

What is safeguarding?



- Safeguarding is the action that is taken to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm.
- Safeguarding means:
 - protecting children from abuse and maltreatment
 - preventing harm to children's health or development
 - ensuring children grow up with the provision of safe and effective care
- taking action to enable all children and young people to have the best outcomes.
- Child protection is part of the safeguarding process. It focuses on protecting individual children identified as suffering or likely to suffer significant harm. This includes child protection procedures which detail how to respond to concerns about a child

Significant Harm

Under s31(9) Children Act 1989 & amended by the Adoption & Children Act (2002)

- 'Harm' means ill treatment or the impairment of health or development
- 'Development' means physical, intellectual, social, emotional or behavioural
- 'Health' means physical or mental
- 'Ill-treatment' includes sexual abuse & all forms that are not physical
- Also includes seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of others (eg domestic abuse)

Categories of Abuse



- Physical
- Emotional
- Neglect
- Sexual



Physical Abuse



- May involve: Hitting, Shaking, Throwing, Poisoning, Burning or Scalding, Drowning, Suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child
- Physical harm can also be caused when a parent or carer feigns the symptoms of, or deliberately causes ill health to a child for whom they are caring

Emotional Abuse



- Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional ill treatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on that child's emotional development.
- It may involve conveying to a child they are worthless or unloved or inadequate, prevention of normal social interaction, bullying or the exploitation or corruption of children & young people
- It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say / how they communicate
- It may involve seeing or hearing the ill treatment of another in homes where domestic abuse is present.
- May involve serious bullying including cyber bullying

Possible signs of emotional abuse



- Fear of new situations
- Inappropriate emotional response to painful situations
- Self harm
- Compulsive stealing
- Neurotic behaviour
- Social isolation
- Desperate attention seeking behaviour
- Eating problems, including overeating and lack of appetite
- Depression withdrawal.

Neglect



- Neglect is the persistent failure to meet the child's basic physical / psychological needs which is likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health and development
- Neglect can also occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance misuse
- Once a child is born it may involve the parent or carer failing to:-
 - provide adequate food, shelter or clothing (including exclusion from home and abandonment)
 - protect a child from physical harm and emotional harm or danger
 - to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment; or
 - To ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care givers)
- It may include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to a child's basic emotional needs

Possible signs of neglect



- Constant hunger
- Poor personal hygiene
- Inappropriate clothing
- Frequent lateness or non attendance
- Low self esteem
- Poor social relationships
- Compulsive stealing
- Constant tiredness development delay
- Failure to thrive

Sexual Abuse



- 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 include physical contact, including by penetration (e.g. rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing
- They may also include none 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 and other children can also commit acts of sexual abuse

Possible signs of sexual abuse



- Injuries to anal and genital areas not consistent with an accident.
- Infection, sexually transmitted diseases.
- Torn stained or bloody under clothing
- Difficulty in walking
- Bruises and scratching bite marks or injuries to breast and buttocks.
- Pregnancy especially where identity of father is vague.
- Faecal soiling/bed wetting especially where clean and dry previously.
- Age appropriate behaviour and language.

Peer on Peer Abuse



- Based on Advice issued May 2018
- Sexual Violence – rape, assault by penetration
- Sexual Assault – intentionally touches another person and the touching is either sexual or there is no consent to the touching (anyone under 14 can never consent to sexual touching)
- Sexual harassment – sexual comments, sexual jokes or taunting, physical behaviour (brushing against another person with sexualised intent, touching clothing) online sexual harassment, non consensual sharing of sexual images and videos, sexualised online bullying, unwanted sexual comments and messages, sexual exploitation through coercion and threats

Peer on Peer Abuse



- A 2017 survey found 64% of girls aged 13-21 had experienced sexual violence or sexual harassment at school or college (this includes 39% having their bra strap pulled and 27% having their skirts pulled up)
- Over a third (37%) of female students and 6% of male students at mixed sex schools had experienced some form of sexual harassment
- Almost a quarter (24%) of female students and 4% of male students had been subjected to unwanted physical touching of a sexual nature at school
- LGBT students can be targeted by their peers. In some cases a child perceived as LGBT can be just as vulnerable as a child who does identify as LGBT

Peer on Peer Abuse



- We have to make it clear that sexual violence and sexual harassment is not acceptable, will never be tolerated and is not part of simply growing up
- It is not 'just having a laugh' or 'boys being boys'
- Challenge unwanted behaviour rather than normalise it