



**Diogelu Gwent  
Gwent Safeguarding**

# **When Children, Young People and Families Services are involved**

An easy read booklet

**Who is going  
to be  
involved?**



**What do I  
need to do?**

**Who can  
support me?**

This booklet will help you understand what will happen if Children's Services are worried about your child.



Here are some things you will need to know before you start reading

In the booklet, some of the words are in **bold**.

At the back of the booklet there is a Glossary.

The Glossary will tell you what the words in **bold** mean.

We will also explain the different types of **abuse**.

## Make sure you get the right support

You may want to have someone with you while you are reading the booklet.

That way if you don't understand anything, the other person can support you.

This person could be your **advocate**,

or a friend who you trust.

Right at the back of the booklet, there is a blank page for you to write down anything important you would like to remember.

You could also use it to write down any thoughts, feelings, or questions you have.

# The Child Protection Conference

Who might be there?

Some of these people will know you.  
Some of them may not have met you before.



Police Officer



Your Health Visitor



Your Social Worker



Your advocate



Everyone will introduce themselves.

# What will happen at the child protection conference?



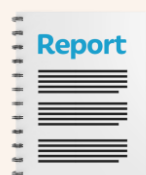
All the professionals will talk about the different reports they have written.



They will all talk about what they are worried about.



They will also talk about what you do well as a family.



## Tip

It is good if your social worker gives you a copy of the report they have written before the meeting. They should explain the report to you.

# You and your advocate



Your **advocate** is there to support you to understand anything you might find difficult.



Your **advocate** is there to make sure your views are heard.



All the professionals will decide together what needs to happen.



It may be that your child needs a Care and Support Protection Plan or a Care and Support Plan.

# The Care and Support Protection Plan



It may be they decide your child is at **risk of significant harm**.



All the professionals will say what they think needs to happen for your child to be safe.

# What will the Care and Support Protection Plan say?



The Care and Support Protection plan will have a list of outcomes and action points.



The plan explains what you need to do to keep your child safe.



The plan also says how professionals will support you to keep your child safe.



You will be given a copy of the Care and Support Child Protection Plan.

## Tip



It's important to keep all documents given to you in a safe place.

You can keep them in a folder so you don't lose them

You will be given a printed copy of the plan



Who can support me with my emotions?

You may be feeling lots of different emotions.

**Worried**

**Confused**



**Frustrated**

**Angry**



There may still be things you don't understand.



This may make you feel  
frustrated or angry or worried.



if you have an **advocate**, they can help you to understand things better.



Your **advocate** can help you find someone who can support you to talk about your feelings.

# What happens after the Care and Support Protection Plan is put in place?



You will need to attend **Core Group** meetings.



These meetings will be held every 4-6 weeks.



The professionals who are working closely with you and your child will be there.



They will talk about whether the action points in the Care and Support Protection Plan are being met and if things are getting better for your child.



Your **advocate** can come with you.



Before the meeting, your **advocate** can support you to write a checklist of questions you would like to ask at the meeting.



You can also write down or talk to your advocate about anything you would like the professionals to know.

# Different types of abuse

The next few pages  
will be  
telling you about the  
different types of  
abuse.

It's very important that you have someone with you when you read through it.

That way they can support you to properly understand the different types of abuse.

They can also support you if you find any of it upsetting.

# What is emotional abuse?



Emotional abuse is when someone makes a child feel unloved.

Some examples are saying unkind things to the child.

Not letting them spend time with children their own age.

Another example is involving the child in grown-up issues like relationship problems.

If a child is being emotionally abused, they may want a lot attention from other people.

They may show signs that they have hurt themselves in some way.

They may say they want to hurt themselves.

# What is neglect?

Neglect is when a child is not being looked after properly by the person who is supposed to be looking after them.

It can be not giving a child safety and warmth.



Not making sure a child is clean and dry.

Not taking a child to the doctors if they are ill.

Children who are neglected may have very bad physical appearance.

They may smell bad.

Their clothes may not fit them properly.

They may be ill a lot or be very tired a lot.



# What is physical abuse?

Physical abuse is harm caused to your body.



Examples of physical abuse are hitting, scratching, punching, biting or burning.

If a child has been physically abused, there may be signs of this.



They could have cuts, bruises or burns.

These may be on parts of their body that are hidden under clothes.

# What is sexual abuse?

Sexual abuse is when an adult forces a child to be involved in sexual acts.



This is always wrong.

An example of sexual abuse is kissing or touching private parts of the body like the penis or vagina.

Children may also be forced to watch or look at photographs or videos that they should not be watching.

If a child is being sexually abused, they may act differently.

A child may talk about things that they are too young to know about.

## How can abuse affect someone?

Abuse can cause someone to feel very badly about themselves.

Abuse can mean it is difficult for the victim to trust other people.



Abuse can mean that people struggle to form happy relationships.

Abuse is always wrong and should never happen to anyone.

## Child Abuse.

Children cannot protect themselves from abuse.



Children need to be protected from abuse.

This is because they don't properly understand what is right and what is wrong.

Children normally love and trust their parents or carers very much.

They may not realise that their parents or carers are doing something wrong.

They may not want their parents to get into trouble.

# Glossary



## Advocate

An advocate is someone who does not work for the council or any other agency.

An advocate makes sure your views are being listened to and that you understand information.

## Abuse



Abuse is when someone disrespects or hurts someone else.

Abuse can be done in different ways. It's not just physical .

## “At risk”



If your child is 'at risk' it means that they could be harmed in some way.



## Core Group Meeting

Core group meetings happen after your child has been put on a Care and Support Protection Plan.

The professionals working closely with you and your child will be there.

In the meeting, you will talk about what everyone needs to do to make sure your child stays safe.

# Glossary

## Harm



Harm is when another person does something to deliberately hurt someone else.



Harm can be caused to your body as well as your feelings.



• “Significant risk of harm”  
This means that your child is very likely to be harmed in some way.

# Important Notes

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