

Glossary

Safeguarding

Safeguarding means protecting peoples' health, wellbeing and human rights, and enabling them to live free from harm, abuse and neglect.¹

This policy incorporates a range of specific safeguarding issues including, but not limited to, the following:

- Bullying (including cyberbullying)
- Child sexual exploitation
- Domestic violence
- Drugs and alcohol misuse
- Fabricated or induced illness
- Faith abuse
- Forced marriage
- Gangs and youth violence
- Gender based abuse
- Hate
- Missing children and adults
- Online safety
- Prevent duty (radicalisation and extremism)
- Relationship abuse
- Human trafficking and modern slavery
- Youth produced sexual imagery

Supervising Adult

A supervising adult assumes in loco parentis, for example: a teacher of a school group or the mentor of a work experience pupil under the age of 16. All children under the age of 12 years must be accompanied by an adult.

What is Child Abuse?

Child abuse and neglect is the maltreatment of a child. An individual may abuse or neglect a child or adult at risk of harm directly, or may be responsible for abuse or neglect because they fail to prevent significant harm by another person. 'Significant Harm' is circumstances where a child or young person's basic needs are not being met and the child is, or will be, at risk through avoidable acts of commission or omission on the part of their parent(s), sibling(s) or other relative(s) or a carer (i.e. the person(s) while not a parent who has actual custody of, charge of, or control over a child).

Abuse is any form of physical, emotional or sexual mistreatment or lack of care that leads to injury or harm. It commonly occurs within a relationship of trust or responsibility and is an abuse of power or a breach of trust. Abuse can happen to a child regardless of their age, gender, race, disability or ability, sexual orientation, religion or socio-economic status.

Some of the main types of abuse are: **physical, emotional, sexual and neglect.**

¹ <https://www.kch.nhs.uk/about/corporate/care-standards/safeguarding-patients>

Children/young people and adults at risk of harm may be abused in a family or in residential care or in the community, including artistic and sporting activities by any individual known to them or by a stranger.

Children with disabilities are at increased risk of abuse through various factors such as stereotyping, prejudice, discrimination, isolation and a powerlessness to protect themselves or adequately communicate that abuse has occurred.

The lists below are by no means exhaustive and must **not be used as a checklist** but are designed to give staff some guidance on how to recognise child abuse and neglect. Different types of abuse may overlap or co-exist.

It may be that a child or young person may tell someone that they are being abused but they show no obvious signs. It is crucial that if a child or young person says that he/she is being abused the matter is taken seriously and passed on as a matter of urgency.

Physical Abuse - is the causing of physical harm to a child or young person.

Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning or suffocating. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer feigns the symptoms of, or deliberately causes, ill health to a child they are looking after (this is known as fabricated or induces illness).

Emotional Abuse - is persistent emotional neglect or ill treatment that has severe and persistent adverse effects on a child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may involve the imposition of age- or developmentally-inappropriate expectations on a child. It may involve causing children to feel frightened or in danger, or exploiting or corrupting children. Some level of emotional abuse is present in all types of ill treatment of a child; it can also occur independently of other forms of abuse.

Sexual Abuse - is any act that involves the child in any activity for the sexual gratification of another person, whether or not it is claimed that the child either consented or assented. Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including penetrative or non-penetrative acts. They may include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, pornographic material or in watching sexual activities, using sexual language towards a child or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways. Child sexual exploitation involves a young person under the age of 18 being manipulated, forced, pressurised or coerced into taking part in a sexual act in exchange for something.

Neglect - is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. It may involve a parent or carer failing to provide adequate food, shelter and clothing, to protect a child from physical harm or danger, or to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or failure to respond to a child's basic emotional needs. In its extreme form children can be at serious risk from the effects of malnutrition, lack of nurturing and stimulation. This can lead to serious long-term effects such as greater susceptibility to serious childhood illnesses and reduction in potential stature. With young children in particular, the consequences may be life-threatening within a relatively short period of time.

Other areas to be aware of:

Bullying or Cyber-Bullying - Cyberbullying, is often the same type of behaviour as other bullying, for example name-calling, spreading rumours and leaving people out, but it takes place online, on social networking sites, in chatrooms, and via mobile technologies, gaming and instant messaging platforms. The impact of this is as hurtful and damaging as other forms of bullying behaviour. Advances in technology are simply providing an alternative means of reaching people – where malicious messages were once written on school books or toilet walls, they can now be sent via mobile phone or the internet, making their reach greater, more immediate and much harder to remove or erase.

Some online behavior is illegal. Children and young people need to be made aware of the far-reaching consequences of posting inappropriate or harmful content on forums, websites, and social networking platforms.