

Useful telephone numbers

Customer Care Team

Tel: 0161 474 3938 Fax: 0161 474 3896 Textphone: 0161 474 4619

Children's Social Care 0845 644 4313

Early Intervention & Family Support Team, Baker Street 0161 476 6700

Looked After Children Team, Dialstone Centre 0161 474 2100

Children's Legal Centre 20 Crompton Terrace, London W12 UJN 01206 873 820

A free interpreting service is available if you need help with this booklet / leaflet.
Please telephone Stockport Interpreting Unit on 0161 477 9000.

E-mail: eds.admin@stockport.gov.uk

যদি এই পুস্তিকা/প্রচার পত্রটি সম্পর্কে আপনার কোন সাহায্য দরকার হয় তবে বিনা খরচে আপনার জন্য দোতখীর ব্যবস্থা করা
হতে পারে। যোগাযোগের জন্য স্টকপোর্ট ইন্টারপ্রিটিং ইউনিটে কোন কোন টেলিফোন নম্বর, 0161 477 9000

اگر آپ کو اس کتابچے/پمچے کے بارے میں مدد کی ضرورت ہے تو مفت ترجمانی کی سروس دستیاب ہے۔ براہ مہربانی ایئر پریٹنگ یونٹ
کو 0161 477 9000 پر فون کریں۔

如你需要他人為你解釋這小冊子/單張的內容，我們可提供免費的傳譯服務，
請致電 0161 477 9000 史托波特傳譯部。

تتوفر خدمة ترجمة شفوية مجانية إذا تطلبت مساعدة في فهم هذا الكتيب/النشرة. نرجو الاتصال
بإنتربريتنج يونت على رقم الهاتف: 0161 477 9000

خدمات ترجمه رایگان این نشریه/کتابچه در صورت نیاز موجود میباشد. لطفاً با شماره تلفن 0161 477
9000 با واحد ترجمه (اینترپریٹینگ یونیت) ما تماس بگیرید۔

This leaflet explains why Children's Social Care, are involved with your family and how they carry out their responsibilities to safeguard your children. If you would like it in large print, on audio tape, in Braille or on disk please contact 0161 474 4813 (textphone 0161 474 4619)



Stockport Local Safeguarding Children Board



Child Protection Enquiries

Information for parents and carers where there are child protection concerns

Child protection concerns cover a range of issues about the physical, sexual or emotional abuse or neglect of children. Anyone must tell Children's Social Care or the Police if they are concerned about the welfare or safety of a child. The person making the referral will usually tell parents and carers what they are doing.

The Enquiries

Enquiries are carried out by social workers who will gather as much information as they can from people who know your child and your family. This might include your doctor, your child's teacher, school nurse or health visitor. The social worker will need to discuss the concerns with you and see your children.

During the enquiry the Social Worker will want to talk to you as parents/carers, members of your extended family if appropriate and to your children. It is an absolute requirement that the social worker looks around your home and is able to

2 speak to your children individually and in private, if they are old enough and able to understand properly.

In some cases after just one visit, it becomes clear that the concerns are unfounded and that no further enquiries are needed. More often however, everything will not be clear after just one visit to you and your child and it will be necessary to make some more enquiries to get a clearer picture of the situation to know how best to help you and your children.

Will it be necessary for my child to see a doctor?

It may be considered necessary for your child to be medically examined by a specially trained doctor. This will be discussed with you and usually parents are asked to accompany the child to the examination.

Why do the police get involved?

3 If there is a possibility that an offence has been committed the police might visit you with the social worker. If police believe that a crime may have been committed they may want to speak to and possibly interview the child at a place where the interview can be videotaped for use in any possible court proceedings.

Who will know the information?

Wherever possible the social worker and police will give you as much information as they can so that you are fully aware of the concerns about your child. You will have every opportunity to answer any allegation made against you or others who may have placed your child at risk.

It is also an absolute requirement that while there are child protection concerns, professionals share information with each other. It can be very difficult for both parents and professionals when it is necessary to share information that has been given in confidence but the child's protection must outweigh issues of adult confidentiality. All professionals must keep their records confidential and only share them with other professionals who are involved with the child's welfare. Throughout the enquiries you and your child/ren will be listened to and kept informed.

What happens next?

If the enquiries show that there are no concerns about your child/ren the social worker will not need to see you again unless you feel you would like further support.

If there are still concerns after the enquiries the social worker will need to take further action and may arrange a Child in Need meeting to look at what might help your family. This meeting will include yourselves and other people who know your family and might be able to help.

When there are more serious concerns a Child Protection Conference will be arranged by the social worker. Other

professionals can also request that a conference be held. There is a separate leaflet for parents/carers about child protection conferences.

Will my children be taken into care?

In most cases NO. Very few children have to leave home because of child protection concerns. All professional agencies in Stockport believe that wherever possible children should live with their own families, provision of help, advice and services can usually reduce concerns.

It is ONLY if children are in immediate danger of serious harm that they will be taken to a safe place. This could be the home of relatives or friends, foster carers or a children's home. When this is needed the social worker will seek your agreement. If you are unable to agree, Stockport Children's Social Care will need to apply to a court for a legal order to keep your child safe. In most situations you will be informed that this is the plan and have the opportunity to get legal advice to oppose the application in court.

You also need to know that Children's Social Care can also apply to court if they believe there are serious concerns but you are refusing to allow access to your child/ren.

In some cases children may be able to stay in their own home if another member of the household moves out and Children's Social Care can assist with this.

Social workers cannot remove children from your care without the permission of the court. The police are able to do so but only for three days.

What are my rights?

Both the social worker and police officer (if involved) will remind you that you have certain rights during the course of their enquiries. These include the right:

- To be treated with respect by professionals who have an open mind about relationships within your family.
- To be given a clear explanation about what is happening and possible future action.
- To have all decisions clearly explained.
- To be listened to and your views asked for and recorded.
- To be adequately supported by anyone you choose.
- To seek legal advice.
- To appropriate confidentiality.
- To an appropriate interpreter if required.
- To complain if you are not satisfied with the service you have received.

What about my child's interests

Child protection enquiries can be distressing for your family and your child will need your support. You can help him/her by:

- Being reassuring, patient and calm.
- Telling your child he/she is not to blame for what is happening.
- Working with the social worker and police in an open and honest way.

Like you, your child has rights. These are:

- To be protected from harm.
- To be listened to and taken seriously.
- To be told about what is happening during the enquiries.
- To say no to any interview or medical examination (if the child is of an age to understand).
- To ask you for support.
- To complain.

Independent Help & Advice

The Family Rights Group can provide free, confidential advice and they publish a much fuller guide to child protection procedures.

The telephone advice service is available:

Monday – Friday 10am – 12pm & 1.30pm – 3.30pm

Freephone 0800 731 1696

You can also email advice@frg.org.uk