

Safeguarding children and promoting their welfare



WANDSWORTH
Safeguarding
CHILDREN &
YOUNG PEOPLE

Your duty

All agencies and organisations working in Wandsworth have a duty under the **Children Act 2004** to safeguard all children and young people with whom they work or come into contact.

This applies to all staff, whether employed directly or contractors and also includes agencies and organisations who might not work with children and young people directly, but could come into contact through their daily duties (eg. adult mental health workers whose clients might

have children or grand-children, building contractors who are called to fix something at a property where children are living, etc.)



If your contact with children and young people is only occasional or via a one-off visit to a home, you are unlikely to come across signs that a child is neglected or in danger. However, if you do come across such a child, the signs of significant harm or neglect are likely to be quite striking.

Typical cases

Typical cases of neglect or harm that you might report:

- A child who shows obvious signs of injury beyond what might be accidentally sustained in home or school.
 - A child whose parents or carers seem to be regular abusers of drugs or alcohol and as a result the child seems to be neglected.
 - A child of school age at home who seems to have no proper reason for not being at school. You may need to ask a casual question “no school today?” to check this out.
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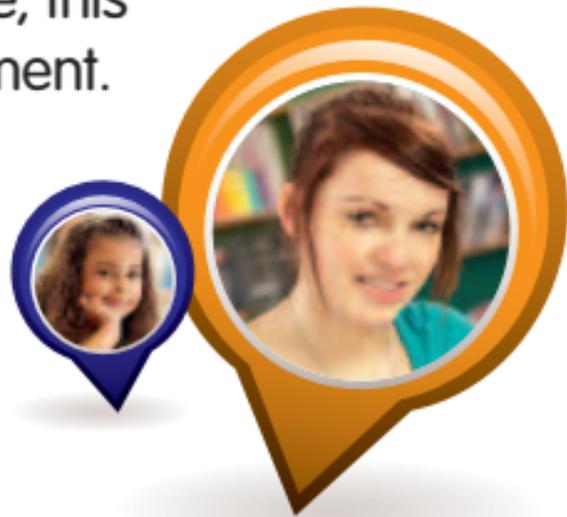
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- Other significant signs of neglect or abuse, including sexual abuse or inappropriate relationships or lifestyles.

Remember, you are asked to be vigilant, but not to imagine neglect or harm. Cases of significant harm or neglect are likely to “jump out at you” as highly unusual.

Where possible, and if you feel able, express your concerns to the parents/carers of the child, and explain you will need to refer the case for advice.

Private Fostering cases

Should you come across a child living in a home and being cared for by someone other than their parents or a direct relative like a grandparent/aunt/uncle, this could be a Private Fostering Arrangement. It is mandatory that the council is informed of such arrangements. All Private Fostering arrangements must be registered and many are still unregistered.



How you should report all cases

Any cases, of whatever nature, should be first discussed with your manager, giving details of your concerns.

Following this you may be asked to help refer the case to the council (see back).



Working together to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children and young people in Wandsworth.

Contacts

The contact point for further advice or passing on details of cases of concern and making a referral is the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) Referral and Assessment Team in the Department for Education and Social Services **(020) 8871 6622** or email **MASH@wandsworth.gov.uk**

If a child is at immediate risk call **999**.

For out-of-hours emergencies call **(020) 8871 6000**.

For more information about Wandsworth Safeguarding Children Board, go to **www.wscb.org.uk**