

# Safeguarding young people

## Safeguarding Department Children and young people information leaflet

### Introduction

All staff in the hospital have a responsibility to recognise and respond to safeguarding concerns, to keep all children in our care safe and to provide children and their families access to support during difficult times. This leaflet is to inform children and young people about the different types of abuse, what to do if they are concerned that they, or someone they know, are suffering from abuse and where they can get support.

People should never hurt children and young people. However, sometimes children and young people can be hurt or harmed by adults or other children. This is called child abuse. Child abuse is never the child's fault. There are different types of child abuse.

## **Physical**

This is when someone physically hurts or harms a child or young person on purpose. This can include hitting, biting, shaking, hair pulling, kicking, burning, throwing, suffocating, poisoning and drowning. Physical abuse can also be when an adult deliberately or falsely reports ill health in a child or young person.

## **Emotional**

This is when someone continuously makes a child or young person feel vulnerable, unworthy, unloved, frightened or exploited in a way which impairs psychological wellbeing. It is also known as psychological abuse. Emotional abuse can happen in all the different types of abuse<sup>013</sup> and it can also happen alone. Emotional abuse includes scaring, humiliating, bullying, isolating, ignoring and putting people down. It can also be having age or developmentally inappropriate expectations imposed on a child or young person, and not letting children and young people express their views and opinions.

## **Sexual**

This is when someone forces or tricks a child or young person to take part in sexual activities in person or online. This can include physical contact, being forced to look at or make graphic material, or encouraging children and young people to act in sexually inappropriate ways, such as dress and language. Children and young people are not often aware of what is happening.

## **Neglect**

This is when a person with caring responsibilities for a child or young person fails to meet their basic physical, emotional or developmental needs, which impacts upon the child or young person's development. This includes not being supported to go to school or attend health appointments, being left hungry or dirty, not being dressed appropriately, not providing shelter or exclusion from home, lack of supervision or being left with inadequate caregivers, and not protecting children from danger.

## **Child exploitation**

This is when a child or young person is groomed by being given gifts, drugs, money, status and/or affection in exchange for performing sexual acts or criminal activity. Children and young people are often tricked into believing they are in a loving and consensual relationship or part of a friendship group known as a gang. Abusers use physical, sexual and emotional abuse as a form of control.

## **Child trafficking and modern slavery**

This is when a child or young person is involuntarily moved to be groomed to take part in sexual activities, forced labour, drug trafficking, criminal activity and forced marriage for the profit of another. Traffickers often groom children and young people to gain their trust with promises of a better future for themselves and/or their families.

## **Female genital mutilation**

This is when females' genitals are deliberately altered or removed for non-medical reasons. This is also often known as cutting or female circumcision. It is dangerous and is against the law in the UK.

## **Domestic abuse**

This is when two or more people live in the same household and perpetrate emotional, physical, sexual and neglectful behaviour towards each other. Living at a home where domestic abuse is happening can have a serious negative impact on a child or young person's mental and physical wellbeing.

## **Forced marriage**

This is when a marriage takes place without the consent of both people. Some young people are physically and emotionally abused if they refuse to marry someone in order to pressure them into the marriage. It is against the law.

## Online abuse

This is when information communication technology including computers, laptops, mobile phones and tablets are used to deliberately and repeatedly inflict harm on a child or young person through hostile or coercive behaviour from an individual or group of individuals. This includes cyberbullying, grooming, emotional abuse, sexting, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation. It often feels like there is no escape as it can happen anywhere at anytime on social media, messaging apps, email, online games, online chats and live stream websites.

## Disclosure

Children and young people have a right to be safe and listened to. If you or somebody you know is suffering from any type of abuse, you can speak to any staff member, with or away from your family and friends. We will always try to keep the information that you share with us confidential. If we feel that you or another person is at risk of harm, we will need to share this information with other services so that we can get the help and support to protect you.

## Help and support

There are many organisations aimed at children and young people that can offer advice and support over the telephone or online.

These include:

### All types of abuse

- NSPCC (freephone) 0808 800 5000 [www.NSPCC.org.uk](http://www.NSPCC.org.uk)
- Childline (freephone) 0800 1111 [www.childline.org](http://www.childline.org)
- Samaritans (freephone) 116 123 <https://www.samaritans.org/>
- Eighteen and under [www.18u.org.uk](http://www.18u.org.uk)
- Dudley children's services (freephone) 0300 555 0050
- Kooth [www.kooth.com](http://www.kooth.com)

## Sexual health

- Brook [www.brook.org.uk](http://www.brook.org.uk)

## Forced marriage

- Forced marriages (Freephone) 020 7008 0151

## Domestic violence

- Refuge 0808 200 0247 [www.refuge.org.uk](http://www.refuge.org.uk)

## Online abuse

- Childnet [www.childnet.com](http://www.childnet.com)

If you have any questions, or if there is anything you do not understand about this leaflet, please contact:

The safeguarding team on 01384 244361 ext 3361

Russells Hall Hospital switchboard number: 01384 456111

**This leaflet can be downloaded or printed from:**

<http://dgft.nhs.uk/patients-and-visitors/patient-information-leaflets/>

If you have any feedback on this patient information leaflet, please email [dgft.patient.information@nhs.net](mailto:dgft.patient.information@nhs.net)

**This leaflet can be made available in large print, audio version and in other languages, please call 0800 073 0510.**

للحصول على هذه النشرة بحجم أكبر، وعلى شكل إصدار صوتي و بلغات أخرى، الرجاء الاتصال بالرقم 08000730510.

此宣传单可提供大字版本、音频版本和其它语言版本，请拨打电话：0800 073 0510。

Ulotka dostępna jest również w dużym druku, wersji audio lub w innym języku. W tym celu zadzwoń pod numer 0800 073 0510.

ਇਹ ਪਰਚਾ ਵੱਡੇ ਅੱਖਰਾਂ, ਬੋਲ ਕੇ ਰੀਕਾਰਡ ਕੀਤਾ ਹੋਇਆ ਅਤੇ ਦੂਸਰੀਆਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਵੀ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਹੋ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ, 0800 073 0510 ਤੇ ਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ ਜੀ।

Aceasta broșura poate fi pusă la dispoziție tipărită cu caractere mari, versiune audio sau în alte limbi, pentru acest lucru va rugăm sunați la 0800 073 0510.

یہ کتابچہ آپ کو بڑے حروف کی لکھائی، سمعی صورت اور دیگر زبانوں میں مہیا کیا جا سکتا ہے۔ براہ مہربانی فون نمبر 08000730510 پر رابطہ کریں۔