

# WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE CONCERNS ABOUT A CHILD

PRACTITIONER HAS CONCERNS ABOUT CHILD'S WELFARE

Practitioner discusses with manager and/or senior colleagues as they think appropriate. Seeking advice **SHOULD NOT DELAY** you making a safeguarding referral

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If you have concerns about a child's immediate safety contact police. You may need to call for an emergency ambulance. Other cases may also require hospital admission. This can be discussed with on-call Consultant Paediatrician

Still has concerns

No longer has concerns

To make a referral to Children's Social Care

For East Lancs patients  
Social Services Duty Team  
0300 123 6720 (24 hours)

For Blackburn with Darwen patients  
Duty Social Worker (9-5 Mon-Fri)  
01254 666400

Emergency Duty Team (out-of-hours)  
01254 587547

Practitioner refers to Children's Social Care following up in writing within 48 hours

No further child protection concerns but may need to act to ensure services provided. This may include an Early Intervention CAF

Social worker and manager acknowledge receipt of referral and decide on next course of action within one working day

Contact Social Care if no feedback received within 72 hours

No further Social Services involvement at this stage, although other action may be necessary, e.g. onward referral

Initial assessment required

Feedback to referrer on next course of action

For advice prior to referral (9-5 Mon-Fri)

For East Lancs patients  
Safeguarding Team  
01254 283399

For Blackburn with Darwen patients  
Safeguarding Team  
01254 584513

For out-of-hours advice contact the on-call Consultant Paediatrician ELHT switchboard  
01254 263555

## REMEMBER

Write **EVERYTHING** down.

Inform parents/carers that you are making a referral to Children's Social Care **UNLESS** the child may be put at increased risk of further harm (e.g. suspected sexual abuse, suspected fabricated or induced illness, female genital mutilation, organised/multiple abuse, forced marriage) or there is a risk to your own personal safety.

Don't ignore any nigglng concerns you may have. You may have information that no other professional has and this may be the **ONLY** chance to protect this child.