

If there is evidence the child is at risk of significant future harm, the child's name is placed on the child protection register. The child will be registered under one of the categories described overleaf.

Once registered, a multi agency child protection plan is drawn up for the child outlining the roles and responsibilities of everyone involved. The core group of professionals involved, along with the child's parents, meet on a regular basis to ensure the plan is progressing.

Every three months, a review child protection conference is held to review the circumstances of the child and consider the effectiveness of the child protection plan. When there is evidence that the child is no longer at risk of significant future harm, their name is removed from the child protection register.

A child's name can only be added to, or removed from, the child protection register at a child protection conference. No other meeting can make this decision.

Child Abuse & Neglect

There are five different categories of child abuse and neglect:

Physical Injury

Actual or attempted physical injury to a child, including the administration of toxic substances, where there is knowledge or reasonable suspicion, that the injury was inflicted or knowingly not prevented.

Includes hitting, punching, biting, kicking, poisoning, burning.



Physical Neglect

Persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in serious impairment of the child's health or development.

Includes failing to feed, clothe and shelter a child, failure to seek medical attention when appropriate, failure to provide adequate levels of hygiene and warmth, exposing a child to unnecessary risk.

Sexual Abuse

When any person(s), by design or neglect, exploits the child, directly or indirectly, in any activity intended to lead to the sexual arousal or other forms of gratification of that person or any other person(s), including organised networks.

Includes touching a child sexually, enticing/forcing children to use sexual language or behaviour, indecent images of children, exposing children to sexually explicit material.

Emotional Abuse

Persistent ill treatment of a child such as to cause severe adverse effects on the child's emotional development.

Includes conveying that the child is unloved, unworthy, inadequate or only valued because they meet the needs of another person.

Non-Organic Failure to Thrive

Children who significantly fail to reach normal growth and developmental milestones (i.e. physical growth, weight, motor, social and intellectual development) where physical and genetic reasons have been medically eliminated and a diagnosis of non-organic failure to thrive has been established.

Child Protection Procedures

Child Protection Investigations are carried out by qualified social workers based in Area Teams and police officers based in the Public Protection Unit. These staff are trained together in Joint Investigative Interviewing. It is not the role of any other professional or agency to undertake child protection investigations.

Once an investigation is complete, it is fully recorded in a report format called a CP1. Senior operational management in social work will then decide if there is a need to convene a multi agency child protection conference.

A child protection conference is chaired by a Senior Operational Manager in social work and is attended by all key agencies involved with the family and by the parents.

Everyone at the meeting is expected to share the information they have so that the full picture of a child's situation can be understood. All agencies are asked to provide a written report.