

Frequently Asked Questions

Will I need to give my name?

No you don't have to give your name when sharing a concern about a child. However, remaining anonymous may cause difficulties in establishing whether or not a child is at risk. All information received will be treated with discretion. Any details received, including your name, will not be revealed unless the child's safety requires this.

What will happen next?

The first priority for everyone is making sure that the child is safe. If extra help is needed to support a family in looking after their child safely, staff from agencies like health, education and social services will all work together to plan out how best to provide this.

What will I be told?

If you contact social services you will receive information about how the matter has been dealt with.

Remember - there is nothing more important than keeping our children safe and protected from harm, so make sure you talk to us.



For more information on keeping our children safe and protected, visit www.childprotectionnorthayrshire.info

Contact numbers

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

Social Services: 01294 310300

Police Scotland: 101

Scottish Children's Reporters Administration:
0300 200 1850/1835

You can also speak to your health visitor, who can be found through your GP surgery or health centre.

IN AN EMERGENCY CONTACT THE POLICE (999)

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 Child Protection Committee is committed to ensuring that children and young people in North Ayrshire are safe and protected.



Information for people to help
keep children safe and protected



Working together to protect
North Ayrshire's children



www.childprotectionnorthayrshire.info



Introduction

This leaflet provides general information about how you can help protect children in North Ayrshire and beyond.

All children have a right to feel safe and be protected.

It is everyone's responsibility to protect children.

Most children grow up in families where they are properly taken care of and kept safe.

Children and young people are vulnerable and they depend on adults to support and care for them. The adults who care for them need to make sure they are safe and looked after. When this is not happening, the child or young person depends on someone noticing this and doing something about it.

All adults, including parents and carers, family members, neighbours, members of the public and professionals have a responsibility to protect children.

When should you be concerned about a child's safety and protection?

Children and young people rarely tell if they are being abused, however, there may be signs that indicate a child isn't safe.

The child may:

- ★ have unexplained bruising or bruising in an unusual place
- ★ appear afraid, quiet or withdrawn
- ★ be afraid to go home
- ★ appear hungry, tired or unkempt
- ★ act out in a sexually inappropriate way
- ★ place themselves in danger (for example, misusing drugs or alcohol or running away)
- ★ be exploited by adults or others
- ★ be left alone
- ★ not receive medical treatment when they need it
- ★ be hit physically
- ★ be constantly criticised or humiliated
- ★ be sexually assaulted

Some children and young people live in stressful situations, for example:

- ★ the adults are violent
- ★ there may be domestic abuse
- ★ the adults misuse alcohol and/or drugs
- ★ the child is given too much responsibility for their age

Any or all of these factors may be present and could be indicators that the child isn't safe.

Children in these situations are the ones who need your help.

What to do if you are concerned

Sometimes it is hard to get involved in these situations. People worry about interfering or making a mistake and they worry about what will happen to a family if they report a concern; but children can't always get help for themselves - they may need you to get help for them.

Talk to us

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

If the child is in immediate danger, you should always contact the police on 999.

Make sure you:

- ★ act promptly
- ★ raise your concerns
- ★ give as much information as you can about the child and family