



Mattishall and Lenwade Surgeries

Safeguarding Children

**What to do if you are
worried about a young
person**

This leaflet is to help you know what to do if you are concerned a child is being abused.

What is child abuse?

Child abuse covers

- Emotional abuse – any behaviour of a parent or carer towards a child that is likely to cause longterm harm
- Fabricated or induced illness – when a parent or carer exaggerates a child's symptoms or interferes with a child or their medication to make them ill
- Neglect – where there is failure to provide for a child's basic physical or emotional needs
- Physical abuse – when a child is physically harmed such as hitting, shaking, throwing, burning
- Sexual abuse – forcing or encouraging a child or young person to take part in sexual activities whether or not the child is aware this is happening. This may include sexual contact or non-contact activities
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When should I suspect a child is being abused?

There are many different signs of possible child abuse including

- Bruises or burns in unusual places
- Changes in behaviour of a child – aggression or withdrawal

- Unexplained changes in emotions
- Looking as if not being looked after properly
- Having sexual knowledge or behaviour that is inappropriate to their age
- Being afraid of a particular adult

These are not the only signs and these signs are not always due to child abuse. *You must trust your judgement* and discuss any concerns.

What to do if you have concerns

Listen to the child and make clear to the child you are taking them seriously and are going to help them.

Then **report your concerns;**

Police

If you think the situation is an emergency, with the child at risk of serious harm, then call 999 and report your concerns to the police immediately.

Children's Services

There is a social services officer contactable 24 hours a day to take referrals if there are concerns about a child

0344 8008020

Mattishall Surgery

You can also report your concerns to the surgery who will liaise closely with Children's Services where needed. The practice Safeguarding Lead is Dr Emily Cary

NSPCC

They have a national child protection helpline – Freephone 0808 800 5000

For more information visit

www.nspcc.org.uk/what-you-can-do/report-abuse