

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

For advice and support from the Designated Nurse for Sefton Place ICB please contact:

Email: sefton.safeguarding@cheshireandmerseyside.nhs.uk

Tel: 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 the Children's Help and Advice Team (CHAT). Never delay emergency action to protect a child whilst waiting for an opportunity to discuss your concerns first.

If a child is in immediate danger please call 999

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 CHAT

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 CHAT following the link below:

- [Children's Help and Advice Team \(CHAT\) \(sefton.gov.uk\)](https://sefton.gov.uk)
- 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 [CHAT](tel:01519344013) on 0151 934 4013.
- If the issue cannot wait until the next working day, including weekends and bank holidays, please contact our Emergency Duty Team on 0151 934 3555.
- 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

[CHAT](#) acknowledges receipt of referral and decides on next course of action. If the referrer has not received an acknowledgement within 3 working days contact [CHAT](#) (0151 934 4013) 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 Safeguarding Children Partnership](#)