

you should make a referral to Children's Services through the Customer Service Centre **01522 782111**. All referrals should be followed up in writing within 24 hours using the Safeguarding Referral form found on www.lincolnshirechildren.net

There should always be the opportunity to discuss child welfare concerns with, and seek advice from, colleagues, managers, a designated or named professional, or other agencies, but:

- never delay emergency action to protect a child from harm;
- always record in writing concerns about a child's welfare, including whether or not further action is taken; and
- always record in writing discussions about a child's welfare. At the close of a discussion, always reach a clear and explicit recorded agreement about who will be taking what action, or that no further action will be taken.

To contact the Customer Services Centre ring **01522 782111**

All children need to be seen, to be heard and to be kept safe.

Remember safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children at all ages up to 18 years old is everyone's responsibility. The difference between child harm and a safe child could be you!

Individual factors or indicators may not be particularly worrying in isolation, but in combination they can suggest that there are serious concerns about a child's welfare.

- Consult your line manager/supervisor
- Consult LSCB policies
- Contact customer service centre to refer your concerns

By calling: telephone: **01522 782111**

Safeguarding children is everyone's responsibility

LSCB: www.lincolnshirelscb.org.uk

Working together to protect children in Lincolnshire



**Lincolnshire
Safeguarding
Children Board**

Indicators of possible Child Harm

What is Abuse and Neglect?

Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by others (e.g. via the internet). They may be abused by an adult or adults, or another child or children.

Physical Abuse

Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces illness in a child.

Emotional Abuse

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the 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 include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations

being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond a child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyber bullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, including child sexual exploitation, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including penetrative (e.g. rape, buggery or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts. They may include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at or in the production of sexual images or watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways or grooming a child including via the internet.

Neglect

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. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to provide adequate food clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment), protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger, ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers), ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.

It may also include neglect of or unresponsiveness to a child's basic emotional needs.

General Risk Indicators

- Poor parenting history or experience.
- Unplanned pregnancy.
- Premature or low birth weight.
- Children seeing or hearing the abuse of others.
- For more information (www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/domestic-abuse)
- Unstable relationships /cohabitation.
- Unrealistic expectations.
- Frequent changes of address.
- Financial problems/debt.
- Alcohol or substance mis-use.
- History of offending.
- Mental illness or depression.
- Parental experience of abuse.
- Significant life crises.

Indicators of Neglect

- Constant hunger and/or excessive tiredness.
- Poor personal hygiene.
- Poor state of clothing/inadequate clothing.
- Frequent accidental injuries.
- Untreated medical problems.
- Delay in seeking treatment.
- Low self-esteem.
- Lack of social relationships.
- Eating Disorders.
- Children persistently left without adequate supervision.

Indicators of Physical Abuse

- Unexplained injuries or burns, particularly if they are recurrent injuries of varying ages and types.
- Improbable reasons given to explain injuries.
- Refusal or reluctance to discuss injuries.
- Untreated injuries, delay or fear in seeking treatment.
- Admission of punishment which appears excessive.
- Withdrawal from physical contact.
- Arms and legs kept covered in hot weather.
- Child shows fear of returning home.
- Self-destructive tendencies in children.
- Aggressive towards others.
- Running away from home.
- Bruising on non mobile children.
- Fabricated or induced illness (FII), someone who is caring for a child,

fakes or deliberately causes symptoms of illness in the child

- Domestic abuse

Indicators of Emotional Abuse

- Physical, mental and emotional development delay.
- Over-reaction to mistakes.
- Low self-esteem, eg self-deprecation.
- Sudden speech disorders.
- Excessive fear of new situations.
- Inappropriate emotional responses to painful situations.
- Neurotic behaviour (eg rocking; hair twisting; thumb sucking).
- Self-harm.
- Extremes of passivity or aggression.
- Drug/solvent abuse.
- Running away.
- Eating disorders and/or School refusal.
- Domestic abuse

Indicators of Sexual Abuse

- Sudden changes of behaviour or school performance.
- Displays of affection in a sexual way inappropriate to age.
- For more information re: appropriate child sexual behaviours - www.brook.org.uk/index.php/traffic-lights
- Regression to younger behaviour such as thumb sucking, play with discarded toys, acting like a baby.
- Complaints of genital itching or pain.
- Unexplained abdominal pain.
- Distrust of a familiar adult or anxiety about being left with a particular person, relative or babysitter or lodger.

- Unexplained gifts or money.
- Apparent secrecy.
- Wetting day or night.
- Sleep disturbances or nightmares.
- Chronic illness, especially throat infections.
- Sexually transmitted infections.
- Eating Disorders.
- Unexplained pregnancy.
- Fear of undressing for gym.
- Phobias or panic attacks.
- Self-mutilation or attempted suicide.
- Physical, emotional development delay.
- Grooming, including via the internet.

Child Sexual Exploitation. For more information

www.lincolnshirescb.org.uk/pro_ca_CSE.html

What to do if you are worried about a child?

If you are worried about the welfare of a child, these concerns should be discussed with a manager/designated person with responsibility for safeguarding children within your organisation. If, after discussion, these concerns remain and it seems that the child and family would benefit from other services, including those from within another part of the same agency, you should undertake an Early Help Assessment found on www.lincolnshirechildren.net

This assessment will help to identify the child's needs so appropriate services can be delivered. If you have concerns that a child is at risk of significant harm,