

CONSIDERATIONS FOR SUPPORTING PRISONERS ATTENDING SANDYFORD SERVICES

Sandyford Services see prisoners from the following institutions:

(From SPS annual report 2013-2014)

Prison (male)	Prisoner Type	Average Daily Number of Prisoners
Barlinnie 0141 770 2000	Adult male serving >2 years and reception of men <21 years before transfer elsewhere. Segregation unit of sex offenders and protection prisoners.	1305
Greenock (near Inverclyde) 01475 787 801	Remand and convicted prisoners serving <2 years and a few long term prisoners.	242
Polmont 01324711558 (Young offenders institute)	Biggest male young offenders (16 to 21) in the UK. Average sentence 2 to 4 years.	655
Low Moss 0141 762 9500 (reopened March 2012)	Convicted and remand prisoners, lower security facility.	668
Shotts 01501 824 110	Long term adult prisoners serving >2 years in maximum security setting.	534
Prison (female)	Prisoner Type	Average Daily Number of Prisoners
Cornton Vale (Stirlingshire) 01786 832 591	Remand and sentenced prisoners. Includes 7 mother and baby places and 18 spaces in independent living units.	119 30 young offenders
Greenock	Women housed in Darroch Hall	51
SCCRS should be checked and correspondence updated for all female prisoners attending. A smear should always be taken if due		

Sandyford services also provide a women's sexual health clinic from within Greenock Prison Health Centre, on the last Wednesday of each month. Prison health centre staff identify female clients suitable to attend, and list these for the clinic each month. One Sandyford sexual health nurse and one Sandyford doctor attend the clinic.

Prisoners:

- Should have their confidentiality respected at all times
- Disproportionately come from deprived backgrounds
- Often have very significant sexual health needs
- May access existing primary health services poorly
- Are usually referred by letter. Those attending the clinic within Greenock prison are referred by health centre staff.
- Need to get a pass out of the prison to attend clinics outwith prison health centre – this is very resource-intensive, and every effort should be taken to achieve as much as possible during the visit. Late arrivals should be viewed sympathetically in view of the logistical difficulties
- Often fail to attend – they may have left prison or been transferred. If indicated, further follow-up should be attempted via their home address. If the DNA is due to escort problems, then the prison will usually contact us beforehand.

Security:

- Is the responsibility of the accompanying Prison Officer
- Will depend on the security category of the prisoner.
- Most will come handcuffed to an Officer, but a long lead is usually brought along to allow some privacy.
- If at all possible, ask to interview the patient without the Officers present – using an internal, window-free room might be acceptable.
- If the Officer insists on being present ask for the use of a “long lead” – this will allow you to examine the patient with the Officer on the other side of the curtain.

Investigations:

- A full sexual health screen is usually indicated.
- Blood borne virus testing may have been undertaken by prison health services. If any doubt discuss with client and check on Clinical Portal then test if appropriate.
- A smear should be offered if due (check on sccrs to ensure up to date)

Treatments:

Treatments indicated outwith the department will need to be discussed with the Prison Officers, and is dependent upon the category of the prisoner – taking of medications may require to be supervised in prison. It is not necessary to discuss details with the Prison Officers – these can be given to them in a sealed envelope, which will be then passed on to the prison medical service. In some circumstances prisoners can hold their own medication.

Further Information:

- For issues affecting individual prisoners, please contact relevant health care centre at specific prisons.
- Prison contact details via main switchboards as detailed above.

Follow Up:

- Ascertain date of court appearance or liberation as a guide to follow up.
- Discuss with Prison Officers or prison health centre staff - security and logistical considerations may be important.
- Ensure full social history is completed on NASH, and add all clients to the Sandyford Inclusion team virtual diary.

For further procedural advice, please contact the relevant prison's healthcare manager.