

**SAFEGUARDING**

**PATIENT INFORMATION**



# **Safeguarding Children at Northampton General Hospital**



**Northampton  
General Hospital**  
NHS Trust

## Introduction

This leaflet explains about children's safeguarding processes at Northampton General Hospital.

If you have any further questions, please speak to a professional caring for you.

## What is safeguarding?

Safeguarding children is everyone's business. We all share responsibility for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, whether as a parent or family member, a friend or neighbour, an employer, or as a paid or voluntary worker.

Children can be thought to be in need of safeguarding if there are concerns about a child's health and well being; this can include if they have a disability.

Professionals can also become involved with children who we feel have suffered or are likely to suffer significant harm without our intervention.

## What happens if you think my child needs safeguarding?

If professionals have identified that your child needs safeguarding it may be for a number of reasons.

- At times, professionals may feel that you and your family might be in need of additional support to meet your child's needs. Bringing up children can often be a challenging task and you may need help with this.
- There are also times when professionals need to confirm who has parental responsibility for a child or a better understanding

of where the child lives and goes to school for example.

- Children have accidents every day but sometimes children have an injury that causes concern to professionals or there may be concerns about your child's emotional well-being.
- In these circumstances professionals have a duty to ask questions and talk to other agencies including children's social services and in some circumstances the police.
- This is not always because the professional feels that parents or families have harmed a child but that there is a need to find out more information about how a child was injured.
- Social care also provide assessments and support for children with disabilities and a referral may be made to ensure that you and your child can get all the support you require in the community.

## Will we be asked any questions?

- A professional will need to talk to you, this could be a doctor or nurse in the accident and emergency department or on the ward. They will ask you questions about your social situation and may ask specific questions about things they are concerned about.
- We may also talk with your child especially if they are a young person as they need to also know what is happening
- This is a routine practice and we will guide you through the process.
- Your child may need to see a doctor and be examined.
- If professionals feel that their concerns need further investigation then a referral may be made to children's social services.

## Useful websites

[www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

[www.northamptongeneral.nhs.uk](http://www.northamptongeneral.nhs.uk)

## Other information

Northampton General Hospital operates a smoke-free policy. This means that smoking is not allowed anywhere on the Trust site, this includes all buildings, grounds and car parks.

Leaflets, information, advice and support on giving up smoking and on nicotine replacement therapy are available from the local Stop Smoking helpline on 0845 6013116, the free national helpline on 0300 123 1044, email: [smokefree@nhft.nhs.uk](mailto:smokefree@nhft.nhs.uk) and pharmacies.

Car parking at Northampton General Hospital is extremely limited and it is essential to arrive early, allowing ample time for parking. You may find it more convenient to be dropped off and collected.

This information can be provided in other languages and formats upon request including Braille, audio cassette and CD. Please contact (01604) 523442 or the Patient Advice & Liaison Service (PALS) on (01604) 545784, email: [pals@ngh.nhs.uk](mailto:pals@ngh.nhs.uk)

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