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Introduction

All Cheshire & Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (CWP) employees that come into contact with children and families during their work must be aware of the procedure to be followed in the event that they suspect a child is at risk of ‘significant harm’.

What is child abuse and neglect?

They are forms of maltreatment of a child. Abuse/neglect of a child by inflicting harm or failing to act to prevent harm. There are 4 categories of abuse:

- physical abuse
- emotional abuse
- sexual abuse
- neglect

(Working Together 2013)

What should you do if you suspect a child is at risk or being abused?

If you need advice then speak to your clinical lead/manager or contact one of the CWP safeguarding nurses who will be happy to provide guidance and support you. Medical staff with child protection concerns should contact the named doctor in their area.

If you are advised that a referral is necessary, please inform the child(ren’s) parent/carers unless you believe this will place the child(ren) at increased risk of significant harm or if you suspect sexual abuse is taking place within the family.

Remember the child’s welfare is paramount and the emphasis should always be on sharing information with other agencies involved with the family.

Guidance is available within:

- CWP flowchart and Safeguarding Children Policy
- ‘What to Do If You Are Worried a Child is Being Abused’. (DOH2006)
- ‘When to Suspect Child Maltreatment’ (NICE Clinical Guidance 89 July 2009)

Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) Child Protection Procedures for Wirral, Cheshire West and Chester, Cheshire East and Trafford can be accessed via the links below or the Trust intranet.

Information on safeguarding children including any links, referral forms and guidance can be found within the safeguarding children section of the Trust intranet site; this can be accessed through the ‘Internet Explorer’ icon on your desktop. In addition the Trust has its own Safeguarding Children policy.

http://www.cheshirewestlscb.org.uk/
http://www.cheshireeastlscb.org.uk/professionals.asp
http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/childrens-services/local-safeguarding-childrens-board
http://www.tscb.org.uk/the-process-for-safeguarding-children.html

Training

Safeguarding Children Training is mandatory for all staff.

All clinical and non clinical staff should engage in training appropriate to their needs.

For further information contact CWP education
Tel: 01244 397255

Social Services Referrals and Advice

Cheshire West & Chester – 01606 275099
Cheshire East – 0300 123 5012
Wirral – 0151 606 2008
Trafford – 0161 912 5125

Emergency Duty Teams (out of hours)

Cheshire West & Chester – 01244 977277
Cheshire East – 0300 123 5022
Wirral – 0151 677 6557
Trafford – 0161 912 2020