

POINTERS TO SIGNIFICANT HARM

Physical Abuse

- Scratches
- Bite marks
- Bruises - frequent/different ages/not normal play
- Strap or slap marks
- No/inconsistent explanation of injuries
- Burns - particularly cigarette
- Scalds
- Undue fear of adults

Emotional

- Overly withdrawn child
- Overly aggressive child
- Constant wetting or soiling
- Frequent vomiting
- Poor social development
- Behavioural problems
- Abnormal attachments
- Learning difficulties

Sexual

- Soreness itching/recurrent infections in genital area
- Unexplained rashes or marks around genital area
- Recurrent tummy pains or headaches
- Bruises on inner thighs
- Frequent masturbation
- Inappropriate language/knowledge for age
- Making sexual advances towards adults or younger, more vulnerable children

CONTACT NUMBERS

Warrington Safeguarding Children Board Policy & Practice Manager	01925 457075
Service Reception Team Poll Tax House, Ryland Street Warrington	01925 444239
Out of Hours Service	01925 444400
Principal Officer (Safeguarding Children)	01925 457013
Children's Safeguarding Unit	01925 457016
Warrington Police Station	01925 652222
Police Public Protection Unit	01244 614878
Designated Nurse - Safeguarding Children	01925 643113
Designated Doctor - Safeguarding Children	01925 405712
Consultant Paediatrician or Senior Registrar	01925 635911
Senior Education Welfare Officer	01925 442928
Senior Probation Officer	01925 650613

**For further information visit our website
www.safeguardingwarringtonchildren.org.uk**

August 2006

Warrington Safeguarding Children Board



SAFEGUARDING PROCEDURES

This guide is intended to provide a checklist for professionals considering referring concerns about a child to Children's Social Care. For fuller information please consult child safeguarding procedures.

Safeguarding Procedures

BEFORE MAKING A REFERRAL

- What are your specific concerns?
- Have you any factual evidence to support your concerns?
- What, if anything has the child said or done to add to or increase your concerns?
- What, if anything has the parent/carer said or done to add to or increase your concerns?
- Have you discussed your concerns with any colleague or your line manager?
- Do other colleagues share your concerns?
- Have you told the parents of your concerns? (If your concerns relate to sexual abuse or fabricated & induced illness DO NOT discuss with the parents)
- What, if any response have they made?
- Have you made a written record of your concerns?
- Have you discussed your concerns with any other professional?
- Have you told the parents of your intention to share your concerns with Children's Social Care? (NB not in cases of sexual abuse or fabricated & induced illness)
- What was their response?
- Are you clear about what you are asking Children's Social Care to do?
 - provide you with advice/information to assist you
 - re-direct you to other services which may help the family
 - investigate a child protection concern
 - complete an assessment on the family

WHEN MAKING A REFERRAL

- All referrals should come through the Service Reception Team (see back for contact details)
- Ensure you have ready to hand all the child's details :-
 - current name (and any other names)
 - address
 - date of birth
 - family/household members
 - GP and name of any other professionals (if known)
 - present whereabouts of the child (see multi agency referral form)
- Ensure you are clear about:-
 - the nature of your concern, with details
 - what action you have already taken
 - information given to you by others
 - dates and times of any incidents
 - details of any discussions you have had with the child and/or parents
- Establish the name of the worker to whom you are speaking
- Establish what Children's Social Care are going to do next
- Establish what Children's Social Care expect you to do:-
 - tell the parents
 - tell the child
- Ensure that Children's Social Care have a contact number for you if you have to go off duty or the name of a colleague who can act in your absence.

AFTER MAKING A REFERRAL

- Complete the multi agency referral form if you have not done so already before phoning and send to Children's Social Care within 48 hours.
- Report the outcome to your line manager/designated manager
- Record the decision or action agreed
- Ensure you have received the response form from Children's Social Care within a week
- Check progress if you haven't heard anything (you should receive an 'Outcome of a Section 47 enquiry' at the end of the enquiry)
- Continue to support the child
- Continue to make records of any further concerns and to report them if appropriate
- Attend conference or any other meetings if invited and compile report where requested

POINTERS TO SIGNIFICANT HARM

Vulnerable families

- Parents abused
- Previous incident
- Social/financial/marital stress
- Domestic Violence
- Alcohol/drugs/violence
- Unwanted pregnancy
- Early separation/'bonding'
- Screaming/difficult child
- Disabled child

Neglect

- Exposure to danger/lack of supervision
- Inadequate/inappropriate clothing
- Constant hunger
- Poor standard of hygiene
- Untreated illness
- Poor growth
- Fear (frozen watchfulness)