

Worried about a child?

**All children have the right
to feel safe**



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

You may be concerned about a child if he or she:

- is frequently dirty, smelly, hungry or inadequately dressed
- is constantly insulted, sworn at, humiliated or is constantly blamed for things that go wrong
- seems afraid of their parents or carers
- has illnesses which haven't been treated
- is not properly supervised
- who craves inappropriate attention and affection from any adult
- is growing up in an environment where there is domestic abuse, drug or alcohol abuse
- displays sexual knowledge or behaviour which doesn't seem appropriate for their age
- is being encouraged to be secretive about their relationship with an adult
- is a baby with an injury that they would be too young to get on their own
- has burns, scalds or bruises with clear outlines

They may show their unhappiness in many ways, including:

- being unusually nervous, anxious, withdrawn and isolated
- being unusually angry and aggressive
- truanting or running away from home
- using drugs or alcohol
- deliberately causing serious harm to themselves or others

These are not the only signs to look for, and some may not be caused by abuse. What is important is that you trust your judgement and take action if you are worried about a child.

**If you have concerns about the safety
of a child it is your responsibility
to report it**

If you have any doubt about reporting your concerns, please remember that we can only take action if we know something is wrong.

Who to contact

The Safeguarding Hub provides a single point of contact for any child, young person, parent/carer, member of the public and workers.

To make a referral please use the following contact details:

Telephone: 01803 208100

Email: torbay.safeguardinghub@torbay.gcsx.gov.uk

Fax: 01803 208688

**Post: Safeguarding Hub, 1st Floor North Wing, Tor Hill House,
c/o Torquay Town Hall, Castle Circus, Torquay, TQ1 3DR**

In an emergency always call the police on 999

Please remember that you don't have to give your name if you don't want to. If you are a worker you should try to gain the families consent to share their information before contacting the Safeguarding Hub unless the child/young person is at risk of significant harm.

What will happen next

Within 24 hours the Safeguarding Hub staff will gather information from all relevant sources and discuss the needs of the child, young person and family with the family or the workers working on their behalf.

The Safeguarding Hub decision makers will agree the level of need and vulnerability within the family and the best course of action to meet those needs. This could include:

- Giving advice on what to do or who to contact.
- Signposting to the Family Information Service for general advice and guidance.
- An Integrated Working Coordinator contacting them to discuss all 'early help' options and to guide the family through the process.
- A social worker undertaking a fuller assessment of the child/family needs and identifying the most appropriate support plan.

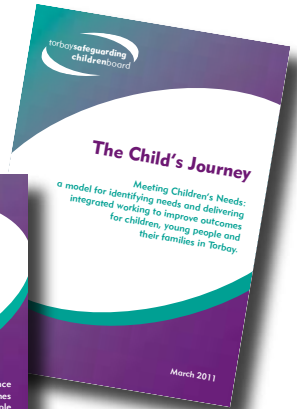
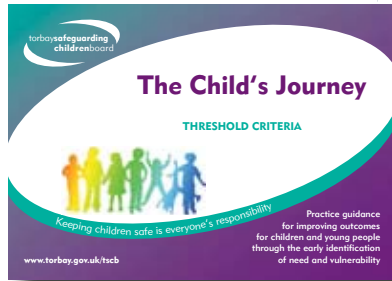
Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

The Torbay Safeguarding Children Board has produced a document called 'The Child's Journey'. This is a way of helping service users and workers understand children and their family's level of need using a range of descriptions and indicators.

The Child's Journey also helps us all to identify what support professionals need to offer.

You can access the Child's Journey at

www.torbay.gov.uk/tscb



**For further information about
Torbay Safeguarding Children Board**

Tel: 01803 207176

Email: tscb@torbay.gov.uk

www.torbay.gov.uk/tscb

**Working Together to ensure every child
stays safe in Torbay**

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