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

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Warrington Safeguarding Children Board



CHILD PROTECTION MEDICALS

This guide is intended to help parents and carers to understand why, how, where and when medicals are undertaken.

Child Protection Medicals

Allegations of child abuse may mean that a child has been physically or sexually harmed. A Child Protection Medical may be required to find out whether the explanation given for the abuse can be medically confirmed.

Parents and carers can feel assured that any necessary medical examination of their child will only be undertaken by specially trained and designated doctors.

If a child discloses sexual abuse or has injuries as a result of physical abuse, arrangements for a child protection medical may be made by the social worker involved. Generally such medical examinations take place at the Child Development Centre located at the rear of Warrington General Hospital.

Physical Injuries

If the child has injuries the parent or carer may be asked to take the child to be medically examined. The social worker will usually accompany them to where the examination is to take place. The doctor will listen carefully to what the child says about the injury and will also ask the parents for their views and an explanation. After writing down all the information given, and following the examination, the doctor will decide whether the explanations given fit the injuries. He/she will then report the findings and diagnosis to Children's Social Care who may contact the police depending on the seriousness of the injuries and the view of the doctor.

Sexual Abuse

If the child discloses that he or she has been sexually abused and a medical is thought necessary, this is conducted by two doctors, one of whom is a police surgeon and the other is a specially trained doctor mentioned earlier. If there is medical evidence that sexual abuse has occurred, the police will use the medical report as part of their evidence if the matter is taken to court.

In cases of sexual abuse, a medical examination is not always recommended, again it will be dependent on the nature and seriousness of the abuse.

Both medical examinations are only conducted with the full consent and co-operation of the child and parents. They will only take place if it is thought to be absolutely necessary. If parental consent is withheld Children's Social Care may seek legal advice.

If your child is required to have a child protection medical please do not be afraid to ask questions about the process. It is important that you are fully informed and comfortable with the procedure. This will also help your child feel safe and able to tell what has happened to him/her.