Safeguarding Children

All children and young people need to have trusted adults around them to make sure they are kept safe from harm by other people or from hurting themselves. It is also about taking action to enable all children to have the best possible outcomes. Everyone is responsible for safeguarding children and young people. Safeguarding includes a wide range of issues such as...

- Bullying
- Gangs & Weapons
- Fire Safety
- Female Genital Mutilation
- Child Abuse
- Domestic Violence
- Young Carers
- Road Safety
- Private Fostering
- Sexual Exploitation
- Running Away
- Child Trafficking
- Eating Disorders
- Drugs & Alcohol
- Disabled Children
- Self-harm
- Child Protection
- e-Safety
- Depression
- Health & Safety Issues
- Mental Health Issues and many more...

Recognising abuse - At the most extreme end, safeguarding is the protection of children and young people from abuse. Child abuse is when anyone under 18 is being harmed or isn't being looked after properly. Sometimes a child or young person can be abused by a stranger or by another child or young person, but usually they know the person who is causing them harm. Children and young people can be abused anywhere, for example at home, at school, a local sports centre or after school club, etc. Sometimes someone else knows what is happening, but they don't stop it.

This is wrong too!

There are four main types of abuse:
- Emotional – this is when parents/carers fail to show their children sufficient love or attention or when they threaten, taunt or belittle them, causing them to become nervous, withdrawn, aggressive, or disturbed in their behaviour
- Physical - Is when parents/carers or adults deliberately inflict injuries on a child or young person, or do not protect their child from being physically harmed by someone else
- Sexual - Is when an adult, child or young person involves a child or young person in sexual activity to which they do not, or cannot, consent because of their age or understanding.
- Neglect - Is when a parent/carer fails to meet a child or young person’s essential need for food, clothing, shelter or medical care, or when children are left without proper supervision which leaves them unsafe or unprotected.

What to do if you think there is a risk of immediate harm to a child or a young person - Contact Wandsworth Children’s Services Initial Point of Contact (IPOC) our single Front Door to Children’s Services by calling (020) 8871 6622.
Outside of normal office hours (after 5pm weekdays or at weekends): (020) 8871 6000
In an emergency contact the police on 999

Where can I find out more information about safeguarding? There are lots of accessible resources online on the Wandsworth Safeguarding Children’s Board website (http://www.wscb.org.uk/wscb/info/5/resources) where you can find out more about the different types of safeguarding issues listed above. This includes information on Private Fostering (http://www.wscb.org.uk/downloads/file/68/private_fostering_leaflet) and child sexual exploitation (http://www.wscb.org.uk/wscb/downloads/file/122/sexual_exploitation_leaflets_for_youn g_people_-_are_you_worried_about_a_young_person)

There is a specific induction training session in the programme on Safeguarding – see the programme timetable elsewhere on this agenda.