

# Safeguarding Children

## Factsheet

## NSPCC Statistics

- Every 10 days in England and Wales one child is killed at the hands of their parents
- 1 in 9 young adults have experienced severe physical violence during childhood
- 1 in 4 young adults were exposed to domestic violence during childhood
- 1 in 6 children aged 11-17 have experienced sexual abuse
- Two thirds of children killed by another in England and Wales are under 5 years old

## Children's Act 1989 and 2004

Working together under the Children Act 2004 Local Authorities and all relevant agencies must:

- Safeguard and promote the welfare of children in need
- Provide a range of services having regard to that duty
- Investigate when there is reason to suspect a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm

### Children Act 2004

- The welfare of the child is paramount
- Local authority duty to take reasonable steps to identify children in need
- Share information between authorities

### Children Act 2004 Section 47

Local Authority duty to investigate if they reasonably believe a child is likely to suffer significant harm, this may result in care or supervision ordered.

### Significant harm

'Harm' means ill-treatment or the impairment of health or development (including impairment suffered from seeing or hearing the ill treatment of another). This may be a result of a single act, or an accumulation of acts.

There is no absolute criteria in judging what constitutes significant harm – it may be the result of a single, traumatic event, or more often, of accumulation of significant events, both acute and long standing.

### Emergency protection order

This can only be made if the court is satisfied that the child is likely to suffer significant harm. This order can also be made if access has been denied to undertake an investigation under section 47.

Always do something,  
never do nothing.



### The Prevent Duty 2015

Childcare providers and schools should build children's resilience to radicalisation by promoting British values and enable them to challenge extremist views.

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## Acts and signs of abuse

### Physical abuse

#### Acts

- Hitting
- Slapping
- Biting
- Punching
- Undue restraint
- Poisoning
- Burns and scalds
- Over medication
- Bad manual handling
- Scratching
- Pushing and pulling
- Throwing objects
- Cutting

#### Signs

- Bruising
- Burn marks
- Teeth marks
- Scared
- Flinching
- Quiet or aggressive
- Illness
- Unexplained injuries
- Weight problems
- Withdrawn
- Refusal
- Loss of hair
- Challenging behaviours

### Neglectful abuse

#### Acts

- Failure to maintain dignity
- Poor personal hygiene
- Inadequate food or drink
- Withdrawal of service
- No medication
- Inappropriate care
- No advocacy
- Inappropriate clothes
- Poor living conditions

#### Signs

- Unkempt
- Poor hygiene
- Poor health
- Tired
- Cold
- Limited clothing
- Depression
- Pressure sores
- Quiet / aggression
- Limited essential items or equipment
- Incomplete or no record keeping
- Unhealed injuries

### Common sites for accidental injuries

- Forehead
- Nose
- Chin
- Spine
- Elbow & forearm
- Hips
- Knees
- Shins

### Possible sites for non-accidental injuries

- Eyes (black eyes, especially if bilateral)
- Soft tissue of cheeks
- Ears - especially pinch marks involving both sides of the ear
- Inner aspect of arms
- Forearms when raised in defence
- Back and side of trunk
- Chest and abdomen
- Groin or genital injury
- Soles of feet

### Concerns are raised by

- Injuries to both sides of the body
- Injuries to soft tissue
- Injuries with a particular pattern
- Any injury that doesn't fit the explanation
- Untreated injuries

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### Emotional abuse

#### Acts

- Belittling
- Bullying
- Hyper critical
- Deprivation
- Humiliation
- Coercion
- Controlling
- Harassment
- Isolation
- Ignored
- Withdrawing services
- Teasing
- Abandonment
- Other abuse types

#### Signs

- Crying
- Depression
- Self harm
- Suicide
- Eating disorders
- Poor mental health
- Self deprecation
- Unexplained paranoia
- Low self esteem
- Low confidence
- Demotivation
- Clingy
- Subservience

### Sexual abuse

#### Acts

- Rape / non consented sex
- Grooming
- Making pornography
- Watching pornography
- Observation of sexual activities
- Inappropriate professionalism
- Inappropriate touching
- Inappropriate comments

#### Signs

- STI / STD
- Pregnant
- Bruising
- Bleeding
- Tearing
- Bed wetting
- Refusal
- Self harming
- Depression
- Knowledge above development
- Withdrawn
- Aggression
- Gender issues

### Disclosure guidance

- Stop and listen carefully
- Watch your own body language
- Take them seriously
- Do not ask any probing questions
- Do not promise to keep it secret
- Do not prejudge or assume
- Record accurately information
- Report promptly

### Conclusion

- Listen to what children have to say and take them seriously
- A child is more likely to be abused by someone they know
- Child abuse happens in all social classes and cultures
- All ages suffer abuse and are subject to more than one type
- Abuse has long lasting traumatic effects
- It can happen in any location at any time by anyone
- Have easy and clear policies, procedures and protocols
- Follow the procedures and protocols promptly

**always do something,  
never do nothing**