

# Safeguarding Children in Stockport



## Introduction

This booklet is aimed at all professionals in Stockport who come into contact with children. We share a collective and individual responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, and achieving this for all children in Stockport requires us to work together, and to understand our responsibilities.

### **The welfare of the child should be the paramount consideration for all workers (Children Act 1989)**

This safeguarding overview applies to:

- All children under 18 years of age who live in Stockport including those with diverse needs
- A child living in Stockport whose permanent address is outside the authority
- A child at school in Stockport whose permanent address is outside the authority
- Children looked after by the Local Authority.

### **Stockport Safeguarding Children Board (SSCB)**

The SSCB is required under the Children Act 2004 to co-ordinate local work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and to ensure the effectiveness of that work.

The SSCB is a statutory board chaired by an Independent Chair. Members of the SSCB are accountable for safeguarding in their organisations, or else bring a specific area of expertise to the group. They are committed to maximising safety for children in Stockport through effective multi-agency working.

The SSCB is responsible for maintaining the **Safeguarding Children Handbook** which is the set of multi-agency policies and procedures that guide workers in all agencies on how to respond when they are concerned about a child's welfare. The handbook is available electronically by visiting [www.safeguardingchildreninstockport.org.uk](http://www.safeguardingchildreninstockport.org.uk) and selecting Procedures from the list provided.

In addition, copies of sections can be emailed to individuals if requested via the Safeguarding Children Unit by calling **0161 474 5657** or e-mailing [cpu@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:cpu@stockport.gov.uk).

## How Should I Act if I am Worried?

Concerns about children's welfare range from relatively minor worries about aspects of care, through to clear signs of child abuse. This requires all professionals to respond appropriately to the level of concern. **Concerns must be shared.**

## Possible Child Protection?

- Your line manager, or named/designated person is usually your first point of contact. They will help you to decide if your concerns warrant further action. If your concerns are about child protection, you should not allow the absence of your manager to delay your contact with Children's Social Care.
- You should inform parents of your concerns and about a referral to Children's Social Care except where the concerns relate to sexual abuse, or fabricated or induced illness.
- Contact with Children's Social Care can be made by telephone to the Contact Centre on 0161 217 6028, Out of Hours Team on 0161 718 2118, the Police on 0161 872 5050 or in an emergency by dialling 999. If you phone the Contact Centre you should ask to speak to the Duty Social Worker to discuss your concerns.
- Referrals made by telephone must be followed up immediately with a written report and a Common Assessment Form. This should be completed for all cases referred by professionals. These forms can be downloaded from the Stockport Council website at [www.stockport.gov.uk/commonprocesses](http://www.stockport.gov.uk/commonprocesses). In child protection cases, parental consent is not required.
- A flow chart is shown at the end of the leaflet outlining the process of referral.
- If you are unsure whether to refer, consultation and advice is available from the Duty Social Worker at the Contact Centre or the Duty Officer at the Safeguarding Children Unit on 0161 474 5659.

## Possible Physical Abuse?

Physical injuries should be regarded as suspicious in the following circumstances:

- There is not adequate explanation
- There are different or changing accounts of how the injuries were caused
- The injuries are to immobile or young children.

Record your concerns, observations and actions clearly.

### **You must make an immediate referral to Children's Social Care if:**

- You have checked the explanation with the parent, and you are still concerned

or

- You are dealing with an immobile baby.

## Possible Sexual Abuse?

- Allegations of sexual abuse must always be taken seriously.
- Your referral to Children's Social Care should be made without delay.
- Listen to what the child is saying.
- Avoid questioning the child.
- Write any details down as soon as possible, keeping a record of what the child has said, including dates and times.
- Sexual abuse may include use of the internet, mobile phones or digital cameras.
- Remember that women may sexually abuse as well as men, as may other children.

Record your concerns, observations and actions clearly.

**When allegations of sexual abuse are made, you must speak to Children's Social Care before speaking to the parents.**

## Possible Neglect?

Neglect usually involves an absence of care over a period of time, but can involve an incident such as an accident.

**It is good practice to make notes of your concerns with dates and times of any incident, and the parent's response when the concerns were raised with them. Stockport uses the Graded Care Profile to help assess neglect. The Graded Care profile is available in the Safeguarding Children handbook.**

## Possible Emotional Abuse?

Emotional abuse can be hard to detect but can be as damaging as any other abuse. It involves persistent emotional ill treatment of a child including bullying and cyber bullying.

**It is good practice to make notes of your concerns with dates and times of any incident, and the parent's response when the concerns were raised with them.**

Full guidance about child protection definitions and action can be found in the Safeguarding Children Handbook.

## Possible Need for Support?

- Many concerns about a child do not require an immediate child protection response, but do require action in order to identify problems, offer support and prevent further problems.
- Your line manager or designated person will help you identify what action to take.
- Your concerns must be shared with the family who should be involved in looking at what might help resolve problems.
- Action should include the completion of a Common Assessment Framework (CAF), if one is not already in place, to identify what needs exist and who else may need to get involved.
- You should check with the Common Processes Team to find out if a CAF already exists for a child.

- If other professionals could help the situation, you may wish to call a Multi-Agency Team Around the Child (TAC) meeting or you may be asked to attend one called by someone else.
- A TAC meeting involves parents and professionals, identifies needs and develops an action plan for professionals and family. A lead practitioner will be chosen to co-ordinate the work, and a review date will be set.
- Consultation and advice is available about Common Assessment and TAC by ringing the Common Processes Team (0161 474 5654). They will also tell you how to get the forms to complete.
- Guidance regarding Common Assessment and Team Around the Child is available on the Stockport Council website:  
[www.stockport.gov.uk/commonprocesses](http://www.stockport.gov.uk/commonprocesses)

## **General Issues**

### **Children may be adversely affected by:**

- The mental ill health of a parent or carer
- Exposure to domestic violence
- Chaotic parental drug or alcohol misuse.

### **They may feel unsafe outside the home due to:**

- Bullying
- Isolation and lack of support networks
- Intimidation or inappropriate contact from other adults.

### **They may be particularly vulnerable due to:**

- Their very young age
- Having a disability
- Having English as a second language
- Being new to Stockport.

## Our responsibility is to:

- **Be alert** to children's needs
- **Respond** to any concerns by getting advice
- **Act** by offering appropriate support and / or making appropriate referrals elsewhere.

If you are concerned about a child, **never do nothing!**

For further information talk to your line manager or named/designated person, consult Duty Social Worker at the Contact Centre or the Safeguarding Children Unit.

## Or refer to:

- The Safeguarding Children Handbook at [www.safeguardingchildreninstockport.org.uk](http://www.safeguardingchildreninstockport.org.uk)
- Your own agency procedures and guidance.

## REMEMBER:



## Useful addresses and telephone numbers

### Children's Social Care

Referrals must be made to:  
The Contact Centre  
Telephone: 0161 217 6028

### Out of Hours Service:

Telephone: 0161 718 2118  
(out of hours only)

## Advice can be obtained from:

### Safeguarding Children Unit

Sanderling Building  
Bird Hall Lane, Cheadle Health  
Stockport SK3 0RF  
Telephone: 0161 474 5657

### Common Processes advice

Telephone: 0161 474 5654

### Police

Telephone: 0161 872 5050

Telephone: 999

(in emergency only)

### Duty Manager at the Contact Centre

Telephone: 0161 217 6028

### NSPCC helpline

Telephone: 0800 808 5000

[www.safeguardingchildreninstockport.org.uk](http://www.safeguardingchildreninstockport.org.uk)

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**STOCKPORT**  
METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

**A free interpreting service is available if you need help with this information.**

Please contact Stockport  
Interpreting Unit

Tel: 0161 477 9000

E-mail:

[eds.admin@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:eds.admin@stockport.gov.uk)

Fax: 0161 480 1848

如果您需要他人為您解釋這小冊子裡強的內容，我們可以提供免費的傳譯服務。請致電 0161 477 9000 史托波特傳譯部。

W przypadku gdybyś potrzebował pomocy odnośnie tej broszurki ulotki, dostępne są usługi tłumaczeniowe. Prosimy dzwonić do Interpreting Unit pod numer 0161 477 9000.

यदि এই बुझ्न/अर्थ/समाचार आपनार केन साझा करवाव नरकनार हार हार बिना खरर आननार कनार केरबिार वाववा कनार हार कनार। केरबेकनार करे केरबेकनार ईमेल/ईमेल/ईमेल केन कनार केरबेकनार नरर, 0161 477 9000.

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0161 477 9000

شما میخواستارید از خدمات ترجمہ رایگان استفاده کنید و در صورت احتیاج به ترجمہ ی این تشریح به طور خطوری یا شماره تلفن 0161 477 9000 اداره ترجمہ تماس بگیرید

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in large print, in Braille, on  
audio tape or on disk,  
please contact  
0161 474 3814 for a copy.