

Basic Child Protection Guidance

There are 8 wellbeing indicators for children and they are:

Safe Healthy Achieving Nurtured Active Respected Responsible Included

Safe covers being protected from abuse, neglect, or harm at home, in school, and in the community. If you have a concern for a child under this category then it is a **Child Protection Concern**.

“Child Protection means protecting a child from child abuse or neglect. Abuse or neglect need not have taken place; it is sufficient for a risk assessment to have identified a likelihood or risk of significant harm from abuse or neglect” (National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2014)

There can be endless examples of child protection concerns and each person has different thresholds. The following list is not exhaustive but here are some examples of when you may be concerned about a child:

- Unexplained bruising, or bruising in an unusual place
- Suffering physical or emotional abuse
- Appearing afraid, quiet or withdrawn (for unknown reason)
- Afraid to go home / afraid whilst in the home
- Appearing constantly hungry, tired or untidy
- Being left unattended or unsupervised
- Having too much responsibility for their age
- Acting in a sexually inappropriate way
- Parental drug or alcohol misuse / the child using drugs or alcohol
- Child makes a disclosure to you

Deciding when it becomes a Child Protection concern will often come down to professional’s interpretation of risk. ***If you have an immediate concern i.e. any of the above, do not leave the child. Call duty Social Work immediately on 01343 563900 and/or the Police by calling 101 and passing on all the info you have available to you. If the concern is immediate and ongoing you are fully justified in using the emergency 999 service.***

Contacting both these services immediately will result in a multi agency response and help ensure effective and early intervention to secure that child’s safety and ultimately their future care and wellbeing if need be. If you are unsure if it is a Child Protection concern speak to your supervisor/colleagues or anyone in your organisation who has Child Protection training or knowledge so you can pass the info on. This conversation can help direct you appropriately and the Police and Social Work can always be consulted if you are still unsure.

Please do not delay this process or hesitate, take action ASAP!