

What is Safeguarding?

"Protecting children from maltreatment, preventing impairment of children's health or development, ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care and taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes"
(Source: Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015)

What if I think a child is being abused or neglected?

Please call the Children's Helpdesk on **01452 426565**



Safeguarding children and protecting them from harm is everyone's responsibility. Everyone who comes into contact with children and families has a role to play.

Important contact information

If you think someone is breaking the law contact:
The Police 101
(999 for emergencies only)

If you are worried or concerned about anyone under 18 who you think is being abused or neglected or that a child and their family need help and support please call:
Children's Helpdesk: 01452 426565

Useful numbers & websites

Family Information Service
(Gives impartial information on child care, finances, parenting and education)
0800 542 0202

Gloucestershire Take a Stand
(Local links and practical support and help against all types of violence and abuse)
glostakeastand.com

Safe Network
(Provides Safeguarding information for the community and voluntary sector)
www.safenetwork.org.uk

NSPCC
(Leading children's charity fighting to end child abuse in the UK)
Helpline: 0808 800 5000
www.nspcc.org.uk

For more information:

 **www.gscb.org.uk**

 **mail@gscb.org.uk**

 **01452 583 629**



Safeguarding Children From Abuse and Neglect



Gloucestershire
Safeguarding Children
Board

This leaflet is about safeguarding children from abuse and neglect

What is child abuse?

Abuse and neglect are forms of maltreatment; a person may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm or by failing to act to prevent harm.

Child welfare concerns may arise in many different contexts, and can vary greatly in terms of their nature and seriousness. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting, by those known to them or by a stranger, including, via the internet. In the case of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), children may be taken out of the country to be abused. They may be abused by an adult or adults, or another child or children. An abused child will often experience more than one type of abuse, as well as other difficulties in their lives.

Abuse and neglect can happen over a period of time, but can also be a one off event. Child abuse and neglect have major long term impacts on all aspects of the child's health, development and wellbeing.

Examples of child abuse:

- **Emotional/Psychological** – bullying (inc. through social networks and internet), threats, humiliation, blaming, verbal abuse, isolation.
- **Physical** – hitting, pinching, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning or suffocating.
- **Sexual** - physical contact (inc. penetrative and non-penetrative acts), being party to inappropriate sexual behaviour, grooming, Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE).
- **Neglect** - Failing to provide a child's basic needs (inc. adequate food, clothing, hygiene, supervision or shelter), ignoring health or developmental needs, stopping access to services, withholding/ preventing education, not prioritising the child's needs.



Keeping children safe
in Gloucestershire