

# Information for Families

Why enquiries are being made  
about your child

Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility

Torbay Council Children's Services ■ Police ■ Health ■ Careers South West  
Youth Offending Team ■ Probation ■ CAFCASS ■ Safer Communities  
Fire Service ■ Schools ■ Community & Voluntary Sector

## **About Torbay Safeguarding Children Board?**

Torbay Safeguarding Children Board brings together all the main organisations that work with children and families in Torbay with the aim of ensuring that we work together effectively to help to keep children safe.

## **Why enquiries are being made about your child or children**

Most families need a bit of extra support at some point in their child's life.

A concern for your child's welfare has been raised with Torbay Children's Services. As a result, they have a legal duty to make enquiries to ensure the safety and well-being of your child.

We understand you may be worried, angry or upset, but Children's Services want to work with you to help you keep your child safe from harm.

If you have questions that are not answered in this leaflet, or there is anything you don't understand, the social worker will be able to help you.

## **What will happen?**

A social worker, and sometimes a police officer, will visit and talk to you and your children. They will discuss the concerns with you and talk with you about what support you or your child may need. They will also discuss the concerns with the police child protection unit and talk to other professionals who know your family, like your doctor, health visitor and someone from your child's school.

It is very unusual for anyone to have to leave home. This would only happen if professionals believed that a child was in immediate danger. Sometimes the child stays at home and an adult may be asked to live elsewhere during the enquiries. Usually no emergency action is needed and your child can stay at home.

However, both Children's Services and the police have a legal duty to protect your child by going to court if necessary. An Emergency Protection Order means that they can remove your child from your care for up to eight days. An Interim Care Order could be for up to eight weeks. Where a child is in immediate risk of danger the Police have protection powers to remove a child.

## **How is my child involved?**

A child's view of the situation is extremely important. A social worker will talk to them on their own to understand their wishes and feelings about their situation. They may also talk to their brothers and sisters.

## Medical examinations

Your child may have a medical examination as part of the enquiry.

This will be with an appropriately trained doctor. Usually parents are asked to be with their child when they see the doctor unless it is not in the child's best interests.

## What happens after the enquiry is completed?

One of three things can happen after the enquiry

- No further action.
- Support is offered to the family.
- Child protection conference (see 'the child protection conference' leaflet).

## Complaints

If you are not happy with the way Children's Services has carried out the child protection enquiry you can make a complaint through its complaints procedure.

Information about the complaints procedure is available to download on the TSCB website [www.torbay.gov.uk/tscb](http://www.torbay.gov.uk/tscb)

## Any Further Questions

We hope this leaflet has explained how professionals and families can work together to ensure that children are safe and that their health and development are promoted.

If you have any other questions, please speak to your social worker.

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This leaflet can be made available in other formats and languages. Contact 01803 207176.