingdom  
WR6 5JD

**Study participating centre**  
**Axis Counselling**  
Shrewsbury  
United Kingdom  
SY1 1LY

**Study participating centre**  
**West Mercia Rape & Sexual Abuse Support Centre (WMRSASAC)**  
Worcester  
United Kingdom  
WR1 2LF

**Study participating centre**

**Treetops SARC (Solent NHS Trust)**

Cosham  
United Kingdom  
PO6 3EP

**Study participating centre****Yellow Door**

Southampton  
United Kingdom  
SO17 1QR

**Study participating centre****Juniper Lodge SARC (Leicestershire Police)**

Leicester  
United Kingdom  
LE3 6RJ

**Study participating centre****Free from Violence and Abuse (FreeVA)**

Leicester  
United Kingdom  
LE1 6XY

**Study participating centre****East Midlands Children and Young People's Sexual Assault Service (Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust)**

Nottingham  
United Kingdom  
NG7 2UH

## **Sponsor information**

**Organisation**

Coventry University

**ROR**

<https://ror.org/01tgmhj36>



# Funder(s)

## Funder type

Government

## Funder Name

National Institute for Health Research

## Alternative Name(s)

National Institute for Health Research, NIHR Research, NIHRresearch, NIHR - National Institute for Health Research, NIHR (The National Institute for Health and Care Research), NIHR

## Funding Body Type

Government organisation

## Funding Body Subtype

National government

## Location

United Kingdom

# Results and Publications

## Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

The data sharing plans for the current study are unknown and will be made available at a later date

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## Previous publication and dissemination plan:

The findings will be shared online (through the study website), as part of a host of events for a range of people, in academic journals and at conferences.

Effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of SARC provision of care for survivors of sexual violence: Publications and evidence briefings

From cohort study:

Publication of quantitative and qualitative findings on trajectories and outcomes

Brief version of the evidence released following publications Journal publication baseline/6m data

Journal publication 12m

Journal publication 24m

Journal publication of qualitative findings

Journal publication of economic evaluation Journal publication on children and young people study outcomes

Evidence briefings, available in electronic format from website and leaflets after publication

Confidential evidence briefings for commissioners, prior to publication

Conference

## Participant cohort

A 'live' cohort of participants for future research

Database of participant contact details for those who consented to follow up after project

Resource for survivors, families, friends, public

'How do I find support for an experience of sexual assault for myself or someone I know?'

Leaflets distributed to NHS settings and community

Info available on project website

## Best practice guidance

Best practice guidance and transferable recommendations to improve service provision, with focus on hard to reach groups

5 interactive knowledge transfer workshops on implementation of good practice A5 laminated poster, leaflets

Infographic hosted on website

and distributed via newsletter

MS PowerPoint slides

## Summary reports

5x progress reports

## End of project report

A report integrating findings

Full, executive and plain English summary available on website

International conference

MESARCH final conference

Planned publication in a high-impact peer-reviewed journal by 2023

## IPD sharing statement

The data sharing plans for the current study are unknown and will be made available at a later date

## IPD sharing plan summary

Data sharing statement to be made available at a later date

## Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
<a href="#">Results article</a>		01/10/2024	21/10/2024	Yes	No
<a href="#">Protocol article</a>		24/05/2022	27/05/2022	Yes	No
<a href="#">HRA research summary</a>			28/06/2023	No	No
<a href="#">HRA research summary</a>			28/06/2023	No	No
<a href="#">Participant information sheet</a>		18/09/2020	18/09/2020	No	Yes
<a href="#">Participant information sheet</a>	Participant information sheet	11/11/2025	11/11/2025	No	Yes
<a href="#">Protocol file</a>	version V2.2	21/06/2019	30/08/2019	No	No
<a href="#">Protocol file</a>	version V3.1	26/05/2020	18/09/2020	No	No
<a href="#">Study website</a>	Study website	11/11/2025	11/11/2025	No	Yes