If you are worried that a child/young person is at risk of being abused or neglected you should contact:

MASH
Referral and Assessment Service
Education and Social Services
2nd Floor Town Hall Extension
Wandsworth High Street
London SW18 2PS
Telephone: (020) 8871 6622
Email: MASH@wandsworth.gov.uk

Outside of normal office hours (after 5pm weekdays or at weekends): (020) 8871 6000

In an emergency contact the police on 999

For more information on the process and what will happen if you make a referral, or to contact the WSCB, go to www.wscb.org.uk or www.safeguardingchildreninwandsworth.org.uk

Other useful contacts

NSPCC: 0808 800 5000 or visit www.nspcc.org.uk
Childline: 0800 1111 or visit www.childline.org.uk

Remember, it is everyone’s responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people

What is Safeguarding?
Working together to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children and young people living in Wandsworth

JUNE 2015
What is Safeguarding?

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.

How can this be done?

We should ensure that all children and young people:
- are well cared for
- are healthy
- are safe
- have the best chances in life and that:
- all people working with children and young people are safe and suitable to do so
- all places where children and young people go are safe.

Safeguarding is also about…

- Giving support to children, young people and their families
- Getting other people to help if necessary
- Early identification and intervention if a child or young person needs help
- Knowing what to do if you’re worried about a child or young person
- Recognising if a child or young person is at risk of harm or abuse
- Taking action to protect the child or young person

Safeguarding is about working together to prevent harm or abuse happening in the first place. It’s not just about protecting and getting involved with those families where children and young people are most at risk of harm or being hurt.

Everyone is responsible for safeguarding children and young people.

Safeguarding includes a wide range of issues such as…

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

It is also important that all organisations, whether within the statutory or voluntary sector, including community and faith groups, have safe recruitment practices, clear safeguarding and child protection policies in place and that all staff and volunteers receive safeguarding training.

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!

Types of abuse

There are four main types of abuse: Emotional, Physical, Sexual and Neglect.

**Emotional abuse**
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 abuse**
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 abuse**
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.

**Persistent or severe 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.

Reporting abuse

If you are worried that a child or young person is at risk of abuse or neglect, please contact please contact Referral and Assessment straight away. You should always report your concerns, even if the person you suspect to be abusing or neglecting a child or young person is someone you know well.