

Who can I ask for advice?

- Speak to the social worker who is making the enquiry
- Visit the Citizens Advice Bureau at 16—17 St Mark's Street Peterborough.

If you need help in translating this leaflet, please telephone CINTRA on 01223 346 870

Jeigu Jums reikia pagalbos išsiverčiant šį informacinį lapelį, prašome skambinti į CINTRA numeriu 01223 346 870 (Lithuanian)

Se você precisar de ajuda com a tradução deste folheto favor telefonar à CINTRA no: 01223 346 870 (Portugese)

Pokud potřebujete pomoc s překladem tohoto letáčku, tak laskavě zatelefonujte CINTRU na číslo: 01223 346 870 (Czech)

Jeśli potrzebujesz pomocy w przetłumaczeniu tej broszury – proszę zadzwonić do CINTRY 01223 346 870 (Polish)

WHAT HAPPENS IN A CHILD PROTECTION ENQUIRY

**Child Protection Information
for Parents and Carers**

PSCB Website: www.pscb.org.uk

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Why are we making enquiries?

The law says that Children's Social Care Services have to make enquiries if they have concerns or worries about the safety of children who may be suffering harm.

What is harm?

- **Physical harm:** when children are physically hurt or injured by others, for instance by hitting, shaking or squeezing
- **Sexual harm:** when children are used by others to meet their own sexual needs. This might include sexual touching or showing children pornographic material including videos and on the internet
- **Emotional harm:** when children are persistently denied love and affection. Children tend to suffer when they are constantly shouted at, threatened, made fun of, rejected, picked on or live in a violent environment
- **Neglect:** where there is failure to meet a child's basic need for food, warmth, protection, education and care, including medical care

How does the enquiry start?

- Information had been received by Children's Social Care Services or the Police
- The following is a general guide to what happens in child protection enquiries. The order in which things happen, as well as the speed at which they happen, will vary

What happens next?

- Children's Social Care Services will gather information from others who have contact with your family e.g. schools, health visitors, doctors. This helps build up knowledge about your child and their background, positive things as well as any problems
- A social worker sometimes with a police officer from the Child and Domestic Abuse Investigation Unit will visit you at home to talk about the enquiry and to seek your views
- You will be asked for permission for them to speak to your child alone (if they are old enough).
- Sometimes they may need to video record the interview with your child
- In some situations your child may need a medical. If they are old enough they will be asked if this is OK

What do we do with this information?

- The social worker, team manager and police will think about whether further action is needed, and if so, what seems best
- They may need to seek advice from a child protection co-ordinator because the assessment may lead to a child protection conference
- It may be decided that further work will take place to see what support you and your family may need. This may be done by another social worker from a different team
- It may be decided that no further action is needed. You and your children will be told of this decision. Other people who have provided information will also be informed