What to do if you are worried a child is being abused or neglected



for staff, volunteers and visitors in all agencies and settings

Be alert to signs of abuse and question unusual behaviour

If you have concerns about a child's welfare...

Where a child also discloses abuse or neglect:

- Listen; take their allegation seriously; reassure that you will take action to keep them safe
- Inform them what you are going to do next
- Do not promise confidentiality
- Do not question further or approach/inform the alleged abuser

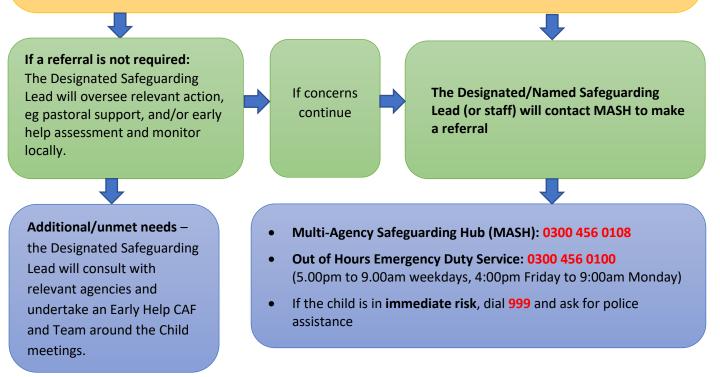
Report concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead or their deputy:

NAME: David Cook or Nicola Woodford

The Designated Safeguarding Lead will:

- consider further actions required, including consultation with MASH (number below)
- record in writing the discussions, decisions and reasons for decisions.

In exceptional circumstances or in the absence of a Safeguarding Lead you may contact MASH directly.



MASH will:

- 1. Acknowledge receipt of referral
- 2. Decide on next course of action (within 1 working day)

3. Provide feedback decision to referrer (e.g. further assessment including: strategy discussion/child protection enquiries; no further action required for children's social care and early help assessment/CAF recommended; referral to other agency for service provision).

This flowchart is intended for use as a brief guide. Refer to the DfE Guidance <u>What to do if you are worried a child</u> <u>is being abused</u> for more information, definitions and possible indicators of abuse (including child sexual exploitation).