



What will happen to the child and family?

Once enquiries have been completed, one or more of the following might happen:

- No further action
- Support or advice offered to the family
- Referral to another agency for a service
- A multi-agency meeting held to decide the best way to protect the child and support the family

In a small number of cases, immediate emergency action may be necessary to protect the child. This could include the child staying somewhere else whilst enquiries continue, although in most cases children can continue to be safely cared for at home.

What if I am mistaken and there is no evidence of abuse?

Sometimes enquiries show no significant areas of concern for the child or young person, and there is no need for any further action to be taken. However, it is better to have a situation checked out and find all is well, than to ignore possible warning signs and endanger a child or young person.

Contact numbers

If you are concerned about a child or young person, you can contact Buckinghamshire Social Care on the numbers below:

FIRST RESPONSE TEAM
0845 4600001

Outside of office hours, please contact the emergency duty team on:
0800 999 7677

This leaflet has been prepared by the Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board (BSCB)

The purpose of the BSCB is to ensure local agencies, both statutory and voluntary, work together effectively to safeguard children and young people.

For more information about safeguarding children in Buckinghamshire, please visit:

www.bucks-lscb.org.uk



Keeping Children Safe

*Not everyone's occupation,
but everybody's job*

- * **Are you concerned about a child?**
- * **Do you think that a child is not being properly cared for?**
- * **Are you worried about your own children?**

Introduction

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



All children have a right to grow up in a caring and safe environment; everyone in the community is responsible for keeping children safe.

What is Child Abuse?

Abuse can happen to a child of any age; from birth to 18. It can happen in families from all social backgrounds; from any ethnic or cultural backgrounds; to children with or without disabilities; it can be deliberate or unintentional. Some children or young people may also be abused in an institutional setting by someone known to them or, more rarely, by a stranger.

There are different types of abuse:

- Physical Abuse (e.g. being hit, kicked or punched)
- Physical Neglect (e.g. not being properly fed or clothed, poor hygiene)
- Sexual Abuse (e.g. inappropriate behaviour, language or assault; involvement in or exposure to pornography)
- Emotional Abuse (e.g. constantly criticised, ignored, humiliated, exposed to Domestic Violence)

What might make you concerned?

Children rarely tell if they are being abused, however there may be signs which make you concerned and may be an indication of a child being abused or neglected.

The child / young person:

- May appear afraid, quiet or withdrawn
- May appear afraid to go home
- May appear hungry, tired or unkempt
- May be left unattended or unsupervised
- May have too much responsibility for their age
- May have unexplained bruising or bruising in an unusual place
- May be acting out in a sexually inappropriate way
- May be self harming, including misusing drugs and alcohol

The adult

- May be acting in a violent or sexual manner towards a child
- May be misusing drugs or alcohol while caring for a child.



What should you do if you are concerned?

If you are concerned about a child or young person, speak to someone. This might be a health visitor, nursery worker, teacher, GP, social worker, police officer or youth worker.

Make sure you:

- Act promptly
- Note your concerns
- Give as much information as you know about the child and family
- **Do not** investigate the matter yourself

If the child is at risk of abuse, this information will need to be shared with other agencies to ensure the child can be made safe.

Will you need to give your name?

No. However, remaining anonymous may cause difficulty in establishing whether or not a child is at risk of abuse or neglect. 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.

What happens next?

All information received is treated seriously and will be acted upon. This might include:

- Checking agency records and gathering information.
- Speaking to the child and family and assessing the situation.
- Making sure the child/young person is safe