



Safeguarding Children Policy and Procedure

Approved by the school's board in July 2018

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Next review due: September 2021

Safeguarding children is vital for organisations working with children as they have a duty of care towards the children with whom they have contact. Having safeguards in place within an organisation not only protects and promotes the welfare of children but also it enhances the confidence of trustees, staff, volunteers, parents/carers and the general public.

Safeguarding children is beneficial to an organisation in many ways – protecting its reputation, helping to effectively meet its objectives and protecting its finances. These safeguards should include a child protection policy and procedures for dealing with issues of concern or abuse. For the purposes of child protection legislation the term 'child' refers to anyone up to the age of 18 years.

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1. INTRODUCTION

KALAMNA HAS A DUTY OF CARE FOR ALL CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE USING OUR SERVICE. WE TAKE OUR RESPONSIBILITIES RELATING TO SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN SERIOUSLY.

This statement underpins our policy and will be displayed in our group activities and in our publicity material as appropriate. We fully recognise the contribution we make to Safeguarding and Child Protection and have implemented this policy to reflect our responsibilities and support.

Safeguarding is a relatively new term which is broader than 'child protection' as it also includes prevention. Safeguarding has been defined as:

- All agencies working with children, young people and their families taking all reasonable measures to ensure that the risks of harm to children's welfare are minimised; and
- Where there are concerns about children and young people's welfare, all agencies taking appropriate actions to address those concerns, working to agreed local policies and procedures in full partnership with other local agencies. (*Safeguarding Children 2005*),

Our policy applies to all members (committee members, parents and volunteers) undertaking duties to provide our service. The word 'child' throughout this document includes both children and young people less than 18 years of age.

All children should be and feel safe at our activities. It is important to take any concerns we have seriously and deal with them appropriately. Our policy will assist this process and it will also help to protect our members.

This policy aims to clarify roles and responsibilities, procedures and guidelines, documentation required definitions and members' awareness, training and support. Child abuse and protection procedures can be difficult and unpleasant. This document aims to provide a framework to assist members but it is important to remember to agree more detailed ways of working together with members and raise any issue or concern with the designated person/people. It is crucial to be clear and consistent and remove areas of discretion as far as possible.

SAFEGUARDING:

We are committed to safeguarding children involved with Kalamna from harm:

- the welfare of the child is paramount;
- all children without exception have the right to protection from abuse regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality or beliefs;
- this policy is approved and endorsed by the Board;
- children and, where appropriate, parents, should be informed of the policy and procedures,
- all concerns, and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously by the Board, teachers and volunteers and responded to appropriately - this may require a referral to children's services and in emergencies, the Police.

CHILD PROTECTION

- the welfare of the child is paramount;
- in allegations of abuse, our responsibility is not to investigate, but to refer;

- all contributing to Kalamna have a duty to share any concerns they have with the designated person. There is a process for recording and sharing concerns in this policy;
- all contributing to Kalamna should be aware through training and policy, what the main forms of child abuse are and how to recognise these;
- in cases of suspected child abuse, the confidentiality policy states that concerns cannot be kept confidential;
- Kalamna takes all allegations about members mis-conduct seriously, and encourages whistle-blowing;
- all contributing to Kalamna will be robustly and adequately supervised and monitored in their work;
- Kalamna is commitment to safe recruitment, selection and vetting.

2. OUR RESPONSIBILITIES

2.1 We operate with the following values and principles when working with children:

- The safety and well being of children and young people is paramount
- Children and young people should be listened to
- Children and young people and their cultures should be respected
- Children and young people should be encouraged to participate in decisions, which affect them.

2.2 We have a responsibility to refer any child protection concerns to Children's Social Care or the Police.

- We must refer.
- We must not investigate.
- We cannot maintain confidentiality.
- We have to act on suspicions, facts and disclosures.

2.3 We nominate designated people to make referrals and be available for advice and support.

2.4 Non-designated members are not expected to know everything concerning child protection but their duty is to:

- Be alert and responsive to problems and the potential indicators of abuse or neglect
- Be alert and responsive to the risks which individual abusers, or potential abusers, may pose to children
- Share and analyse information to enable informed assessments and good practice
- Keep clear, detailed and accurate records
- Discuss issues and concerns with line managers or designated people
- Undertake appropriate behaviour and language
- Ourselves and our colleagues for health, safety and security

3. DESIGNATED PEOPLE (DP)

The following are designated people for Kalamna who are trained to deal with Child Protection issues and make referrals. They should be contacted in the first instance and if they are not available contact Children's Social Care. (see under Contact List)

1st Child Protection Designated Person
 Saussan Khalil
 Phone number: +44(0)7747471131

2nd Child Protection Designated Person
Safya Sebahia
Phone Number: +44(0)7796696552

Designated people have the following responsibilities regarding the coordination of Child Protection issues:

- To receive concerns and disclosures made to members and participants
- To gather information and make referrals to Children's Social Care and/or the Police as necessary
- To support members and participants
- To ensure records are completed and filed confidentially
- To feed back appropriate information to staff on a "need to know" basis

Designated People must ensure they are adequately trained to deal with Child Protection.

4. CONFIDENTIALITY

We have to report any disclosures or suspicions of abuse or children at risk of abuse.

The child making a disclosure has trusted someone enough to confide in them. To avoid distrust or misunderstanding, we must be clear in our obligations to let the child know that if they tell us something we may have to act on it and tell someone else; it is important to allow space for a child to talk but it is essential that they know the limits of confidentiality. To promise confidentiality risks breaking trust and could put the organisation in a difficult position.

Guidance on talking to children about confidentiality and safeguarding:

- Explain the confidentiality policy carefully and clearly, and be sure it has been understood by the child
- Be honest with the child
- Reassure the child they have done the right thing
- Reassure the child you will do your best to get them support
- Explain the process of reporting child protection issues and ensure the child has understood.

5. WHAT DO YOU DO IF YOU SUSPECT ABUSE?

Child Protection is a very serious issue and all suspicions, regardless of how minor they may seem.

If in doubt - ask. If there is no one to ask - act. If you and one of the DPs decide that the concern is not serious enough to act, record the concern anyway.

- **Don't keep it to yourself - discuss it with the designated person immediately**
- Complete a written record of your concerns using the 'Logging a concern' book. This is the same book where we record accidents and the DP has access to this
- If it is urgent and you cannot contact a designated person you must call Children's Social Care or the Police direct. (See Disclosure out of Hours and the Contact List), and then contact the designated person at the first opportunity

The designated person will support you, advise you on how to continue working with the child concerned and decide on action to be taken.

6. WHAT DO YOU DO IF A CHILD MAKES AN ALLEGATION OF ABUSE?

You must report the allegation made to a designated person immediately. They will take the responsibility for making any referrals required.

- You must explain that you cannot keep the information confidential
- You should explain to the child that you are going to tell someone and explain who and why
- The child is not always in a position to judge risks themselves and they have a right to protection

The following are good practice guidelines when talking to the child:

- Avoid 'closed' or 'leading' questions - don't ask any more than you have to as this could prejudice an enquiry made by Children's Social Care and/or the Police
- Be attentive, calm and reassuring
- Do not be judgemental
- Take the child seriously
- Avoid condemning the alleged abuser
- Avoid promises you cannot keep
- Don't make assumptions about the child's feelings
- Tell the child he/she is brave and right to tell - and it's not his/her fault
- Never promise to keep the abuse a secret
- Tell the child what will happen next
- Don't ask why
- Have time
- Tell the child they are not to blame
- DO NOT SEND THE CHILD HOME if they are at immediate risk
- DO NOT CONTACT THE ALLEGED ABUSER
- DO NOT INVESTIGATE - YOUR ROLE IS TO LISTEN AND REFLECT
- Take advice from a Designated Person, Children's Social Care and/or the Police
- Complete the appropriate record forms - see Keeping Record

When making a referral

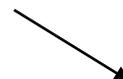
This is the task of the designated person but if you are unable to contact them you will have to contact Children's Social Care yourselves. Try to have as much information to hand as possible - but don't delay.

- Your name, job role and contact number
- The child's name (or any names they have been previously known by), address, date of birth/age, sex, ethnic origin, language spoken, religion, school, names of parents/carers/GP/siblings - if available
- Details of the disclosure or concerns

7. SOMETHING IS WRONG - WHAT SHOULD I DO?



Has something actually happened?



YES	NOT SURE	NO – ‘JUST A FEELING’
Has what happened caused significant harm to the child?	Ensure that child is aware you will share information	Complete the Child Protection logging a concern book
Ensure you have told the child you will share information	Complete the Child Protection - logging a concern book	Give it to the DP, who place it in confidential records
Inform the Designated Person	Give it to the DP, who place it in confidential records	Monitor the child. Record your observations as factually as possible e.g. not ‘upset’ but ‘cried’ or ‘flinched’
The Designated Person will inform Children’s Social Care	Discuss with designated person if necessary	Discuss with the DP
Following up with a written report / complete the Child Protection - logging a concern book.	Designated person to share concern with Children’s Social Care to find out if the child/ family are known and how to proceed	

8. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

At the point of contacting the police and/or Children’s Social Care then the Inter-Agency Child Protection Procedures come into effect and manage the enquiry. Our members or participants assist the Children’s Social Care and/or Police enquiries as required and seek any help, advice or support they need from the DP.

- Consideration will always be given to taking action designed to protect the child from abuse, and the effects on the child and their family caused by unnecessary interventions. This may mean that no further action is taken.
- Children’s Social Care may have need to make an application to the Court for an order authorising the removal of the child from the environment where the alleged abuser lives or has contact with them. The Police have similar powers under Police Protection. This is, however, unusual and every attempt will be made to work in partnership with the parents/carers to prevent further abuse occurring (or the likelihood)

9. KEEPING RECORDS

It is important to document your issues and concerns immediately. It may be a one-off note that never leads to any other concerns. It may be the start of a succession of incidents that give you cause for a greater concern and need to be taken further. Well-kept records provide an essential underpinning to good child protection practice and are an essential source of evidence.

Discuss anything you record with the DP.

Write your records into the logging concern book and pass it onto the DP to be kept safe and secure.

Records should include:

- The nature of the allegation
- A factual description of any visible bruising or other injuries
- The child's account, if they can give it, of what has happened and how any injury has occurred
- Any times, dates or other relevant information
- A clear distinction between fact, opinion or hearsay
- Who has been involved and what action has been taken
- Date and time of the record

10. GOOD PRACTICE GUIDELINES

If you work with children you must accept that you are exposed to a certain level of risk.

It is impossible to cover every eventuality relating to the right or appropriate behaviour for every situation. Use your common sense, keep alert and discuss best practice with your manager and in teams - keep it on the agenda and don't put yourself at risk.

The following do's and don'ts will help clarification of what to do or not to do and generally raise your awareness and help protect yourself. If you have any particular concerns you must follow them up with your line manager or a designated person.

DO

- Treat everyone with respect
- Provide an example you wish others to follow
- Plan activities which involve more than one other person being present, or at least which are within sight and hearing of others
- Remember that someone may misinterpret your actions, no matter how well-intentioned
- Recognise that caution is required even in sensitive moments of counselling such as when dealing with bereavement, bullying or abuse
- Keep in areas with plenty of witnesses
- Keep colleagues informed - where you are, with whom, for what purpose
- Avoid physical contact where possible
- Avoid being in a room alone with a child and if it is unavoidable ensure the child is between you and the door. Use rooms with windows.
- Keep records of concerns - complete the logging a concern form
- Discuss even the slightest concern with your manager
- Ask for further guidance on anything you are unclear about
- Feel confident to challenge any behaviour of colleagues that could compromise them
- Report any inappropriate behaviour of colleagues to your manager, or his/her manager.
- Appreciate your colleagues looking out for you
- Help create a protective ethos and culture within our working environment and the services we provide
- Discuss any support or training needs you have with your manager
- Remember you cannot promise confidentiality
- Ensure both male and female workers accompany trips that include both male and female children
- Act as if you are always being filmed

- Ensure ratios are good enough to enable appropriate supervision/staff protection

DO NOT

- Put yourself into a situation that could be misinterpreted or a place that cannot be seen
- Permit abusive activities
- Play overly physical contact games (tag is ok - mud wrestling isn't)
- Have any inappropriate physical or verbal contact with others
- Jump to conclusions about others without checking out the facts
- Allow yourself to be drawn in to any attention seeking behaviour such as tantrums or crushes
- Exaggerate or trivialise child abuse issues
- Show favouritism to any individual or have a 'best friend'
- Make suggestive remarks or gestures
- Rely on your good name to protect you
- Believe 'it could never happen to me'
- Lock doors
- Encourage or participate in any avoidable out of work situations with children you work with
- Share a room with a child on trips
- Establish a relationship with children out of the work situation

CONTACT

Please see Staff Code of Conduct

You cannot NOT touch children when you work with them, but use your common sense. Avoid physical contact wherever possible and where you cannot, always be able to justify why did you do that, in that way? You need to make reasonable judgements for safety and care situations. Activities that need careful attention, justification and common sense include:

- **Helping children with clothes:** encourage them to put them on themselves, help only when essential and with witnesses
- **Comforting distressed children:** justify the contact, let others know, have witnesses, and keep it short term. Keep your hands visible
- **Appropriate affection:** wherever possible use verbal encouragement, state your feelings, praise, smiling etc. If a child does not get affection at home, do not make the mistake of over compensating when they are with you. Children need to know the difference between what is appropriate with a parent and what is appropriate with a known other person or with a stranger
- **Protecting a child from hurting themselves or others / physical intervention:** intervene carefully if essential with others present wherever possible
- **First aid:** get the child to remove any necessary clothing or have a witness present and wherever practical take the first aid to the child
- **If a child touches you, or attaches himself or herself to you as a special friend, or has a crush on you** - you must inform your manager and encourage them to be less tactile and understand that their behaviour is inappropriate -set clear boundaries with the child. You need to agree appropriate strategies with your manager to deal with this and keep people aware of progress
- **Escorting children:** try to avoid but if essential then ensure two people escort and that your manager knows when you are collecting children and your expected time of arrival at your destination. If you use a taxi, ensure you sit in the front and put the child in the back
- **Lateness:** if a child is continuously late being picked up make sure it is never the same person being left to supervise the child. Raise the issue with the parents

- **Working with children with special needs/disabilities:** many of the same needs arise as detailed above, clothes, physical help, accidents etc. Use your common sense, make sure there are witnesses and remember the needs of the child must come first

Children in difficult situations may show their distress through inappropriate sexual behaviour. This needs to be reported.

11. ALLEGATIONS AGAINST WORKERS AND VOLUNTEERS

Allegations against workers are dealt with by the Kalamna committee disciplinary procedures process and may run parallel with Child Protection Procedures if applicable. The procedure is the same for all workers. Staff need support through such incidences and will endeavour to keep the member of staff informed and offer sources of support for them.

As part of the process the member of staff may be suspended to enable a full investigation to be undertaken - this is not confirmation of guilt but to protect the worker. For the individual this can feel like punishment and belief in the accuser - BUT THIS IS NOT THE CASE - it is just the procedure. Confidentiality in the work place is important to enable workers to return to work in the best possible environment if the allegations do not lead to dismissal.

If an allegation is made to you about a colleague you must listen, make notes and consult the DP immediately. Keep an open mind even if the allegation made is about a colleague you know professionally or socially.

There are several possibilities when an allegation is made against a worker:

- The allegation is unfounded and malicious
- The allegation is unfounded but not malicious: there has been a misunderstanding
- The allegation is unfounded in relation to the person named, but the child has been abused by someone else
- The allegation has some foundation but the worker was naive or lacking in skills rather than intentionally abusive - counselling, advice or training may be required and the situation will need monitoring
- The allegation is founded and can be proved 'beyond reasonable doubt' e.g. for prosecution
- The allegation is founded, cannot be proved beyond reasonable doubt but can be proved 'on the balance of possibilities' e.g. for disciplinary action / dismissal
- The allegation is founded in the judgement of investigating professionals but there is insufficient or no evidence to corroborate the child/adult's statement.

12. SUPPORT - WHO CAN I TALK TO?

Working in the field of potential child protection issues means making difficult professional judgements. It is demanding and can be distressing and stressful. Get access to advice and support from the Kalamna committee members or the DP as appropriate. You cannot make everything better for a child in distress.

As stated in the procedures you must report concerns and disclosures to the DP to act as necessary. It is not necessary for anyone else to know, but it is important that you get any support you need.

13. RECRUITMENT

There is a comprehensive set of recruitment and selection procedures, which the committee must adhere to and they need to ensure that other considerations are given to deter those who are unsuitable to work with children. These would include:

- Requiring completed the volunteering application forms
- Criminal record checks
- Professional register check as appropriate
- Asking candidates to confirm their identity through official documents
- Verifying the authenticity of qualifications and references directly

- Seeking a full employment history reserving the right to approach any previous employer; checking with former employers the reason why employment ended; identifying any gaps or inconsistencies and seeking an explanation
- Making appointments only after references are obtained and checked. Referees should be reminded that references should contain no material mis-statement or omission to the relevant to the suitability of the applicant
- Making all appointments to work with children subject to a three month probationary period

Even the most careful selection process cannot identify all those who may pose a risk to children. Post employment management and supervision should always be alert to indicators of untoward behaviour.

14. PROTECTIVE ETHOS

Help each other to protect us from allegations. If you see a colleague doing something that causes you concern - tell them or a member of the committee. This is not seen as 'telling tales' but as helping them not to leave themselves open to allegation. We can all be naive at times. Raise awareness amongst each other.

If in doubt about how your actions towards a child may appear - don't do it.

Build on good practice and be knowledgeable about child protection issues and procedures.

Use your common sense.

Discuss child protection at the committee and at the teachers' meetings and work together on issues to build a team approach.

Share experiences and good practice with others to continue to raise awareness, obviously maintaining any necessary confidentiality.

Display the policy statement in venues and in publicity material and documents as appropriate. 12

Create an ethos of maximum respect by actively building esteem, actively building the child's ability to be assertive, and actively listen to children's concerns.

As appropriate teach children about personal safety and help them assess risks. Model and teach appropriate physical space.

Be alert to any changes in the child's physical appearance, behaviour and emotional state.

15. CONTACT LIST

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough have separate Threshold documents which explain services for early help support and child protection concerns. Please see more information: <https://www.cambslscb.co.uk/report-a-safeguarding-concern/>

Emergency

If a child is in immediate danger or left alone, you should contact the police or call an Ambulance (call 999).

The police operator will need to take your name, address and details of what has happened. This will take time, but it is important to get all of the information from you so that we can send the appropriate resources to you if necessary.

Professional Consultation

Practitioners are encouraged to consult with the Peterborough and Cambridgeshire Joint) Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), Cambridgeshire Early Help Hub (EHH) and Peterborough Early Help Team (EHT) where they require support in determining a course of action for children and young people with additional needs.

Consultation is a sharing of information between workers in order to gain the perspectives of another service. It is not a referral to MASH or a request for EHH and EHT, unless that is explicitly agreed during the consultation. 'Ownership' of the case remains with the agency initiating the consultation. Following internal line-management consultations, practitioners can discuss their safeguarding or wellbeing concerns with agency navigators in MASH. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough: Children Social Care: Mon – Thurs 8am – 5.30pm, Friday 8 am – 4.30 pm 0345 045 1362 or the Emergency Duty Team (Out of Hours) on 01733 234724. Cambridgeshire: Early Help Hub Mon-Thurs 8.45-5.20 and Friday 8.45- 4.20 01480 376 666 Peterborough: 01733 863649 or helpwithcaf@peterborough.gov.uk

Consultation will provide an opportunity for those working with a child, young person and/or family to access additional knowledge and expertise from suitably qualified and experienced staff from a range of agencies in order to explore a concern, and decide how best to respond to it. An awareness and appreciation of the roles of others is essential for effective collaboration.

Making a referral

Reference to the joint referral form can be found <https://www.cambslscb.co.uk/report-a-safeguarding-concern/>

The MASH and the EHH have secure email addresses as points of contact for all safeguarding and wellbeing concerns regarding children and young people in Cambridgeshire.

MASH@Cambridgeshire.gcsx.gov.uk

Early.helphub@cambridgeshire.gcsx.gov.uk

NSPCC Helpline

You can contact the Helpline in a number of ways to get expert advice from one of their advisers; all are trained child protection officers.

Tel: 0808 800 5000 Email: help@nspcc.org.uk

Text phone: NSPCC Helpline have a free Text phone service for people who are deaf or whose hearing is impaired on: 0800 056 0566 13

APPENDIX A - CHILD PROTECTION LEGISLATION AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT'S POLICY

The Children Act 1989 introduced the concept of significant harm as the threshold, which justifies compulsory intervention in family life in the best interests of children. The local authority is under a duty to make enquiries, or cause enquiries to be made, where it has reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm.

The formal Child Protection procedures are operated by Cambridgeshire County Council Children's Social Care to provide services for children in need of protection. Referrals are made to them when there are concerns about a child's welfare and an assessment of the needs of and risks to the child is undertaken.

When contact is made to Social Care concerning a child's welfare it is the responsibility of Social Care to clarify with the referrer: the nature of the concerns, how and why they have arisen, what appears to be the need of the child and family, and whether the child may need urgent action to make them safe from harm.

If the referred case constitutes, or may constitute, a criminal offence against the child Social Care should always inform the police at the earliest opportunity. This will enable both agencies to consider jointly how to proceed in the best interests of the child.

Those who contact Social Care should confirm the referrals in writing. At the end of any discussions or dialogue about a child, the referrer Social Care should be clear about who will take what action, or that no further action will be taken. Both parties should record this.

Following a child protection enquiry there may be cases considered by a Child Protection Conference to consider whether the child has suffered, or is likely to suffer, significant harm. Criteria for conferences are documented in the Inter-Agency CP Procedures Manual Part A Ch 5 Para 4.

Significant harm is a matter of judgement in each case. The 'significance may be in the severity of an injury or from long-term impact. 'Harm' is defined in the Children's Act 1989 as ill treatment or impairment of health or development. Ill-treatment includes sexual abuse and forms of ill-treatment, which are not physical. Health includes both physical and mental health. Development includes: physical, intellectual, emotional, social or behavioural development. A child who is at risk of significant harm can be placed on the Child Protection Register under the following categories:

NEGLECT
PHYSICAL ABUSE
SEXUAL ABUSE
EMOTIONAL ABUSE

APPENDIX B - DEFINITIONS OF ABUSE

The following categories and descriptions help understand the different types of abuse that can cause significant harm to a child or young person (Definition from: Cambridgeshire County Council, Education, Child Protection Service).

DEFINITIONS OF ABUSE FOR REGISTRATION

Neglect includes not only poor physical care and inattention to the child's basic needs, e.g. for regular feeding, cleanliness and clothing, but also a failure to provide the necessary stimulation to sustain behavioural and emotional development.

Physical Injury includes actual or likely physical injury to a child, or failure to prevent physical injury or suffering to a child including deliberate poisoning, suffocating and Munchausens syndrome by proxy. Seemingly trivial injuries should not be ignored because abuse can and does sometimes escalate if it goes unchecked.

Sexual Abuse includes actual or likely exploitation of a child or adolescent. The child may be dependent and/or developmentally immature. Adults or older children may sexually abuse both male and female children. Sexual abuse can occur without any physical contact e.g. being forced to watch sexual activity. Children may also be made to take part in pornographic activity.

Emotional Abuse includes sustained and repeated responses to the child or the child's behaviour, which are so negative, inconsistent, rejecting or inappropriate that the child shows serious difficulties in emotional, social or behavioural development. What makes the parental behaviour abusive is that it typifies the relationship with the child. It is thus not usually indicated by a specific incident but is observed in the interaction with the child, and the ongoing relationship between child and parents(s). One child may be scapegoat or treated completely differently to his or her siblings.

These categories do not tie in exactly with legal definitions of 'significant harm' which may be used in Court proceedings. e.g. 'sexual abuse' is not defined in the Children Act. Where there is a difference in interpretation, the Court's definition will be used. 23

APPENDIX C - SIGNS OF ABUSE

Possible Signs of Physical Abuse

- Unexplained injuries or burns, particularly if they are recurrent
- Refusal to discuss injuries
- Improbable explanations for injuries
- Untreated injuries or lingering illness not attended to
- Admission of punishment which appears excessive
- Shrinking from physical contact
- Fear of returning home or of parents being contacted
- Fear of undressing
- Fear of medical help
- Aggression / bullying
- Over compliant behaviour or a 'watchful attitude'
- Running away
- Significant changes in behaviour without explanation
- Deterioration in work
- Unexplained pattern of absences, which may serve to hide bruises or other physical injuries.

Possible Signs of Emotional Abuse

- Continual self-deprecation
- Fear of new situations
- Inappropriate emotional responses to painful situations
- Self-harm or mutilation
- Compulsive stealing / scrounging
- Drug / solvent abuse
- 'Neurotic' behaviour - obsessive rocking, thumb-sucking, and so on
- Air of detachment – 'don't care' attitude
- Social isolation - does not join in and has few friends
- Desperate attention - seeking behaviour
- Eating problems, including overeating and lack of appetite
- Depression, withdrawal

Possible Signs of Neglect

- Constant hunger
- Poor personal hygiene
- Inappropriate clothing
- Frequent lateness or non-attendance at school
- Untreated medical problems
- Low self-esteem
- Poor social relationship
- Compulsive stealing or scrounging
- Constant tiredness

Possible Signs of Sexual Abuse

- Bruises, scratches, burns or bite marks on the body
- Scratches, abrasions or persistent infections in the anal or genital regions
- Pregnancy - particularly in the case of young adolescents who are evasive concerning the identity of the father
- Sexual awareness inappropriate to the child's age - shown, for example, in drawing, vocabulary, games and so on

- Frequent public masturbation
- Attempts to teach other children about sexual activity
- Refusing to stay with certain people or go to certain places
- Aggressiveness, anger, anxiety, tearfulness
- Withdrawal from friends

Possible Signs in Older Children

- Promiscuity, prostitution, provocative sexual behaviour
- Self-injury, self-destructive behaviour, suicide attempts
- Eating disorders
- Tiredness, lethargy, listlessness
- Over-compliant behaviour
- Sleep disturbances
- Unexplained gifts of money
- Depression
- Changes in behaviour