KEY MESSAGES FOR CHILD PROTECTION

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This short presentation is to remind you of the key messages about keeping children safe, and what you should do if you have any worries about a child or young person.

The protection of children is a top priority for everyone. If they are not seen regularly by protective adults, children can be more vulnerable to abuse and neglect.

Even if you feel your concern is minor, it is better to report this than not to.

When children are unwell or injured, for whatever reason, medical attention should always be sought in the normal way.

SO WHAT IS CHILD ABUSE?

- Child abuse is a form of maltreatment of a child. A person may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting, or by failing to prevent, harm to the child.

SO WHAT IS CHILD ABUSE *CONT.*

There are four main types of abuse that a child may experience. These are:

- Physical abuse

- Sexual abuse

- Emotional abuse and

- Neglect.

SPECIFIC CIRCUMSTANCES

- There are certain circumstances that a child may be living in that increase their risk of being abused.

SPECIFIC CIRCUMSTANCES *CONT*

These are:

- Domestic abuse

- Parental alcohol or substance abuse

- Children living with or affected by disability

- Non engagement

- Children living with or affected by mental health problems

SPECIFIC CIRCUMSTANCES *CONT.*

Other circumstances include:

- Children who display sexually harmful behaviour

- Female Genital Mutilation

- Honour based abuse and forced marriage

- Fabricated or induced illness

- Sudden or unexpected death in infants and children

- When we are worried about children being abused, we are not only thinking about the abusive behaviour but also the impact or potential impact on the child.

IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER

- It is not your job to investigate. It is your job to record your concern on a well being concern form e.g. what you saw and what you heard, and take this immediately to the designated member of staff or your line manager

- You may be in a role where you record the concern on SWIFT

WELLBEING CONCERN FORM

This is what the form looks like.

The most important bit for you to complete is the box entitled 'Description of Concerns'.

REPORTING

- If you are in a position where there is no manager around and you are concerned, you should contact:

- **Social Care Direct**
- 0131 200 2327
- Mon - Thurs 08.30 - 17.00   Fri - 08.30 - 15.55

- **Emergency Social Care Service**
- 0800 731 6969
- All other times

INFORMATION REQUIRED

- Details of the child and family
- Nature of concern – are you making a child protection referral?
   Who, what, where, when
- Whether there is imminent danger
- Other children who may be at risk
- Adults who have care of the child
- Referrer's details
- Request details of person receiving referral
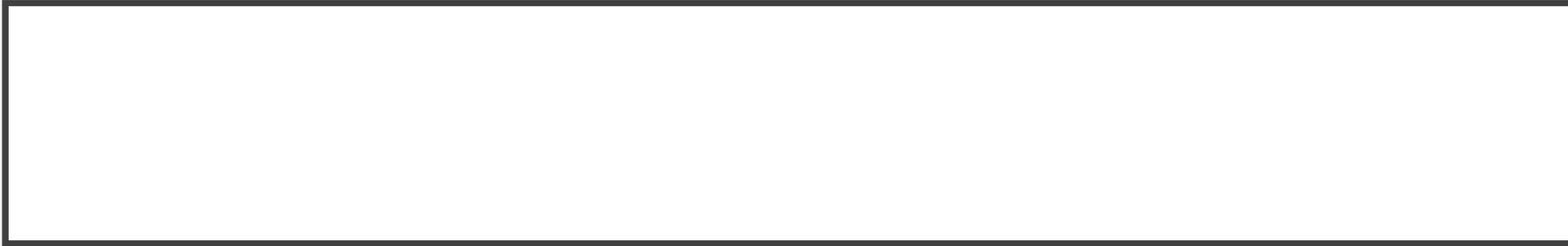
- For further information please follow the link below to see all the relevant Policies and Procedures for Child Protection within Edinburgh

- https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/download/13089/child-protection-for-professionals

If in doubt check it out....

Professional curiosity

Recording

Reporting

Your information

Others' information