

What is
safeguarding?

Safeguarding is the action that is taken to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm.

- ❖ Safeguarding means: protecting children from abuse and maltreatment.
- ❖ preventing harm to children's health or development.
- ❖ ensuring children grow up with the provision of safe and effective care.

Types of Abuse

Physical Abuse:

Physical abuse is an individual's body being injured or hurt due, for example, to assault, hitting, slapping or pushing. It can also be the wrong use of **restrictive practices** (see below). Examples could be the misuse of medication or using inappropriate restraint such as locking someone in a room, tying them to a chair or using inappropriate physical sanctions

Signs: Examples include:

broken bones

bruises

unexplained loss of clumps of hair

bite, burn or scald marks

► Emotional Abuse:

This means a child's emotional / vulnerable adult needs are not being met. This could include being made to feel inadequate or not feeling loved and secure. A parent or carer may not be talking to them enough or giving them the attention they need. Typical signs and symptoms could include delays in development, speech disorders or a fear of making mistakes or overreacting to them

► **Financial or material abuse** is the

use of a person's funds and belongings without their permission. This could be theft, fraud, internet scamming, coercion in relation to an adult's financial affairs or arrangements, including in connection to wills, property, inheritance or financial transactions

Signs:

Bills not being paid.

Loss of assets such as a house being sold and the money from the sale disappearing.

- ▶ **Sexual Abuse:** is when a person becomes involved in sexual relationships or activities that they do not want to be involved in. They may have said that they do not want to be involved or they may be unable to give consent. Sexual abuse includes rape, indecent exposure, sexual harassment, inappropriate, looking or touching

Signs:

- ▶ Pain, sores and bruising around the inner thighs and genital, anal or breast areas.
- ▶ Bloodstained underwear, Pain and discomfort when walking or sitting.

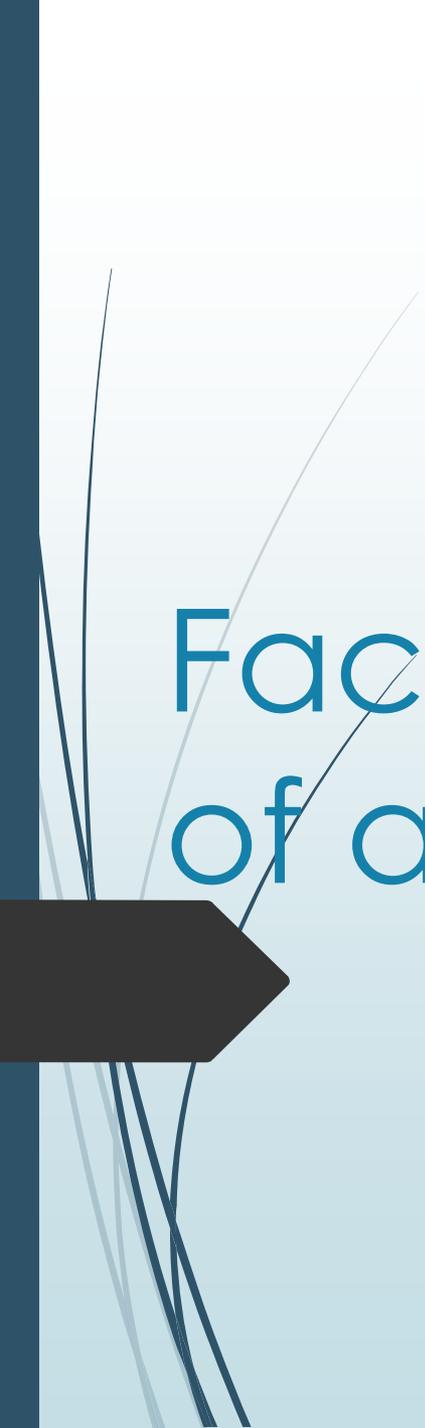
Neglect

- ▶ is also known as the 'omission to act' or 'failure to act'. It is a failure to meet the basic needs of the individual. It includes ignoring medical, emotional or physical care needs, failure to provide access to appropriate health, care and support or educational services and the withholding of the necessities of life, such as medication, adequate nutrition and heating.
- ▶ Signs: Indicators of neglect by others and of self-neglect are similar. They include:
- ▶ Malnutrition, dehydration, bedsores, dirty clothing and bedding

► Female genital mutilation FGM

FGM is the removal, constriction or other disfigurement of a girl's labia or clitoris for non-medical reasons, in most cases before they reach the age of 8. Some communities may use religious, social and cultural reasons to try to justify FGM, but it is a form of abuse.

Signs and symptoms could range from severe pain and bleeding and chronic infections to psychological, mental health and sexual problems or damage to the reproductive system and infertility. You need to be aware of the risk of girls being taken abroad to carry out FGM and so should be aware if they are taken on extended holidays



Factors increasing risk of abuse

Common factors associated with increased risk of child maltreatment are often categorized as follows:

- ❖ Parent or caregiver factors
- ❖ Child factors Eg **age, health and disability**
- ❖ Family factors **Eg care giver and house hold structure, domestic and intimate partner violence**
- ❖ Community and environmental factors
- ❖ Risk factors for recurrence of child abuse and neglect
- ❖ Co-occurring risk factors

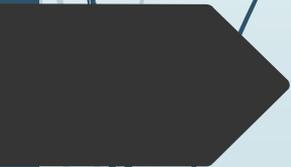
Research has identified a number of parent or caregiver factors that potentially contribute to maltreatment:

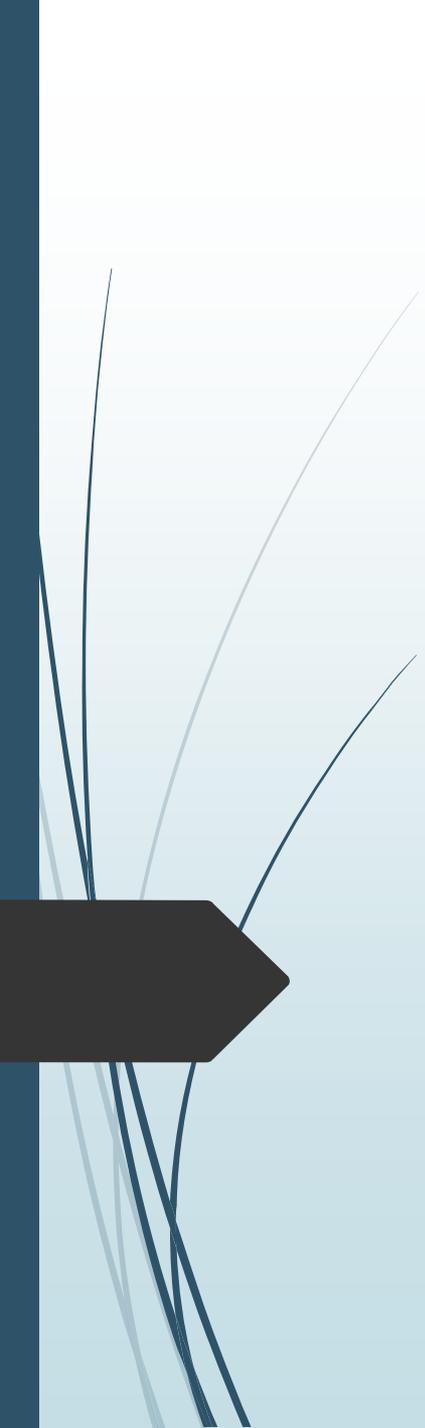
Individual characteristics

Substance abuse

Teen parenting

Activity 1





How to respond to
a concern.

Discuss concerns with the agency's designated safeguarding children advisor (able to offer advice and decide upon the necessity for a referral to LA children's social care).

Professionals in all agencies should use their knowledge and agency resources to contact local children's social care or the police about their concerns directly and to complete the appropriate referral form, if there are urgent concerns.

In such circumstances a formal referral to LA children's social care, the police or accident and emergency services (for any urgent medical treatment) must not be delayed by the need for consultation with management or the nominated safeguarding children adviser, or the completion of an assessment.