



Safeguarding Children – Contacts, Definitions and Information

There is an equivalent document for Safeguarding adults which can be accessed at [Keeping Adults Safe in Shropshire](#) and [Shropshire Safeguarding Partnership](#)

Document author: Corinne Chidley, Learning and Development Co-ordinator - Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership. **email:** corinne.chidley@shropshire.gov.uk

If you are aware that a child or adult could be at risk of or is being abused or neglected 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!

Phone Shropshire Council First Point of Contact (FPOC)

Access to Compass - Children's Social Care Front Door and Targeted Early Help **0345 678 9021**

Adult Social Care and Safeguarding Concerns **0345 678 9044**

Telford and Wrekin Family Connect **01952 385385**
Family front door including Child Protection Referrals

Designated Officer in the Local Authority (LADO) **0345 678 9021**
(If you have a Safeguarding concern about the behaviour of a member of staff or volunteer)

Out of hours Emergency Social Work Teams:

Shropshire 03456 789040 Telford & Wrekin 01952 676500

West Mercia Police Emergency 999 West Mercia Police Non-emergency 101
To report to **Shropshire Council 'Report'**

Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures Manual

<http://westmidlands.procedures.org.uk/>

1. Statutory Child Protection Procedures
2. Regional Safeguarding Guidance
3. Local Area Specific Safeguarding Information and Procedures (please select Shropshire)

Support Services

- AXIS (for adult and child survivors of sexual abuse) 01743 357777 01952 278000
- Beam for telephone support email askbeam@childrenssociety.org.uk
- Bee U 0300 124 0093
- ChildLine 0800 1111
- Kooth Free, safe, anonymous online support for young people www.kooth.com
- Children and Young Person Sexual Assault Referral Service 0808 196 2340
- ISVA (Independent Sexual Violence Advisor) service 01743 243007
- Men's advice line support for male victims of domestic abuse 0808 801 0327
- NSPCC (24 hour) 0808 800 5000
- Respect Helpline (for advice and support to help you stop being violent and abusive) 0808 8024040
- Samaritans 08457 909090
- Shropshire Domestic Abuse Helpline 24 hours 0800 783 1359
- Shropshire Domestic Abuse Service (SDAS) 0300 303 1191
- Shropshire Family Information Service 01743 254400
- The Branch Project 01905 611655 or 01432 266551
- Victim Support (24 hours) 0808 168 9111
- We Are With You <https://www.wearewithyou.org.uk/services/shropshire/> 01743 294700

SSCP Training links and Contacts

As result of, and to support, the extraordinary pressure and challenges being placed upon our multi-agency partners to manage the current impact of COVID-19 in Shropshire, all SSCP Multi-agency face-to-face Safeguarding Training has been suspended until further notice.

Several training modules are now being delivered online via Microsoft Teams and further virtual training modules will be added when available. The SSCP Multi-agency Training Schedule is regularly updated to reflect the training currently on offer and all bookings are made via our webpage shown below.

All training modules are reviewed regularly in response to emerging national and local safeguarding themes, publications, statutory frameworks, research and legislation. Our training reflects current Shropshire practice and procedures.

In addition, SSCP offers several free, certificated e-learning modules through Virtual College. This training is at a raising awareness level. These modules can again be applied for by registering with and logging in to your SSCP learner record from our webpage.

SSCP Multi-agency Training Team Tel: 01743 254370

Email: SSCPtraining@shropshire.gov.uk

To view the current Training Schedule and to book training - <http://www.safeguardingshropshireschildren.org.uk/professionals-and-volunteers/safeguarding-training/>

Other e-learning training available from other sources includes:

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) <https://www.fgmelearning.co.uk/>

PREVENT www.elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk/b/screen1

Department of Health (DoH) to help healthcare professionals and partners protect and identify young people at risk of abuse or exploitation <http://www.seenandheard.org.uk/>

Suicide Prevention Training <http://zerosuicidealliance.com/>

Shropshire Strengthening Families through Early Help



Early help means taking action to support a child, young person or their family as soon as a problem emerges. It can be required at any stage in a child's life, from pre-birth to adulthood, and applies to any problem or need that the family can't deal with alone.

As result of, and to support, the extraordinary pressure and challenges being placed upon our multi-agency partners to manage the current impact of COVID-19 in Shropshire, all Early Help Multi-agency face-to-face Training and Network Meetings have been suspended until further notice. All Network Meetings and some Training is now being offered virtually via Microsoft Teams.

For further information on Early Help Training or Network Meetings, please the webpage below or email sscpbusinessunit@shropshire.gov.uk

Website: <https://shropshire.gov.uk/early-help/practitioners/>

DEFINITIONS OF 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.

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018

Emotional – Behavioural Observations

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical, mental and emotional development lags, • An extreme change in views, • 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, • Repetitive or habitual behaviours (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. • Online privacy settings are not activated. |
|---|--|

Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse is any type of controlling, bullying, threatening or violent behaviour between people in a relationship. It can seriously harm children and young people and witnessing domestic abuse is child abuse. It's important to remember domestic abuse:

- can happen inside and outside the home
- can happen over the phone, on the internet and on social networking sites
- can happen in any relationship and can continue even after the relationship has ended
- both men and women can be abused or abusers.

It can be difficult to tell if domestic abuse is happening and those carrying out the abuse can act very different when other people are around. Children and young people might also feel frightened and confused, keeping the abuse to themselves.

Signs that a child has witnessed domestic abuse can include:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • aggression or bullying • anti-social behaviour, like vandalism • anxiety, depression or suicidal thoughts • attention seeking • bed-wetting, nightmares or insomnia | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • constant or regular sickness, like colds, headaches and mouth ulcers • drug or alcohol use • eating disorders • problems in school or trouble learning • tantrums • withdrawal. |
|---|--|

Living in a home where domestic abuse happens can have a serious impact on a child or young person's mental and physical wellbeing, as well as their behaviour. And this can last into adulthood. What's important is to make sure the abuse stops and that children have a safe and stable environment to grow up in.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/domestic-abuse/> 2020

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

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);

or ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.

It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to a child's basic emotional needs.

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018

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, obesity.

Neglect – Behavioural Observations

These may include:

- Constant hunger or tiredness,
- Frequent lateness or non-attendance at school,
- Arrive early or leaving late from school,
- Destructive tendencies,
- Low self-esteem,
- Obsessive, ritualistic or unusual behaviours,
- No social relationships,
- Running away,
- Compulsive stealing or scavenging.

Graded Care Profile (GCP2) Licensed by NSPCC

GCP2 is an evidence-based assessment tool which evaluates levels of parental care, assessing a child's lived experience. Helps to identify children at risk of neglect at the earliest opportunity, enabling professionals to work collaboratively, responding promptly and effectively to address the underlying factors with parents. Using GCP2 effectively helps to ensure that our focus is on the experiences of children, that children are protected from harm and the long-term effects of childhood neglect are minimised.

Access [Tackling Child Neglect in Shropshire: a practitioner support pack FINAL](#)

Become an accredited user of GCP2

<http://www.safeguardingshropshireschildren.org.uk/professionals-and-volunteers/safeguarding-training/>

Physical Abuse

A form of abuse which may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or 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 Accidental Injuries

Nose, forehead, chin, forearm, elbows, bony spine, hip, knees

Typically Abusive Injuries

Eyes, ears and mouth, skull and neck, cheek, side of the face, genitals, upper and inner arm, chest and shoulders, back, buttocks, thighs, knees.

Signs of Abusive 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,
- Ligature 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)

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is a procedure where the female genital organs are injured or changed, but there is no medical reason for this. It can seriously harm the health of women and girls in the long term. Many men and women in practising communities are unaware of the relationship between FGM and the severe harm it causes to the health of women and girls. All types of FGM are extremely harmful with many short- and long-term health implications. It's sometimes known as 'female circumcision' or 'female genital cutting'. It's can be carried out on young babies, girls and women. FGM procedures can cause: severe pain and bleeding, emotional and psychological shock, infections, problems with giving birth later in life - including the death of the baby

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.

Department of Health, January 2017

60,000 girls living in the UK could be at risk of female genital mutilation (FGM).

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 very 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 |
|---|---|

Sexual Abuse - Behavioural Observations

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sextortion • Sexual knowledge inappropriate for age, • Sexualised behaviour in young children, • Sexually provocative or promiscuous behaviour, • Hinting at sexual activity, and about secrets they cannot tell, • Secretive behaviour online or offline, • 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"> • Increased or excessively secretive use of mobile phone and/or internet activity, • 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, • Exaggerated or uncontrollable emotions, • Substance, alcohol misuse, • Severe sleep disturbance. |
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Introduction to Contextual Safeguarding

Contextual Safeguarding is an approach to understanding, and responding to, young people's experiences of significant harm beyond their families. It recognises that the different relationships that young people form in their neighbourhoods, schools and online can feature violence and abuse. Parents and carers have little influence over these contexts, and young people's experiences of extra-familial abuse can undermine parent-child relationships.

Therefore, children's social care practitioners, child protection systems and wider safeguarding partnerships need to engage with individuals and sectors who do have influence over/within extra-familial contexts, and recognise that assessment of, and intervention with, these spaces are a critical part of safeguarding practices. Contextual Safeguarding, therefore, expands the objectives of child protection systems in recognition that young people are vulnerable to abuse beyond their front doors.

Contextual Safeguarding Network 2020

Criminal Exploitation

Criminal Exploitation occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child, young person or an adult (including those with care and support needs) into any criminal activity:

- (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or
- (b) for the financial or other advantage of the perpetrator or facilitator (such as to support serious organised crime and/or terrorism), and/or
- (c) through violence or the threat of violence to ensure compliance.

The victim may have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears consensual. Criminal Exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur using technology and/or social media.

Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership 2020

Peer on Peer Abuse

Recognition should be given to the fact that children are capable of abusing their peers. Abuse is abuse and should never be tolerated or passed off as “banter” or “part of growing up”. Victims of peer abuse should be supported as they would be if they were the victim of any other form of abuse

Peer on peer abuse occurs when a young person is exploited, bullied and/or harmed by their peers who are the same age or similar age.

Peer-on-peer abuse can relate to various forms of abuse (not just sexual abuse and exploitation), some forms of peer on peer abuse are:

Bullying (including cyberbullying, prejudice-based and discriminatory bullying)

Abuse in intimate personal relationships between peers abuse may include insults, coercion, social sabotage, sexual harassment, threats and/or acts of physical or sexual abuse. The abusive teen uses this pattern of violent and coercive behaviour, in a heterosexual or same gender relationship, in order to gain power and maintain control over the partner

Physical abuse such as hitting, kicking, shaking, biting, hair pulling, or otherwise causing physical harm (this may include an online element which facilitates, threatens and/or encourages physical abuse)

Sexual violence, such as rape, assault by penetration and sexual assault; (this may include an online element which facilitates, threatens and/or encourages sexual violence)

Sexual harassment, such as sexual comments, remarks, jokes and online sexual harassment, which may be standalone or part of a broader pattern of abuse; causing someone to engage in sexual activity without consent, such as forcing someone to strip, touch themselves sexually, or to engage in sexual activity with a third party

Sexting or youth produced sexual imagery consensual and non-consensual sharing of nude and semi-nude images and/or videos

Upskirting which typically involves taking a picture under a person’s clothing without their permission, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks to obtain sexual gratification, or cause the victim humiliation, distress or alarm

Initiation/hazing type violence and rituals (this could include activities involving harassment, abuse or humiliation used as a way of initiating a person into a group and may also include an online element).

Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021

Recognise - Respond - Record

To do list:

- Put the contact number for First Point of Contact (FPOC) somewhere where it will be easily available
- Look at Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership website and make it one of your 'favourites'
- Look at your agencies Safeguarding and Child Protection policy
- Identify your Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Find out how and where you are expected to record concerns, who you should report them to/share information with in a timely manner
- Think about any further Safeguarding/Child Protection training needs you or your agency might have
- Consider how you ensure that your Safeguarding/Child Protection responsibilities are known to those who use your services

Useful Websites

actionforprisonersfamilies.org.uk promotes the needs of families affected by imprisonment

axiscounselling.org.uk support service for adult and child survivors of sexual abuse

brook.org.uk/our-work/category/sexual-behaviours-traffic-light-tool -Brook sexual behaviours traffic light tool supports professionals working with children and young people by helping them to identify and respond appropriately to sexual behaviours.

ceop.police.uk online safety and protection

childrenssociety.org.uk/ Charity working to support vulnerable children in England and Wales with numerous resources on exploitation.

childline.org.uk supporting children and Young People to identify and report abuse

educateagainsthate.com gives parents, teachers and school leaders practical advice on protecting children from extremism and radicalisation.

karmanirvana.org.uk/help-line supporting victims of honour based abuse and crimes and forced marriage

<http://www.keepingadultssafeinshropshire.org.uk/> The keeping adults safe in Shropshire Network brings together representatives of each of the main organisations responsible for helping and protecting adults with care and support needs; who are at risk of or are experiencing abuse and neglect

mappa.justice.gov.uk MAPPA - Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements. It is the process through which the Police, Probation and Prison Services work together with other agencies to manage the risks posed by violent and sexual offenders living in the community in order to protect the public. These arrangements are coordinated across West Mercia by the Warwickshire and West Mercia Community Rehabilitation Company (WWMCRC)

mensadviceline.org.uk/ advice and support for men experiencing domestic violence and abuse

new.shropshire.gov.uk/early-help early help means taking action to support a child, young person or their family as soon as a problem emerges.

nspcc.org.uk working to identify and prevent Child abuse

nspcc.org.uk/.../research-and-resources/sign-up-to-caspar receive regularly newsletters by subscribing to CASPAR, NSPCC current awareness service for child protection practice, policy and research
SSCP – Safeguarding Children Contacts, Definitions, Information (Revised September 2021 v 23)

safeguardingshropshireschildren.org.uk

Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership – Safeguarding children website - designed to provide useful information and advice for professionals, parents and children.

shropsdas.org.uk – Shropshire Domestic Abuse Service exists to provide safe accommodation, an outreach and a children/young people’s service to adults and their children whose lives are affected by domestic abuse and violence; to empower them, age appropriately, to make decisions for themselves about their own futures.

shropshire.gov.uk/crime-and-community-safety/domestic-abuse/multi-agency-risk-assessment-conference-marac/ The MARAC, which stands for Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference, is a meeting between representatives from different organisations in Shropshire to discuss the safety, health and wellbeing of people experiencing domestic abuse, and to provide a safety plan for them and their children.

stopitnow.org.uk preventing Child Sexual Abuse

talktofrank.com/ - friendly confidential drugs advice, including drugs A-Z, know whats what, glossary of drugs has all the information and the slang.

wearewithyou.org.uk/services/shropshire/ - if young people are worried about their drug or alcohol use

westmercia.police.uk/article/7818/Prevent---Play-your-part 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.

westmidlands.procedures.org.uk These child protection and safeguarding procedures are for Shropshire along with 9 other Local Safeguarding Children Boards in the West Midlands.

wmrsasc.org.uk/the-branch-project/ The Branch Project works with children and young people who have experienced Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) or are worried about it.

womensaid.org.uk supporting women and children experiencing domestic abuse

Recommended Publications to Support Training

- Appiah, A., Baguley, S., SPACE, & Farooq, R. (2021). **Making Words Matter. Attending to Language when working with children subject to or at risk of Exploitation: A Practice and Knowledge Briefing**
- Department for Education (2020) **Complexity and challenge: a triennial analysis of SCRs 2014-2017 (PDF)**. London: Department for Education (DfE).
- Department for Education (DfE) (2018) **Information sharing: advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers (PDF)**. London: HM Government.
- Department for Education (2021) **Keeping Children Safe in Education: for schools and colleges**. London. Department for Education
- Department for Education. (2018) Working Together to Safeguard Children, A guide to interagency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. London. HM Government. www.education.gov.uk
- Sidebotham, P. et al. (2016) **Pathways to harm, pathways to protection: a triennial analysis of serious case reviews 2011 to 2014: final report**. [London]: Department for Education
- SSCP (2021) **Threshold Document. Meeting the needs of children and families in Shropshire: the right service at the right time**. SSCP
- The Childrens Society (2020) The Slang Dictionary. childrenssociety.org.uk/ online-exploitation