

YOU AND OTHER PEOPLE'S CHILDREN

Watching out for all children – You may not want to get involved but it is very important to take action straight away if you think a child in your neighbourhood is not being properly looked after and you are worried about their welfare – there is a lot of help and support available to families.

Licensed premises – be aware that children may be at risk in pubs, clubs and other public venues if they are not properly supervised, if the adults they are with become intoxicated, if they themselves are allowed to drink alcohol or if the surroundings are unsuitable.

Domestic abuse and violence – it is important to remember that children are always affected by living in an atmosphere of domestic abuse, whether or not they are directly abused themselves.

Private fostering – if you know of a child or young person under the age of 16 who is living informally for more than 28 days with adults who are not members of their family, the Local Authority must be informed so that a social worker can visit and check the arrangements.

You can speak in confidence to a professional you know e.g. a teacher at the local school, staff at the children's centre, a health visitor, or a doctor and they will ensure your worries are passed on and the child's situation is looked into.

If you are so worried that you feel immediate action is needed because a child may be harmed you should contact:
Children & Young Peoples Social Care Service Tel: **(0114) 273 4855**
or South Yorkshire Police Tel: **(0114) 220 2020**

If you have any doubts about sharing or reporting your concerns just think about what life is like for the child you are worried about and remember...

everyone is responsible for keeping children safe

DP4401

RELIGIOUS CENTRE

For example

**\\Church \\Mosque \\Madrasah \\Sunday school
\\Temple \\Synagogue \\Chapel \\House Church or
youth group in someone's home**

Ask yourself...

\\Does the centre have a child protection policy? \\Do I know the leader and their background? \\Have all employees and volunteers been checked? \\Do the adults create a happy atmosphere and treat children with respect? \\Are my child's specific needs being properly catered for? \\Is my child happy to tell me about activities and people? \\Have I got any concerns about the organisation or people associated with it? \\Do they have my details and know how to contact me? \\Do they always know who will collect my child?



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INTERNET AND MOBILE PHONES

\\Many young people spend long periods on the Internet, and may be contacting people through chat rooms \\Adults wanting to abuse children use the Internet as a tool; they are very clever and well practised in how they approach potential victims, often posing as children themselves \\Internet pornography can cause psychological damage to children who are exposed to it. But worse still, the Internet is a major method by which pornographic images of children are obtained and exchanged \\Emails, internet chat rooms, web cams and mobile phones can be used to bully and exploit children and to send inappropriate images

Ask yourself...

\\How much do I know about what web sites my child is visiting? \\How can I make it safe for my child to learn, communicate with friends and have fun on the Internet? \\How do I get parental controls installed to prevent my child accessing unsuitable websites? \\What ground rules do I set about the amount of time my child spends online? \\Have I warned my child about being careful who they give their mobile phone number and email address to?

Keeping Children Safe



A Guide for Parents and Carers





ALTERNATIVE CARERS/FAMILY

For example

\\Babysitters \\Childminders \\Crèche workers
\\Volunteers \\Nannies \\Residential staff \\Your new partner, or new partners of people close to you \\Step relatives \\In-laws \\Brothers and sisters \\Parents of your children's friends \\Adult activities that provide child care

Ask yourself...

\\Do I know this person well before I trust them with my children? \\Do I have their address and telephone number and do they have mine? \\Is my child happy to talk about what they do together?

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LEISURE ACTIVITIES

For example

\\Uniformed activities \\Cinema/bowling \\Sports clubs
\\Martial arts \\Music lessons \\Hobby clubs \\Theatre and drama
\\Outdoor pursuits \\Swimming \\Dance
\\Activities in public parks

Ask yourself...

\\Does the organisation have a child protection policy that I can have a copy of? \\Have they done checks on staff and volunteers? \\Will my child be supervised by a safe adult at all times? \\Are there adequate staff for the numbers of children? \\Do the adults create a happy atmosphere and treat children with respect? \\Are my child's specific needs being properly catered for? \\Is my child happy to tell me about activities and people? \\Have I got any concerns about the organisation or people associated with it? \\Do the staff have my details and know how to contact me?

EDUCATION

For example

\\Nurseries \\Primary and secondary schools \\Residential schools
\\School bus/taxi drivers and escorts \\Midday supervisors
\\After school activities \\Traffic crossing wardens
\\Colleges \\Private music teachers \\Private tutors

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Ask yourself...

\\If it's an organisation, is there a child protection policy and have employees, volunteers and helpers been checked? \\Do they keep my child safe with good security? \\Is there an effective anti bullying strategy? \\Do the adults create a happy atmosphere and treat children with respect? \\Is my child happy to tell me about activities and people? \\Are my child's specific needs being properly catered for? \\Have I got any concerns about the organisation or people associated with it? \\Do they always know who will collect my child? \\Do they have my details and know how to contact me?

you and your children

We often think that people, especially those who work with children, can be trusted, but you need to make sure that your child is always safe.

This guide provides a checklist to help you know what questions to ask when your child is in contact with, or in the care of, other people.