

*Should you need to speak to someone urgently regarding child protection matters prior to your appointment please contact your local HSE Social Work Department*



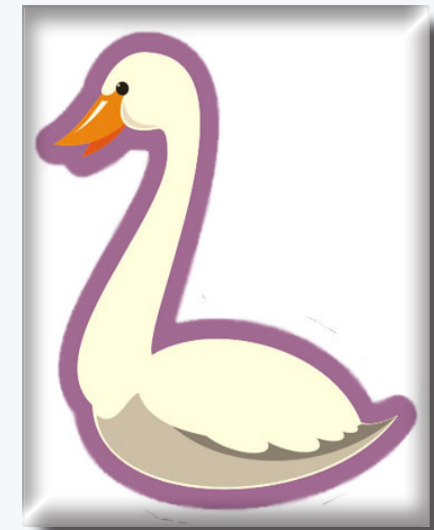
## Contact Details St. Clare's Unit

01 8745214 / 01 8742887  
9am-5pm Monday to Friday

[www.cuh.ie](http://www.cuh.ie)

Visit our website for information on how to get to the hospital and parking information.

# St Clare's Unit Assessment Service



Please remember to wash your hands or use hand gel when visiting the Hospital

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## Information Leaflet for Parents or Carers

## St. Clare's Unit Assessment Service

Your child has been referred to St. Clare's Unit (SCU), a specialist service in Temple Street, Children's University Hospital, for children and young people where there is a concern that sexual abuse has occurred.

The service covers the Northside of Dublin from the North Inner City out to Clonree, Balbriggan and Howth. The assessment service is made up of a team of Psychologists and Social Workers. A medical examination can also be arranged for children through SCU if deemed necessary. Please ask a staff member for more information about this service.

To attend SCU a referral must be made by the HSE Social Work Service. However professionals and parents can contact us directly to discuss any queries by contacting our office which is open 9am - 5pm Monday to Friday.

Anonymous calls are also accepted.

### What is an Assessment at SCU?

When there is concern that a child may have been sexually abused, the Social Workers in the HSE ask us to help find out what has happened, to offer an

opinion on what the child says and to outline further plans on how best to help a child and family.

*This assessment is separate to any Garda investigation that may be proceeding regarding the sexual abuse concerns.*

When the assessment is complete (usually within 4 to 6 weeks) the conclusions of the assessment are shared with the family and any recommendations are discussed. An assessment report will then be sent to the HSE Social Work Service.

### Attending SCU

At your first appointment two members of staff will meet with you. This appointment is generally for **parents/carers only** and it is important to see both parents/carers where possible. We will be talking to you about your child's early years and gaining a wider picture of your family's life. This appointment usually lasts for at least 1½ hours. We usually see parents/carers together but if parents/carers need separate appointments please discuss this with the assessment team prior to your first appointment.

At this appointment (if together with you, we decide to meet your child) you will be given advice on how to prepare your child for their visit.

The next appointment is with your child and generally lasts 45 minutes to an hour depending on his/her age. If your child is young we have a doll's house and/or other toys & art materials to use while talking. Older children and adolescents often prefer just to talk. This can be explained further when we meet with you.

After meeting with your child we meet with you for feedback. It can be advisable to bring an extra person to this appointment for support and to sit with your child in the waiting room when we are giving feedback to you.

