

CHILD PROTECTION PROCEDURES FOR COMMUNITY OPTOMETRISTS

Under the Children Act (1989 and 2004) all staff in the NHS or providing NHS care, have a statutory duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. These guidelines are taken from the 'Milton Keynes Safeguarding Children Board Inter-Agency Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures' and the NHS Milton Keynes Safeguarding Children Policy and are not intended as a substitute for the full procedures – copies of which can be found on the PCT Internet – www.miltonkeynes.nhs.uk – please do not rely on printed copies.

Involvement in child protection may be direct if the child is a customer or indirect where another member of the family is the customer.

Where there is a conflict of interest or problems of confidentiality it is the child's welfare, which should be considered paramount.

Action

1. If physical abuse or neglect is suspected or disclosed:-
 - Where possible note the site, nature, extent of any injuries and any explanation given for them.
 - Sketch any visible injuries. (Body diagrams provided on the NHS Milton Keynes internet site)
 - Comment on appearance and demeanour.
 - Make contemporaneous notes, which should be signed and dated.
 - If current injuries arrange for child to be seen by GP.
 - Refer to Duty Social Worker of the Referral and Assessment Team.
2. If sexual abuse is suspected or disclosed:-
 - Make contemporaneous notes, which should be signed and dated.
 - Refer to the Duty Social Worker of the Referral and Assessment Team. In cases of sexual abuse a specialist examination will be arranged, if relevant, as part of the investigation.
3. If you are uncertain, or wish to clarify your concerns, discuss with:
 - The Primary Health Care Team (especially GP and Health Visitor)
 - Child protection lead in your practice
 - NHS Milton Keynes Designated Nurse for Safeguarding
 - NHS Milton Keynes Designated Doctor for Child Protection
 - Duty Consultant Paediatrician (where appropriate)
 - Duty Social Worker.
4. Inform family of your concerns and actions, unless doing so will place child at further risk.
 - Where possible involve the child throughout the process.
5. Referrals to Children's Social Care – Referral and Assessment Team should be made using a multi agency referral form or telephoned and followed up with a form within 48 hours. Copy referral form to GP (if known), your line manager / employer (if relevant) and NHS Milton Keynes Designated Nurse for Safeguarding at Sherwood Place, Sherwood Drive, Bletchley, Milton Keynes, MK3 6RT.
6. If you have not heard from Social Worker within 3 working days contact again to clarify the outcome.

Telephone numbers

Social Care

Children's Social Care - Referral and Assessment Team (9 to 5:30)	Tel: 01908 253169/70
Children's Social Care - Emergency Duty Team (after 5:30)	Tel: 01908 265545

Health

Designated Nurse for Safeguarding	Tel: 01908 675278 or 07920 500675
Designated Doctor for Child Protection	Tel: 01908 675278 or 07920 500675
Duty Consultant Paediatrician	Tel: 01908 660033

Police

Bucks Referral Centre	Tel: 01296 396500 (7116500)
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Ref: The Children Act 1989 and 2004. NHS MK Safeguarding Children Policy www.miltonkeynes.nhs.uk
 Working Together to Safeguard Children 2010 What to do if you're worried a child is being abused DOH 2006
 MKSCB Interagency Child Protection and Safeguarding Procedures www.mkscb.org