

Definitions

What is Child Abuse?

(Keeping Children Safe in Education 2016)

A form of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or an institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by others (eg via the internet). They may be abused by an adult or adults or another child or children.

What is significant harm?

(Under S.31(9) of the Children Act 1989 as amended by the Adoption & Children Act 2000).

"harm" means ill treatment or the impairment of health or development, including, for example, impairment suffered from seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another:

"development" means physical, intellectual, emotional, social or behavioural development;

"health" means physical or mental health; and

"ill treatment" includes sexual abuse and forms of ill treatment that are not physical

Physical Abuse:

(Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013)

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 carer fabricates the symptoms of or deliberately induces illness in a child.

Sexual Abuse:

(Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013)

Involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (e.g. rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, rubbing or touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of sexual images, watching sexual activities or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet). Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can commit sexual abuse as can children.

Definitions

Neglect:

(Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013)

Is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born Neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:

- ~ provide adequate food and clothing, shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment);
- ~ protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger;
- ~ ensure adequate supervision;
- ~ ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.

It may also include neglect of or unresponsiveness to a child's basic emotional needs.

Emotional Abuse:

(Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013)

Is the persistent emotional maltreatment 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 not valued. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views deliberately silencing them or making fun of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond the child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve serious bullying (including cyber-bullying) causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of Emotional Abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

REMEMBER IS A CHILD DISCLOSES ANYTHING TO YOU DO NOT ASK LEADING QUESTIONS AND NOTE DOWN WHAT THEY SAY AS ACCURATELY AS YOU CAN, AS SOON AS YOU CAN AND REPORT IT TO ONE OF THE DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING STAFF

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