Safeguarding Children and Young People
Level 1

Local guidance on:

- Types of abuse
- Signs of abuse
- Parental risk factors
- Information sharing
- What to do if you are concerned about the welfare of a child
- How to escalate concerns about a child
- Relevant legislation

Please note:

there are limited attempts at the eAssessment (online quiz) which is available in ESR.
## Introduction

This fact sheet aims to help you to understand your role in safeguarding children and young people and know what to do if you have concerns about the welfare of a child.

It is the responsibility of **all staff** to be familiar with their role and responsibilities around safeguarding children. All staff are required to have safeguarding children training at a level commensurate with their role and to refresh that training every 3 years.

## 1: Definitions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Child</strong></th>
<th>A child is anyone who has not reached their 18th birthday (Children Act 1989).</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Looked After Child</strong></td>
<td>Under the Children Act 1989, a child is legally defined as ‘looked after child’ by a local authority if he or she:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• is provided with accommodation for a continuous period for more than 24 hours</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• is subject to a care order.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Safeguarding</strong></td>
<td>• protecting children from maltreatment;</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• preventing impairment of children’s health and development;</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• enabling children to have optimum life chances and enter adulthood successfully.</td>
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<td><strong>Child Protection</strong></td>
<td>• a part of safeguarding which refers to the activity that is taken to protect children who are suffering, or likely to suffer significant harm.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Child abuse</strong></td>
<td>Abuse and neglect are forms of maltreatment of a child. A child may be abused or neglected by someone inflicting harm on them or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children can also be abused online via the Internet. Children and young people may be abused in a family, or in an institutional or community setting.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2: Legislation and Guidance

It is important to know that there is legislation and guidance relating to safeguarding children:

- The Children’s Act 1989, 2004
- The Sexual Offences Act 2003
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015

**United Nations Convention on Rights of the Child 1989**

- Every child has the right to a standard of living adequate for the child’s physical health, mental health and social development
- No one on earth has the right to hurt children, not even their parents
- Children should be listened to and tell you what they are thinking
- Remember, whether their voices are big or small, they whisper, mime or sign it listen to them and hear what they say

**Children Act 1989 and 2004**

The key principles of the Children’s Act are:

- Everyone has a responsibility to safeguard children.
- Welfare of the child is paramount.
- The child should always be the most important focus.
- The legislative requirements and expectations on services to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.
- A legal duty on healthcare providers to co-operate with Children’s Social Care to promote the welfare of children.
## 3: Categories of Child Abuse

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of abuse</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physical</td>
<td>involves anything that causes physical harm to a child, for example hitting, shaking, throwing, scalding, poisoning or drowning.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emotional</td>
<td>is the <strong>persistent</strong>, emotional mistreatment of a child that causes severe adverse effects on emotional development. This may involve conveying to a child they are worthless, unloved or inadequate.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Neglect</td>
<td>is the <strong>persistent</strong> failure to meet the child’s basic needs. This may occur before the child is born. It can include failure to provide adequate food, clothing, and shelter, protect the child from harm, failing to access appropriate medical care, missed appointments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual</td>
<td>involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities. This may include physical contact, involving children in looking at sexual images online. Encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*It is really important you listen to the voice of the child and what they are telling you or be trying to tell you.*
4: Parental Risk Factors

All Trust staff have a responsibility to identify parental risk factors which may have an impact on their ability to provide adequate care and support for their child. If you have a concern about an adult/patient/visitor you must discuss your concerns with your line manager, senior colleague or named professional. Examples of parental risk factors:

- Mental illness of parent/carer
- Domestic violence
- Substance misuse
- Parent who has a learning disability
- Parent who was abused as a child
- Young/teenage parents

**Domestic Violence**

At least 750,000 children in the UK witness domestic violence per year. In 90% of cases they are in the same or next room.

In 40% - 70% of cases where women are being abused, the children have been hit or beaten. Sexual and emotional abuse are also more likely to happen in these families.

Children who live with domestic violence are at increased risk of behaviour problems and emotional trauma, and mental health difficulties in adult life.

**Mental Health**

Mental health issues will affect 1:4 adults during their lives.

Many parents/carers experiencing mental health issues also have issues regarding substance misuse.

Children of parents with mental health problems are more likely to require services and support.

More likely to experience health problems or developmental delay.

In some cases mentally ill parents will not be able to care safely for their children and the children will be exposed to abuse (potentially fatal in extreme cases) without appropriate protection.

**Substance Misuse**

Dependant drug use on the parts of parents is fundamentally incompatible with providing a safe and nurturing environment for children.

“My mum drinks all the time and leaves me alone lots of the time. I feel scared and lonely. I look after my mum when she drinks. I put her to bed. Mum shouts and hits me; she is worse on a Friday. I don’t want to feel pain. I want to die.” Angela, Aged 10 (NSPCC)

“When I was on drugs if I had to go 2 days without it I’d take it out on my kids and when I did take them I was too out of my face to care what was happening to them.”
5: Other risks to children

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

Child Sexual Exploitation involves exploitative situations and relationships where young people receive ‘something’ ie food, drugs, alcohol, gifts or money, as a result of them performing, or another or others performing on them, sexual activities. CSE is always abusive; children (including 16/17 year olds) cannot consent to their own abuse.

CSE can occur through the use of technology without the child’s immediate recognition. In all cases, those exploiting the child or young person have power over them by virtue of age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources.

If you have any concerns a child is or could be sexually exploited, contact the Safeguarding Children Team.

Risks from the Internet and Social Networking

There are many opportunities for children to go online - at home, at school and through their mobile phones and games consoles. The internet can be of great benefit to children, however, the internet can also pose risks and it is important to be aware of the dangers and how to keep children safe online.

Potential risks:
- Seeing disturbing information or images.
- Being the victim of online bullying (also known as cyberbullying).
- Being contacted and manipulated by an adult for sexual purposes (also known as grooming).
- Sharing personal and identifying information with strangers.
- Sending or receiving sexually explicit films, images or messages of themselves or others (this is known as ‘sexting’ when sent by mobile phone).

Child Trafficking

Child trafficking is child abuse. Children are recruited, moved or transported and then exploited, forced to work or sold. They are often subject to multiple forms of exploitation:
- child sexual exploitation
- benefit fraud
- forced marriage
- domestic servitude such as cleaning
- forced labour in factories or agriculture
- criminal activity such as pickpocketing, begging, transporting drugs.

Many children are trafficked into the United Kingdom from abroad, but children can also be trafficked from one part of the UK to another.
Honour Based Violence

Honour based violence is a violent crime or incident which may have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family or community. It is often linked to family members or acquaintances who mistakenly believe someone has brought shame to their family or community by doing something that is not in keeping with the traditional beliefs of their culture. For example, honour based violence might be committed against people who:

- become involved with a boyfriend or girlfriend from a different culture or religion
- want to get out of an arranged marriage
- want to get out of a forced marriage
- wear clothes or take part in activities that might not be considered traditional within a particular culture.

Women and girls are the most common victims of honour based violence, however, it can also affect men and boys. Crimes committed in the name of ‘honour’ might include:

- domestic abuse
- threats of violence
- sexual or psychological abuse
- forced marriage

- being held against your will or taken somewhere you don’t want to go
- assault.

Forced Marriage

A forced marriage is where one or both people do not (or in cases of people with learning disabilities, cannot) consent to the marriage and pressure or abuse is used. It is an appalling and indefensible practice and is recognised in the UK as a form of violence against women and men, domestic/child abuse and a serious abuse of human rights.

The pressure put on people to marry against their will can be physical (including threats, actual physical violence and sexual violence) or emotional and psychological (for example, when someone is made to feel like they’re bringing shame on their family). Financial abuse (taking your wages or not giving you any money) can also be a factor.

Fabricated Induced Illness

Fabricated or Induced Illness (FII) is a form of child abuse. It occurs when a parent/carer exaggerates or deliberately causes symptoms of illness in the child.

There are 3 main ways the parent/carer can fabricate or induce illness in a child:

- **Fabrication** of signs and symptoms. This may include fabrication of past medical history.
- **Fabrication** of signs and symptoms and falsification of hospital charts and records, and specimen bodily fluids.
- **Induction** of illness by a variety of means.
6: Concerns about the welfare of a child or unborn baby

Named professionals are employed by the Trust to provide expert advice and support for staff if they have concerns about a child or unborn baby.

If you have any concerns about an unborn baby or a child’s welfare you must discuss them with your line manager. You could also seek advice from the Safeguarding Children Team.

You should discuss concerns with your manager or Named Professional

Following discussion are there still safeguarding concerns

YES

A referral should be made to Children’s Social Care in the area the child lives. **If referral is urgent a verbal referral should be made by telephone. All verbal referrals should be followed up in writing within 48 hours**

If out of hours contact the Emergency Duty Team in the area the child lives

All actions should be documented. Copy of the referral filed in Child’s hospital record and scanned onto Millennium

Copy of referral form to be sent to Safeguarding Children Team

ruh-tr.RUHSafeguardingChildren@nhs.net

For any advice/support on making a referral to Children’s Social Care contact the **Safeguarding Children Team** on **01225 821538**


Contact numbers for all local children social care teams can be found on the safeguarding children web page on the Trust intranet [http://webserver.ruh-bath.nhs.uk/clinical_directory/safeguarding_children/referral_and_access_teams.asp?menu_id=4](http://webserver.ruh-bath.nhs.uk/clinical_directory/safeguarding_children/referral_and_access_teams.asp?menu_id=4)
7: Information Sharing

Effective information sharing underpins integrated working and is a vital element of safeguarding children. Staff must share information where there is a concern about a child, this includes third party information.

‘Information Sharing Advice for Practitioners providing Safeguarding Services to Children, Young People, Parents and Carers’ guidance is for all frontline staff working with children, parents and carers who may have to make decisions about sharing personal information.


The Data Protection Act (1998) states that professionals can share confidential information without consent if any one of the following three conditions applies, if:

- There is a statutory obligation.
- A court orders it.
- The child’s or public interest overrides that of the individual.

Sadly, a common theme from the investigations of child deaths following abuse is that people had not shared information. If you have concerns about a child and you are unsure if you should store information, speak to your manager or contact the Safeguarding Children Team.

8: RUH Safeguarding Children Policies


Safeguarding Children Policy

The Policy aims to give staff a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities for safeguarding children and process to be followed if concerned about a child.


Safeguarding Children Escalation Policy

Occasionally situations arise when workers within one agency feel that the decision made by a worker from another agency on a child protection case is not a safe decision.

The safety of individual children is the paramount consideration in any professional disagreement and any unresolved issues should be addressed with due consideration to the risks that might exist for the child.

Managing Allegations Against Staff and Volunteers who Work with Children Policy

Children and young people can be subjected to abuse by those who work with them in any and every setting. All allegations of abuse or maltreatment of children and young people by someone who works with children and young people must therefore be taken seriously and treated according to policy.

The policy has been developed to ensure that staff are aware of their responsibilities and the processes for reporting professional abuse of children at work or in home environments. The policy also provides details of the Trust Allegations Officer who should be contacted if you have a concern about a staff member or volunteer. The Trust Allegations Officer is Sue Smith, Deputy Director of HR.


9: Safeguarding Children Organisational Leads and Contact Details
We hope that you have found the content useful and that it has answered some of the questions you may have had.

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**10: Summary**

We hope that you have found the content useful and that it has answered some of the questions you may have had.

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**Safeguarding Children Check List**

- I understand my responsibilities regarding safeguarding children and young people.
- I know what I need to do to raise concerns I may have about safeguarding a child or young person.
- I am aware of the four categories of child abuse.
- I am aware of Parental Risk Factors.
- I know how to contact the RUH named professionals.
- I know what I need to do if I have a concern about a staff member/volunteer’s conduct towards a child/children.
- I know how to contact the RUH Allegations Officer.
- I know how to find Trust policies.

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**11: Additional Resources**

There are a number of resources available to support staff.

**South West Child Protection Procedures**

These online procedures are aimed at staff to ensure you know what to do when you are worried a child is at risk of harm. They are part of the South West Child Protection Procedures, so all local agencies have agreed to work within these guidelines [http://www.online-procedures.co.uk/swcpp/](http://www.online-procedures.co.uk/swcpp/)

**RUH Safeguarding Children Webpage**