

Who's who

Patient/visitors will not meet the safeguarding children team. This leaflet is aimed at providing advice about what they should do should they have concerns of when a child is at risk.

What concerns do the Safeguarding Children Team deal with?

The welfare of the child is paramount.

Children may be exposed to four types of abuse:

1. Physical abuse:

When a child is deliberately hurt, causing injuries such as cuts, bruises and broken bones. It can involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning, slapping or suffocating. Physical abuse can also be when a parent/carer fabricates or induces the symptoms of an illness in a child (NSPCC).

2. Sexual abuse:

Involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities. It does not necessarily involve violence and the child may or may not be aware of what is happening. Sexual abuse includes grooming a child with the intention of sexually abusing them, all forms of penetrative and non-penetrative sex. Sexually exploiting a child in return for gifts, money or affection and making, looking at and distributing indecent images of a child (NSPCC).

3. Neglect:

Persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs resulting in serious damage to their health and development. Neglect may involve a parents/carers failure to provide adequate food, clothing and shelter, protect them from physical and emotional harm or danger, supervise the child properly and ensure they receive the appropriate medical care/treatment (NSPCC).

4. Emotional abuse:

Persistent and over time this can severely damage a child's emotional development. It can involve an adult deliberately trying to scare, humiliate or verbally abuse a child. Emotional abuse happens when a parent/child denies the child the love and care they need in order to be healthy and happy (NSPCC).

Children and young people are also at risk of harm if they are exposed to child sexual exploitation or they witness domestic abuse.

Child sexual exploitation is a growing child protection issue across the UK. These must also be reported.

'Working Together To Safeguard Children' (2013) HM Government is statutory guidance in safeguarding children.

If you are a child that needs help;

Devon Safeguarding Children Board
01392 386067
www.devonsafeguardingchildren.org

Devon County Council
0845 155 1013
www.devon.gov.uk

NSPCC
0808 800 5000
www.nspcc.org.uk

Barnardos
0808 800 5000
www.barnardos.org.uk

Childline
0800 11 11

PALS

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) ensures that the NHS listens to patients, relatives, carers and friends, answers questions and resolves concerns as quickly as possible. If you have a query or concern call 01271 314090 or e-mail ndht.pals@nhs.net. You can also visit the PALS and Information Centre in person at North Devon District Hospital, Barnstaple.

Have your say

Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust aims to provide high quality services. However, please tell us when something could be improved. If you have a comment or compliment about a service or treatment, please raise your comments with a member of staff or the PALS team in the first instance.

'Care Opinion' comments forms are on all wards or online at www.careopinion.org.uk.

Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust
Raleigh Park, Barnstaple
Devon EX31 4JB
Tel. 01271 322577
www.northdevonhealth.nhs.uk

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