

# Child Protection Guidance for Independent Contractors

Norfolk

Independent contractors and their staff have key roles to play in the identification of children who may have been abused and those who are at risk of abuse and in subsequent intervention and protection. They are also well placed to recognise when a parent or other adult have problems that may affect their capacity as a parent or carer, or that may mean they pose a risk of harm to a child. Whilst independent contractors have responsibilities to all their patients, children may be particularly vulnerable and their welfare is paramount. All independent contractors and their staff should know when it is appropriate to refer a child to Children's Social Care for help as a child in need and know how to act on concerns that a child may be at risk of significant harm through abuse or neglect.

**The safety of the child is paramount and overrides the health practitioner's duty to the family in matters of confidentiality**

**To Do:** >>> **What to do if you are worried a child is being abused** <<<

## Consultation & Advice:

It is vital that independent contractors and their staff know who to contact at all times for advice on child protection issues. There are a number of ways that advice and consultation can be sought.

**Health:** NHS Norfolk employs a Designated Doctor and a Designated Nurse for Safeguarding Children. Part of their role is to discuss any concerns that an independent contractor or a member of their staff may have regarding a child that they have concerns about. They can be contacted during normal office hours;

Designated Doctor, Safeguarding Children, NHS Norfolk: Dr Sue Zeitlin : 01603 257164 – 07887 650874  
Designated Nurse, Safeguarding Children, NHS Norfolk : Jane Black : 01603 257164 – 07770 971672

For child protection concerns outside of normal working hours, where the child needs to be seen, or advice sought from a paediatrician, the on-call community paediatrician can be contacted;

Norfolk & Norwich University Hospital, Norwich 01603 286286  
Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Kings Lynn 01553 613613  
James Paget Hospital, Great Yarmouth 01493 452452

**Social Care:** Children's Services offer a professional consultation facility that any practitioner can access for advice on how to proceed with a case, or whether the case meets the criteria for referral. In these circumstances telephone the **Social Care Customer Care Line: 0844 8008014** (including out of hours) and request a consultation with the team manager in the Child Protection Assessment Service in the area in which the child lives.

**Police:** The police Vulnerable People Directorate and/or Domestic Violence Unit offer a professional consultation facility for advice on the management of a case or referral. Contact police units via: **0845 456 4567**

## Child Protection Concerns:

Any concern that a child has suffered or may be at risk of suffering significant harm must be considered for referral to Children's Services or advice taken as described above. Referral can be made by telephone to Children's Services Access Team via: **Customer Care Line: 0844 8008014 Fax No: 01603 762445**. All referrals must be followed up in writing on the LSCB assessment/referral form LSCB1\* within 48 hours of telephone referral and sent to: Children & Adult Care Services Access Service: PO Box 3210, Norwich, NR7 7AB

**✦✦ Non-mobile infants with any injury should be referred for paediatric assessment urgently ✦✦**  
Examinations for suspected sexual abuse should always be carried out by a consultant community paediatrician

## Managing concerns/allegations against staff

All staff should be aware that they must report any concern that indicates a person who works with children has

- Behaved in a way that has harmed or may have harmed a child, or
- Possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child, or
- Behaved towards a child/children in a way that indicates unsuitability to work with children

Contact Jane Black for advice/information (details above)

**URGENT!**  
**IF YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS ABOUT THE WELFARE OR SAFETY OF A CHILD AND YOU WISH TO TAKE FURTHER ADVICE OR YOU ARE UNCLEAR AS TO WHAT YOU SHOULD BE DOING, PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT THE DESIGNATED PROFESSIONALS ON: 01603 257164**

