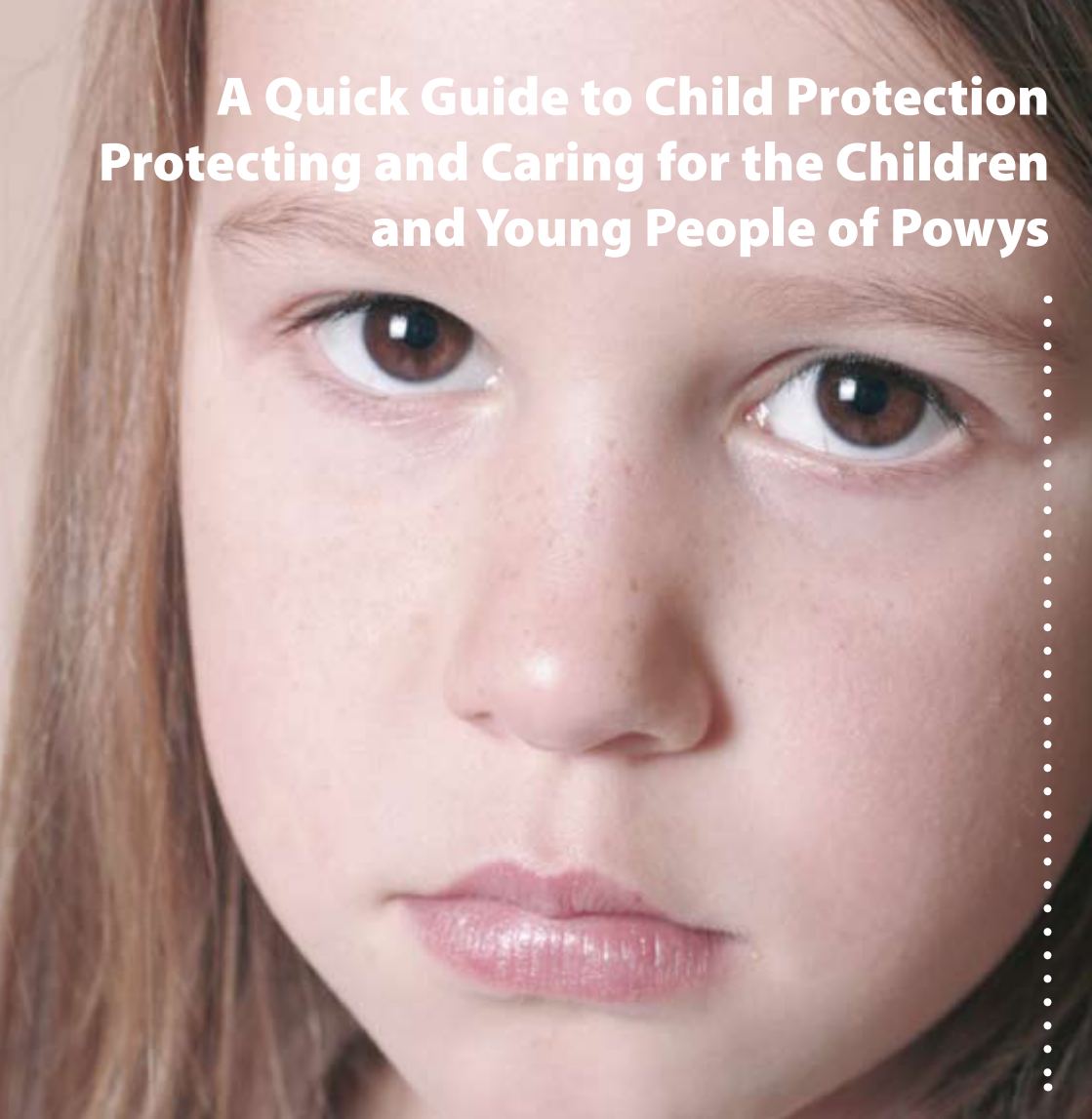


# A Quick Guide to Child Protection Protecting and Caring for the Children and Young People of Powys



**Bwrdd Lleol Diogelu  
Plant Powys**  
Powys Local Safeguarding  
Children Board



**This guide is for adults working with children and young people in Powys. It contains advice on what to do and who to contact if you are concerned about the welfare of a child.**



**What is Child abuse?**

**What action should you take if you are worried about a child?**

**Who should you contact for advice and support?**

**Doing nothing is not an option.**

**A child's safety and welfare must be your first priority.**



## Listen to the child

Legally a child is anybody under 18 years of age.

## What is Child Abuse?

Abuse and neglect are forms of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting significant harm, or by failing to act to prevent significant harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting. They may be abused by one adult or several adults or by a child or children. Although these people may be strangers, most frequently they are people the child knows.

## Everybody should:-

Be alert to potential indicators of abuse or neglect.

- Be alert to the risks that abusers may pose to children.
- Share your concerns so that information can be gathered to assist an assessment of the child's needs and circumstances.
- Work with agencies to contribute to actions that are needed to safeguard and promote the child's welfare.
- Continue to support the child and their family.



## Definitions of Child Abuse



### Emotional abuse

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional ill treatment 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 in so far as they meet the needs of another person.

It may involve causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, for example by witnessing domestic abuse within the home or being bullied, or the exploitation or corruption of children.

It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on a child.

Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of treatment of a child, though it may occur alone.



### Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening.

The activities may involve physical contact, including penetrative or non-penetrative acts.

They may include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at 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 psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development.

It may involve a parent or carer failing to provide adequate food, shelter and clothing, failure to protect a child from physical harm or danger, 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.

Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance misuse.



## Physical Abuse

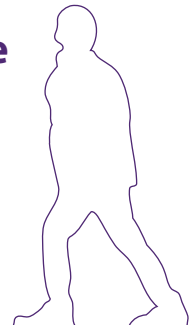
Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child.

Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or caregiver fabricates or induces illness in a child whom they are looking after.

## Bullying

Recognise that bullying is harmful to children and can take many forms. Bullying is any behaviour which is deliberately intended to hurt, intimidate, frighten, harm or exclude. You can download the Powys anti-bullying strategy from [www.lscb.powys.gov.uk](http://www.lscb.powys.gov.uk)

**Remember you may only have one piece of the jigsaw. All forms of abuse will harm a child emotionally.**



## **WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU SUSPECT CHILD ABUSE?**

Seek advice from your designated person/ line manager/ children's services.

When speaking to the child remember to use open questions, i.e. tell me, explain, describe.

Do not examine a child, seek medical advice as necessary.

Discuss your concerns with your line manager/designated person.

Decide if a referral to Powys Children's Services is necessary and who will make it.

Phone through the referral and follow up the referral in writing within 24 hours.

Complete your records.

Co-operate with the investigation.

Attend the Child Protection Conference if invited – If you are unable to attend send a representative and a written report.



## **Always seek advice and support**

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**It is essential that all agencies work together to protect children**

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**To delay reporting a suspicion of abuse could be disastrous**

## **Making a Child Protection Referral**

If the child is in immediate danger, the police should be contacted. If the child is not in immediate danger, Children's Services should be contacted and a written referral must be submitted within two days.

Referrals should be made to Children's Services as soon as a problem, suspicion or concern becomes apparent, and certainly within 24 hours. Referrals to Children's Services in Powys should be made, initially by telephone, to Powys People Direct during office hours:-

- **Tel** – 01597 827666
- **Fax** – 01597 827553
- **Email** – [people.direct@powys.gov.uk](mailto:people.direct@powys.gov.uk)
- **Out of Office Hours** – 0845 7573818

The telephone referrals must then be followed up in writing, using the Powys Multi-Agency Referral Form, within 2 days (the sooner the better).

The referral should be clear, legible, factual (rather than opinions) and contain as much information as possible.

National contact:

**NSPCC Helpline 0808 800 5000**

This leaflet is a brief guide to Child Protection. Staff should also have access to the All Wales Child Protection procedures.

Visit **[www.awcpp.gov.uk](http://www.awcpp.gov.uk)** to download.