

MORE INFORMATION...

- Look at your organisation/agency's child protection policy and safeguarding procedures
- Look at your organisation/agency's staff Code of Conduct and policy for managing allegations against members of staff
- Look at the South West Child Protection Procedures at www.swcpp.org.uk or visit the Plymouth Safeguarding Children Board website at www.plymouthscb.org.uk
- Look at the Early Help Assessment Toolkit www.plymouthonlinedirectory.com/kb5/plymouth/directory/ehat.page
- Look at the Government guidance "What To Do If You're Worried A Child Is Being Abused" (March 2015) at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-to-do-if-youre-worried-a-child-is-being-abused--2
- Children and young people can contact Childline for free 24-hour telephone support on 0800 1111 or at www.childline.org.uk

If you have a concern about a child, please tell somebody who can help

Plymouth Children's Social Care

- Gateway 01752 668000 (Office hours)
01752 346984 (Out of hours)
- Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)
01752 307144

Plymouth Police

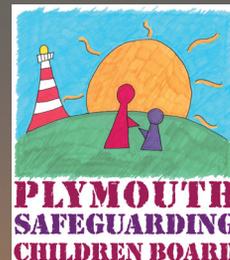
- Emergency 999
- Non-Emergency 101
- Local Safeguarding Team 01752 487590

PLYMOUTH SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD

Midland House, Plymouth PL1 2EJ
T 01752 307535
www.plymouthscb.org.uk



Ref: PSCB/CP/OA/Nov18



CHILD PROTECTION AND YOUR ORGANISATION OR AGENCY

**Information for workers and
young people**

Children and young people have a fundamental right to be protected from harm.

Families have a right to expect organisations/agencies to provide a safe and secure environment.

All organisations/agencies who work with children have a legal duty to work with other agencies, for example Social Care and the Police, to safeguard children's welfare.

This leaflet will explain to you what that means in practice. It also tells you where you can get more information or help.

Your organisation/agency has a senior member of staff who is responsible for child protection matters affecting children at the establishment (the 'Designated Safeguarding Lead').

It also has procedures which explain how your organisation/agency deals with child protection concerns, plus other safeguarding policies including how to manage allegations against staff and also a staff code of conduct.

You can ask for copies of these documents from the organisation/agency office.

ORGANISATIONS/ AGENCIES MUST FOLLOW

- The South West Child Protection Procedures (www.swcpp.org.uk)
- Their own safeguarding policies

If the organisation/agency is worried about whether a child is suffering harm, they must refer this on to a social worker.

The organisation/agency will normally let the child's parent(s) or carer(s) know when they refer but they should not contact parents or carers if they think, or are not sure, that this could put a child or any other person at increased risk of harm. They will usually take advice from social workers about when to speak to parents.

When a organisation/agency refers a child protection concern to a social worker, they must share all relevant information about the child.

The Data Protection Act allows organisations/agencies to share personal information with other agencies when there are child protection concerns about a child or young person.

WHAT HAPPENS IF A SOCIAL WORKER IS INVOLVED...

The social work manager, usually in consultation with other agencies, will decide what should happen next.

They may decide that no further action is needed by them but suggest that the organisation/agency or other agencies do an assessment using the Early Help Assessment Tool or provide services to support the child.

They may decide that the referral needs looking into further. What action is taken will depend on the circumstances.

One of the following may be appropriate:

- An initial assessment
- Child protection enquiries. These include assessing the risks to the child, based upon research, information shared and talking to those concerned.

If there is an allegation about harm to a child by a member of staff or volunteer at the organisation/agency, a discussion will take place between the organisation/agency (usually the manager) and the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) to decide what should happen next. In some cases this might mean action by social workers and/or the Police. (See also leaflet 'Managing allegations of abuse made against somebody who works with children in Plymouth', ref: PSCB/AMSTRAT/General/Nov18).

If you do not think the organisation/agency has properly responded to an allegation about harm to a child by a member of staff you can make a formal complaint to the organisation/agency or refer to the Gateway Team or the LADO.