

Safeguarding Children and Young People Statement

Safeguarding Children

NHS Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin Integrated Care Board (ICB) is committed to safeguard the wellbeing of children and young people who access services that it commissions. As a member of the Local Safeguarding Partnership Children Board (LSPCB) and in line with multi-agency West Mercia Safeguarding policy and procedures, NHS Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin ICB ensures that staff have appropriate policies, procedures, training and access to services which ensure that children and young people at risk are identified and, where appropriate a referral is made to Children's Social care.

What is 'Safeguarding Children'?

Definition of a child: someone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday

Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018) statutory guidance and The Children Act (2004) defines safeguarding children as:

- Protecting children from maltreatment;
- Preventing impairment of children's health or development;
- Ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care; and
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best life chances.

Child protection is a part of safeguarding and promoting welfare. This refers to the activity which is undertaken to protect specific children who are suffering or are at risk of suffering significant harm.

What is Child Abuse?

Child abuse is 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. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by others (e.g. via the internet). They may be abused by an adult or adults, or another child or children.

Working Together (2018)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2>

Multi-Agency Safeguarding Children Arrangements

The Local Safeguarding Partnerships are multi-agency forums and include statutory members from the Local Authority, CCG's, Police, Probation, NHS Trusts and Foundation Trusts. The chair of each LSCB is independent.

NHS Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin ICB as a Partner ensures there is representation from Executive Leads and Designated Professionals at the required Boards and sub groups.

What is a vulnerable child?

Definition of a vulnerable child:

Any child under the age of 18 including the unborn baby can suffer from abuse.

Some children are more vulnerable than others. Whilst the list is not exhaustive, risk factors include:

- 'Looked after' children those already in the care system (and care leavers)
- Children under the age of 5
- Children with disabilities
- Homeless children
- Teenage mothers
- Children in custodial settings
- Children who live with parental drug and alcohol abuse or domestic violence

If you become concerned that a child may have been, or is at risk of being abused, you should make a referral to Children's Social care (Social Services).

Urgent action to safeguard the child must be taken if the child is deemed to be in immediate danger (e.g. where appropriate dial 999 and contact the police).

DON'T DELAY – ACT TODAY

How do I make a Child Protection Referral?

To make a formal referral or to ask for advice contact:

	Telford and Wrekin	Shropshire
Mon to Fri 9-5	Family Connect 01952 385385	Initial Contact Team 0345 678 9021
Out of hours	01952 676500	0345 678 9040

For further guidance and access to West Mercia inter-agency Child Protection procedures click the links below:

<http://www.istaysafe.co.uk/>

Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership:

<http://www.safeguardingshropshireschildren.org.uk/about-us/>

Telford and Wrekin Safeguarding Partnership:

https://www.telford.gov.uk/info/20438/safeguarding_children

To access the Regional Child Protection Procedures for West Midlands; please follow the link below.

<https://westmidlands.procedures.org.uk/>