If you are aware that a child could be at risk of, or is being abused it is important that you let the right people know so that the right help can be given to the child and their family. **Doing nothing is not an option!**

**Phone Shropshire Council Dedicated Safeguarding Line**

First Point of Contact (FPOC) (Compass and Initial Contact Team) 0345 678 9021

Telford and Wrekin Referral Number 01952 385385

Designated Officer in the Local Authority (LADO) 0345 678 9021
(If you have a Safeguarding concern about the behaviour of a member of staff or volunteer)

**Out of hours Emergency Duty Teams:**

Shropshire 03456 789040 Telford & Wrekin 01952 676500

Public Protection Unit (West Mercia Police) 0300 333 3000

Police Emergency 999 Non-emergency 101

[www.shropshire.gov.uk](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk) click the ‘report it’ button on the home page

**Support Services**

Child Trafficking and Advice Centre (CTAC) 0800 107 7057

NSPCC (24 hour) 0808 800 5000

ChildLine 0800 1111

Shropshire Family Information Service 01743 254400

AXIS (for adult and child survivors of sexual abuse) 01743 357777 01952 278000

ISVA (Independent Sexual Violence Advisor) service 01743 243007

Samaritans 08457 909090

Victim Support (24 hours) 0808 168 9111

Domestic Abuse Helpline (24 hour run by women’s aid) 0800 783 1359

Respect Helpline (for perpetrators of domestic abuse) 0808 802 4040

Men's advice line support for male victims of domestic abuse 08088 010327

Prevent radicalisation 01386 591835

prevent@warwickshireandwestmercia.pnn.police.uk
Useful Websites

www.actionforprisonersfamilies.org.uk promotes the needs of families affected by imprisonment
www.axiscounselling.org.uk support service for adult and child survivors of sexual abuse
www.ceop.police.uk online safety and protection
www.childline.org.uk supporting children and Young People to identify and report abuse
www.educateagainsthate.com gives parents, teachers and school leaders practical advice on protecting children from extremism and radicalisation.
www.freedomshropshire.org.uk/ Information and advice on Domestic Abuse
www.karmanirvana.org.uk/help-line supporting victims of honour crimes and forced
www.mensadviceline.org.uk/ advice and support for men experiencing domestic violence and abuse
www.new.shropshire.gov.uk/early-help early help means taking action to support a child, young person or their family as soon as a problem emerges.
www.nspcc.org.uk working to identify and prevent Child abuse
www.safeguardingshropshireschildren.org.uk Shropshire Safeguarding Children Board website - designed to provide useful information and advice for professionals, parents and children.
www.stopitnow.org.uk preventing Child Sexual Abuse
www.westmercia.police.uk/article/7818/Prevent---Play-your-part is about safeguarding - supporting and protecting those people who might be susceptible to radicalisation, and ensuring that individuals and communities have the resilience to resist violent extremism.
www.womensaid.org.uk supporting women and children experiencing domestic abuse

SSCB Training links and Contacts
SSCB Multi-agency Training Tel: 01743 254370
Email: sscbtraining@shropshire.gov.uk
http://www.safeguardingshropshireschildren.org.uk/scb/prof_training.html

SSCB currently offer certificated e-learning modules including:
- Introduction to Safeguarding Children (for voluntary workers or small local charities only)
- Awareness of Domestic Violence and Abuse including the impact on children, young people and adults at risk
- Hidden Harm – effect of parental drug and alcohol misuse on children
- Parental Mental Health
- Safeguarding Children from Abuse by Sexual Exploitation

Access free online training directly from Home Office or via SSCB:
Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) https://www.fgmelearning.co.uk/
Forced Marriage www.forcedmarriagetraining.co.uk
PREVENT www.elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk/b/screen1
Department of Health (DoH) to help healthcare professionals and partners protect and identify young people at risk of abuse or exploitation http://www.seenandheard.org.uk/

(Revised October 2016)
DEFINITIONS OF ABUSE

Emotional Abuse
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 insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or ‘making fun’ of what they say or how they communicate. 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 (including cyber 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, though it may occur alone.

Emotional – Behavioural Observations
- Physical, mental and emotional development lags,
- An extreme change in views,
- Acceptance of punishment which appears excessive,
- Over-reaction to mistakes,
- Continual self-deprecation,
- Sudden speech disorders,
- Language delay,
- Fear of new situations.

Domestic Abuse
The cross-government definition of domestic violence and abuse is:
any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. The abuse can encompass, but is not limited to: psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional,

Controlling Behaviour
Controlling behaviour is a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour

Coercive Behaviour
Coercive behaviour is an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim.

Prevent
Prevent is one of the most challenging parts of the counter terrorism strategy, because it operates in the pre-criminal space, before any criminal activity has taken place. It is about safeguarding - supporting and protecting those people who might be susceptible to radicalisation, and ensuring that individuals and communities have the resilience to resist violent extremism.

https://www.westmercia.police.uk/article/7818/Prevent---Play-your-part

The aim of the Prevent strategy is to reduce the threat to the UK from terrorism by stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.


Neglect
The persistent failure to meet the 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 abuse
Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:
provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment);
protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger;
ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers);
or ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.
It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to a child’s basic emotional needs.

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015

Neglect – Physical Observations
These may include:
• Poor personal hygiene,
• Poor state of clothing,
• Poor growth pattern,
• Untreated medical problems,
• Non-organic ‘failure to thrive,’
• Poor skin tone and hair tone,
• Emaciation, pot belly, short stature, obesity.

Neglect – Behavioural Observations
These may include:
• Constant hunger or tiredness,
• Frequent lateness or non-attendance at school,
• Arrive early or leaving late from school,
• Destructive tendencies,
• Low self-esteem,
• Obsessive, ritualistic or unusual behaviours,
• No social relationships,
• Running away,
• Compulsive stealing or scavenging.
Physical Abuse
A form of abuse which 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.

Common Sites for Accidental Injuries
Nose, forehead, chin, forearm, elbows, elbows, bony spine, hip, knees

Physical - Behavioural Observations
These may include:
- Unusually fearful with adults,
- Unnaturally compliant to parents,
- Refusal to discuss injuries or a fear of medical help,
- Withdrawal from physical contact,
- Aggression towards others,
- Wearing cover-up clothing,
- Any behaviours that you would not expect to see in a child, at their age or stage in development.

Common Sites for Non-accidental Injuries
Eyes, ears and mouth, skull and neck, cheek, side of the face, genitals, upper and inner arm, chest and shoulders, back, buttocks, thighs, knees.

Signs of Non-accidental Injuries may be:
- Bruising, grasp marks, linear marks, scalds or burns and other types of injuries i.e. fractures, torn frenulum.
- Burns and scalds,
- Cigarette burns,
- Swelling and lack of normal use of limbs,
- Human bite marks,
- Untreated injuries,
- Any serious injury with no explanation or conflicting explanations,
- Ligature marks.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
Is illegal in the UK. It’s also illegal to take a British national or permanent resident abroad for FGM or to help someone trying to do this. The maximum sentence for carrying out FGM or helping it to take place is 14 years in prison. FGM is any procedure that’s designed to alter or injure a girl’s (or woman’s) genital organs for non-medical reasons. It’s sometimes known as ‘female circumcision’ or ‘female genital cutting’. It’s mostly carried out on young girls. FGM procedures can cause: severe bleeding, infections, problems with giving birth later in life - including the death of the baby

Department of Health, last updated November 2014

60,000 girls living in the UK could be at risk of female genital mutilation (FGM).
Sexual Abuse
Involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet).

Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015

Sexual Abuse - Physical Observations
- Damage/ soreness in genital area, anus or mouth
- Sexually transmitted infections
- Unexpected pregnancy especially in very young girls
- Bruising giving the impression of sexual assault
- Unexplained recurrent urinary tract infections and discharges or abdominal pain

Sexual Abuse - Behavioural Observations
- Sexual knowledge inappropriate for age
- Sexually provocative or promiscuous behaviour
- Hinting at sexual activity, and about secrets they cannot tell
- Secretive behaviour online or offline
- Inexplicable falling off in school performance
- Sudden apparent changes in personality
- Lack of concentration, restlessness, aimlessness
- Low self-image/ low self-esteem
- Increased or excessively secretive use of mobile phone and/or internet activity
- Socially withdrawn
- Poor trust in significant adults
- Regressive behaviour, onset of wetting, by day or night
- Onset of insecure, clinging behaviour
- Running away from home
- Suicide attempts, self-mutilation, self-disgust
- Eating disorders
- Exaggerated or uncontrollable emotions
- Substance, alcohol misuse
- Severe sleep disturbance

Child Sexual Exploitation
Sexual exploitation of children and young people under 18 involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person or persons) receive ‘something’ (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of them performing, and/or another or others performing on them, sexual activities. Child sexual exploitation can occur through the use of technology without the child’s immediate recognition; for example being persuaded to post sexual images on the Internet/mobile phones without immediate payment or gain. In all cases, those exploiting the child/young person have power over them by virtue of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources. Violence, coercion and intimidation are common, involvement in exploitative relationships being characterised in the main by the child or young person’s limited availability of choice resulting from their social/economic and/or emotional vulnerability.

Safeguarding Children and Young People from Sexual Exploitation June 2009
Recommended Publications to Support Training


- Information Sharing: advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services. March 2015 www.education.gov.uk

- Brandon et al. (2014) Missed opportunities: indicators of neglect – what is ignored, why, and what can be done? Research report..

- Multi-agency Guidance on Threshold Criteria to help support Children, Young People and their Families in Shropshire. Accessing the Right Service @ the Right Time. 2013. SSCB


- Reflections on child sexual exploitation: a report by Louise Casey CB. March 2015


- What’s affected children in April 2014 – March 2015. “Always there when I need you” Childline review

- What to do if you’re worried a child is being abused, Advice for Practitioners. March 2015 www.education.gov.uk

- Working Together to Safeguard Children, A guide to interagency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. March. 2015 www.education.gov.uk

Recognise - Respond - Record

To do list:

- Put the contact number for FPOC (Compass) somewhere where it will be easily available
- Look at Shropshire Safeguarding Children Board website and put it in your ‘favourites’
- Look at your agencies Safeguarding and Child Protection policy
- Identify your Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Find out how and where you are expected to record concerns, who you should report them to/share information with in a timely manner
- Think about any further Child Protection training needs you or your agency might have
- Consider how you ensure that your Child Protection responsibilities are known to those who use your services