

1 Background:

Child abuse is when a child (aged 0-18 including an unborn child) is harmed by an adult or another child/young person. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm or by failing to act to prevent harm. The Children Act 1989 outlines **Significant Harm** as the threshold which justifies compulsory intervention in family life in the best interests of children. Section 47 of the Act places a duty on local authorities to make enquiries, or cause enquiries to be made, where it has reasonable cause to suspect that a child is suffering, or is likely to suffer significant harm. 'Harm' means ill-treatment or the impairment of health or development, including that suffered from seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another.



What to do if you are worried about Child abuse or neglect



2 Why it matters:

All children have a right to protection and live their life free from abuse or harm. All adults in contact with children and young people have a duty to protect children and young people from harm (sometimes termed 'safeguarding')

Some key Legal Guidance & legislation references:

Children Act 1989 & 2004.
The Human Rights Act 1998
Family Law Act 1996
Sexual Offences Act 2003
Children and Social Work Act 2017
Information Sharing Guidance 2018
Working together to safeguard children 2018

7 What to do

Any concern about child abuse can be referred to the Complex Early Help and Safeguarding Hub
0300 303 0440 (Office hours)
0300 303 8875 (Other times)
E mail:
ehash@rochdale.gov.uk

If anyone is in immediate danger
Contact Police on 999
Call Police on 101 if you think a crime has been committed
See also www.rochdalesafeguarding.com

3 What is abuse?

Child abuse / significant harm can occur over a period of time but can also be a one-off action.

The main categories of abuse are **Physical, Emotional, Sexual & Neglect**.

To read the full definitions please visit
www.rochdalesafeguarding.com

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Concern about a professional or volunteer?

If you have concern about a professional or volunteer who is working or volunteering with children or young people you can speak to the Local Authority Designated Officer

LADO@rochdale.gov.uk or telephone 0300 3030 350.

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Information

It is important to get advice if you have a concern about child abuse or neglect whether it is taking place now or happened historically. Procedures outline that we can contact Children's Social Care, Police or the NSPCC with a concern. Anyone can make a referral or discuss a worry. (see section 7 What to Do)
Guidance & procedures can be found at
www.rochdalesafeguarding.com

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Impact of abuse and neglect

Abuse or neglect of children can have long-term effects on the child's health, development & well-being. It can impact on a child's self-esteem, emotional & behavioural development. The effects can extend into adult life leading to difficulties in forming & sustaining relationships & affect parenting ability. Physical abuse can lead to neurological damage, physical injuries, disability or death. It is important to support families via Early Help systems before situations escalate into abusive situations wherever possible. In Rochdale the Complex Early Help and Safeguarding Hub will advise and support those with concerns.