



# Safeguarding Module

## Disclosure and Reporting

# *Topics covered in this module*

- *What is a disclosure*
- *Understand why children don't disclose*
- *What to do if a child discloses*
- *Taking action*
- *Your responsibility*
- *Fulfilling 'Duty of Care'*

- *What, When and How to Report*
  - *Myths of Reporting*
  - *The structure of reporting*
  - *Organisations who provide support*
  - *Talking to the parents*
  - *Referrals to Social Services*
  - *How referrals are made*
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# *What is Disclosure*

Disclosure is when a child reports they have been Abused or Neglected. Some children may just make comments or jokes instead of disclosing such as :

- A drawing, story or joke
  - Social media posts
  - Questions about topics a child should not be concerned about
  - Aggressive behaviour
  - Clingy or not want to go home
- Ask hypothetical questions
  - Play role
  - Inappropriate interaction with other children
  - Testing a safe adult to determine if it is safe to talk to them or not

# Understand Why Children Don't Disclose

- An adult shut them down didn't listen to them or notice
- They are scared and afraid
- They have been threatened
- They love their parent so can't tell anyone
- They don't know who to tell
- They cannot find the words
- They are embarrassed
- They feel protective to their abuser
- They do not realise they are being abused
- They do not think anyone will believe them
- Any combination of the above

# *What to Do If a Child Discloses*

If a child comes to you and discloses or is trying to tell you, there are some important steps you must follow:

- Stay calm and reassuring
- Listen carefully
- Do not interrupt them
- Do not stop them from disclosing information
- Do not make jokes or dismissive comments such as :

‘You do have an amazing imagination’

‘Im sure its not that bad’

‘Are you sure’

# *What to Do If a Child Discloses*

Be as reassuring as you can and use words such as:


- 'Its ok your safe here'
- 'You can tell me what you need and i will help you now'
- 'Well done, you are doing a great job,
- 'Thank you for trusting me'

Do not say:

- 'Oh my gosh, how awful' or 'no X wouldn't do that'
- 'Your parents love you, they wouldn't do that'
- 'They did what' or 'oh no' or 'are you sure that really happened'
- 'I won't tell anyone else' or ' I will have to call the Police'


# Taking Action

When the child has told you everything, it is important that you let the child know the following:~

- They have done the right thing
  - You are listening to them and want to help them
  - Keep the child up to date on what happens next, so they understand for their age.
  - Explain that you need to make notes and will talk with other safe parents who can help you both
  - Report the matter to the Safeguarding Officer or Line Manager
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# Taking Action


Do not :~

- Stop the child talking
  - Express your opinions
  - Make promises
  - Rush the child
  - Contact the alleged abuser
  - Judge them
  - Disclose the information to anyone else apart from your Line Manager or Safeguarding Officer
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# Your Responsibilities

If you work with children, in any capacity, you may be in a position to observe any signs of Neglect or Abuse, or changes in Health or Behaviour, or which may indicate the child is experiencing Abuse or Neglect. If you notice such signs, you are obliged to the basic Safeguarding responsibilities such as:~

- Understand the work within the Local Multi-agency Safeguarding team
  - Ensure you are aware of signs of Abuse and Neglect
  - Avoid allowing other factors to get in the way such as self doubt, or relationships
  - Understand you 'Duty of Care'
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# Fulfilling 'Duty of Care'

A duty of care is a legal obligation to :~

- Always act in the best interests of the child
- Not causing harm
- Report any concerns you have about the safety of the children you work with

If you work with children you cannot opt out of your responsibilities, everybody is subject to a duty of care.


A 'duty of care' is to ensure the wellbeing of everybody around you.



# What to Report

- The date and time
- Name of child/children
- The details in full
- If you have any concerns about the child's immediate safety
- Report disclosures or concerns immediately

## How to report

- Write detailed information about the disclosure or concerns
  - Report to your Safeguarding lead or Line Manager
  - If this is not a child in the workplace, report to NSPCC helpline
  - If the child is immediate danger call 999
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# 10 Myths about reporting

It is not as easy as we think to report Child abuse, people think they are over reacting, or its not their responsibility. Here are a few Myths and and facts to help explain and understand more:~

***Myths 1. Social Services will remove the child from their parents.***

***Fact. The Child Safety legislation states that it is better for the child to remain with their parents unless in immediate danger. In most cases, social services will work with the parents to make sure the child's needs are met.***



# 10 Myths about Reporting

***Myth 2. Neglect is sad but it doesn't put the child at risk of harm, so they are better off as they are.***

***Fact. Neglect is actually the hardest forms of abuse to recover from, as it has a life-lasting impact on the child and in many cases, just extra support is all that is required for the family. By not reporting neglect, can prevent a child and the family from thriving together.***

***Myth 3. People will know who has reported them.***

***Fact. You can choose to remain anonymous***

***Myth 4. Only professionals need to report concerns.***

***Fact. Everyone has a duty to report a concern.***



# 10 Myths about Reporting

***Myth 5. Reporting a concern may make things harder for the child.***

*Fact. Nothing is harder for a child than experiencing Abuse or Neglect. By reporting it will give the child and the family the support they need.*

***Myth 6. Child Abuse is rare, or it doesn't happen in good neighbourhoods.***

*Fact. Child Abuse happens in all walks of life.*

***Myth 7. Not many children experience Abuse or Neglect.***

*Fact. Many children experience this, the reported statistics is only a small amount we know about.*



# 10 Myths about Reporting

***Myth 8. You have to be absolutely certain that your suspicions are correct.***

***Fact. You do not have to prove your concerns, Social Services will do that and take control and support the family, so it is always better to be safe than sorry.***

***Myth 9. If a child does not disclose abuse it cannot be serious.***

***Fact. Children find it hard to disclose abuse and in many case can't or won't.***


***Myth 10. Children are 'naughty' or 'attention seeking' so why report ?.***

***Fact. Crying, shouting, bullying others,angry outbursts, distractions are all signs of abuse***



# The Structure of Reporting in the UK

There are three main factors to consider when reporting a concern.

1. If you think a child is in immediate danger call 999
  1. If you work with children, you need to report the concern to the Safeguarding Team in the organisation and follow their procedures.
  1. If you have a concern about a child outside of work, you need to contact the NSPCC Helpline 0800 1111.
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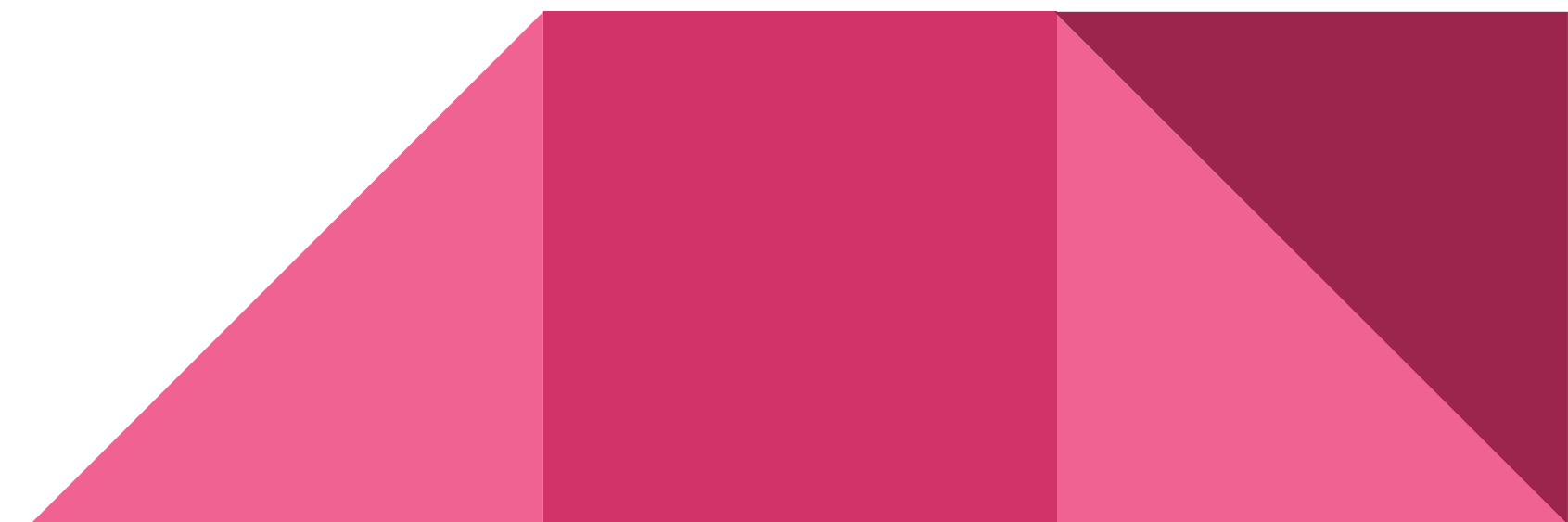
# Organisations That May Provide Support

It is better not to over think as this will worry you more, here are a few organisations who can help you to understand more.

***The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC)***

***GUIDELINES:***

***Child Maltreatment: When to Suspect Child Maltreatment Guidelines 2009.***



# Organisations that May Provide Support

## Statutory Guidelines

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015

Keeping Children Safe in Education 2015

Information Sharing - Advice for Practitioners Providing Safeguarding Services to vulnerable Children, Young People, Parents and Carers 2015

Multi Agency Practice Guidelines on Female Genital Mutilation 2014

Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage 2014



# Talking to parents

It may be your first thought to contact the child's parents to talk to them about the report but this must not happen, if you are unsure you can contact the NSPCC for advice.

Calling the child's parents could :

- Put the child at risk of more harm
- Put you or your colleagues at risk
- Interfere with the investigation
- Delay referrals to Social Services



# Referrals to Social Services

All referrals Must be reported to your Safeguarding Lead or Line Manager within 24hrs of the concern, then the following steps will be followed:-

- The local authority will deal with the referral and decide what next steps
- Some authorities will deal with this but for some, you may need to call to keep up to date of what happened
- The Safeguarding Lead will need to follow up to make sure nothing has been overlooked
- If for any reason you cannot contact the Safeguarding Lead or Line Manager, you should contact Social Services or the Police directly.

All concerns **MUST** be followed through and all contact numbers are found on the UKCB Safeguarding Policy.




# How is a Referral Made

The Designated Safeguarding Lead will make contact with Social Care to make the referral, Social Services will confirm that:

- How and why a concern has been made
- What involvement has the referer have with the family
- What the needs of the child and family appear to be
- The urgency of the referral

The referral will be followed up in writing and all the facts can be checked and you will also have a written record of your referral.



# Safeguarding Report Team

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# Useful Links & Services



[www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk](http://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk)



[www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)



[www.mind.org.uk](http://www.mind.org.uk)



[www.unicef.org](http://www.unicef.org)



[www.samaritans.org](http://www.samaritans.org)

