

- Injuries which occur to the body in places which are not normally exposed to falls or games
- Most children will collect cuts and bruises in their daily life, particularly on bony parts of their body like elbows, knees and shins. You should be more concerned by bruising which can almost only have been caused non-accidentally, is unexplained, or the explanation does not fit the injury, or where treatment isn't being sought. Bruising may be more or less noticeable on children with different skin tones or from different racial groups and specialist advice may be needed.
- Patterns of bruising that are suggestive of physical child abuse include: - bruising children who are not independently mobile
 - bruising in babies
 - bruises that are seen away from bony prominences
 - bruises to the face, back, stomach, arms, buttocks, ears and hands
 - multiple bruises in clusters or of uniform shape, or carrying the imprint of an implement used, hand marks or fingertips
- Unexplained bruising, marks or injuries on any part of the body
- Cigarette burns, bite marks, broken bones, scalds
- Injuries which have not received medical attention
- Repeated urinary infections or unexplained stomach pains

Changes in behaviour which may indicate physical abuse:

- Fear of parents being approached for an explanation
- Aggressive behaviour or severe temper outbursts
- Flinching when approached or touched

- Reluctance to get changed, for example, wearing long sleeves in hot weather
- Depression
- Withdrawn behaviour
- Running away from home

Emotional Abuse

The physical signs of emotional abuse may include:

- A failure to thrive or grow particularly if a child puts on weight in other circumstances, e.g. in hospital or away from their parents' care
 - Sudden speech disorders
 - Persistent tiredness
 - Development delay, either in terms of physical or emotional progress
- Changes in behaviour that may indicate emotional abuse include:
- Neurotic behaviour e.g. sulking, hair twisting, rocking
 - Obsessions or phobias
 - Being unable to play
 - Attention-seeking behaviour
 - Fear of making mistakes
 - Self-harm
 - Fear of parent being approached regarding their behaviour

Sexual Abuse

The physical signs of sexual abuse may include:

- Pain or itching in the genital/anal area
- Bruising or bleeding near genital/anal areas
- Sexually transmitted disease
- Vaginal discharge or infection

- Stomach pains
- Discomfort when walking or sitting down
- Pregnancy

Changes in behaviour that may indicate sexual abuse include:

- Sudden or unexplained changes in behaviour e.g. becoming withdrawn or aggressive
- Fear of being left with a specific person or group of people

- Having nightmares
- Running away from home
- Sexual knowledge which is beyond his/her age or developmental level
- Sexual drawings or language
- Bedwetting
- Eating problems such as over-eating or anorexia
- Self-harm or mutilation, sometimes leading to suicide attempts
- Saying they have secrets they cannot tell anyone about
- Substance or drug abuse
- Having unexplained sources of money
- Not allowed to have friends (particularly in adolescence)
- Acting in a sexually explicit way with adults

Neglect

The physical signs of neglect may include:

- Constant hunger, or stealing food from other children
 - Constantly dirty or smelly
 - Loss of weight or being constantly underweight
 - Inappropriate dress for the conditions
-
- Under nourishment, failure to grow, inadequate care 23

Changes in behaviour that can also indicate neglect include:

- Complaining of being tired all the time
- Untreated illnesses, not requesting medical assistance and/or failing to attend medical appointments

- Having few friends
- Being left alone, being unsupervised or being supervised by an unsuitable adult or young person

Bullying (in some circumstances bullying can be considered as emotional, physical or sexual abuse)

Bullying may be defined as deliberately hurtful behaviour, usually repeated over a period of time, where it is difficult for those bullied to defend themselves. It can take many forms, but the three main types are physical (e.g. hitting, kicking, theft), verbal (e.g. racist or homophobic remarks, threats, name calling) and emotional (e.g. isolating an individual from the activities and social acceptance of their peer group). The damage inflicted by bullying (including bullying via the internet) can frequently be underestimated. It can cause considerable distress to children, to the extent that it affects their health and development or, at the extreme, causes them significant harm (including self-harm).

Additional vulnerabilities

It is also important to be mindful that some children are particularly vulnerable to abuse because of their age or their living circumstances or characteristics. Disabled children are at greater risk of abuse than non-disabled children. Children living in homes where there are adverse parental circumstances may also be more at risk, in particular children living in homes where there is domestic violence, substance misuse and/or severe parental mental illness. Children from particularly isolated or new communities may also be at increased risk of abuse as well as those children who show challenging behaviour.

APPENDIX E

SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS REPORT FORM

Child's name

Age and date of birth

Religion

Date of tuition

Venue of tuition

Disability/special factors

Parent or guardian's name(s)

Home address and telephone number

Ethnicity

First language

Are you reporting your own concerns or passing on someone else's concerns? Please give details of concerns

Please briefly describe what has prompted the concerns (include dates, times etc. of any specific incidents)

Are there any physical or behavioural signs? What are they?

Have you spoken to the child? What did the child say?

Have you spoken to the parent/carer(s)? What did they say?

Has anybody been alleged to be the abuser? Please give details

Have you talked to anyone else about your concerns? Please give details

Who was this reported to and when?

Signature

Link Learning Safeguarding Children Policy, Procedures and Code of Practice January 2024

Print name

Job Title

Date

This form must be completed and given immediately, or sent in a sealed envelope marked 'Private & Confidential' within 24 hours, to Link Learning's Designated Safeguarding Person:

Samuel Richardson
Link Learning
50 Norwich

Park Hill
Sheffield S2 5YJ

United Kingdom

Actions following completion of safeguarding concerns form

Date and time	Details of any discussions, liaison with others, sections, information shared and outcomes	Completed by (name and job title)

APPENDIX F

Principles for information sharing

The government (HM Government Information Sharing: Guidance for practitioners and managers) has produced a list of ‘seven golden rules’ to support organisations and their workers when making decisions about when it is appropriate to share information with others, these are:

- 1. Remember that the Data Protection Act 1998 is not a barrier to sharing information** but provides a framework to ensure that personal information about living persons is shared appropriately.

2. **Be open and honest** with the person (and/or their family where appropriate) from the outset about why, what, how and with whom information, will, or could be shared, and seek their agreement, unless it is unsafe or inappropriate to do so.
3. **Seek advice** if you are in any doubt, without disclosing the identity of the person where possible.
4. **Share with consent where appropriate** and, where possible, respect the wishes of those who do not consent to share confidential information. You may still share information without consent if, in your judgement, the lack of consent can be overridden in the public interest. You will need to base your judgement on the facts of the case.
5. **Consider safety and well-being:** Base your information sharing decisions on considerations of the safety and well-being of the person and others who may be affected by their actions.
6. **Necessary, proportionate, relevant, accurate, timely and secure:** Ensure that the information you share is necessary for the purpose for which you are sharing it, is shared only with those people who need to have it, is accurate and up-to-date, is shared in a timely fashion, and is shared securely.
7. **Keep a record** of your decision and the reasons for it – whether it is to share information or not. If you decide to share, then record what you have shared, with whom and for what purpose.

APPENDIX G

Referral contact points for children across the UK

The majority of Link Learning's workforce lives in England and hence this safeguarding document has been framed around the English law and terminology. However, Link Learning recognises that there are differences within each devolved nation both in terms of legislation and the terminology used to describe children services, so this additional guidance is provided for clarification. If anyone is in any doubt about who best to refer to they should ring the 24 hour NSPCC Helpline for advice on 0808 800 5000. If a situation arises at an event where a child is at immediate risk of harm (e.g. child injured, child refusing to go home, parent unfit to care etc.) then the local children's social

care team/police should be contacted rather than those in the area where the child lives. Equally this applies to urgent medical attention which should be sought from the nearest hospital to the event.

Country	Agencies to contact	Telephone numbers
SCOTLAND		
Concerns about a child or Concerns about a member of staff/volunteer	Local authority child protection social work team in the area where the child lives	See a list of all local councils in Scotland from the Scottish Government's website
	The National Child Protection Line in Scotland	0800 022 3222
	Police (in an emergency) - Local child protection investigation unit	Should be publically available or 999 for emergency
	NSPCC Helpline	0808 800 5000
NORTHERN IRELAND		
Concerns about a child or Concerns about a member of staff/volunteer	Gateway Teams for Children's Social Work at the Health and Social Care Trust in the area the child lives	A list of these is available on the 'Health and Social Care in Northern Ireland' website
	Police Services of Northern Ireland	In an emergency dial 999 (an emergency is where serious injury has been caused or a crime is in progress and the suspects are at or near the scene.) Non-emergency and general enquiries telephone number 0845 600 8000
	NSPCC Helpline	0808 800 5000

