



Kirklees Safeguarding Children Partnership

A brief Guide to

Reporting Child Abuse in Kirklees

This leaflet tells you more about child abuse and what to do if you believe a child is at risk of harm.

Safeguarding children

- Children and young people have a fundamental right to be protected from harm
- Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is everybody's responsibility, including parents, relatives, neighbours and professionals

What is child abuse?

- A person may abuse or neglect a child by causing harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm
- Children may be abused in a family, institutional or community setting, by those known and trusted by them or, more rarely, by a stranger
- They may be abused by adults or by other children

Child abuse can have major long-term effects on all aspects of a child's health, development and wellbeing.

The main forms of child abuse are:

Physical Abuse

Hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. In pregnancy an unborn child can be harmed by domestic violence.

Emotional Abuse

The persistent emotional ill treatment or rejection of a child which harms their emotional development. It can involve telling children they are worthless, unloved, or inadequate. It may involve frightening children or exploiting or corrupting them.

Sexual Abuse

Forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities. This can also include involving children in looking at, or in the production of, pornography, watching sexual activities or encouraging them to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

Neglect

The persistent failure to meet a child's basic needs. It may involve failing to provide adequate food, shelter or clothing, failing to protect them from physical harm or danger or failing to ensure access to medical care. It may also include neglect of a child's basic emotional needs. In pregnancy neglect may occur as a result of misusing alcohol or drugs.

Children can be abused in more than one of these ways.

If you suspect child abuse, you should report it.

Keeping children safe is everybody's business

If you see or hear something that makes you think a child is being abused please ring and speak to:

Children's Social Care Duty & Advice

For professionals (24 hours): **01484 414 960**

For members of the public (9am-5pm office hours): **01484 456 848**

Outside office hours: **01484 414 933**

If you are a child: **01484 456 848** or Child Line on **0800 11 11 11**

If you have **immediate** concern for a child's safety call the police on **999**

After you telephone, what will happen next?

We will begin an enquiry immediately and ensure that your concerns are dealt with quickly. If our assessment finds that a child is being abused we will work together with the family and other childcare agencies to ensure that the child can be protected from harm.

If you have any doubts about sharing or reporting your concerns

don't think "what if I'm wrong?"

- think "what if I'm right!"



This leaflet can be made available in languages other than English and on audio CD, large print and Braille. Please telephone **01484 225161**