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Sexual Assault Referral Centre

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Navigating the Criminal Justice Process with Autism or Learning Disabilities

Saint Mary's Sexual Assault Referral Services

Presented by:
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Amanda Korny

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Presentation Overview

- Overview of the SARC
- Forensic Medical Examinations
- The ISVA Role
- Impacts of Trauma
- Support Plans
- Support at Court

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Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC)

The integrated SARC model

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Forensic Medical Examinations

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EXTERNAL REFERRALS

SELF REFERRALS

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POLICE CASES

If daytime hours Monday – Friday, ring the centre for advice

If out of hours after 5pm weekdays, ring Force Duty Officer (FDO)

Client will attend with police officer and or social worker (if a child)

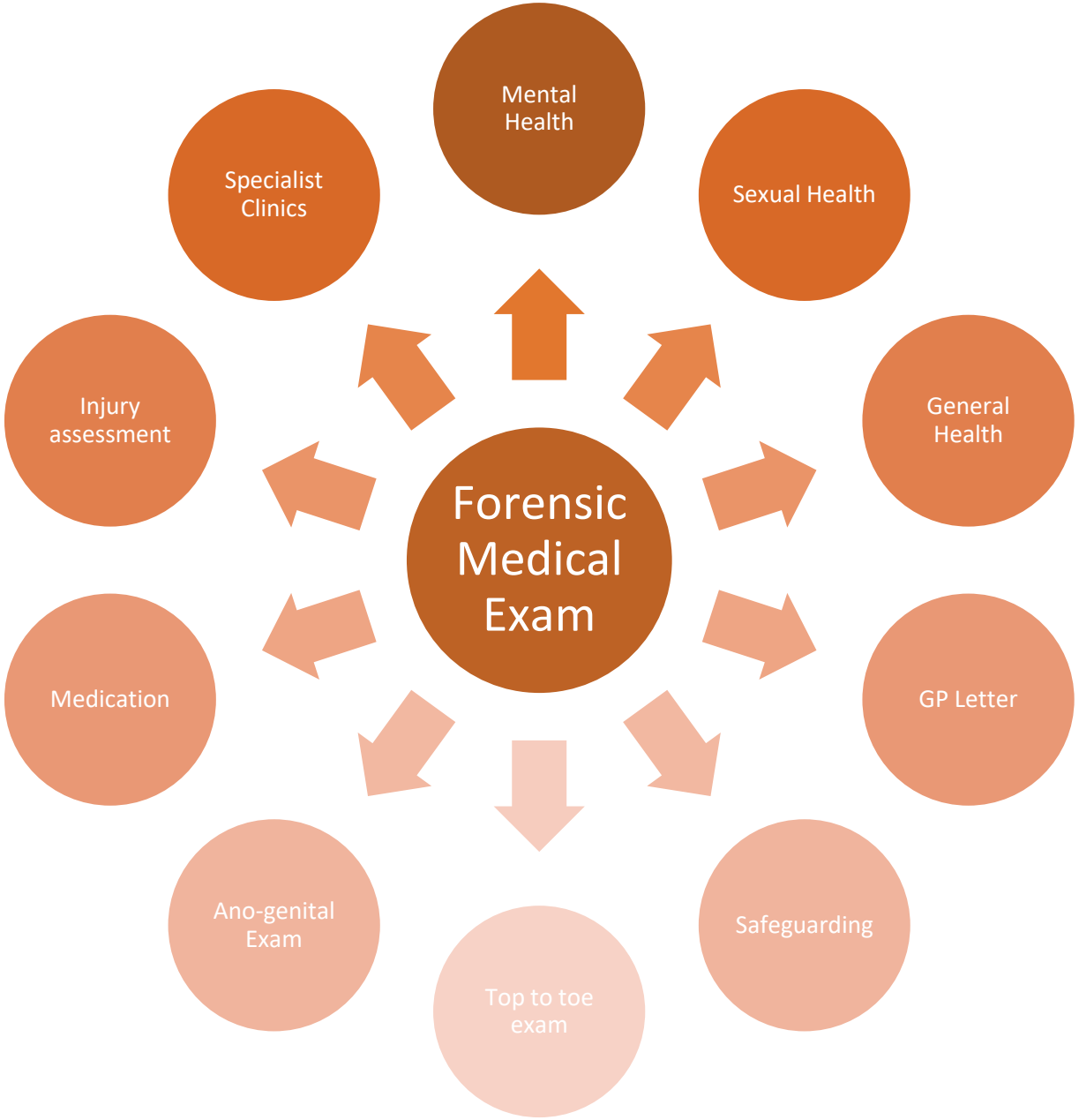
Samples are handed to the police officer at FME

SELF REFERRAL

Client can ring the centre 24hr helpline number

Provided with advice and instructions on next steps

Samples are stored for 2 years


Forensic Medical Exam
Mental Health
Sexual Health
General Health
GP Letter
Safeguarding
Top to toe exam
Ano-genital Exam
Medication
Injury assessment
Specialist Clinics

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Aftercare Referrals - Triaging Cases

External agencies should complete the SARC referral form and e-mail to the SARC secure e-mail address → Client triaged by admin team → Client allocated to an ISVA for initial contact within 5 days of allocation

Client may also be considered for assessment by the counselling team → In self-referral cases, the admin team will complete the referral form with the client over the phone

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The ISVA Role

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Eligibility Criteria

- Learning Disability
- Autism
- Learning Disability Screening Questionnaire under 56%

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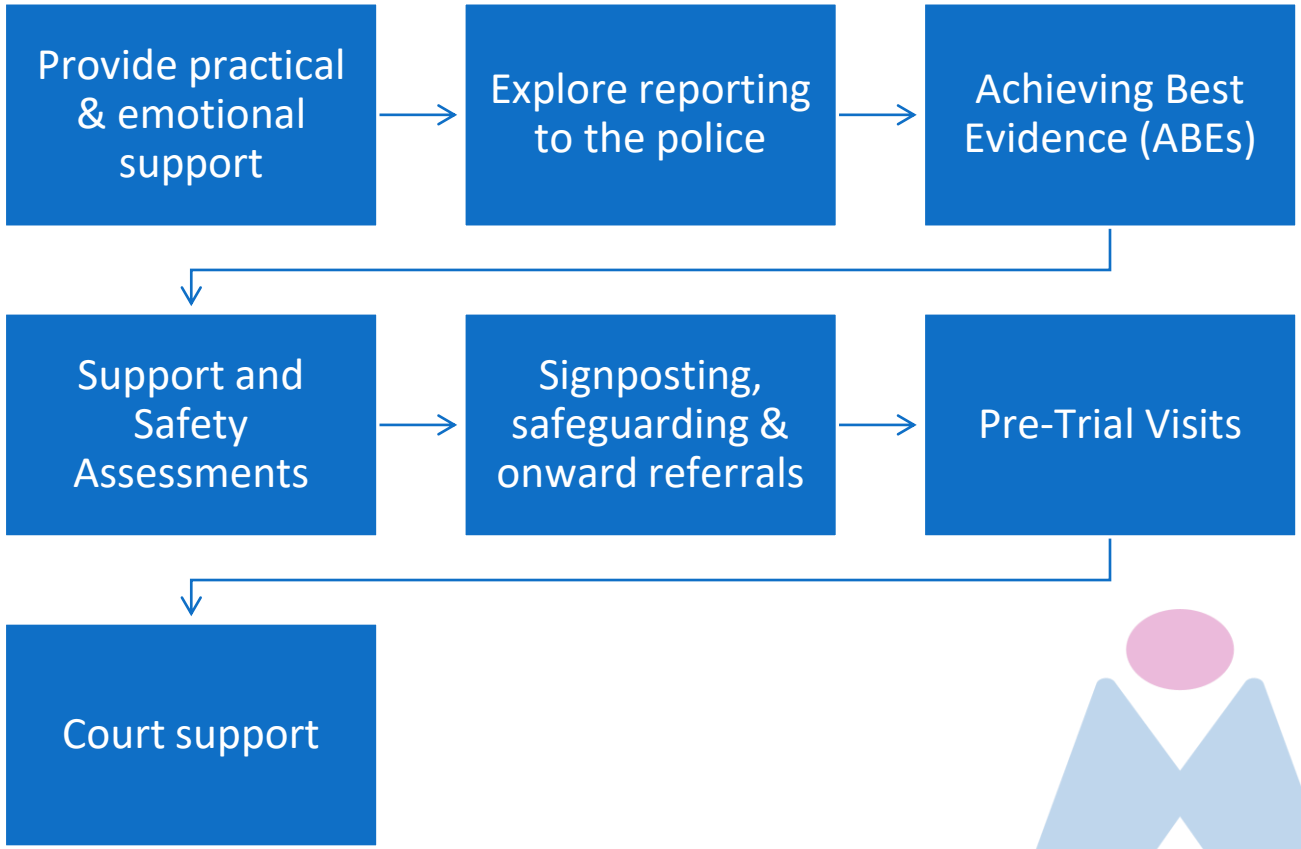

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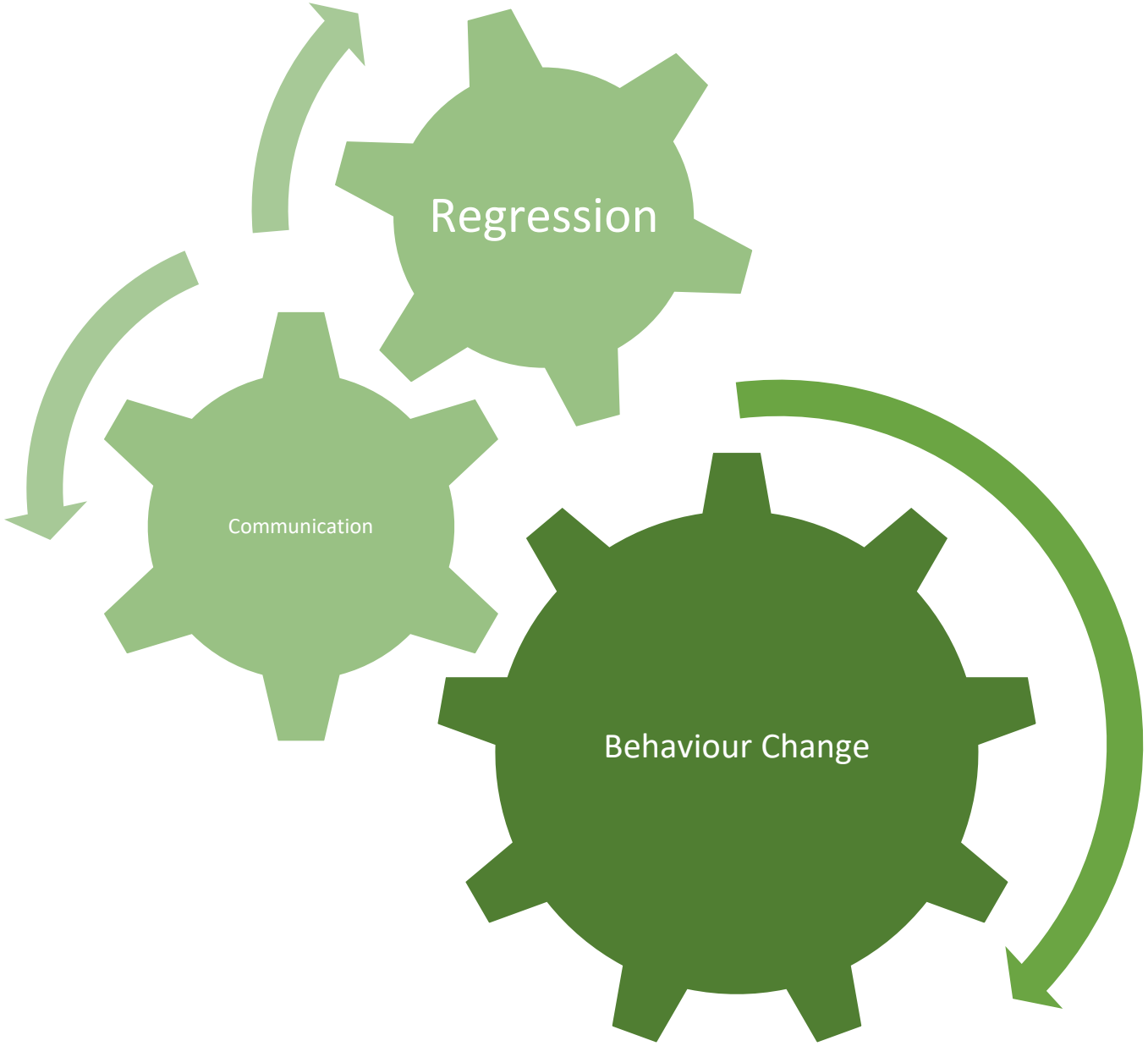
Impacts of Trauma


Regression
Communication
Behaviour Change

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Psychobiological responses to sexual trauma

The amygdala will do whatever it needs ensure survival

- Fight
- Flight
- Friend
- Freeze
- Flop

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Support Plans

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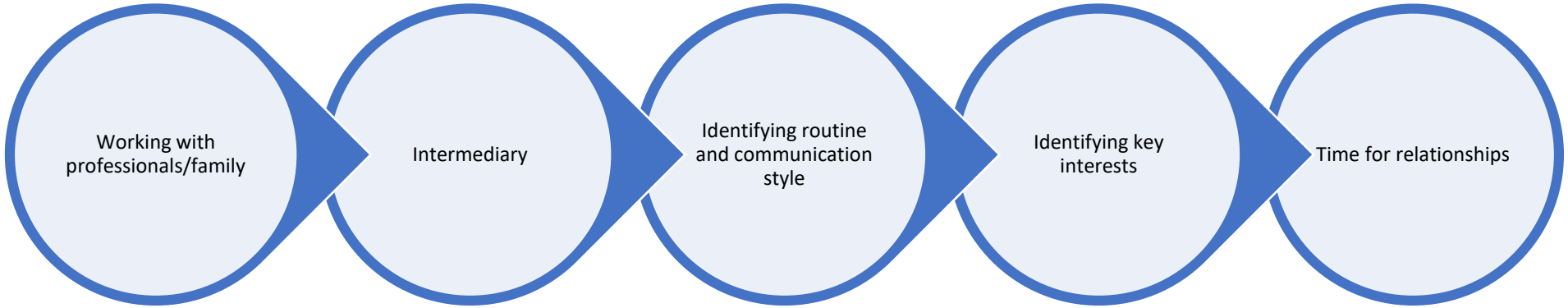
We use a range of resources and methods to develop support plans that suit out clients needs



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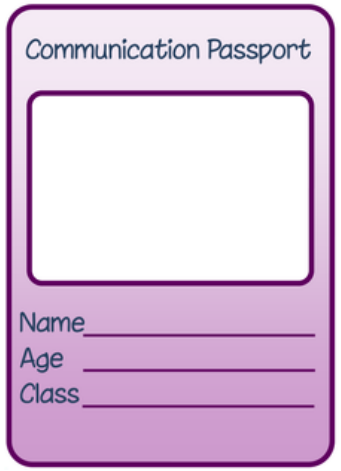

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Support at Court

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Section 28. Hearings

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Can be offered in cases where the evidence in chief is also a video recording (ABE)

Allows vulnerable victims and witnesses to have their cross-examination video-recorded before the full trial

Piloted in Kingston Upon Thames, Liverpool and Leeds

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- Judge, Defendant, Prosecution and Defence Lawyers present during recording
- Jury isn't present until the trial
- Ground Rules Hearing
- Intermediary is still accessible
- Improved time-scales for witnesses and victims

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On the day

- Less time spent at court than a trial would demand
- Fewer delays on that day due to being the only hearing set for the Judge and Barristers
- Client still has access to the witness suite
- Client meets the Barristers and Judge for introductions beforehand
- Will be given an expectation of how many questions will be asked and what the defence argument is.

Questions

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Thank you

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