

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 the 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.

List of useful local contact numbers

If you are worried or know of a child who could be at risk of abuse, you can talk to staff at one of the following numbers:

Social Services - Reception Services

Kilbirnie	01505 684551
Irvine	01294 324800
Saltcoats	01294 605261
Arran	01770 600742

Strathclyde Police

At any Police office or at the Family Protection Unit 01292 664014

Standby Social Work

Out of Hours 0800 811 505

ParentLine Scotland 0808 800 2222

ChildLine 0800 1111

Scottish Children's

Reporter Administration 01294 278151

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

This leaflet has been prepared by North Ayrshire Child Protection Committee. The Child Protection Committee is made up of representatives from across the main statutory and voluntary organisations in your area.

The purpose of the Child Protection Committee is to ensure local agencies work together to protect children. Working together with the community we can be assured that all children in our area are protected from harm and given the best possible chance in life.



Partners in the Child Protection Committee:

North Ayrshire Council
Procurator Fiscal
Scottish Children's Reporters Administration
Strathclyde Police
Children 1st
NHS Ayrshire & Arran
Women's Aid



Information for people worried about child abuse or neglect

www.childprotectionnorthayrshire.info

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 to do if you are 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 you need to give your 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.

All children have a right to grow up in a caring and safe environment.