

## What happens next?

All information received is treated seriously and will be acted upon. The first priority for everyone is making sure that the child is safe. If help is needed to protect the child and support the family to meet the needs of their child, staff from agencies like health, education, social work and the police, will work together and agree how best to provide this.

## What might happen if you don't report your concern

If you have worries about a child and don't share these the child could be harmed. If you are worried or know of a child who needs help please talk to us at one of the following numbers

**Social Work Services** 01475 715365

**Standby Social Work Service (out of hours)** 0800 811 505

**Police Scotland** 101

**Scottish Children's Reporters Administration** 0300 2001680

You can also speak to your health visitor, who can be found through your GP surgery or health centre.

**IN AN EMERGENCY CONTACT THE POLICE (999)**



This leaflet has been prepared by Inverclyde Child Protection Committee. The Child Protection Committee is made up of representatives from the main statutory and voluntary organisations working in Inverclyde. The purpose of the Child Protection Committee includes ensuring local agencies work well together and with the community to help protect children.

The information in this leaflet can be made available in other formats; please contact **icpc@inverclyde.gov.uk** or call **01475 715365** for assistance **www.inverclydechildprotection.org**



## Worried about Child Abuse and Neglect

This leaflet is for anyone worried that a child may be at risk of abuse or neglect.



Inverclyde Child Protection Committee

Sharing Responsibility-Protecting Children

# It is everyone's responsibility to protect children

All children have a right to grow up in a caring and safe environment. All adults have a responsibility to protect children, including:

- Parents
- Family members
- Friends
- Neighbours
- Professionals
- Members of the public
- Community groups (including religious organisations)

## What might make you concerned?

Most children grow up in homes where they are loved and well cared for however, sometimes for a variety of reasons, a child may be abused or neglected.

Children rarely tell if they are being abused, however, there may be signs which make you concerned and might indicate that a child is being abused or neglected.

### The child may

- have unexplained bruising or bruising in an unusual place
- appear afraid, quiet or withdrawn
- be afraid to go home
- appear hungry, tired or unkempt
- be left unattended or unsupervised
- have too much responsibility for their age
- be acting out in a sexually inappropriate way
- be placing themselves in danger (for example -misusing drugs or alcohol or running away)
- be living with violence within the home
- be exploited by adults or others

### The adult may

- be acting in a violent or sexual manner towards a child
- constantly criticising, ignoring or humiliating the child
- have other difficulties or behaviours which interferes with their ability to care for or protect their child (for example drugs or alcohol misuse or mental health problems)

These are some examples of what might make you worried about a child, or you may know of other things that

are happening which means you need to take action to protect the child

## What to do if you are concerned

Children can't always get help for themselves, they may need **you** to get help for them.

If you are concerned about a child speak to someone. This might be a health professional, nursery staff, teacher, family doctor, social worker, police officer or Children's Reporter.

Make sure you:

- Act promptly
- Note your concerns
- Give as much information as you know about the child and family

**If the child is in immediate danger you should contact the police.**

**Will you need to give your name?**

**No.** However remaining anonymous may cause difficulties in establishing whether or not a child is at risk of abuse. All information received will be treated with discretion. Any details received, including your name, will not be revealed unless the child's safety requires it.