

Child Protection Policy

Mottram CE (Aided) Primary School

Key Personnel

Designated senior person:	Mrs Melissa Scattergood
Deputy designated person:	
Headteacher:	Mrs Melissa Scattergood
Nominated governor:	Mr Ian Johnson
Chair of Governors:	Mr Mark Bradshaw

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Introduction

This policy is one of a series in Mottram CE (Aided) Primary School's integrated safeguarding portfolio and has been devised using the information and guidance from 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/550499/Keeping_children_safe_in_education_Part_1.pdf) and 'Working together to Safeguard Children' (https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/592101/Working_Together_to_Safeguard_Children_20170213.pdf)

Our core safeguarding principles are:

- ✓ the school's responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children is of paramount importance
- ✓ safer children make more successful learners
- ✓ representatives of the whole-school community of pupils, parents, staff and governors will be involved in policy development and review
- ✓ policies will be reviewed annually, unless an incident or new legislation or guidance suggests the need for an interim review

Child protection statement

We recognise our moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all pupils. We endeavour to provide a safe and welcoming environment where children are respected and valued. We are alert to the signs of abuse and neglect and follow our procedures to ensure that children receive effective support, protection and justice.

The procedures contained in this policy apply to all staff and governors and are consistent with those of the Tameside Safeguarding Children Board (TSCB).

Policy principles

1. The welfare of the child is paramount
2. All children, regardless of age, gender, ability, culture, race, language, religion or sexual identity, have equal rights to protection
3. All staff have an equal responsibility to act on any suspicion or disclosure that may suggest a child is at risk of harm
4. Pupils and staff involved in child protection issues will receive appropriate support

Policy aims

1. To provide all staff with the necessary information to enable them to meet their child protection responsibilities
2. To ensure consistent good practice
3. To demonstrate the school's commitment with regard to child protection to pupils, parents and other partners
4. To contribute to the school's safeguarding portfolio

Terminology

Safeguarding and promoting of the welfare of children refers to the process of protecting children from abuse or neglect, preventing the impairment of health or development, ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care and undertaking that role so as to enable those children to have optimum life chances to enter adulthood successfully.

Child Protection refers to the processes undertaken to protect children who have been identified as suffering, or being at risk of suffering significant harm.

Parent refers to birth parents and other adults that are in a parenting role, for example step-parents, foster carers and adoptive parents.

Child refers to all young people who have not yet reached their 18th birthday.

Staff refers to all those working for or on behalf of the school, full time or part time, in either a paid or voluntary capacity.

Context

Section 175 of the Education Act 2002 requires local education authorities and the governors of maintained schools and further education (FE) colleges to make arrangements to ensure that their functions are carried out with a view to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. Section 157 of the same act and the Education (Independent Schools Standards) (England) Regulations 2003 require proprietors of independent schools (including academies and city technology colleges) to have arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children who are pupils at the school.

Research suggests that more than 10 per cent of children will suffer some form of abuse. Due to their day-to-day contact with pupils, school staff are uniquely placed to observe changes in children's behaviour and the outward signs of abuse. Children may also turn to a trusted adult in school when they are in distress or at risk. It is vital that school staff are alert to the signs of abuse and understand the procedures for reporting their concerns.

Roles and responsibilities

All schools must nominate a senior member of staff to coordinate child protection arrangements. The local authority maintains a list of all designated senior persons (DSP's) for child protection. The DSP must:

- be appropriately trained
- act as a source of support and expertise to the school community
- understand TSCB procedures
- keep written records of all concerns, ensuring that such records are stored securely, but kept separately from the pupil's general file
- refer cases of suspected abuse to children's social care or police as appropriate
- notify children's social care if a child with a child protection plan is absent for more than two days without explanation
- ensure that when a pupil with a child protection plan leaves the school, their information is passed to their new school and the pupil's social worker is informed
- attend and/or contribute to child protection conferences
- coordinate the school's contribution to child protection plans
- develop effective links with relevant statutory and voluntary agencies
- ensure that all staff sign in to indicate that they have read and understood the child protection policy
- ensure that the child protection policy is updated annually
- liaise with the nominated governor and headteacher (where the role is not carried out by the headteacher) as appropriate
- keep a record of staff attendance at child protection training
- make the child protection policy available to parents

The deputy designated person is appropriately trained and, in the absence of the designated person, carries out those functions necessary to ensure the ongoing safety and protection of pupils. In the event of the long-term absence of the designated person, the deputy will assume all of the functions above.

The Governing Body ensures that the school has:

- a DSP for child protection who is a member of the senior leadership team and who has undertaken training in inter-agency working, in addition to basic child protection training
- a child protection/safeguarding policy and procedures that are consistent with TSCB requirements, reviewed annually and made available to parents on request
- procedures for dealing with allegations of abuse made against members of staff including allegations made against the headteacher
- safer recruitment procedures that include the requirement for appropriate checks
- a training strategy that ensures all staff, including the headteacher, receive child protection training, with refresher training at three yearly intervals. The DSP should receive refresher training at two-yearly intervals
- arrangements to ensure that all temporary staff and volunteers are made aware of the school's arrangement for child protection

The governing body nominates a member (normally the chair) to be responsible for liaising with the local authority and other agencies in the event of an allegation being made against the headteacher.

An annual report will be submitted to the local authority about how the governing body's duties have been carried out. Any weaknesses will be rectified without delay.

The headteacher:

- ensures that the child protection policy and procedures are implemented and followed by all staff
- allocates sufficient time and resources to enable the DSP and deputy to carry out their roles effectively, including the assessment of pupils and attendance at strategy discussions and other necessary meetings
- ensures that all staff feel able to raise concerns about poor or unsafe practice and that such concerns are handled sensitively and in accordance with the whistle blowing procedures
- ensures that pupils' safety and welfare is addressed through the curriculum.

Good practice guidelines

To meet and maintain our responsibilities towards pupils we need to agree standards of good practice.

Good practice includes:

- treating all pupils with respect
- setting a good example by conducting ourselves appropriately
- involving pupils in decisions that affect them
- encouraging positive and safe behaviour among pupils
- being a good listener
- being alert to changes in pupils' behaviour
- recognising that challenging behaviour may be an indicator of abuse
- reading and understanding the school's child protection policy and guidance documents on wider safeguarding issues, for example bullying, physical contact and information-sharing
- asking the pupil's permission before doing anything for them of a physical nature, such as assisting with dressing, physical support during PE or administering first aid
- maintaining appropriate standards of conversation and interaction with and between pupils and avoiding the use of sexualised or derogatory language
- being aware that the personal and family circumstances and lifestyles of some pupils lead to an increased risk of abuse.

Abuse of trust

All school staff are aware that inappropriate behaviour towards pupils is unacceptable and that their conduct towards pupils must be beyond reproach.

In addition, staff should understand that, under the Sexual Offences Act 2003, it is an offence for a person over the age of 18 to have a sexual relationship with a person under the age of 18, where that person is in a position of trust, even if the relationship is consensual. This means that any sexual activity between a member of the school staff and a pupil under 18 may be a criminal offence, even if that pupil is over the age of consent.

Children who may be particularly vulnerable

Some children may have an increased risk of abuse. It is important to understand that this increase in risk is due more to attitudes and assumptions, and child protection procedures that fail to acknowledge children's diverse circumstances, rather than the individual child's personality, impairment or circumstances. Many factors can contribute to an increase in risk, including prejudice and discrimination, isolation, social exclusion, communication issues and reluctance on the part of some adults to accept that abuse can occur.

To ensure that all of our pupils receive equal protection, we will give special consideration to children who are:

- ✓ disabled or have special educational needs
- ✓ living in a domestic abuse situation
- ✓ affected by parental substance misuse
- ✓ asylum seekers
- ✓ living away from home
- ✓ vulnerable to being bullied, or engaging in bullying
- ✓ living in temporary accommodation
- ✓ live transient lifestyles
- ✓ living in chaotic and unsupportive home situations
- ✓ vulnerable to discrimination and maltreatment on the grounds of race, ethnicity, religion or sexuality
- ✓ involved directly or indirectly in prostitution or child trafficking
- ✓ do not have English as a first language.
- ✓ Special consideration includes the provision of safeguarding information and resources in community languages and accessible formats.

If staff members have any **concerns** about a child (as opposed to a child being in immediate danger) they will need to decide what action to take. Where possible, there should be a conversation with the designated safeguarding lead to agree a course of action, although any staff member can make a referral to children's social care. Other options could include referral to specialist services or early help services and should be made in accordance with the referral threshold set by the Local Safeguarding Children Board.

If anyone other than the designated safeguarding lead makes the referral, they should inform the designated safeguarding lead as soon as possible. The local authority should make a decision within one working day of a referral being made about what course of action they are taking and should let the referrer know the outcome. Staff should follow up on a referral should that information not be forthcoming. The online tool; Reporting child abuse to your local council directs staff to their local children's social care contact number.

If, after a referral, the child's situation does not appear to be improving, the designated safeguarding lead (or the person who made the referral) should press for re-consideration to ensure their concerns have been addressed and, most importantly, that the child's situation improves.

If a teacher, in the course of their work in the profession, discovers that an act of Female Genital Mutilation appears to have been carried out on a girl under the age of 18, the teacher must report this to the police.

If a child is in immediate danger or is at risk of harm, a referral should be made to children's social care and/or the police immediately. Anyone can make a referral. Where referrals are not made by the designated safeguarding lead, the designated safeguarding lead should be informed as soon as possible that a referral has been made. Reporting child abuse to your local council directs staff to their local children's social care contact number.

It is important for children to receive the right help at the right time to address risks and prevent issues escalating. Research and Serious Case Reviews have repeatedly shown the dangers of failing to take effective action. Poor practice includes: failing to act on and refer the early signs of abuse and neglect; poor record keeping; failing to listen to the views of the child; failing to re-assess concerns when situations do not improve; sharing information too slowly; and a lack of challenge to those who appear not to be taking action.

Detailed information on early help can be found in Chapter 1 of Working together to safeguard children https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/592101/Working_Together_to_Safeguard_Children_20170213.pdf
General guidance can be found at - Advice on whistleblowing <https://www.gov.uk/whistleblowing>

The NSPCC whistleblowing helpline is available for staff who do not feel able to raise concerns regarding child protection failures internally. Staff can call 0800 028 0285 – line is available from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM, Monday to Friday and email: help@nspcc.org.uk

Expert and professional organisations are best placed to provide up-to-date guidance and practical support on specific safeguarding issues. For example, information for schools and colleges can be found on the TES (<https://www.tes.com/teaching-resources>), MindEd (<https://www.edf.org.uk/programmes/minded/#/dr>) and the NSPCC (<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-abuse-and-neglect/>) websites.

School and college staff can access government guidance as required on the issues listed below via GOV.UK and other government websites:

- bullying including cyber bullying
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/623895/Preventing_and_tackling_bullying_advice.pdf
- children missing education
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/550416/Children_Missing_Education_-_statutory_guidance.pdf
- child missing from home or care
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/307867/Statutory_Guidance_-_Missing_from_care_3_.pdf
- child sexual exploitation (CSE)
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/419604/What_to_do_if_you_re_worried_a_child_is_being_abused.pdf
- domestic violence <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/domestic-violence-and-abuse>
- drugs https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/270169/drug_advice_for_schools.pdf
- fabricated or induced illness
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/277314/Safeguarding_Children_in_whom_illness_is_fabricated_or_induced.pdf
- faith abuse
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/175437/Action_Plan_-_Abuse_linked_to_Faith_or_Belief.pdf
- female genital mutilation (FGM)
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/512906/Multi_Agency_Statutory_Guidance_on_FGM_-_FINAL.pdf
- forced marriage
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/322307/HMG_MULTIAGENCYPRACTICEGUIDELINES_v1180614_FINAL.pdf
Contact: 020 7008 0151 or email fm@fco.gov.uk
- gangs and youth violence
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/418131/Preventing_youth_violence_and_gang_involvement_v3_March2015.pdf
- gender-based violence/violence against women and girls (VAWG)
<https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/violence-against-women-and-girls>
- hate <https://educateagainsthate.com/>
- mental health
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/508847/MentalHealthandBehaviour-adviceforSchools160316.pdf
- missing children and adults
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/117793/missing-persons-strategy.pdf
- private fostering https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/274414/Children_Act_1989_private_fostering.pdf
- preventing radicalisation
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/445977/3799_Revised_Prevent_Duty_Guidance_England_Wales_V2-Interactive.pdf
- relationship abuse <https://www.disrespectnobody.co.uk/relationship-abuse/what-is-relationship-abuse/>
- sexting <https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/uk-council-for-child-internet-safety-ukccis>
- trafficking https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/177033/DFE-00084-2011.pdf

Further information on a child missing from education

All children, regardless of their circumstances, are entitled to a full time education, which is suitable to their age, ability, aptitude and any special educational needs they may have. Local authorities have a duty to establish, as far as it is possible to do so, the identity of children of compulsory school age who are missing education in their area. Effective information sharing between parents, schools, colleges and local authorities is critical to ensuring that all children are safe and receiving suitable education.

A child going missing from education is a potential indicator of abuse or neglect and such children are at risk of being victims of harm, exploitation or radicalisation. School and college staff should follow their procedures for unauthorised absence and for dealing with children that go missing from education, particularly on repeat occasions, to help identify the risk of abuse and neglect, including sexual exploitation, and to help prevent the risks of going missing in future.

Schools and colleges should put in place appropriate safeguarding policies, procedures and responses for children who go missing from education, particularly on repeat occasions. It is essential that all staff are alert to signs to look out for and the individual triggers to be aware of when considering the risks of potential safeguarding concerns such as travelling to conflict zones, female genital mutilation and forced marriage. Further information about children at risk of missing education can be found in the Children Missing Education guidance.

The law requires all schools to have an admission register and, with the exception of schools where all pupils are boarders, an attendance register. All pupils must be placed on both registers. Schools must place pupils on the admission register at the beginning of the first day on which the school has agreed, or been notified, that the pupil will attend the school. If a pupil fails to attend on the agreed or notified date, the school should consider notifying the local authority at the earliest opportunity to prevent the child from going missing from education.

It is important that the admission register is accurate and kept up to date. Schools should regularly encourage parents to inform them of any changes whenever they occur. This can assist the school and local authority when making enquiries to locate children missing education. Schools should monitor attendance and address it when it is poor or irregular. All schools must inform the local authority of any pupil who fails to attend school regularly, or has been absent without the school's permission for a continuous period of 10 school days or more, at such intervals as are agreed between the school and the local authority.

Where a parent notifies a school that a pupil will live at another address, all schools are required to record in the admission register:

- the full name of the parent with whom the pupil will live;
- the new address; and
- the date from when it is expected the pupil will live at this address.

Where a parent of a pupil notifies the school that the pupil is registered at another school or will be attending a different school in future, schools must record in the admission register:

- the name of the new school; and
- the date on which the pupil first attended or is due to start attending that school.

Schools are required to notify the local authority within five days when a pupil's name is added to the admission register. Schools will need to provide the local authority with all the information held within the admission register about the pupil. This duty does not apply to pupils who are registered at the start of the school's youngest year, unless the local authority requests for such information to be provided.

Schools must also notify the local authority when a pupil's name is to be deleted from the admission register under any of the fifteen grounds set out in the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 as amended, as soon as the ground for deletion is met and no later than the time at which the pupil's name is deleted from the register. This duty does not apply where the pupil has completed the school's final year, unless the local authority requests for such information to be provided.

A pupil's name can only be deleted from the admission register under regulation 8(1), sub-paragraph (f) (iii) or (h) (iii) if the school and the local authority have failed to establish the pupil's whereabouts after jointly making reasonable enquiries. Advice on carrying out reasonable enquiries can be found in the Children Missing Education guidance.

Where a school notifies a local authority that a pupil's name is to be deleted from the admission register, the school must provide the local authority with:

- the full name of the pupil;
- the full name and address of any parent with whom the pupil lives;
- at least one telephone number of the parent with whom the pupil lives;
- the full name and address of the parent with whom the pupil is going to live, and the date the pupil is expected to start living there, if applicable;
- the name of pupil's destination school and the pupil's expected start date there, if applicable; and
- the ground in regulation 8 under which the pupil's name is to be deleted from the admission register.

Schools and local authorities should work together to agree on methods of making returns. When making returns, the school should highlight to the local authority where they have been unable to obtain the necessary information from the parent, for example in cases where the child's destination school or address is unknown. Schools should also consider whether it is appropriate to highlight any contextual information of a vulnerable child who is missing education, such as any safeguarding concerns.

It is essential that schools comply with these duties, so that local authorities can, as part of their duty to identify children of compulsory school age who are missing education, follow up with any child who might be at risk of not receiving an education and who might be at risk of being harmed, exploited or radicalised.

The department provides a secure internet system – school2school – to allow schools to transfer pupil information to another school when the child moves. All local authority maintained schools are required, when a pupil ceases to be registered at their school and becomes a registered pupil at another school in England or Wales, to send a Common Transfer File (CTF) to the new school. Academies (including free schools) are also strongly encouraged to send CTFs when a pupil leaves to attend another school. Independent schools can be given access to school2school by the department.

The school2school website also contains a searchable area, commonly referred to as the 'Lost Pupil Database', where schools can upload CTFs of pupils who have left but their destination or next school is unknown or the child has moved abroad or transferred to a non-maintained school. If a pupil arrives in a school and the previous school is unknown, schools should contact their local authority who will be able to search the database.

Child abuse is devastating for the child and can also result in distress and anxiety for staff who become involved. We will support pupils and their families and staff by:

- ✓ taking all suspicions and disclosures seriously
- ✓ nominating a link person who will keep all parties informed and be the central point of contact. Where a member of staff is the subject of an allegation made by a pupil, separate link people will be nominated to avoid any conflict of interest
- ✓ responding sympathetically to any request from pupils or staff for time out to deal with distress or anxiety
- ✓ maintaining confidentiality and sharing information on a need-to-know basis only with relevant individuals and agencies
- ✓ storing records securely
- ✓ offering details of help lines, counselling or other avenues of external support
- ✓ following the procedures laid down in our whistle blowing, complaints and disciplinary procedures
- ✓ co-operating fully with relevant statutory agencies.

Complaints Procedure

Our complaints procedure will be followed where a pupil or parent raises a concern about poor practice towards a pupil that initially does not reach the threshold for child protection action. Poor practice examples include unfairly singling out a pupil, using sarcasm or humiliation as a form of control, bullying or belittling a pupil or discriminating against them in some way. Complaints are managed by senior staff, the headteacher and governors. Complaints from staff are dealt with under the school's complaints and disciplinary and grievance procedures.

If you have concerns about a colleague

Staff who are concerned about the conduct of a colleague towards a pupil are undoubtedly placed in a very difficult situation. They may worry that they have misunderstood the situation and they will wonder whether a report could jeopardise their colleague's career. All staff must remember that the welfare of the child is paramount. The school's whistle blowing code (appendix 2) enables staff to raise concerns or allegations in confidence and for a sensitive enquiry to take place. All concerns of poor practice or possible child abuse by colleagues should be reported to the headteacher. Complaints about the headteacher should be reported to the chair of governors.

Staff who are the subject of an allegation

When an allegation is made against a member of staff, set procedures must be followed. It is rare for a child to make an entirely false or malicious allegation, although misunderstandings and misinterpretations of events can and do happen. A child may also make an allegation against an innocent party because they are too afraid to name the real perpetrator. Even so, we must accept that some professionals do pose a serious risk to pupils and we must act on every allegation. Staff who are the subject of an allegation have the right to have their case dealt with fairly, quickly and consistently and to be kept informed of its progress. Suspension is not mandatory, nor is it automatic but, in some cases, staff may be suspended where this is deemed to be the best way to ensure that children are protected.

Allegations against staff should be reported to the headteacher. Allegations against the headteacher should be reported to the chair of governors.

Staff training

It is important that all staff have training to enable them to recognise the possible signs of abuse and neglect and to know what to do if they have a concern. New staff and governors will receive training during their induction. All staff, including the headteacher (unless the headteacher is the DP) and governors will receive training that is updated at least every three years and the DSP will receive training updated at least every two years, including training in inter-agency procedures. Supply staff and other visiting staff will be given the safer schools pamphlet (see: appendix 1).

Safer recruitment

Mottram CE (Aided) Primary School endeavours to ensure that we do our utmost to employ 'safe' staff by following the guidance in *Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education* (pp20-54) together with the local authority and the school's individual procedures.

Safer recruitment means that all applicants will:

- complete an application form
- provide two referees, including at least one who can comment on the applicant's suitability to work with children
- provide evidence of identity and qualifications
- be checked through the Criminal Records Bureau as appropriate to their role and be registered with the Independent Safeguarding Authority (from 2010 onwards)
- be interviewed

All new members of staff will undergo an induction that includes familiarisation with the school's child protection policy and identification of their child protection training needs.

All staff sign to confirm they have received a copy of the child protection policy (see: Appendix 3).

Extended school and off-site arrangements

Where extended school activities are provided by and managed by the school, our own child protection policy and procedures apply. If other organisations provide services or activities on our site we will check that they have appropriate procedures in place, including safer recruitment procedures. When our pupils attend off-site activities, we will check that effective child protection arrangements are in place.

Photography and images

The vast majority of people who take or view photographs or videos of children do so for entirely innocent, understandable and acceptable reasons. Sadly, some people abuse children through taking or using images, so we must ensure that we have some safeguards in place. To protect pupils we will:

- ✓ seek their consent for photographs to be taken or published (for example, on our website or in newspapers or publications)
- ✓ seek parental consent
- ✓ use only the pupil's first name with an image
- ✓ ensure pupils are appropriately dressed
- ✓ encourage pupils to tell us if they are worried about any photographs that are taken of them.

E-Safety

Most of our pupils will use mobile phones and computers at some time. They are a source of fun, entertainment, communication and education. However, we know that some men, women and young people will use these technologies to harm children. The harm might range from sending hurtful or abusive texts and emails, to enticing children to engage in sexually harmful conversations, webcam photography or face-to-face meetings. The school's e-safety policy explains how we try to keep pupils safe in school. Cyber-bullying by pupils, via texts and emails, will be treated as seriously as any other type of bullying and will be managed through our anti-bullying procedures.

Chatrooms and social networking sites are the more obvious sources of inappropriate and harmful behaviour and pupils are not allowed to access these sites in school. Some pupils will undoubtedly be 'chatting' on mobiles or social networking sites at home and we have produced a short factsheet to help parents and pupils understand the possible risks.

Child protection procedures

Recognising abuse

To ensure that our pupils are protected from harm, we need to understand what types of behaviour constitute abuse and neglect.

Abuse and neglect are forms of maltreatment. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, for example by hitting them, or by failing to act to prevent harm, for example by leaving a small child home alone, or leaving knives or matches within reach of an unattended toddler.

There are four categories of abuse: physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse and neglect.

Physical abuse

Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused

when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces illness in a child (this used to be called Munchausen's Syndrome by Proxy, but is now more usually referred to as fabricated or induced illness).

Emotional abuse

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child, such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate or valued only for meeting the needs of another person. It may feature age – or developmentally-inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond the child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying, causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, although it may occur alone.

Sexual abuse

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, including prostitution, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including penetrative (for example, rape, buggery or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts. They may include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, pornographic material or watching sexual activities, or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

Neglect

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance misuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to provide adequate food and clothing or shelter, including exclusion from home or abandonment; failing to protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger; failure to ensure adequate supervision, including the use of inadequate care-takers; or the failure to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

Definitions taken from *Working Together to Safeguard Children* (HM Government, September 2016).

Bullying

While bullying between children is not a separate category of abuse and neglect, it is a very serious issue that can cause considerable anxiety and distress. At its most serious level, bullying is thought to result in up to 12 child suicides each year.

All incidences of bullying should be reported and will be managed through our anti-bullying procedures. All pupils and parents receive a copy of the anti-bullying procedures on joining the school and the subject of bullying is addressed at regular intervals in the personal, social and health education (PSHE) curriculum. During the Autumn Term the whole school takes part in national anti-bullying week to ensure key anti-bullying messages are reinforced. If the bullying is particularly serious, or the anti-bullying procedures are deemed to be ineffective, the headteacher and the DSP will consider implementing child protection procedures.

Indicators of abuse – what you might see

Physical signs define some types of abuse, for example, bruising, bleeding or broken bones resulting from physical or sexual abuse, or injuries sustained while a child has been inadequately supervised. The identification of physical signs is complicated, as children may go to great lengths to hide injuries, often because they are ashamed or embarrassed, or their abuser has threatened further violence or trauma if they 'tell'. It is also quite difficult for anyone without medical training to categorise injuries into accidental or deliberate with any degree of

certainty. For these reasons it is vital that staff are also aware of the range of behavioural indicators of abuse and report any concerns to the designated person.

Remember, it is your responsibility to report your concerns. It is not your responsibility to investigate or decide whether a child has been abused.

A child who is being abused or neglected may:

- have bruises, bleeding, burns, fractures or other injuries
- show signs of pain or discomfort
- keep arms and legs covered, even in warm weather
- be concerned about changing for PE or swimming
- look unkempt and uncared for
- change their eating habits
- have difficulty in making or sustaining friendships
- appear fearful
- be reckless with regard to their own or other's safety
- self-harm
- frequently miss school or arrive late
- show signs of not wanting to go home
- display a change in behaviour – from quiet to aggressive, or happy-go-lucky to withdrawn
- challenge authority
- become disinterested in their school work
- be constantly tired or preoccupied
- be wary of physical contact
- be involved in, or particularly knowledgeable about drugs or alcohol
- display sexual knowledge or behaviour beyond that normally expected for their age.

Individual indicators will rarely, in isolation, provide conclusive evidence of abuse. They should be viewed as part of a jigsaw, and each small piece of information will help the DSP to decide how to proceed. It is very important that you report your concerns – you do not need 'absolute proof' that the child is at risk.

Impact of abuse

The impact of child abuse should not be underestimated. Many children do recover well and go on to lead healthy, happy and productive lives, although most adult survivors agree that the emotional scars remain, however well buried. For some children, full recovery is beyond their reach, and the rest of their childhood and their adulthood may be characterised by anxiety or depression, self-harm, eating disorders, alcohol and substance misuse, unequal and destructive relationships and long-term medical or psychiatric difficulties.

Taking action

Key points to remember for taking action are:

- in an emergency take the action necessary to help the child, for example, call 999
- report your concern to the DSP by the end of the day
- do not start your own investigation
- share information on a need-to-know basis only – do not discuss the issue with colleagues, friends or family
- complete a record of concern
- seek support for yourself if you are distressed.

Appendix 5 provides a flowchart for reporting a concern.

If you suspect a pupil is at risk of harm

There will be occasions when you suspect that a pupil may be at risk, but you have no 'real' evidence. The pupil's behaviour may have changed, their artwork could be bizarre, they may write stories or poetry that reveal confusion or distress, or you may have noticed physical but inconclusive signs. In these circumstances, you should try to give the pupil the opportunity to talk. The signs you have noticed may be due to a variety of factors, for example, a parent has

moved out, a pet has died, a grandparent is very ill. It is fine to ask the pupil if they are OK or if you can help in any way.

Use the welfare concern form (see: Appendix 5) to record these early concerns. If the pupil does begin to reveal that they are being harmed you should follow the advice in the section 'If a pupil discloses to you'.

If, following your conversation, you remain concerned, you should discuss your concerns with the designated person.

If a pupil discloses to you

It takes a lot of courage for a child to disclose that they are being abused. They may feel ashamed, particularly if the abuse is sexual, their abuser may have threatened what will happen if they tell, they may have lost all trust in adults, or they may believe, or have been told, that the abuse is their own fault.

If a pupil talks to you about any risks to their safety or wellbeing you will need to let them know that you must pass the information on – you are not allowed to keep secrets. The point at which you do this is a matter for professional judgement. If you jump in immediately the pupil may think that you do not want to listen, if you leave it till the very end of the conversation, the pupil may feel that you have misled them into revealing more than they would have otherwise.

During your conversation with the pupil:

- ✓ Allow them to speak freely.
- ✓ Remain calm and do not over react – the pupil may stop talking if they feel they are upsetting you.
- ✓ Give reassuring nods or words of comfort – 'I'm so sorry this has happened', 'I want to help', 'This isn't your fault', 'You are doing the right thing in talking to me'.
- ✓ Do not be afraid of silences – remember how hard this must be for the pupil.
- ✓ Under no circumstances ask investigative questions – such as how many times this has happened, whether it happens to siblings too, or what does the pupil's mother think about all this.
- ✓ At an appropriate time tell the pupil that in order to help them you must pass the information on.
- ✓ Do not automatically offer any physical touch as comfort. It may be anything but comforting to a child who has been abused.
- ✓ Avoid admonishing the child for not disclosing earlier. Saying 'I do wish you had told me about this when it started' or 'I can't believe what I'm hearing' may be your way of being supportive but the child may interpret it that they have done something wrong.
- ✓ Tell the pupil what will happen next. The pupil may agree to go with you to see the designated person. Otherwise let them know that someone will come to see them before the end of the day.
- ✓ Report verbally to the designated person.
- ✓ Write up your conversation as soon as possible on the record of concern form and hand it to the designated person.
- ✓ Seek support if you feel distressed.

Notifying parents

The school will normally seek to discuss any concerns about a pupil with their parents. This must be handled sensitively and the DSP will make contact with the parent in the event of a concern, suspicion or disclosure.

However, if the school believes that notifying parents could increase the risk to the child or exacerbate the problem, then advice will first be sought from children's social care.

Referral to children's social care

The DSP will make a referral to children's social care if it is believed that a pupil is suffering or is at risk of suffering significant harm. The pupil (subject to their age and understanding) and the parents will be told that a referral is being made, unless to do so would increase the risk to the child.

Children with sexually harmful behaviour

Children may be harmed by other children or young people. Staff will be aware of the harm caused by bullying and will use the school's anti-bullying procedures where necessary. However, there will be occasions when a pupil's behaviour warrants a response under child protection rather than anti-bullying procedures. In particular, research suggests that up to 30 per cent of child sexual abuse is committed by someone under the age of 18.

The management of children and young people with sexually harmful behaviour is complex and the school will work with other relevant agencies to maintain the safety of the whole school community. Young people who display such behaviour may be victims of abuse themselves and the child protection procedures will be followed for both victim and perpetrator.

Confidentiality and sharing information

All staff will understand that child protection issues warrant a high level of confidentiality, not only out of respect for the pupil and staff involved but also to ensure that being released into the public domain does not compromise evidence.

Staff should only discuss concerns with the designated person, headteacher or chair of governors (depending on who is the subject of the concern). That person will then decide who else needs to have the information and they will disseminate it on a 'need-to-know' basis.

Child protection information will be stored and handled in line with Data Protection Act 1998 principles. Information is:

- processed for limited purposes
- adequate, relevant and not excessive
- accurate
- kept no longer than necessary
- processed in accordance with the data subject's rights
- secure.

Record of concern forms and other written information will be stored in a locked facility and any electronic information will be password protected and only made available to relevant individuals.

Every effort should be made to prevent unauthorised access and sensitive information should not be stored on laptop computers, which, by the nature of their portability, could be lost or stolen. If it is necessary to store child protection information on portable media, such as a CD or flash drive, these items should also be kept in locked storage. Child protection information will be stored separately from the pupil's school file and the school file will be 'tagged' to indicate that separate information is held.

Child protection records are normally exempt from the disclosure provisions of the Data Protection Act, which means that children and parents do not have an automatic right to see them. If any member of staff receives a request from a pupil or parent to see child protection records, they should refer the request to the headteacher.

The Data Protection Act does not prevent school staff from sharing information with relevant agencies, where that information may help to protect a child.

The school's policy on confidentiality and information-sharing is available to parents and pupils on request.

Reporting directly to child protection agencies

Staff should follow the reporting procedures outlined in this policy.

However, they may also share information directly with children's social care, police or the NSPCC if:

- the situation is an emergency and the designated senior person, their deputy, the headteacher and the chair of governors are all unavailable
- they are convinced that a direct report is the only way to ensure the pupil's safety.

Related safeguarding portfolio policies:

1. Physical intervention and the use of reasonable force
2. Personal and intimate care
3. Complaints procedure
4. Anti-bullying
5. Appropriate physical contact
6. Whistle blowing
7. SEN
8. Behaviour
9. Missing children
10. Safer recruitment
11. Managing allegations
12. Grievance and disciplinary

Useful web links:

- The Multi agency statutory guidance on FGM
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/512906/Multi_Agency_Statutory_Guidance_on_FGM_-_FINAL.pdf
- Mandatory reporting of female genital mutilation procedural information.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mandatory-reporting-of-female-genital-mutilation-procedural-information>
- Multi-agency guidelines: Handling case of forced marriage.
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/322307/HMG_MULTI_AGENCY_PRACTICE_GUIDELINES_v1_180614_FINAL.pdf
Contact: 020 7008 0151 or email fmufco@fco.gov.uk
- Working Together to Safeguard Children
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children--2>
- Prevent Duty Guidance
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/445977/3799_Revised_Prevent_Duty_Guidance_England_Wales_V2-Interactive.pdf
- Channel Duty Guidance
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/425189/Channel_Duty_Guidance_April_2015.pdf
- Sexual violence and sexual harassment between children in schools and colleges
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/667862/Sexual_Harassment_and_Sexual_Violence_-_Advice.pdf

Appendix 2

Mottram CE (Aided) Primary School's Whistle blowing Code for Issues Relating to Children and Young People

Purpose of the code

The school adheres to the local authority whistle-blowing policy and procedures that enable staff to raise concerns relating to:

- crime
- a miscarriage of justice
- illegality
- health and safety
- environmental or property damage
- unauthorised use of public funds
- concealing or attempting to cover up any of the above.

This code provides additional information to help staff to understand the role of whistle-blowing in the context of poor practice and unacceptable conduct and attitudes towards children.

When to use the code

The whistle-blowing procedures and this code may be used by anyone employed by the school in a paid or voluntary capacity who believes they have reason to suspect that the conduct of an employee towards a pupil is inappropriate.

Inappropriate conduct includes, but is not confined to:

- bullying or humiliation
- contravening health and safety guidelines
- serious breaches of the school's code of ethical practice
- professional practice that falls short of normally accepted standards
- compromising pupils' welfare but in a way that does not meet the threshold for child protection intervention.

Reasons for blowing the whistle

Staff will naturally be reticent to report a concern about the conduct of a colleague. However, each individual must take responsibility for ensuring that pupils are fairly treated. If poor practice is allowed to continue unchecked, it could escalate with serious consequences.

Your action not only protects pupils, but also deters any suggestion that you have colluded with poor practice that you knew was occurring but chose to ignore.

Whistle-blowing can also support the member of staff who is the subject of the concern. Their conduct may result from inexperience or lack of training that can be addressed by the school, or they may be under stress and be relieved when their conduct is questioned.

Staff who deliberately fail pupils and show no remorse or desire to improve are unlikely to welcome being exposed, but their conduct has to be confronted for the sake of the pupils and the reputation of the whole school.

Barriers to whistle-blowing

You may worry that you have insufficient evidence to raise a concern; that you will set in train an unstoppable chain of events; that there will be adverse repercussions for your career; that you may suffer harassment or victimisation or that your suspicion or concern might be totally misplaced.

These concerns are entirely understandable but you can be reassured that whistle-blowing procedures address these issues.

The Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998 protects employees from reprisals for public interest whistle-blowing. Your union, a solicitor or the local authority legal services can provide you with information about your legal position.

Confidentiality and anonymity

All concerns are treated in confidence and, as far as possible, your identity will not be revealed if that is your wish. However, absolute confidentiality cannot be guaranteed if, as a result of an investigation, you are required to provide a witness statement or attend a court hearing.

You can, if you prefer, raise your concern anonymously. The school would need to decide whether the levity and credibility of the concern warrants investigation if the source of the concern, and the key evidence, is not readily available.

The school will fully support you and do all it can to protect you from any harassment or adverse repercussions that may arise from whistle-blowing.

Allegations that prove to be deliberately fabricated and malicious will be dealt with through staff disciplinary procedures. However, no action will be taken against any member of staff who raises a genuine concern that proves to be unfounded.

Reporting procedure

- It may help if you write down, for your own benefit, what you have observed or heard that is causing alarm. One useful way to decide whether your concern should be reported, is to consider whether you would want the conduct of this member of staff to continue unchecked if your own child or another young family member was involved.
- You may raise your concern verbally or in writing. You should report your concern directly to the headteacher.
- If the headteacher is the subject of your concern, speak to the chair of governors.
- A friend, colleague or union representative may accompany you to the meeting if you wish.
- Ensure the head or chair informs you of their proposed action and sets a date for a second meeting.
- Timescales will depend on the complexity of the initial inquiry but the case should not be allowed to stall and you should receive initial feedback within 10 working days. The timescale for subsequent feedback should then be agreed.
- Ask for clarification about confidentiality and ensure you have your wishes regarding the protection of your identity recorded.

Process and outcome

- The headteacher or chair will make enquiries to establish the facts of the matter and whether poor practice or inappropriate conduct has occurred.
- Members of the school community, including governors, may be asked to provide information or advice.
- External advice, for example, from legal or human resources or children's services may be sought.
- A written record of the conduct, established facts and outcome of the inquiry will be kept.
- The whistleblower will be kept informed of the progress of the inquiry.

The outcome of the inquiry will be one of the following:

- No poor practice or wrongdoing is established and the case is closed
- The concern has some substance and the subject of the concern will receive advice and support from the headteacher to improve practice
- Poor practice or wrongdoing is established and disciplinary proceedings are initiated
- The concern is more serious and an investigation is initiated. This investigation may involve the local authority's legal team, children's social care or the police.

If, at any stage in the process, there is reason to believe that a child is at risk of significant harm, children's social care will be immediately involved.

Further action

If you raise a concern and you are dissatisfied with the way it is managed, or the outcome, you may contact the governing body or local authority for advice.

Alternatively you can seek advice from your union or professional association, a solicitor, the police, children's social care or Public Concern at Work (PCaW), a registered charity that offers free and confidential legal advice on workplace malpractice.

Public Concern at Work

Suite 301, 16 Baldwins Gardens, London , EC1N 7RJ
020 7404 6609

whistle@pcaw.co.uk
www.pcaw.co.uk

Appendix 5



Mottram CE (Aided) Primary School's Welfare Concern Form

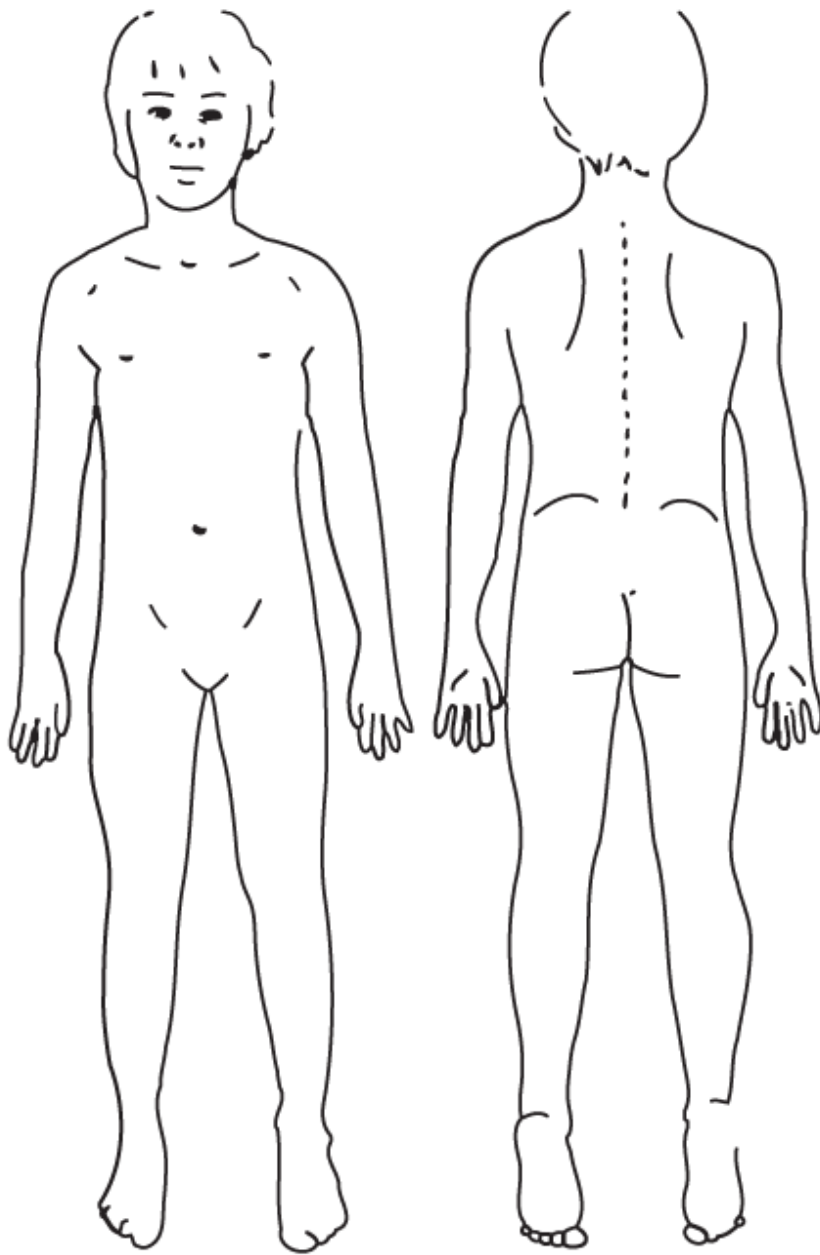
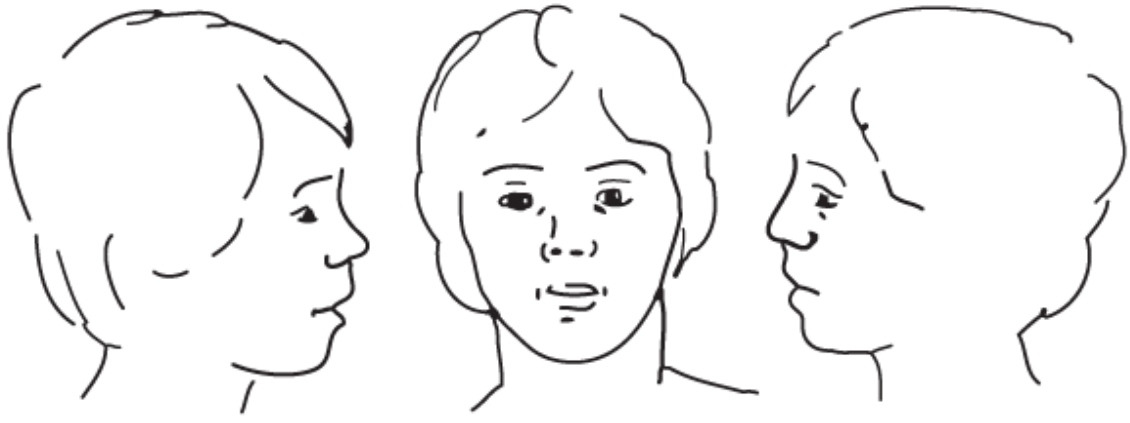
Use this form to record any concern about a pupil's welfare and give it to the designated senior person for child protection:

If you suspect the pupil may be suffering abuse or neglect, or you have received a disclosure of abuse from a pupil, or you have heard about an allegation of abuse, you must complete the child protection record of concern form instead, and hand it to the designated person today.

Pupils full name	Class Teacher
Date of this record	Class
Why are you concerned about this pupil?	What have you observed and when?
What have you heard and when?	What have you been told and when?

<p>Date and time you handed this form to the designated person</p> <p>Have you spoken to the pupil?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>Are the parents/carers aware of your concern? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>What did they say? Use the pupil's own words</p>	<p>Have you spoken to anyone else about your concern?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>If so, who?</p>
<p>Is this the first time you have been concerned about this pupil?</p>	<p>Further details</p>
<p>Your name and designation:</p>	<p>Signature:</p> <p>Date:</p>

Please pass this form to the Designated Senior Person for Child Protection



Appendix 6

Essential contacts

Name and role:	Address, telephone and email address
School designated senior person	Mrs Scattergood, Acting Headteacher, Mottram CE (Aided) Primary School, Warhill, Mottram, Hyde, Cheshire. SK14 6JL Tel: 01457 763368
Headteacher	Melissa Scattergood, Acting Headteacher, Mottram CE (Aided) Primary School, Warhill, Mottram, Hyde, Cheshire. SK14 6JL Tel: 01457 763368
Nominated governor	Mr Ian Johnson Tel:01457 763368
Deputy designated senior person	Miss Natalie Diveney Tel: 01457 763368
Staff with DSP Training	Mrs Mr Ian Johnson Mrs Melissa Scattergood
Local Authority allegation manager	Referral and Assessment Team, The Denton Centre, Acre Street, Denton, M34 2BW. 0161 342 4186/4199/4222 Team Manager: Lisa Cane 0161 342 4220 Asst Team Manager: Kim Galley 0161 342 4134 Safeguarding East Team, The Denton Centre, Acre Street, Denton, M34 2BW. Team Manager: Bridie Adams 0161 342 4154 Asst Team Manager: Joyce Bunting 0161 342 4210/4008/4206/4187
Local Authority safeguarding manager	Tameside Safeguarding Children Board Hyde Town Hall Market Street Hyde SK14 1AL Tel: 0161 342 4348 Fax: 0161 368 8612
Local authority legal services	0161 342 8355

Local Authority Human Resources	Senior HR Consultant Longdendale Schools 0161 342 3651
Children's social care	0161 342 4411
Out of hours duty team	0161 342 2222
Health authority (School Nurses)	0161 366 3900/3911/2381
CAMHS	Child and Family Therapy Services, Spring Leigh, Child Health Clinic, Waterloo Road, Stalybridge, SK15 2AU. Tel: 0161 716 3600 Fax: 0161 604 3601
Police child abuse investigation unit	0161 856 5880/9218/9251
NSPCC helpline	0808 800 5000