

List of useful local contact numbers

Social Work Department

Alexandria/Dumbarton
01389 608080

Clydebank
0141 562 8800

Social Work Standby (out of hours)
0800 811 505

Strathclyde Police Public Protection Unit
0141 532 3300

Scottish Children's Reporters Administration
0300 200 2223

Childline
0800 11 11

Parentline
0808 800 2222

National Child Protection Line
0800 022 3222

Your local **Health Visitor** who can be found through your local surgery or health centre.

This leaflet has been prepared by West Dunbartonshire Child Protection Committee. The Child Protection Committee is made up of representatives from across the main statutory and voluntary organisations in your area. The Child Protection Committee meet on a regular basis to discuss issues of local and national interest concerning the protection of children. The Child Protection Committee also promote interagency working and training in the field of child protection, and ensure local procedures are in place for responding to child protection concerns.



West Dunbartonshire
**Child Protection
Committee**

Other formats

This document can be provided in large print, Braille or on audio cassette and can be translated into different community languages.

本文件也可應要求，製作成其他語文或特大字體版本，也可製作成錄音帶。

अनुबंध पर यह दस्तावेज़ अन्य भाषाओं में, बड़े अक्षरों की दृष्टि और सुनने वाले माध्यम पर भी उपलब्ध है।

ਇਹ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਹੋਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ, ਵੱਡੇ ਅੱਖਰਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਅਤੇ ਸੁਣਨ ਵਾਲੇ ਲਈ ਵੀ ਉਪਲਬਧ ਹੋ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ।

درخواست پر یہ دستاویز دیگر زبانوں میں، بڑے حروف کی چھاپائی اور سننے والے ذرائع پر بھی تیار ہے۔

هذه الوثيقة أيضاً بلغات أخرى والأحرف للطباعة الكبيرة وبطريقة سمعية عند الطلب.

Please contact:

Corporate Communications
Council Offices
Garshake Road
Dumbarton G82 3PU
Telephone: 01389 737000

West Dunbartonshire Child Protection Committee

Information for
people worried about
**child abuse
or neglect**



West Dunbartonshire
**Child Protection
Committee**



Introduction

This leaflet is for anyone concerned that a child may be at risk of abuse or neglect.

It is everyone's responsibility to protect children.

All children have a right to grow up in a caring and safe environment. All adults have a responsibility to protect children, including:

- **Parents**
- **Family members**
- **Friends**
- **Neighbours**
- **Members of the public**
- **Professionals**

What is child abuse?

There are different types of abuse:

- **Physical injury** (*hit, kicked, punched*)
- **Physical neglect** (*not being properly fed or clothed, poor hygiene*)
- **Sexual abuse** (*inappropriate sexual behaviour or language, indecent assault, sexual intercourse*)
- **Emotional abuse** (*constantly criticised, ignored, humiliated exposed to family violence*)

What might make you concerned?

Children rarely tell if they are being abused, however, there may be signs which make you concerned and may be an indication of a child being abused or neglected.

The child may:

- **Have unexplained bruising or bruising in an unusual place**
- **Appear afraid, quiet or withdrawn**
- **Appear afraid to go home**
- **Appear hungry, tired or unkempt**
- **Be left unattended or unsupervised**
- **Have too much responsibility for their age**
- **Be acting out in a sexually inappropriate way**
- **Be misusing drugs or alcohol**

The adult may be:

- **Acting in a violent or sexual manner towards a child**
- **Misusing drink or drugs while caring for a child**
- **Verbally abusive towards a child**

If you notice any of these signs and/or are worried, please take action to protect the child.

What do I do if I am concerned?

If you are concerned about a child speak to someone. This might be a health visitor, nursery staff, teacher, family doctor, social worker, police officer or children's reporter.

Make sure you:

- **Act promptly**
- **Note your concerns**
- **Give as much information as you know about the child and family**

If the child is at risk of abuse this information will need to be shared with other agencies.



Will I need to give my name?

No. However, remaining anonymous may cause difficulties in establishing whether or not a child is at risk of abuse.

All information received will be treated confidentially and with discretion. Any details received, including your name, will not be revealed unless the child's safety requires it.

What happens next?

All information received is treated seriously and will be acted upon. This might include:

- **Checking agency records and gathering information**
- **Speaking to the child and family and assessing the situation**
- **Making sure the child is safe**

What will happen to the child and family?

Once enquiries have been completed one or more of the following might happen:

- **No further action**
- **Support or advice offered to family**
- **Referral to another agency for a service**
- **Referral to appropriate legal system**

Where Child Protection concerns are identified:

- **An inter agency meeting will be held to decide the best way to protect the child, this will include people who have a knowledge of the child and family e.g. health visitor, police, teacher, social worker and parents/carers.**

In a small number of cases, immediate emergency action may be necessary to protect the child.

If you do not share your concerns a child may be harmed.