All children have a right to protection and live their life free from abuse or harm. All adults in contact with children and young people have a duty to protect children and young people from harm. This is known as safeguarding children. The latest guidance & legislation for safeguarding children in relation to abuse and neglect is called ***‘Keeping children safe in education’ (Department for Education, 2019)***

2. Why it matters

What to do if you are worried about child abuse or neglect

Live and Learn Sports

Safeguarding Children

Partnership 2020

**Child abuse** is when a child (aged 0-18 including an unborn child) is harmed by an adult or another child/young person. Somebody may abuse or **neglect** a child by inflicting harm or by failing to act to prevent harm.

‘Harm’ means ill-treatment or the impairment of health or development, including that suffered from seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another.

1. Background



Any concern about child abuse should be referred to your schools / organisations DSL. In the absence of this person you may make a referral to the **Children's** Multi-Agency **Safeguarding** Hub (MASH) you should telephone **01709 336080.** **(Rotherham) This number can be contacted 24 hours a day**

**NSPCC website** Tel: 0808 800 5000 (24 hour helpline) Email:help@nspcc.org. **‘or’** [**Childline**](https://www.childline.org.uk/) Tel: 0800 1111[Contact childline](https://www.childline.org.uk/get-support/contacting-childline/)

7. What to do =

**Physical-** Any intentional act causing injury or trauma to another person or animal by way of bodily contact.

**Emotional-** Any type of abuse that involves the continuous emotional mistreatment of a child.

**Sexual-** Children forced or tricked into sexual activities. They might not understand that what's happening is abuse or that it's wrong.

**Neglect-**A pattern of failing to provide for a child's basic needs. It is abuse through omission

3. Information

RSCB

Rotherham Safeguarding Children Board –

 7-minute Briefing

* Do you know who your DSL (Designated Safeguarding Lead) in your school?
* Are you aware of the signs of Abuse or Neglect?
* What steps/action should I take if a child makes a disclosure?
* What other bodies can I make contact with?

6. Questions

It is important to get advice if you have a concern about child abuse or neglect whether it is taking place now or happened historically. Procedures outline that we can contact Children’s Social Care, Police or the NSPCC with a concern.

If a child ever to disclose information in relation to their mistreatment, You should: Let them talk; Never promise to keep it a secret; Record what has been said; Report to DSL.

5. Information

Abuse or neglect of children can have long-term effects on the child’s health, development & well-being. It can impact on a child’s self-esteem, emotional & behavioural development. The effects can extend into adult life leading to difficulties in forming & sustaining relationships & affect parenting ability. Physical abuse can lead to neurological damage, physical injuries, disability or death.

4. Information