

## Contact Numbers

You can call someone in Stoke-on-Trent:-  
Safeguarding Referral Team - 01782 235100  
(office hours 0830 – 1700 Mon-Thurs and  
8.30-4.30 Friday)

Emergency Duty Team - 01782 234234  
(Outside office hours 1700 – 0830)

**In an emergency, you can dial 999 and ask for the police.**

You should only call 999 in an emergency, for example, if you are in immediate danger and need help straight away because someone is hurting you, or going to hurt you.

**If you require the police but it is not an emergency, you can telephone 101**

**National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty towards Children (NSPCC)**  
Telephone Number 0808 800 5000

**Child line – 0800 1111**

For general advice on parenting:

**Advice and Access Team** provides information, advice and support for individuals and families.

Telephone: 01782 232200

## Safeguarding Children Board (SCB)

[www.safeguardingchildren.stoke.gov.uk](http://www.safeguardingchildren.stoke.gov.uk)

By clicking on the Adults tab on the SCB website, parents and carers can find out more information on:

- Abuse;
- Carers;
- Child Care;
- Child Safety;
- Child Sexual Exploitation;
- Concerned about a Child;
- Drugs and Alcohol;
- Mental Health and Wellbeing;
- Missing Children;
- Report On-line Abuse;
- Supporting Children of Offenders;
- Supported Lodgings;
- Working with Families.



[www.safeguardingchildren.stoke.gov.uk](http://www.safeguardingchildren.stoke.gov.uk)

**Protecting children and young people is your responsibility too.  
What can you do?**

## Public Information Leaflet



SCB Leaflet No. 3

**2017 May**

## Background

Most children and young people enjoy generally happy childhood experiences within their own family.

Unfortunately for some, this is not the case. During difficult family times everyone has a responsibility to protect children and young people from future harm.

***Good childcare begins before a child is born. NOT SURE WHY WE NEED THIS...?***

## What is harm?

One in ten adults will have experienced harm during their childhood or youth.

Harm is ill treatment or child abuse.

Here are some examples:

## Physical abuse

- This could be any physical injury like cuts, bruises, burns, scalds or broken bones that have not happened by accident. Injuries may be caused as a result of shaking in the case of babies. It can also be when someone deliberately induces illness in a child.

## Emotional abuse

- This may involve making a child feel constantly worthless or unloved, frightened or in danger. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another FOR EXAMPLE DOMESTIC ABUSE.

## Sexual abuse

- This is when a child is made to take part in or watch sexual activities or they may be around when someone is watching pornographic material.

**In most cases sexual abuse is carried out by a person who is known to the child / young person – even a member of their own family.**

## Neglect

- A child may be left alone or left with unsuitable caregivers. They may not be fed or clothed properly or not be taken to the doctors when they are unwell. Neglect also involves not protecting a child from danger.

**What to do if you think that a child or a young person is being harmed?**

Telephone 01782 235100

Safeguarding Referral Team

or the Police on 101, straight away.

They will listen.

## Do I have to give my name?

No – it is your choice; you don't have to if you don't want to.

## What happens next?

Social workers will follow up every report where they believe a child may be at risk of harm.

They will talk to other people who know the child/young person and may be able to provide a clearer picture. This includes teachers, health visitors and members of the child's family.

After this several things could happen:

- No further action will be taken.
- Help and support will be offered to the family.
- An ASSESSMENT / investigation will take place.

## Are children taken away from home?

Very rarely. Social workers cannot remove a child from their family without the permission of the court. This only happens when there are real concerns that the child will not be safe at home. Every effort is always made for the child/young person to be looked after by a relative or a friend.