

Child Protection



You can access more information regarding the safeguarding of children and young people from the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board (NSCB) section of the County Council web site:

<http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/nscb>

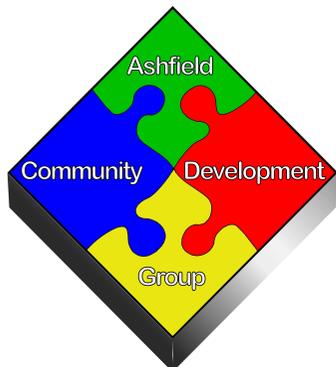
This leaflet is only intended to be a guide, if you require any more information, please contact your local Social Care Services for advice or local support agencies.

Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Information Management Team **01623 433177**

Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board (NSCB) **0115 977 3935**

This leaflet can also be downloaded from:

http://www.ashfield.gov.uk/media/1542/8-child-protection-_rev-feb-2015_.pdf



This advice leaflet has been compiled by Ashfield Community Development Group (ACDG).

For details of ACDG members offering support, please refer to leaflet "i".

Introduction

We all have a responsibility to safeguard the welfare of children and young people participating in group activities. In order to give young people protection from potential and actual child abuse, it is important that all concerned have a basic understanding of the issues involved and procedures are in place that are understandable and easy to implement by anyone providing a service to young people at the group.

Your group should be committed to creating an environment that enables children and young people to learn, develop and express themselves in a safe, understanding and encouraging environment. Where parents trust you to look after their children, you need to honour their trust.

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Background

Child abuse is a difficult issue and presents challenges to everyone providing services for children and young people. Many people feel uncomfortable with the subject. It is not easily recognisable and individuals often fear reading too much into a situation. Many children and young people experience minor accidents causing injuries, but there may be occasions where you are concerned over the nature and frequency of injury.

This document contains information on some of the signs that may give cause for concern, and is based on the principle that:

“It is not your responsibility, as members of your group, to decide whether or not child abuse is occurring, but it is your responsibility to act on concerns and do something about it.”

What is child abuse?

‘Child abuse’ is the ways in which children and young people are harmed by someone in a position of power. This applies to all children under the age of 18 years. Abuse can happen anywhere, but research indicates that the people who abuse are likely to be known and trusted by the child.



Types of abuse

Physical Abuse

Physical abuse includes hurting or injuring a child. It might also occur if a child is forced to do something beyond their capabilities. Bullying is likely to fall under this category.

Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse is where children are encouraged or forced to observe or participate in any form of sexual activity. This could also occur through unnecessary or inappropriate physical contact or through suggestive comments or verbal innuendo.

Emotional Abuse

Emotional abuse occurs when a child is not given love, help,

encouragement and attention and is constantly deprived or ridiculed or perhaps even worse, ignored. This can also occur when a child is over protected or in the unrealistic expectations of teachers and parents over what children can achieve. The use of abusive language of any sort constitutes emotional abuse.

Neglect

Neglect is failing to meet children's basic needs such as food, warmth, adequate clothing, medical attention etc. It could also mean failing to ensure they are safe or exposing them to harm.

Be prepared

In order to be prepared for any of these things, your group should have a Child Protection Policy. Group or session leaders should undergo Safeguarding Training so that they are aware of the different types of abuse, signs of abuse, and procedures to follow. It is crucial that they are made aware of these procedures.

The policy will also protect group leaders who are at increasing risk of accusations of unacceptable behaviour towards young people.

A Child Protection Officer should be appointed or decided on. They should be named in the policy and be the point of contact for any concerns.

For help with writing a Child Protection Policy and for details on training please contact any of the organisations listed in leaflet “i”.

Good practice in the care of children

Situations where abuse may occur can be minimised by:

- Always being publicly open when working with children.
- Where possible, parents should take responsibility for their own children.
- Where possible, avoid taking children alone on car journeys, however short, unless there is no other option and the child's parents have given permission. Use an appropriate car seat in the back of the car. This may be acceptable as a one-off, but not to do on a regular basis.