

Keeping Children Safe

For anyone worried that a child may be at risk of abuse or neglect



East Dunbartonshire
**Child Protection
Committee**

Introduction



This leaflet is for anyone worried that a child may be at risk of abuse or neglect, and in need of protection. It will help you to decide what to do if you are concerned about a child that you know.

Most children grow up in homes where they are loved and well cared for. However, for a variety of reasons sometimes a child may be hurt or mistreated in a way that is likely to cause them significant harm.

In such cases, it is important that the child and their family receive help and support to ensure that the child is properly cared for and protected.

All adults have a responsibility for the safety and wellbeing of children and young people, and to ensure they are healthy, happy and protected from harm.

This includes:

- Parents
- Family Members
- Friends
- Neighbours
- Professionals
- Members of the public.

East Dunbartonshire Child Protection Committee has prepared this leaflet.



The Child Protection Committee (CPC) is made up of senior representatives from across the range of local agencies in your area concerned with child welfare. The CPC meets on a regular basis to discuss issues of local and national interest concerning the protection of children.



How does East Dunbartonshire Child Protection Committee (CPC) keep children safe?

We promote the welfare & wellbeing of all children and young people, safeguarding them from harm and protecting those children who are at significant risk of harm or neglect.

Our vision is

‘We will work together to keep children safe in East Dunbartonshire through listening, intervening early and ensuring the responses we make are joined up’.

Where can I get more information?

If you would like more information about East Dunbartonshire CPC visit our website: <https://www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/child-protection> or email cpc@eastdunbarton.gov.uk

What to do if you are concerned?

If you are concerned about a child, speak to East Dunbartonshire's Advice and Response Team or if you have more serious or urgent concerns you should contact the Police.



It is important that you:

- Act promptly
- Explain your concerns
- Give as much information as possible about the child and family.

What happens next?

Should your concerns be significant and need following up, social workers from East Dunbartonshire's Advice and Response Team will work out what the next steps should be. When making decisions, the needs of children and their families are always our main consideration.

Keeping children and young people safe

Most children in East Dunbartonshire are well cared for and protected by their parents or carers but a small number suffer harm.

This can be a result of:

- **Neglect, Abuse and Exploitation**
Child neglect is a failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or emotional needs and is likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development.

Children can be harmed because of physical abuse, emotional abuse and sexual abuse; child sexual exploitation and grooming.

- **Bullying and Harassment**

Bullying can happen at any time, anywhere and to any child, although it most commonly happens to children and young people of school age. It can be carried out physically, verbally, emotionally or online (cyber bullying).



If your child is being bullied they might be scared to ask for help, because they think it will make the bullying worse. Let them know they can always talk to you, or another trusted adult such as a teacher or other family member. If they do not want to talk to you, you could suggest they call ChildLine. If your child is being bullied at a school or club, talk to the person in charge.

- **Domestic Abuse**

Children have a right to live in a safe environment free from fear and parental domestic abuse. Many children and young people blame themselves for what has happened and this can lead to emotional and behavioural problems.

It is everyone's responsibility to protect children

Early Help for Parents

All parents have difficult times; talking about problems and getting early help before things get worse really does help. If you are a parent and would like advice on any problem you or your child are facing; or you are struggling to cope please share your concerns.

Missing children

Every year children and young people go missing from home or care for lots of different reasons. Support is available through children's services and the police no matter what the reason is. If your child has gone missing, contact the police immediately on **101** or **999**.



If you are concerned that a child is being harmed or neglected call:

East Dunbartonshire Children and Families Social Work Services: **0141 777 3000**

Glasgow & Partners Emergency Social Work Services: (including East Dunbartonshire): **0300 343 1505**

Police Scotland: **101**
or, in an emergency: **999**
Childline: **0800 1111**
Parent Line: **0808 800 2222**
Scottish Children's Reporters Administration: **0131 244 2100**

Your health visitor can be found through your GP surgery or health centre.

If you need to speak to someone urgently please contact Out of Hours Social Work Standby Service on **0300 343 1505**

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