

Appendix 4

Categories of abuse and neglect as defined in Working Together to safeguard Children 2015

|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Physical abuse                       | A form of abuse which may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child or young person. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child or young person.   |
| Sexual abuse                         | Involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child or young person is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children or young people in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children or young people to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child or young person in preparation for abuse (including via the internet). Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children or young people.  |
| Emotional abuse (including bullying) | The persistent emotional maltreatment of a child or young person such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child or young person's emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child or young person that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child or young person opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children or young people. These may include interactions that are beyond a child or young person's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child or young person participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyber bullying), causing children or young people frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children or young people. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child or young person, though it may occur alone |
| Neglect                              | <p>The persistent failure to meet a child or young person's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child or young person's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment);</li> <li>• Protect a child or young person from physical and emotional harm or danger;</li> <li>• Ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers); or</li> <li>• Ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.</li> </ul> <p>It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to a child or young person's basic emotional needs</p>  |

Safeguarding Children & Young People  
Policy & Procedures

Appendix 4 (Continued)

Physical and behavioural signs and indicators of abuse and neglect

| Category of abuse and neglect | Physical Signs  | Behavioural Signs  |
|-------------------------------|---|--|
| Physical abuse                | Unexplained and unusual bruising, finger and strap marks, injuries, cigarette burns, bite marks, fractures, scalds, missing teeth   | Fear of contact, aggression, temper, running away, fear of going home, reluctance to change or uncover body, depression, withdrawal, bullying or abuse of others   |
| Sexual Abuse                  | Genital pain, itching, bleeding, bruising, discharge, stomach pains, discomfort, pregnancy, incontinence, urinary infections or STIs, thrush, anal pain on passing motions                          | Apparent fear of a person, nightmares, running away, sexually explicit knowledge or behaviour beyond their years, masturbation, bed-wetting, eating problems, substance abuse, unexplained money or gifts, acting out with toys, self-harm             |
| Emotional Abuse               | Weight change, lack of growth or development, unexplained speech disorders, self-harm, clothing inappropriate for child's age, gender or culture etc.   | Unable to play, fear of mistakes, fear of telling parents, withdrawn, unexplained speech and language difficulties, few friends  |
| Bullying                      | Weight change, unexplained injuries and bruising, stomach pains and headaches, bed-wetting, disturbed sleep, hair pulled out  | Difficulty making friends, anxiety over school, truancy, withdrawn, anger, moodiness, suicide attempts, reduced performance, money and possessions reported as lost, stealing from within the family, distress and anxiety on reading texts or e-mails |
| Neglect                       | Constant hunger, ill-fitting or inappropriate clothes, weight change, untreated conditions, continual minor infections, failure to supply hearing aids, glasses and or inhalers (where appropriate) | Always being tired, early or late, absent, few friends, regularly left alone, stealing, no money, parent or carer not attending or supportive  |