

Usually we see children and young people more than once. We spend a lot of the first interview getting to know each other.



Together we might spend time drawing or playing, although older children sometimes prefer to just talk.

The meetings normally last between half an hour and an hour but we can end it whenever you tell us that you've had enough. We will ask questions to make sure we really understand what you are telling us.



It is our job to listen carefully to what you have to say about what happened. The things children and young people tell us are very important.

What happens next?

At the end of most meetings, we speak to your parents or carers briefly to let them know how it went.

When will I be seen?

There are lots of boys and girls who are waiting to be seen by us, so it might be a few weeks before we will be able to meet with you. In the meantime, if you need to talk to somebody about how you are feeling, you should go to someone you trust.



St Clare's Unit Assessment Service



Information Leaflet for Children and Young People

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What is St Clare's Unit (SCU)?

SCU is a part of the hospital where children come to talk if parents or the adults around them are worried that something may have happened to them that they didn't like or understand.

Why am I being brought here?



SCU was set up especially for children and young people who have talked about something happening to their body that made them feel uncomfortable, or if they did something to someone else's body that wasn't okay.

Some of the children we see tell us that they're sad, frightened or worried about something that has happened. Talking and getting everything out can really help children to feel better.

You might have already spoken to a social worker and/or the Gardai about this. The social worker has asked us to talk to you a little more about it. Our job is to try to understand what exactly might have happened and to see how you are feeling.

We understand that it is hard to tell what happened to lots of different people, so we'll take time to get to know you and let you get comfortable with us.



Who works in St. Clare's Unit?

The people who work in St. Clare's Unit have been specially trained to talk to children about these types of things. Nothing you say will shock or surprise us.

We call ourselves the 'assessment team' and we are normally trained as social workers or psychologists.



What will happen when I go to St Clare's Unit?

First you will be asked to sit in the waiting room with whoever brought you in. Your parents or carers will probably be spoken to in a separate room for a few minutes. This is to check out with them how you are feeling about coming in before speaking to you.

Your parent or carer will be brought back to the waiting room and then we'll meet with you on your own. Only one person from the 'assessment team' will be in the room talking to you and we will explain more about that when we see you.