



Safeguarding Module

Physical, Domestic & Emotional Abuse

Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse refers to violence, aggressive and unpredictable behaviour of one parent.

- *The child will never feel safe*
- *They will not know what they may walk into when returning home*
- *They will never know what may happen to their parent*
- *The child may get neglected as the abused parent cannot cope*

Physical Abuse

This is any form of physical harm projected onto a child.

- Hitting or punching
- Shaking
- Kicking
- Stamping on
- Biting
- Throwing the child or objects at the child
- Burning
- Scalding
- freezing
- Poisoning
- Being forced to do something
- Confinement
- Typing or chaining up
- Cutting
- Choking
- Torturing
- Twisting limbs
- Breaking bones
- Any physical harm to the body

Signs of physical Abuse

The abuser knows not to leave visible marks so if you notice marks on the child's torso, back, under arms, legs, under hairline, or any marks which should not be there.

Other sign may be :

- *Pale and drawn*
- *Bags under the eyes*
- *Fearful eyes*
- *Anxiety*
- *Restrain marks*
- *Limited abilities in activities*
- *Floppiness in babies*

Signs of Physical Abuse

- injuries at different stages of healing
- Withdrawn behaviour
- Running away
- Violence or aggression with other children adults or animals
- Signs of brain damage or personality disorder
- Suicidal tendencies
- Self harm
- Chaotic behaviour
- Fractured / sprained fingers and toes

Emotional Abuse

Emotional abuse is a psychological manipulation of a child which causes fear or harm to a child's psyche and wellbeing. It is very common and occurs on its own, or alongside almost all other forms of abuse.

Some people can emotionally abuse a child deliberately but some may not realise they are doing it.

This makes it very difficult to step in at the right time and also the abuser may be very manipulating.

Socially and morally it can be very confusing for the onlooker, which means you should be mindful of , so you can help and support the child to speak out for them.

So if you think that, everything should be done to keep the child safe from ALL harm, whether it is intentional or not. It means that if you have any doubt, you should report it.

What Causes Unintentional Emotional Abuse

Some forms of emotional abuse occurs when an influential person in a child's life causes harm to the child's psyche and emotional well being without realising they are doing it.

This can occur due to:

- *Low intelligence*
- *Personality disorders of mental illness like, Narcissism or Munchausen Syndrome*
- *Experiencing the same thing growing up, not realising it is wrong*
- *Making poor choices in life i.e addiction or volatile relationships*

Examples of Emotional Abuse

- *Threats*
- *Invoking fear*
- *Control*
- *Emotional unavailability*
- *Exploitation*
- *Humiliation*
- *Denying love*
- *Isolation demeaning behaviour*
- *Inappropriate punishment*
- *Lack of affection*
- *Continual criticism*
- *Setting the child up to fail*
- *Shouting*
- *Chastising*
- *Threatening*
- *Chaotic behaviour*
- *Supporting deviant behaviour*
- *Verbal abuse*

Signs of Emotional Abuse

A child may express their issues through their appearance demeanour and behaviour in these ways:

- *Aggression*
- *Self harm*
- *Appeasing behaviour*
- *Submissive behaviour*
- *Flirty behaviour*
- *Distrusting behaviour*
- *Stealing*
- *Lack of social activities*

- Developmental delay
- Anxiety
- Inappropriate or accidental urination
- Self soothing behaviors
- Lack of social awareness
- Lying or telling stories
- stress

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Useful Links & Services



www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk



www.childline.org.uk



www.mind.org.uk



www.unicef.org



www.samaritans.org

