



Universal

If you are aware that a child could be at risk of, or is being abused it is important that you let the right people know so that the right help can be given to the child and their family

Doing nothing is not an option

Contact phone numbers:

Family Connect (Telford & Wrekin)	01952 385385
First Point of Contact (Shropshire)	0345 678 9021
Out of hours Emergency Duty Teams:	Telford & Wrekin 01952 676500 Shropshire 03456 789040
Public Protection Unit (West Mercia Police)	Non-emergency 101 Police Emergency 999

Neglect

The **persistent** failure to meet the 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

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Neglect – Physical Observations

These may include;

- Poor personal hygiene
- Poor state of clothing
- Poor growth pattern
- Untreated medical problems

- Non-organic 'failure to thrive'
- Poor skin tone and hair tone
- Emaciation, pot belly, short stature

Neglect – Behavioural Observations

These may include:

- constant hunger or tiredness
- Frequent lateness or non-attendance at school
- Arrive early or late at school
- Destructive tendencies
- Low self esteem
- Neurotic behaviour
- No social relationships
- Running away
- Compulsive stealing or scavenging

Physical Abuse

A form of abuse which may involve

Hitting shaking throwing poisoning burning 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. (**Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018**)

Common sites for non-accidental injuries	eyes	skull and neck	Inner thighs
	ears	upper and inner arm	backs of knees
	mouth	chest and shoulders	genitals
	cheek	back	buttocks
	side of the face		

Signs of non-accidental injuries

Injuries may be bruising, grasp marks, linear marks, scalds or burns and other types of injuries i.e fractures, torn frenulum

- Burns and scalds
- Cigarette burns
- Swelling and lack of normal use of limbs
- Human bite marks
- Untreated injuries
- Any serious injury with no explanation or conflicting explanations
- Ligation marks

Physical - Behavioural Observations

These may include:

- Unusually fearful with adults
- Unnaturally compliant to parents
- Refusal to discuss injuries or a fear of medical help
- Withdrawal from physical contact
- Aggression towards others
- wearing cover-up clothing
- Any behaviours that you would not expect to see in a child, at their age or stage in development

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

Is illegal in the UK. It's also illegal to take a British national or permanent resident abroad for FGM or to help someone trying to do this.

The maximum sentence for carrying out FGM or helping it to take place is 14 years in prison. FGM is any procedure that's designed to alter or injure a girl's (or woman's) genital organs for non-medical reasons.

It's sometimes known as 'female circumcision' or 'female genital cutting'. It's mostly carried out on young girls.

FGM procedures can cause: severe bleeding, infections, problems with giving birth later in life - including the death of the baby
(**Department of Health, last updated November 2014**)

Sexual Abuse

Involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening.

The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet).

Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children. **Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018**

Sexual Abuse - Physical Observations

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|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ • Damage/ soreness in genital area, anus or mouth • Sexually transmitted infections • Unexpected pregnancy especially in young girls | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bruising giving the impression of sexual assault • Unexplained recurrent urinary tract infections and discharges or abdominal pain |
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Sexual Abuse - Behavioural Observations

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sexual knowledge inappropriate for age • Sexualised behaviour in young children • Sexually provocative behaviour/promiscuity • Hinting at sexual activity, and about secrets they cannot tell • Inexplicable falling off in school performance • Sudden apparent changes in personality • Lack of concentration, restlessness, aimlessness • Low self-image/ low self esteem | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Socially withdrawn • Poor trust in significant adults • Regressive behaviour, onset of wetting, by day or night • Onset of insecure, clinging behaviour • Running away from home • Suicide attempts, self-mutilation, self-disgust • Eating disorders, hysteria attacks in adolescents • Substance, alcohol misuse • Severe sleep disturbance |
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Child Sexual Exploitation

Sexual exploitation of children and young people under 18 involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person or persons) receive 'something' (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of them performing, and/or another or others performing on them, sexual activities.

Child sexual exploitation can occur through the use of technology without the child's immediate recognition; for example being persuaded to post sexual images on the Internet/mobile phones without immediate payment or gain. In all cases, those exploiting the child/young person have power over them by virtue of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources.

Violence, coercion and intimidation are common, involvement in exploitative relationships being characterised in the main by the child or young person's limited availability of choice resulting from their social/economic and/or emotional vulnerability.

Child Sexual Exploitation is NOT ...

Children leading the adults on

Children asking for it

The child's choice

A lifestyle choice

Prostitution

Only girls

It is a form of child abuse

Emotional Abuse

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 children 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 the 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.

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Emotional – Behavioural Observations

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • physical, mental and emotional development lags • acceptance of punishment which appears excessive • over-reaction to mistakes • continual self-deprecation • sudden speech disorders/language delay • fear of new situations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • inappropriate emotional responses to painful situations • neurotic behaviour (such as hair twisting, thumb sucking, rocking) • self-mutilation • fear of parents being contacted • extremes of passivity or aggression • being the scapegoat in the family • coldness/hostility/constant criticism |
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Domestic Abuse

Any incident or pattern of incidents of:

Controlling Coercive Threatening behaviour

Violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality.

The abuse can encompass, but is not limited to:

Psychological Physical Sexual Financial Emotional

Prevent

Prevent is one of the most challenging parts of the counter terrorism strategy, because it operates in the pre-criminal space, before any criminal activity has taken place.

It is about safeguarding - supporting and protecting those people who might be susceptible to radicalisation, and ensuring that individuals and communities have the resilience to resist violent extremism.

<https://www.westmercia.police.uk/article/7818/Prevent---Play-your-part>

The aim of the *Prevent* strategy is to reduce the threat to the UK from terrorism by stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. ***Prevent* Duty Guidance: for England and Wales July 2015. HM Government**

Bullying

- Hurting another person, or group, on purpose, more than once.
- Bullying can involve using violence, hurtful words or ganging up to make another person feel helpless.
- It can happen face-to-face or through the Internet.

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

If you have a Safeguarding concern about the behaviour of a member of staff or volunteer, advice and guidance can be sought from your organisations HR department. For an immediate safeguarding concern call Family Connect. For general advice call the LADO directly on 01952 382848.

Useful phone numbers

Child Trafficking and Advice Centre	0800 107 7057	
NSPCC (24 hour)	0808 800 5000	
Childline	0800 1111	
Axis (for adult survivors of sexual abuse)	01743 357777	01952 278000
Stop it Now	0808 1000 900	
Samaritans	08457 909090	
Victim Support (24 hours)	0808 168 9111	
Domestic Abuse Helpline (24 hour run by women's aid)	0800 783 1359	
Respect Helpline (for perpetrators of domestic abuse)	0808 802 4040	
Men's domestic advice line - info@mensadviceline.org.uk	08088010327	
Prevent radicalisation	01386 591835 prevent@warwickshireandwestmercia.pnn.police.uk	

Useful documents

Working Together to Safeguarding Children 2018

[Chapters 2 & 3 of "Working Together to Safeguard Children" 2018](#)

What to do if you're worried a child is being abused - Advice for practitioners

['What to do if a child is being abused'](#)

Information Sharing 2018 - Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-practitioners-information-sharing-advice>

The Child's Journey – TWSCB Threshold Document

["The Child's Journey in Telford & Wrekin"](#).

Keeping Children Safe in Education 2018

["Keeping Children Safe in Education" September 2018](#)

Useful Websites

www.telfordsafeguardingboard.org.uk

www.telford.gov.uk/familyconnect

www.childline.org.uk

www.ceop.police.uk

www.stopitnow.org.uk

www.nspcc.org.uk

www.womensaid.org.uk

www.stopitnow.org.uk

www.axiscounselling.org.uk

To do list

- Put the contact number for Family Connect somewhere where it will be easily available including the Emergency Duty Team
- Look at the Telford and Wrekin Safeguarding Children Board website and put it in your 'favourites'