

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

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Warrington Safeguarding Children Board



PROTECTING YOUR CHILD FROM SEXUAL ABUSE

This leaflet is intended for the parents and carers of children who may be at risk of sexual abuse.

Protecting your child from sexual abuse

This leaflet answers the following questions:

- Which people might present an increased risk of sexual abuse to children?
- Why my child/why me?
- What is child sexual abuse?
- What will Children's Social Care do to help me protect my child?

WHICH PEOPLE MIGHT PRESENT AN INCREASED RISK OF SEXUAL ABUSE TO CHILDREN?

a) People whom the Court, has convicted, or cautioned by the Police for a sexual offence, legally they may be known as Individuals who present a risk to children.

b) People who have not been convicted or cautioned but have had a serious allegation of child abuse made against them.

WHAT IS SEXUAL ABUSE?

Child sexual abuse can take a whole variety of forms. There are many types of abusive behaviour.

Some examples of child sexual abuse are:

- Children being shown pornography in magazines, on videos or DVDs or on the Internet.
- Children being made to watch adults naked having sex
- Inappropriate touching of breasts, genitalia or bottom
- Penetration of child's vagina or anus digitally or by a penis or by an object
- Oral-genital contact
- The use of animals in sexual practices with children
- Inappropriate sexualised comments
- Engaging the child in masturbation

WHY MY CHILD? WHY ME?

You or your child may be living with or having significant contact with someone whom has been convicted or suspected of sexually abusing a child or children. Children's Social Care and other agencies will be concerned that this person may present a significant risk to your children and will need to make enquiries to ensure that your child is protected. Children's Social Care has a duty to make these enquiries under the Children Act 1989.

WHAT CAN CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE DO TO HELP ME PROTECT MY CHILD?

- Children's Social Care will want to ensure as far as possible that children are protected from abuse and this may involve child protection procedures. They will need to identify a responsible adult who can act as Protector for your child/ren. This could be you or another family member or someone quite independent. They will need to ensure that the Protector has a good understanding of all the issues and risks involved and are able to protect the child/ren. In order to assess this they will talk about the following areas with them:
- The specific concerns and whether the Protector understands and accepts them all.
- The processes involved which enable child sexual abuse to take place.
- What is child sexual abuse
- Reasons why children may not be able to tell about their sexual abuse
- The protector's relationship with the "offender" and their confidence in dealing with the issues and any concerns that may arise.
- What steps the Protector can take to ensure your child is not sexually abused.
- Signs and symptoms of sexual abuse

At the end of the assessment the Protector will be asked to sign an agreement to say that they understand the issues and are committed to carrying out the protection plan.

Children's Social Care may also ask the "offender" to agree to move out of the family home or any house where children are present & undertake a risk assessment to identify the level of risk she or he may present to children. A Child Protection Case Conference may be held to make sure that the agencies involved with your family agree to a plan together to help the Protector to manage the risk and protect the child.

For further information please contact your child's social worker or ring:-
The Children's Safeguarding Unit
Children's Social Care
Warrington Borough Council
Tel: 01925 457013