

physical contact or other non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images or watching sexual activities.

**Emotional...** it may be telling children they are worthless or unloved or valued only in so far as they meet the needs of another person. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill treatment of another, or causing children to feel frightened or in danger. It could involve serious bullying, the exploitation or corruption of children or not allowing children to participate in normal social interaction.

**Neglect...** when carers do not provide proper food, warmth, shelter, clothing, medical attention, care or protection. It also includes leaving children alone or with inappropriate caretakers.

*"We love our parents, but we don't like them. We don't know where to go, or what would happen if we reported it, so we haven't, though this has been going on for as long as I can remember." Children where parents are involved in domestic violence*



**Keeping children safe is everybody's responsibility. It is better to be safe than sorry. Please tell us if you are concerned about a child.**

## Children's Social Care Department

(If you are unsure where the child lives ring any of the numbers below for advice)

Mansfield/Ashfield	08449 808080
Rushcliffe/Gedling	0115 8546000
Broxtowe	0115 9175800
Bassetlaw/ Newark & Sherwood	01623 520520

Please ring:

- Children's Social Care Department, Emergency Duty Team for any urgent concerns outside of ordinary office hours on 0300 456456
- Local Police (see in the phone book) or in an emergency dial 999
- NSPCC helpline on 0808 800 5000

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**Nottinghamshire  
SAFEGUARDING  
CHILDREN Board**

## Are you worried a child is being abused?



## DO YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO?

## Have You

...seen something, heard something, or been told something which has troubled you about a child's safety?

You may know the child, or they could be a stranger. You may be a child who is being abused or worried about a friend's safety (a child is anyone under the age of 18yrs). All children have a right to be safe.

Sometimes it is the situations children live in that can be harmful to them, for example living with parents or carers who misuse drugs/alcohol, or are involved in domestic violence.

*"My mum and dad both have drinking problems. Sometimes there's nothing to eat in the house. And I'm often left alone to look after my brothers and sisters."*

If you have concerns about a child's safety there are people who will listen to you. Protecting children is everybody's business. Please do something. YOU can make a difference.

*We know that in two thirds of cases the child abuse goes unreported at the time and many children are forced to suffer in silence (NSPCC).*

## Where can I go to for help if I am worried?

If you are worried by something you feel may be abusive behaviour but you are not sure, you can get advice on what needs to happen from someone who works with children such as your

doctor, health visitor, teacher etc. You may also want to tell a friend or family member first to support you.

## You can also discuss your concerns with:

**Children's Social Care**  
(formerly called Social Services)  
**Police**  
**Or the NSPCC**  
contact details overleaf

## What do I do if I think a child is in immediate danger?

Phone 999 immediately and/or call your local Children's Social Care.



## Do I have to give my name?

No, but it can help if the person you are talking to knows your relationship to the child.

It is better to tell someone you are concerned and not give your name than to remain silent.

## What happens next?

- **Urgent action will be taken if the child is thought to be in immediate danger**

If the child is not in immediate danger:

- **Children's Social Care will gather information to decide what needs to happen.**

## Could the child be removed?

Children's Social Care will work with the family and other organisations to keep the family together wherever possible. This is usually the best way to keep children safe.

The child would only be removed if it was not safe for them to remain at home and there is no other way to ensure their safety. This rarely happens and most children remain with their family or close relatives.

## Child Abuse can be

**Physical...** may involve, hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. It may also be caused when a parent or carer makes up the symptoms of an illness or deliberately causes illness in a child.

**Sexual...** involves forcing or persuading children to take part in sexual activities, including prostitution, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve