

Name of School

Visitors Guide to Child Protection



**Protecting and
Safeguarding North
Ayrshire's Children**

August 2019 – June 2020

**Improving Outcomes
for Children and
Young People in Scotland**

Visitors Guide to Child Protection in Name of School

Should you be concerned about any child, either within our Primary School or Early Years Class please ensure you pass your concerns on to our **Child Protection Co-ordinator**, <<<<Name of Co-ordinator/Head Teacher>>> immediately or at your earliest convenience. Should they be unavailable, you can contact any member of the Senior Management team within the school or a Senior Manager from the telephone list supplied at the back of this booklet.

Within this booklet you will find information on areas of Significant Harm that some of our children may be subject to. Please take time to read over this booklet; it will help you to be more aware of the 'small things' around us. Should you have any concerns please do not hesitate to speak with the Head Teacher.

Responding to Disclosure/Allegations



Whoever receives the information from the child (or other person) should:

- Let the child speak
- Let them know you are listening carefully
- Stay calm and not show disbelief or panic
- Avoid expressing views on the matter
- Take the allegation seriously, reassure the child and advise what you will do next.
- Not guarantee confidentiality
- Advise that they or the CP Co-ordinator will keep the child or young person informed



Advise they will remain available should the child wish to speak again. Ask how they feel and check if there is anything the child needs.

- Report concerns immediately to Child Protection Co-ordinator or establishment Senior Management, or in their absence, Cluster Senior Manager or Head of Service.
- Record what the child has said in their own words and follow advice of CP Co-ordinator

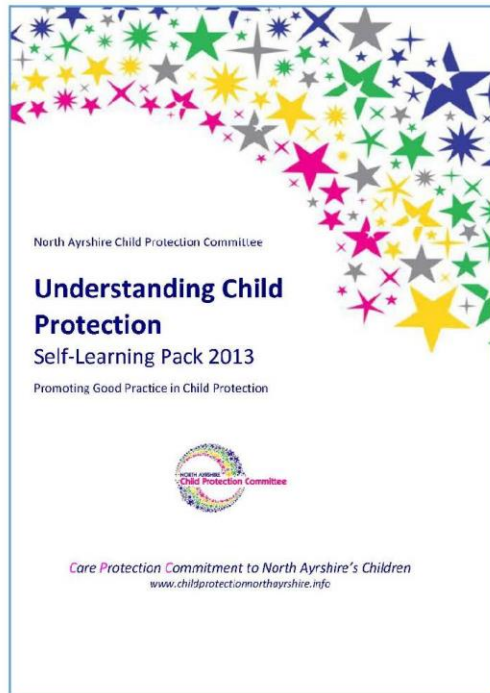
Not discuss concern/ disclosure with anyone other than Child Protection Co-ordinator or Senior Management Team

Do not question the child further – this is the responsibility of agencies trained to carry out investigative interviews of children. Questions inappropriately phrased could be thought to be suggestive and then lead to evidence being held as inadmissible in possible future criminal proceedings.

NEVER Carry out an investigation or gather any photographic evidence into the allegation – this is not your role



What is Significant Harm in Child Protection?



Significant harm can result from a specific incident, a series of incidents or an accumulation of concerns over a period of time.

It is essential that when considering the presence or likelihood of significant harm that the impact (or potential impact) on the child takes priority.

Key professionals will take a number of things into account when exercising their professional judgement.

There is no absolute criteria for judging what constitutes significant harm, talking to other agencies and sharing/gathering information will be a priority.

Updated document available from CPC website August 2019





Abuse/Neglect

- **Physical** **Abuse** and **neglect** are forms of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child **by inflicting, or by**
- **Emotional** **failing to act to prevent**, significant harm to the child.
- **Neglect** Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional setting, by those known to them or, more rarely, by a
- **Sexual** stranger.

Always take into consideration that:

- Children's circumstances are unique.
- Neglect and abuse cuts across all sectors of society.
- Statistically, neglect can be linked to parents who are experiencing or have experienced particular challenges.
- Not all children of parents who experience additional issues will be neglected or abused

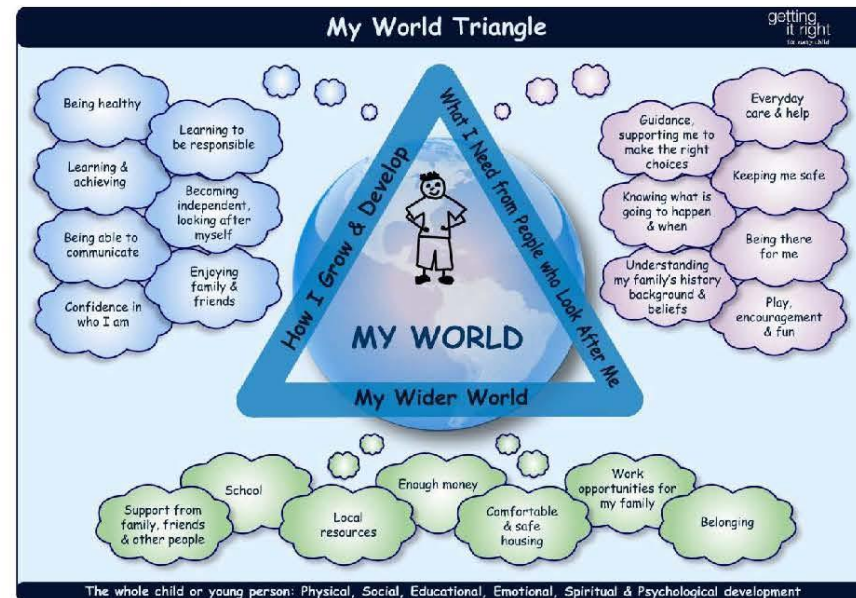
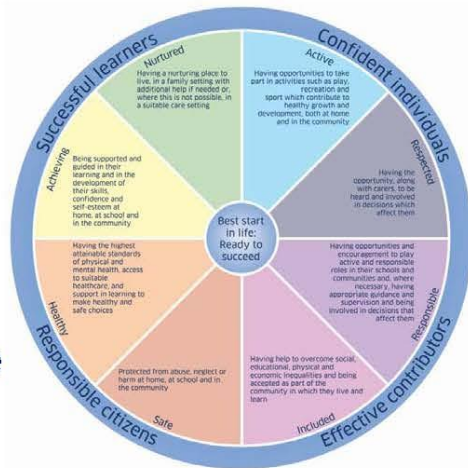


Minimising Risk



The National Practice Model and **Wellbeing Indicators** provide the broad framework for identifying a child or young person's needs. They do so under eight headings, which should form the basis for planning around the child:

Safe
Healthy
Achieving
Nurtured
Active
Respected
Responsible
Included



The **My World Triangle** and the **Wellbeing Indicators** serve as a starting point for considering what risks and vulnerabilities might be present in a child's life.



Children with Disabilities

Children with disabilities are **three to four times** more likely to be abused/neglected due to:

- Inability to recognise appropriate behaviours
- Reduced opportunities for socialisation
- Increased experiences of intimate care
- Impaired communication skills
- Low self-esteem and self-image
- Reluctance/lack of confidence to report concerns



Care Experienced (Looked After Children)

Increased vulnerability because:

- Most neglect and abuse occurs in the home
- Looked After Away from Home pupils can be very vulnerable, particularly in relation to exploitation and online safety
- Care Experience Children do not always feel safe and may be at risk of misusing drugs, alcohol and self harming

Staff should be alert to the **range of possible Child Protection and Safeguarding issues** and risks associated with this group of vulnerable children and young people.





Safeguarding and Protecting is Everyone's Responsibility

All staff working in and supporting Education and Youth Employment must:

- Be aware of arrangements for protecting children and adults
- Be alert to children's needs
- Be clear about their own role in relation to safeguarding
- **Know who the Child Protection Co-ordinator is**
- Know if CP Co-ordinator/Head of Establishment/member of Senior Management Team is not available where to locate the emergency contact phone tree (Staff Child Protection & Safeguarding Noticeboard)
- Know within Secondary schools who the **ASIST** (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training) trained member of staff are

See Education & Youth Employment, **Standard Circular L3: Protecting and Safeguarding North Ayrshire's Children** and establishment Child Protection Noticeboard





What do you notice? What should we be aware of?

Think of any changes in behaviour you might see in a child or young person which may concern you.

Try to think of changes under these headings:

- Physical
- Emotional/Verbal
- Neglect
- Sexual



Physical



Unexplained
injuries/burns

Change in
appearance

Distracted

Refusal to
discuss
injuries

Untreated
injuries

Changing
name

Weight
loss/gain

Chronic
running
away

Fear of
returning
home

Withdrawal
from
physical
contact

Changing
friends

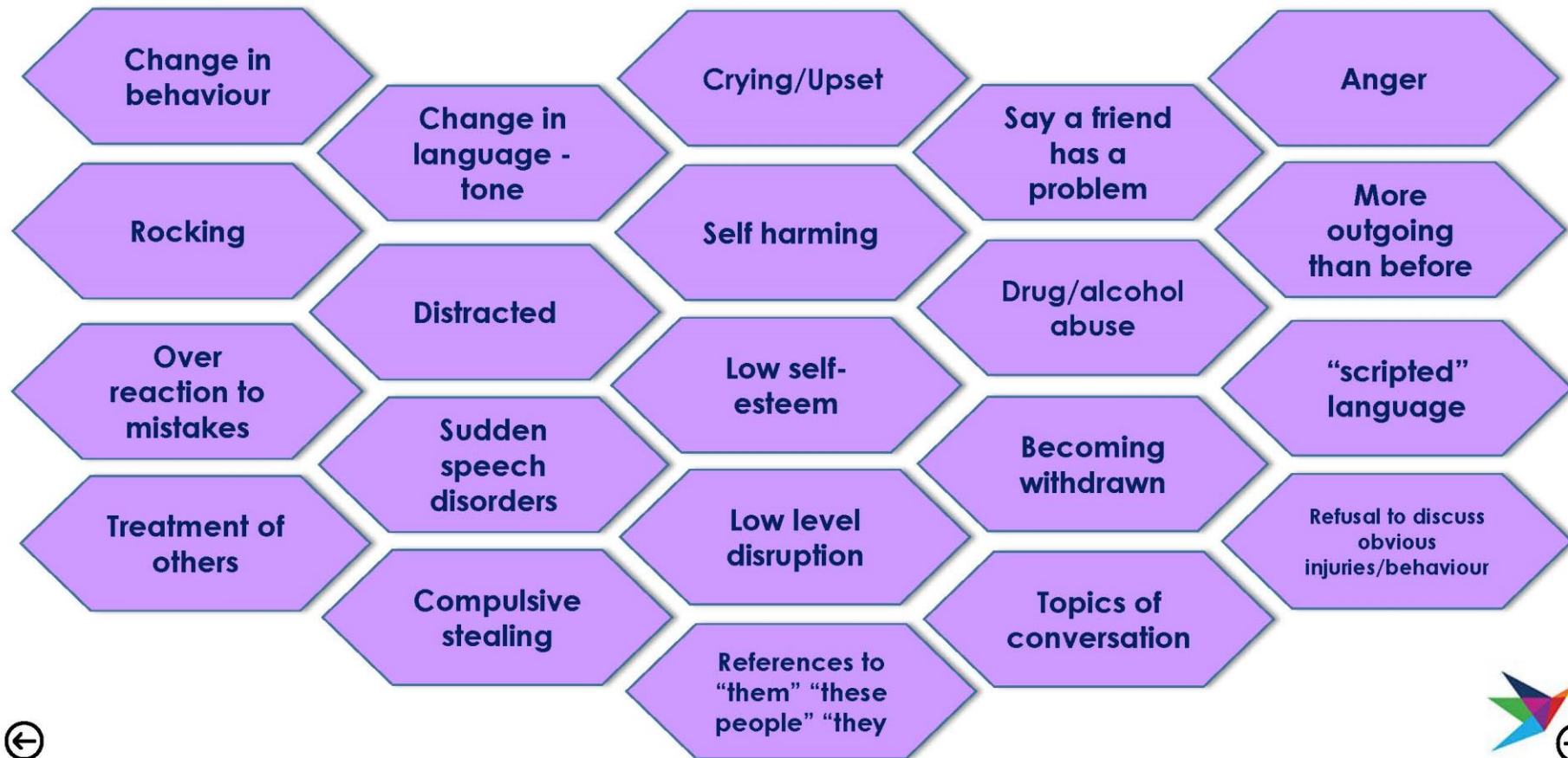
Dressing to
impress

Hair style/
piercings
etc

Symbols/
tattoos

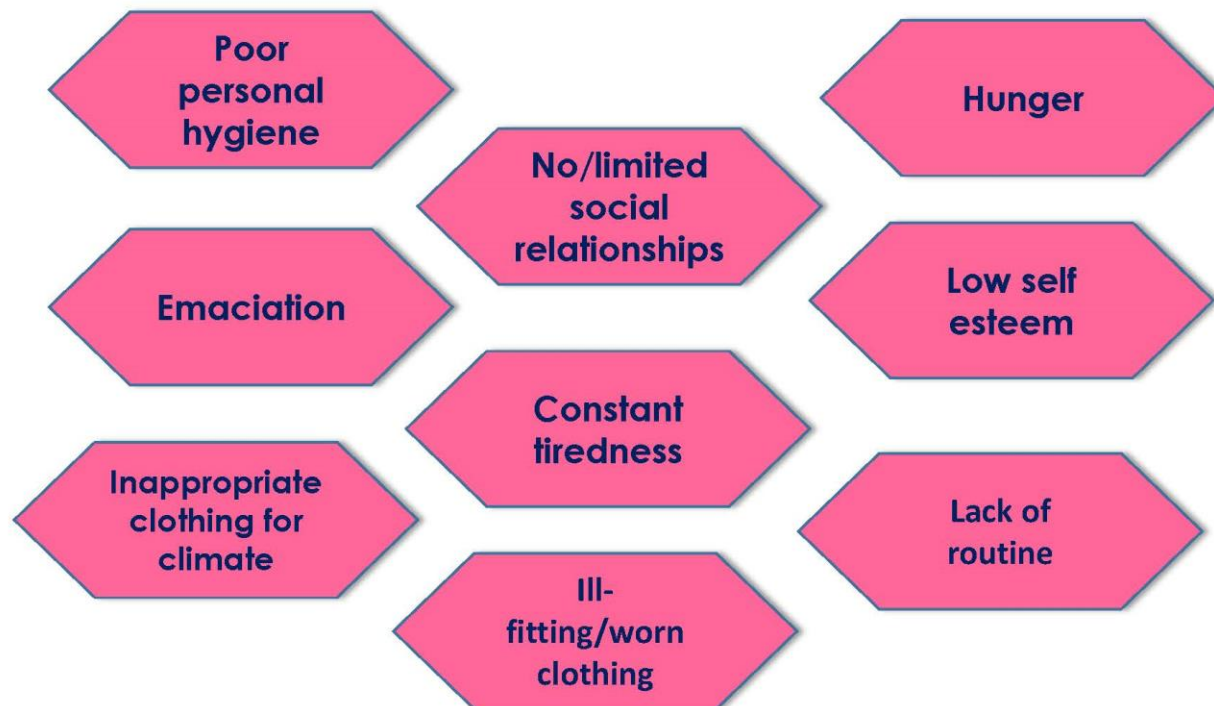


Emotional/Verbal

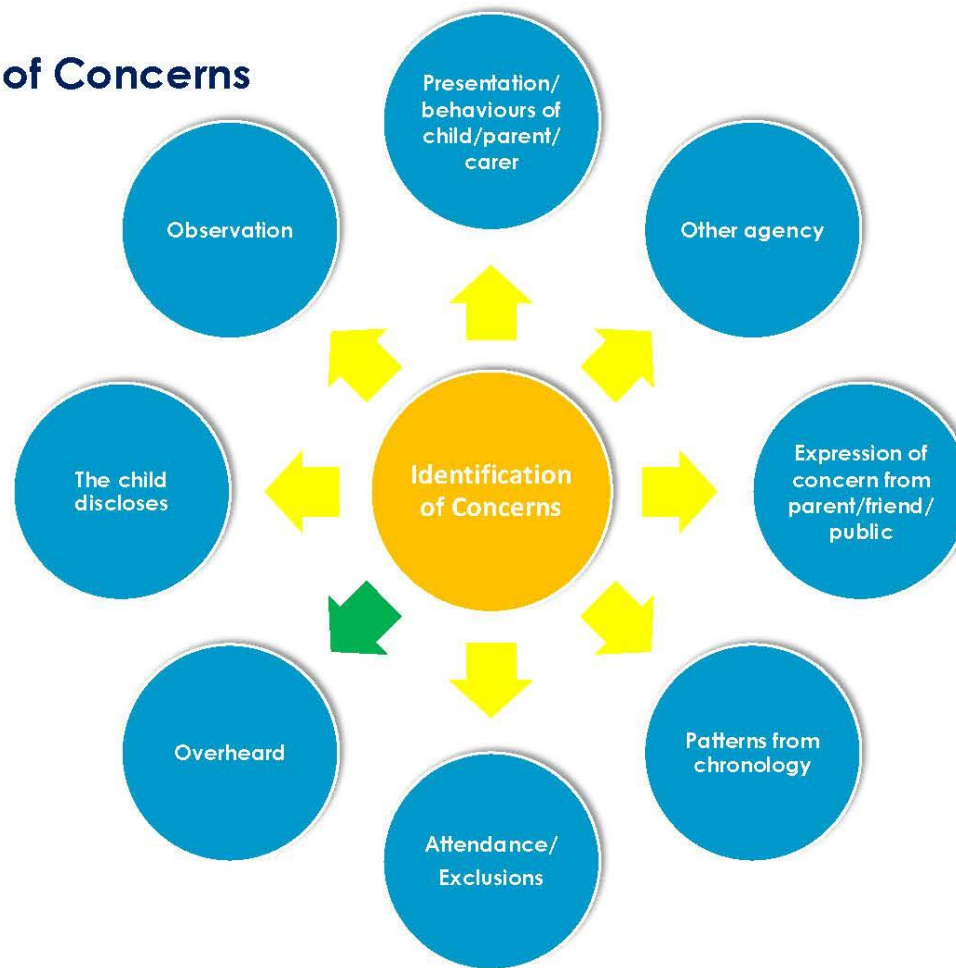




Neglect



Identification of Concerns





Reporting Disclosure/CP Concerns

All instances of disclosure/CP or safeguarding concerns should be reported to the establishment's Child Protection Co-ordinator **without delay**.

If the Child Protection Co-ordinator or Head Teacher/Head of Centre is not available, seek advice from Education Officer, a Senior Manager or the Head of Service (Education and Youth Employment) **as a matter of urgency**. Please refer to the **Phone Tree** within this presentation and on the establishment CP noticeboard.

The welfare of the child and young person is paramount



Summary – Responding to Child Protection & Safeguarding Concerns



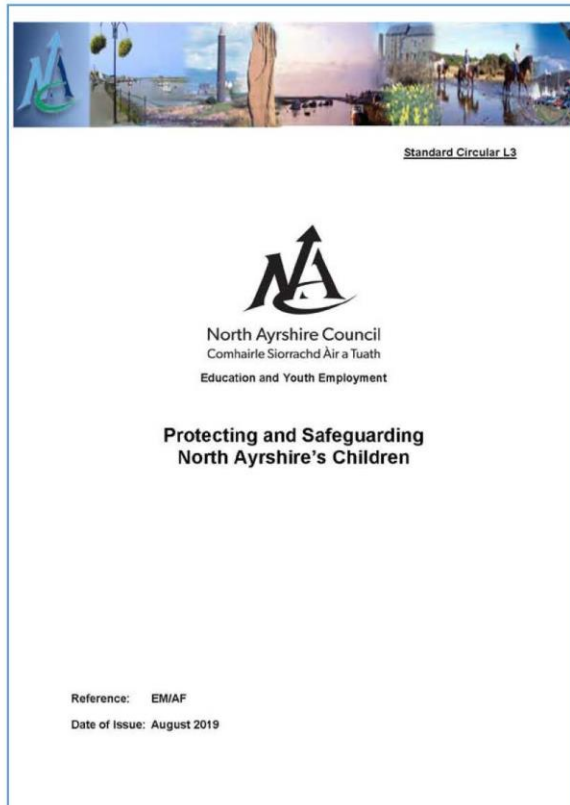
Where there is concern about child protection or safeguarding (**child abuse, neglect or exploitation**) you should:

- Discuss your concerns with the Child Protection Co-ordinator (or member of Senior Management Team) **immediately**. The CP Co-ordinator will decide on an appropriate course of action.
- Establish with the CP Co-ordinator when and how concerns should be recorded/shared, including, if and when, following consultation with Social Work, **if this information can be shared with parents/carers**.
- Ensure you are clear with regards to the establishment policy and procedures.
- Formalise with the Child Protection Co-ordinator what further support the child is likely to need and how best this can be met.





Protecting and Safeguarding North Ayrshire's Children



Standard Circular L3: Protecting and Safeguarding North Ayrshire's Children provides guidance for policy and practice within all Education and Youth Employment establishments to secure the care and wellbeing of all children and young people and to ensure an appropriate response when concerns are identified.

All staff are required to be familiar with SC L3 and to follow the procedures and guidelines it contains. *(A copy of this policy can be found on Connects, Glow and the **Staff CP Notice Board within all establishments**).*



Key Agency Contacts

SERVICE ACCESS TEAMS

If you are concerned about a child it is important that this information gets to the right people as soon as possible. The best people to contact are the social services team for the area in which the child lives. If you are not sure which area the child lives, then contact Irvine Social Services. **If you are trying to contact Social Services out of office hours, then telephone: 0800 328 7758**

Arran Area Office	For Arran	01770 600742	RSArran@north-ayrshire.gov.uk
Irvine Area Office	For Irvine and Kilwinning	01294 310300	RSIrvine@north-ayrshire.gov.uk
Kilbirnie Area Office	For Garnock Valley	01505 684551	RSKilbirnie@north-ayrshire.gov.uk
Largs Area Office	For North Coast	01475 687592	serviceaccess@north-ayrshire.gov.uk
Three Towns Area Office	For Stevenson, Saltcoats and Ardrossan	01294 310005	RS3Towns@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

Police Scotland at any police office or
by calling 101 or 999 in case of
emergency

