



## SARC Best Practice courses content guide

Aug 2023 Review date Aug 2026 - check [www.fflm.ac.uk](http://www.fflm.ac.uk) for latest update

The medico-legal guidelines and recommendations published by the Faculty are for general information only. Appropriate specific advice should be sought from your medical defence organisation or professional association. The Faculty has one or more senior representatives of the MDOs on its Board, but for the avoidance of doubt, endorsement of the medico-legal guidelines or recommendations published by the Faculty has not been sought from any of the medical defence organisations.

### Aims

The aim of Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) Best Practice courses is to ensure that delivery of SARC services is done to the highest standard, within a learning environment, looking after the needs of the complainants, staff, stakeholders and the wider community.

### Objectives

Attendees of a SARC Best Practice course will:

- Reflect on the role of a SARC within the community which it serves
- Gain greater understanding of the roles within a SARC
- Gain greater understanding of key SARC partners including;
  - Who these should be
  - How partnerships can be forged and maintained
- Embed a trauma informed approach in its work and consider the potential of vicarious trauma on staff and reflect on how this risk can be reduced
- Consider how service-users might contribute to the day
- Consider what guidelines are relevant to SARCs, how guidelines can be implemented and staff kept up to date
- Reflect on what 'good' looks like, how it can be measured and any shortfalls addressed, for example;
  - Audit
  - Benchmarking
  - Implementation of change
- Consider current and future challenges to SARC services and potential ways to address them
- Consider the gap between services available and the needs of the community the SARC serves
- Consider how services can be evaluated, risks identified and strategies implemented to minimise risks including learning from adverse incidents
- Be given information about any recent updates, key research papers which might impact on SARCs

### Content of a SARC Best Practice Day

The content of a SARC Best Practice day should consist of a mixture of clinical governance and relevant updates.

#### Clinical governance

The program should seek to cover the majority of the seven pillars of clinical governance as they apply to SARCs:

- Service user, carer and public involvement
- Risk management
- Clinical audit
- Staffing and staff management
- Education and training
- Clinical effectiveness
- Clinical information

#### Updates

The updates should cover the key issues from the preceding 36 months and highlight any imminent key changes known for the following areas:

##### Clinical

##### Forensic

##### Law/criminal justice

##### Research papers

##### Professional guidance & ethics

##### Commissioning etc

##### Governmental reports

##### Counselling

##### ISVA

##### Safeguarding

The table on the next page illustrates example updates.

#### Teaching style

Whilst the updates may be delivered in a didactic manner, and may be done simply by clear signposting, the clinical governance topics covered should be done in a way that stimulates discussion and self-reflection.

#### Additional Comments

Each day will be evaluated.

The day may be held in person, virtual or hybrid.



**Example Updates for SARC Best Practice Day**

Highlight key updates/news from preceding 36 months

Topic	Example key updates/news	
<b>Clinical</b>	Sexual Health Mental Health	BASHH Guidelines RCPCH Physical signs of child sexual abuse, 2023 aka 'Purple Book'
<b>Forensic</b>	Forensic techniques/science Regulation	FFLM Recommendations Forensic Regulator publications and the statutory role of the Forensic Science Regulator and the Code (March 2023) Staff elimination databases
<b>Law/Criminal Justice</b>	Legislative changes/reforms Criminal Justice processes	Montgomery V Lanarkshire Remote court room links FGM laws etc Health and Care Act 2022 Domestic Abuse Act 2021 Forensic Science Regulator Act 2021
<b>Research Papers</b>	Key papers/reviews/articles	
<b>Professional Guidance and ethics</b>	GMC NMC BMA NICE Royal Colleges	Duty of Candour
<b>Commissioning etc.</b>	NHS England NHS Scotland NHS Wales Health and Social Care (Northern Ireland)	SARC specification guidance FFLM Quality Standards Care Quality Commission (CQC)
<b>Governmental Reports</b>		Office of the Children's Commissioner CSE Reports Safeguarding Reviews
<b>Counselling</b>	BACP Guidelines	CPS guidance on pre-trial therapy and similar guidance for other parts of the UK
<b>ISVA</b>		Home Office Guidance
<b>Safeguarding</b>	Guidelines Serious Case Reviews Children's Commissioner Domestic Abuse Commissioner Domestic Homicide Reviews	CSE Reports