



If you're worried about a child or an adult

Phone Shropshire Council Dedicated Safeguarding Line

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| First Point of Contact (FPOC) | 0345 678 9021 |
| Telford & Wrekin Referral Number | 01952 385385 |

Out of hours Emergency Duty Teams:

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| Shropshire | 03456 789040 | Telford & Wrekin | 01952 676500 |
| Public Protection Unit (West Mercia Police) | 0300 333 3000 | | |
| Police Emergency | 999 | Non-emergency | 101 |

www.shropshire.gov.uk click the 'report it' button on the home page

Support services

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| Child Trafficking and Advice Centre (CTAC) | 0800 107 7057 |
| NSPCC (24 hour) | 0808 800 5000 |
| Childline | 0800 1111 |
| Shropshire Family Information Service | 01743 254400 |
| Axis (for adult survivors of sexual abuse) | 01743 357777 01952 278000 |
| Samaritans | 08457 909090 |
| Victim Support line (24 hours) | 0808 168 9111 |
| Domestic Abuse Helpline (24 hour run by women's aid) | 0800 783 1359 |
| Respect Helpline (for perpetrators of domestic abuse) | 0808 802 4040 |
| Men's domestic advice line - info@mensadviceline.org.uk | 08088010327 |
| Prevent radicalisation | 01386 591835 prevent@warwickshireandwestmercia.pnn.police.uk |

Access free Home Office training

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| Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) | https://www.fgmelearning.co.uk/ |
| Forced Marriage | www.forcedmarriagetraining.co.uk |

Publications

Working Together to Safeguard Children, A guide to interagency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. March. 2015 www.education.gov.uk

Information Sharing: advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services. March 2015 www.education.gov.uk

What to do if you're worried a child is being abused, Advice for Practitioners. March 2015 www.education.gov.uk

Every Child Matters (5 Outcomes) www.education.gov.uk

Multi-agency Guidance on Threshold Criteria to help support Children, Young People and their Families in Shropshire. Accessing the Right Service @ The Right Time. 2013. Shropshire Safeguarding Children Board

Jutte, S. et al (2015) How safe are our children? The most comprehensive overview of child protection in the UK. London: NSPCC.

Training links and contacts

SSCB Multi-agency Training Tel: 01743 254370 Email: sscbtraining@shropshire.gov.uk
http://www.safeguardingshropshireschildren.org.uk/scb/prof_training.html

DEFINITIONS OF ABUSE

Neglect

The persistent failure to meet the child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development.

Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse

Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:
provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment);

protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger;

ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers);

or ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.

It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to a child's basic emotional needs.

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015

| Neglect – Physical Observations | Neglect – Behavioural Observations |
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| <p>These may include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor personal hygiene • Poor state of clothing • Poor growth pattern • Untreated medical problems • Non-organic 'failure to thrive' • Poor skin tone and hair tone • Emaciation, pot belly, short stature | <p>These may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – constant hunger or tiredness – frequent lateness or non-attendance at school – arrive early or leaving late from school – destructive tendencies – low self esteem – neurotic behaviour – no social relationships – running away – compulsive stealing or scavenging |

Physical Abuse

A form of abuse which may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child.

Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.

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Indicators of Physical Abuse

| Common sites for Non-accidental injuries | |
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| eyes, ears and mouth, skull and neck, cheek, side of the face, genitals, upper and inner arm, chest and shoulders, back, buttocks, thighs, knees | |
| <p>Signs of non-accidental Injuries may be bruising, grasp marks, linear marks, scalds or burns and other types of injuries i.e fractures, torn frenulum</p> <p>Burns and scalds Cigarette burns Swelling and lack of normal use of limbs Human bite marks Untreated injuries Any serious injury with no explanation or conflicting explanations Ligature marks</p> | <p>Physical - Behavioural Observations</p> <p>These may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • unusually fearful with adults • unnaturally compliant to parents • refusal to discuss injuries or a fear of medical help • withdrawal from physical contact • aggression towards others • wearing cover-up clothing • any behaviours that you would not expect to see in a child, at their age or stage in development |

Common sites for accidental injuries

Nose, forehead, chin, forearm, elbows, bony spine, hip, knees

Female genital mutilation (FGM)

Is illegal in the UK. It's also illegal to take a British national or permanent resident abroad for FGM or to help someone trying to do this.

The maximum sentence for carrying out FGM or helping it to take place is 14 years in prison.

FGM is any procedure that's designed to alter or injure a girl's (or woman's) genital organs for non-medical reasons.

It's sometimes known as 'female circumcision' or 'female genital cutting'. It's mostly carried out on young girls.

FGM procedures can cause: severe bleeding, infections, problems with giving birth later in life - including the death of the baby

Department of Health, last updated November 2014

Sexual Abuse

Involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening.

The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing

They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet).

Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children. **Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015**

| Sexual Abuse - Physical Observations | |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Damage/ soreness in genital area, anus or mouth • Sexually transmitted infections • Unexpected pregnancy especially in very young girls | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bruising giving the impression of sexual assault • Unexplained recurrent urinary tract infections and discharges or abdominal pain |
| Sexual Abuse - Behavioural Observations | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sexual knowledge inappropriate for age • sexualised behaviour in young children • sexually provocative behaviour/promiscuity • hinting at sexual activity, and about secrets they cannot tell • inexplicable falling off in school performance • sudden apparent changes in personality • lack of concentration, restlessness, aimlessness | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • socially withdrawn • poor trust in significant adults • regressive behaviour, onset of wetting, by day or night • onset of insecure, clinging behaviour • running away from home • suicide attempts, self mutilation, self disgust • eating disorders, hysteria attacks in adolescents • substance, alcohol misuse • severe sleep disturbance • low self image/ low self esteem |

Child Sexual Exploitation

Sexual exploitation of children and young people under 18 involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person or persons) receive 'something' (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of them performing, and/or another or others performing on them, sexual activities. Child sexual exploitation can occur through the use of technology without the child's immediate recognition; for example being persuaded to post sexual images on the Internet/mobile phones without immediate payment or gain. In all cases, those exploiting the child/young person have power over them by virtue of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources.

Violence, coercion and intimidation are common, involvement in exploitative relationships being characterised in the main by the child or young person's limited availability of choice resulting from their social/economic and/or emotional vulnerability.

Safeguarding Children and Young People from Sexual Exploitation June 2009

<http://mesmac.co.uk/blast>

Emotional Abuse

The persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development.

It may involve conveying to children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person.

It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate.

It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond the child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction.

It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another.

It may involve serious bullying (including cyber bullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015

| Emotional – Behavioural Observations | |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • physical, mental and emotional development lags • acceptance of punishment which appears excessive • over-reaction to mistakes • continual self-deprecation • sudden speech disorders/language delay • fear of new situations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • inappropriate emotional responses to painful situations • neurotic behaviour (such as hair twisting, thumb sucking, rocking) • self-mutilation • fear of parents being contacted • extremes of passivity or aggression • being the scapegoat in the family • coldness/hostility/constant criticism |

Domestic Abuse

The cross-government definition of domestic violence and abuse is:

any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. The abuse can encompass, but is not limited to: psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional,

<https://www.gov.uk/domestic-violence-and-abuse> 2015

Prevent

Prevent is one of the most challenging parts of the counter terrorism strategy, because it operates in the pre-criminal space, before any criminal activity has taken place.

It is about safeguarding - supporting and protecting those people who might be susceptible to radicalisation, and ensuring that individuals and communities have the resilience to resist violent extremism.

<https://www.westmercia.police.uk/article/7818/Prevent---Play-your-part>

The aim of the *Prevent* strategy is to reduce the threat to the UK from terrorism by stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

Prevent Duty Guidance: for England and Wales July 2015. HM Government