

What to do if you are worried a child is being abused.

For advice and support from the Designated Nurse for South Sefton CCG and Southport and Formby CCG please ring: 07769 307213

Any member of staff who believes or suspects that a child may be suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm should always refer their concerns to Children's Social Care. Never delay emergency action to protect a child whilst waiting for an opportunity to discuss your concerns first.

Are you concerned a child is suffering or likely to suffer harm ? eg

- You may observe an injury or signs of neglect
- You may be given information or observe emotional abuse
- A child may disclose abuse
- You may be concerned for the safety of a child or unborn baby

Step 1

Inform parents/ carers that you will refer to Children's social care UNLESS

The child may be put at increased risk of further harm (eg suspected sexual abuse, suspected fabricated or induced illness, female genital mutilation, increased risk to child, forced marriage or there is a risk to your own personal safety)

Step 2

Make a referral to Sefton's Children's Services following the link below:

- <https://www.sefton.gov.uk/social-care/children-and-young-people/report-a-child-or-young-person-at-risk/information-for-professionals.aspx>. Prior to making a referral through to Children's Social Care, if you would like to have a consultation with a Social Worker please call [Sefton's MASH Team](#) on either 0151 934 4013/ 4481. Please note a Child Referral Form should be completed in all cases unless you deem the child to be at risk of immediate significant harm to which MASH Contact Officers will receive information via the telephone in the first instance but following this a Child Referral Form must be completed.
- Document all discussions held, actions taken, decisions made, including who was spoken to and who is responsible for undertaking actions agreed.
- For physical abuse document injuries observed

Step 3

Children's Social Care acknowledges receipt of referral and decides on next course of action. If the referrer has not received an acknowledgement within 3 working days contact Children's Social Care (0151 934 4013 or 4481) again for an update.

Step 4

You may be requested to provide further reports / information or attend multi-agency meetings

Other important numbers

Police - emergency 999

Police - non-emergency 101

For further information in respect of safeguarding children, please visit:

[Sefton Local Safeguarding Children Board](#)