



Free and confidential services
across North Yorkshire and York

Counselling Service York and North Yorkshire

Information for patients, relatives and carers

① For more information, please telephone:
the YorSexual Health Counsellor
on 01904 725427
www.yorsexualhealth.org.uk

Contents	Page
YorSexual Health Counselling Service.....	3
What happens in counselling?.....	3
How long do sessions last?	4
Who are the YorSexual Health Counsellors?	4
Is YorSexual Health Counselling confidential?.....	4
How to make an Appointment.....	5
What issues do we work with?.....	6
Tell us what you think of this leaflet	7
Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS).....	7
Leaflets in alternative languages or formats	8

YorSexual Health Counselling Service

Counselling is available to people of all ages who live in York and North Yorkshire and is provided from various locations across the county. Please see page 6 to find out more about the issues we work with.

To access this service, please speak to your sexual health doctor or nurse about referring you to us.

It is also possible to self-refer from our website:
www.yorsexualhealth.org.uk

What happens in counselling?

Counselling provides you with somewhere safe where you can talk things through. You will always see trained staff who will not judge you, nor give you advice.

You have the choice about what you want to talk about; you might want to change something, sort out a problem, or make a decision.

It is about helping you to make your own choices, develop insights into your problems and finding your own resources and strengths.

Talking about your feelings with someone who is not a friend or family member can free you up to see things more clearly.

How long do sessions last?

Each session will last about an hour, and you will be offered up to six sessions.

In the initial session, you and your counsellor will discuss the issues that concern you and whether counselling is appropriate for you. There may be other types of support that may be more helpful to you, and if so, your counsellor can refer you on to the right professional.

Who are the YorSexual Health Counsellors?

The counsellors (BACP Registered) are qualified and trained to support adults and young people with sexual health concerns or issues.

Is YorSexual Health Counselling confidential?

The service is confidential and your counsellor will explain to you exactly what this means and can answer any questions you may have about this.

How to make an Appointment

To make an appointment, please telephone the counselling service directly on 01904 725427.

If you are attending one of our sexual health clinics, you can also speak to a doctor or nurse about referring you to the counsellor.

Alternatively, you can self-refer via our website:
www.yorsexualhealth.org.uk

The counsellor will then contact you to arrange a suitable appointment. You can choose whether you would like to receive the counselling face-to-face, by telephone, or video call.

What issues do we work with?

- Effects of an STI diagnosis or sexual health concern
- Living with or affected by HIV
- Unplanned pregnancy
- Support and choices around termination of pregnancy
- Barriers to positive sexual health e.g.
 - Self confidence
 - Effects of alcohol or substance misuse
 - Peer pressure
 - Issues around condom use and other methods of contraception
 - Online safety or sexting
- Difficulties around sexuality
- Survivors of sexual assault
- Issues related to domestic abuse

Examples of issues we do not work with include:

- Survivors of childhood or historical sexual abuse
- Erectile dysfunction and general psychosexual difficulties
- Couple therapy
- Gender identity

Tell us what you think of this leaflet

We hope that you found this leaflet helpful. If you would like to tell us what you think, please contact:

Clinical Support Team at YorSexual Health, Monkgate Health Centre, YO31 7WA or telephone 01904 725444.

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

PALS offers impartial advice and assistance to patients, their relatives, friends and carers. We can listen to feedback (positive or negative), answer questions and help resolve any concerns about Trust services.

PALS can be contacted on 01904 726262, or email yhs-tr.patientexperienceteam@nhs.net.

An answer phone is available out of hours.

Leaflets in alternative languages or formats

If you would like this information in a different format, including braille or easy read, or translated into a different language, please speak to a member of staff in the ward or department providing your care.

Patient Information Leaflets can be accessed via the Trust's Patient Information Leaflet website:
www.yorkhospitals.nhs.uk/your-visit/patient-information-leaflets/

Owner	Tracey Haworth, YorSexual Health Counsellor
Date first issued	September 2013
Review Date	June 2029
Version	8 (issued June 2026)
Approved by	YorSexualHealth Communications Team
Document Reference	PIL 755 v8

© 2026 York and Scarborough Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.
All Rights reserved.