OSCP Safeguarding Children Single Agency Induction / Foundation Awareness (Inter Collegiate Level 1)

Nothing is more important than children's welfare. Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children means protecting children from physical, emotional, sexual abuse, exploitation and neglect within or outside the home. It also means helping children to grow up into confident, healthy and happy adults. This document is the first of 3 levels of training for all people who have infrequent contact with children and / or families but do not work directly with children, **and** for all staff working with children as part of their induction and the beginning of their safeguarding CPD in either a paid or voluntary roles across Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. If they have not already done so, ask your employer to talk through this information with you and tell you who to contact within your organisation if you have concerns.

What is child abuse?

A form of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Harm can include ill treatment that is not physical as well as the impact of witnessing ill treatment of others. This can be particularly relevant, for example, in relation to the impact on children of all forms of domestic abuse, including where they see, hear, or experience its effects. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or extra-familial contexts by those known to them or, more rarely, by others. Abuse can take place wholly online, or technology may be used to facilitate offline abuse. Children may be abused by an adult or adults, or another child or children.

Reporting Concerns - Who to contact

If you or someone you know is being hurt or is very unsafe right now, you should dial 999.

If you are concerned about a child's welfare or worried they are being abused, you can make a referral to:

Cornwall Multi-Agency Support & Safeguarding Hub

(MASSH): 0300 123 1116 Out of Hours Service: 01208 251300

Isles of Scilly **Children's Social Care**: 0300 1234 105 Option 5

Out of Hours Service: 01720 422699

If you have concerns about a professional or volunteer working with a child you need to contact the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

It doesn't matter if you are a paid worker, a volunteer or a member of the community, you have a responsibility to act if you are worried about a child. It is not your responsibility to investigate child abuse but you should tell the appropriate person within your organisation.

Each agency will have someone who has a responsibility for child protection and safeguarding issues - they have had training to know what to do next. It will be this person's job to decide whether to pass your concerns on. If necessary they will speak to Children's Social Care or the police. The police and social workers can then decide whether they need to investigate your concerns.

Legislation & Guidance

- Working Together 2026
- Keeping children safe in education
- Safeguarding guidance for providers of activities, after-school clubs, tuition and other out-of-school settings
- South West Child Protection Procedures

Always Remember:
Abuse is Never The Child's Choice and is Never The Child's Fault

Types of abuse

Physical abuse

This can involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or otherwise causing physical harm to a child on purpose. It may also include fabricating symptoms or deliberately causing ill health to a child.

The child may present with an unexplained injury, a delay in hospital presentation, inconsistency in the history given, any injuries or bruises in a non-mobile infant or child.

Emotional abuse

This can involve mistreating a child by persistently telling them they are unloved or inadequate, causing severe and persistent adverse effects on their self-esteem, wellbeing and development.

There is some emotional abuse in all forms of abuse.

Sexual abuse

Forcing/enticing a child to take part in sexual activities, either physical or non-contact, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening.

Sexual abuse can take place online, and technology can be used to facilitate offline abuse. Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

Possible indicators may include: pregnancy or STIs in a child under 13, developmentally inappropriate sexualised behaviour, repeated urinary infections etc.

Child sexual exploitation

Occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator.

The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.

Child criminal exploitation

Where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into any criminal activity

- in exchange for something the victim needs or wants,
- and/or for the financial or other advantage of the perpetrator or facilitator
- and/or through violence or the threat of violence

The victim may have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears consensual. Child criminal exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.

Neglect

The persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development.

This may include unmet health care or dental care needs, inadequate food or clothing, not attending medical appointments. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

Please visit the NSPCC website for more information about signs and indicators of abuse.

Make a note

here of the name and contact details of 2 people in your organisation that you should talk to if you're concerned about a child

Person One .....

Person Two .....

More information

Please visit the OSCP Website for signposting to further resources and information.