



## Working Together to Safeguard Children in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly

### Safeguarding Children Single Agency Induction Training (Inter Collegiate Level 1)

This document is the first of 3 levels of training for people who work in either a paid or voluntary role with children in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. If they have not already done so, ask your employer to talk through this leaflet with you and tell you who to contact within your organisation if you have concerns. If you think you need further training talk to the person who gave you this leaflet or to your manager.

### What is Child Abuse?

Abuse and neglect are forms of maltreatment against a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm or failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in the family, in institutions, in community settings, by those known or more rarely by those unknown. They may be abused by adults or by other children.

### Types of abuse

#### Physical Abuse

This can involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. 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.

#### Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) / Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

Forcing/enticing a child to take part in sexual activities, including non-contact, whether or not the child

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

CSE is a form of child sexual abuse. The particular characteristics are an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under 18 into sexual activity, in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, for financial gain or increased status of the perpetrator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. It is never the victim's fault.

#### Neglect

Persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical or emotional needs which is likely to result in the serious impairment in the child's health or development. This may include: children not brought to appointments or repeated cancelled appointments for medical care.

### Who should I talk to if I am concerned about a child?

**Claire Merrifield — Designated Child Protection Officer / Assistant head teacher**

**Kieran Walsh — Headteacher / Deputy Designated Child Protection Officer**

**Jayne Pascoe — Learning Mentor / Deputy Designated Child Protection Office**

## Remember -

It is not your responsibility to investigate child abuse but you should tell the appropriate person within your organisation. 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.



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## Remember -

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.

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.

## Professional Differences

If you do not agree with the advice you are given and feel a child remains at risk of harm, it is your professional responsibility to take further action. You can use the **OSCP Resolving Professional Differences Policy** for guidance:

<https://ciossafeguarding.org.uk/scp/p/our-policies-and-procedures/policy>

## Contact information

Our Safeguarding Children Partnership website:

<https://ciossafeguarding.org.uk/scp>

Emergency Services	999
Devon and Cornwall Police	101
Cornwall Children's Social Care Multi-Agency Referral Unit (MARU)	0300 1231 116
Cornwall Children's Social Care - out of hours	01208 251300
Isles of Scilly Children's Social Care	01720 424354
Isles of Scilly Children's Social Care - out of hours	01720 422699



## Relevant Legislation and Guidance

- South West Child Protection Procedures – [www.swcpp.org.uk](http://www.swcpp.org.uk)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (DFE, 2018)
- What to do if you're worried a child is being abused (DFE, 2015)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education

OSCP website: <https://ciossafeguarding.org.uk/scp>



Check out the [Safeguarding website](#) for:

- News and [Coronavirus safeguarding updates](#)
- Information for professionals, including teachers and GPs
- [On-line safety information](#) for parents and carers
- [Information](#) for children and young people