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East Dunbartonshire  
Child Protection  
Committee

Information for  
people worried  
about child  
abuse or neglect



**It's everyone's responsibility to protect children.**

**All children have a right to grow up in a caring and safe environment.**

### **Introduction**

All adults have a responsibility to protect children, including:

- parents
- family members
- friends
- neighbours
- professionals
- members of the public.

### **What is child abuse?**

There are different types of abuse:

- physical injury - hit, kicked, punched
- physical neglect - not being properly fed or clothed, poor hygiene
- sexual abuse - inappropriate sexual behaviour or language, indecent assault, sexual intercourse
- emotional abuse - constantly criticised, ignored, humiliated, exposed to family violence.

## Will I need to give my name?

No. However remaining anonymous may cause difficulties in establishing whether or not a child is at risk of abuse.

All information received will be treated confidentially and with discretion. Any details received, including your name, will not be revealed unless the child's safety requires it.

## What happens next?

All information received is treated seriously and will be acted upon. This might include:

- checking agency records and gathering information
- speaking to the child and family and assessing the situation
- making sure the child is safe.



## What will happen to the child and family?

Once enquires have been completed one or more of the following might happen:

- no further action
- support or advice offered to the family
- referral to another agency for a service
- referral to the appropriate legal system.

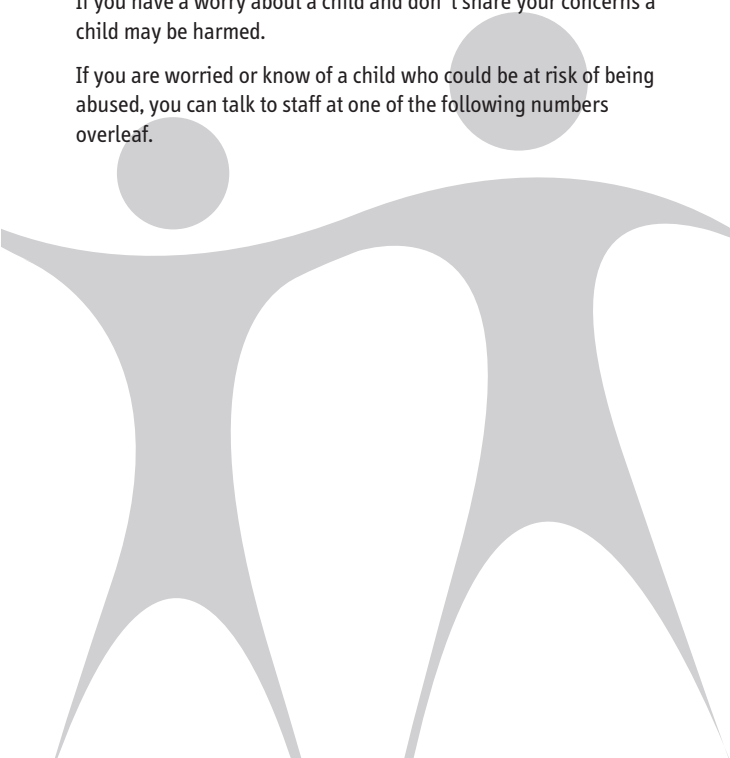
## Where Child Protection concerns are identified:

An inter agency meeting will be held to decide the best way to protect the child. This will include people who have a knowledge of the child and family e.g health visitor, police, teacher, social worker and parents/carers. In a small number of cases, immediate, emergency action may be necessary to protect the child.

## What might happen if you don't report your concern?

If you have a worry about a child and don't share your concerns a child may be harmed.

If you are worried or know of a child who could be at risk of being abused, you can talk to staff at one of the following numbers overleaf.



## What might make you concerned?

Children rarely tell if they are being abused, however, there may be signs which make you concerned and may be an indication of a child being abused or neglected:

### The child may:

- have unexplained bruising or bruising in an unusual place
- appear afraid, quiet or withdrawn
- be afraid to go home
- appear hungry, tired or unkempt
- be left unattended or unsupervised
- have too much responsibility for their age
- be acting out in a sexually inappropriate way
- be misusing drugs or alcohol.

### The adult:

- may be acting in a violent or sexual manner towards a child
- may be misusing drugs or alcohol while caring for a child
- may be verbally abusive towards a child

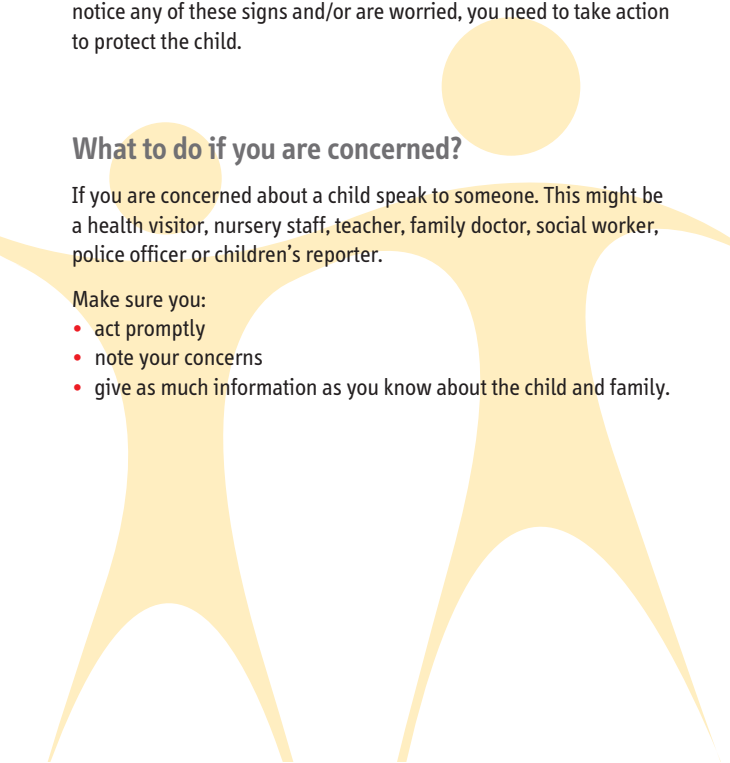
These are some examples of what might make you worried about a child, or you may know of other things that are happening. If you notice any of these signs and/or are worried, you need to take action to protect the child.

## What to do if you are concerned?

If you are concerned about a child speak to someone. This might be a health visitor, nursery staff, teacher, family doctor, social worker, police officer or children's reporter.

Make sure you:

- act promptly
- note your concerns
- give as much information as you know about the child and family.



## List of useful local contact numbers

### Local Social Work Departments

Advice & Response team (Cowgate Office) 0141 775 1311  
Out of hours - West of Scotland Standby Service 0800 811 505

### Local Police - at any police office

Kirkintilloch office 0141 532 4400  
Bishopbriggs office 0141 207 5800  
Milngavie office 0141 532 4000  
Saracen office 0141 532 3900  
or at the family protection unit 0141 532 3967

**Scottish Children's Reporter Administration** 0141 567 7900

Your local health visitor who can be found through your local surgery or health centre

**ParentLine Scotland** 0808 800 2222  
**ChildLine Scotland** 0800 1111

This leaflet has been prepared by East Dunbartonshire Child Protection Committee. The Child Protection Committee is made up of representatives from across the main statutory and voluntary organisations in your area. The purpose of the Child Protection Committee is to ensure local agencies work together to protect children. Working together with the community we can be assured that all children in our area are protected from harm and given the best possible chance in life.

本文件可按要求翻譯成中文，如有此需要，請電 0141 578 8152。

Gabhaidh an sgrìobhainn seo cur gu Gàidhlig ma tha sin a dhith oirbh. Cuiribh fòn gu 0141 578 8152

अनुप्रास करने पर यह दस्तावेज हिन्दी में भाषांतरित किया जा सकता है। कृपया 0141 578 8152 पर फोन कीजिए।

ਇਸ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਦਾ ਮੰਗ ਕਰਨ ਤੇ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਅਨੁਵਾਦ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ। ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ 0141 578 8152 ਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ।

اس دستاویز کا درخواست کرنے پر (اردو) زبان میں ترجمہ کیا جاسکتا ہے۔ براہ مہربانی فون نمبر 0141 578 8152 پر رابطہ کریں۔

This leaflet has been prepared by:



East Dunbartonshire  
Child Protection  
Committee

 East Dunbartonshire Council  
www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk

  
SCOTTISH  
CHILDREN'S REPORTER  
ADMINISTRATION

  
NHS  
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