

Safeguarding Children Website Page



ACE has a Safeguarding Team who ensure that all ACE staff have the appropriate training and support to Safeguard the children and families who access our services.

If you are concerned that a child or young person is being harmed, neglected or is at risk you should contact:

Essex Social Care on 0345 603 7627.

Out of hours: (5.30pm - 9.00am Monday - Thursday,
4.30pm-9.00am - Friday and Bank holidays)

Telephone: 0345 606 1212 or [email](#).

In an emergency call the Police on 999.

If you need to contact the ACE Safeguarding team:

Lead for Safeguarding Children: Nicola Peterson

**Office: 01206 833081 For any safeguarding
correspondence: acecic.safechild@nhs.net**

There is a statutory duty under the Children Act 2004 for the NHS along with other key agencies to safeguard and promote the wellbeing of children

“Safeguarding children - the action we take to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm - is everyone’s responsibility. Everyone who comes into contact with children and families has a role to play.”

This statutory guidance states some key principles:

- the child's needs are paramount, and the needs and wishes of each child, be they a baby or infant, or an older child, should be put first, so that every child receives the support they need before a problem escalates;
- all professionals who come into contact with children and families are alert to their needs and any risks of harm that individual abusers, or potential abusers, may pose to children;
- all professionals share appropriate information in a timely way and can discuss any concerns about an individual child with colleagues and local authority children's social care

The Safeguarding Team are also responsible for ensuring that all ACE Policies and Procedures comply with National and Local legislation and Guidance.

- Essex Safeguarding Children Board: Southend, Essex Thurrock Procedures 2018 www.escb.co.uk
 - The Children Act 2004
 - Working Together Safeguarding Children 2018
 - National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) Child Abuse & Neglect
 - HM Government Female Genital Mutilation(FGM) Multi-Agency Practice Guidelines 2015
 - HM Government Responding to Domestic Abuse 2005
 - HM Government CONTEST: The UK's Strategy for Countering Terrorism
 - Data Protection Act
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Who do we share your information with?

ACE Professionals will share your child's health information (with your consent) with GP's; Health Visitor's; School Nurse's and any other Health Professional involved in your child's care.

If we have concerns around the safety or welfare of your child we will discuss these concerns with you and request your consent to refer you and your child/ren to Children's Social Care in order for them to offer you care and support.

However, if we believe your child your child has suffered harm we will inform you of our concerns and will submit an urgent referral Children's Social Care with or without your consent.

Who may share your information with us?

Police
Social Care
Other Health Professionals

Duty of Candour

The aim of the Duty of Candour is to ensure that healthcare providers are open and transparent with people who use services and other 'relevant persons' (people acting lawfully on their behalf) in relation to care and treatment. It also sets out some specific requirements that providers must follow when things go wrong with care and treatment, including informing people about the incident, providing reasonable support, providing truthful information and an apology.

Anglian Community Enterprise Community Interest Company (ACE) CIC supports and promotes a culture that encourages candour, openness and honesty at all levels and is an integral part of the culture of safety, organisational and personal learning ACE seeks to foster.

Safer Recruitment

The ACE Human Resources department ensures that appropriate checks are made to reduce the risk of appointing people who are unsuitable to work with children and vulnerable adults and to protect all patients and clients, the public, staff and the Organisation.

This is achieved by use of the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS), an Executive non-departmental public body sponsored by the Home Office is responsible for carrying out a disclosure service to enable employers to make informed recruitment decisions in order to protect vulnerable members of society. This includes obtaining information held on the Police National computer and records held by local police forces.

Missed Appointments

ACE staff have a statutory duty to safeguard and protect children and young people in relation to what action they should take if a child /young person is not brought or fails to attend for treatment. The staff have to decide if missed appointments or repeated cancellations are to be considered a neglectful act by the parent or carer and consider any safeguarding issues.

If a child is not brought to a Health appointment it will be recorded within their medical record and the GP and Health Visitor/ School Nurse informed.

If the Professional considers the missed appointments are impacting on the health or development of the child then they will discuss their concerns with the parent and refer to Social Care to ensure that they are offered protection and support.

Parental Responsibility (PR)

PR is required to enable an adult to consent to the child's treatment.

Who has parental responsibility?

A mother automatically has [parental responsibility](#) for her child from birth.

A father usually has parental responsibility if he's either:

- married to the child's mother
- listed on the birth certificate (after a certain date, depending on which part of the UK the child was born in)

You can [apply for parental responsibility](#) if you don't automatically have it.

If you have parental responsibility for a child you don't live with, you don't necessarily have a right to contact with them - but the other parent still needs to keep you updated about their well-being and progress and we can send duplicate reports upon request.

ACE Professionals will ask if you have PR and record this within your child's medical record.

Safeguarding Themes:

Domestic Abuse

"Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality".

If an ACE staff member identifies or suspects that a patient is a victim of DA then they will endeavour to support the victim to access advice and support.

However, if an ACE Staff member identifies that a child is living in a home where there is Domestic Abuse then they will need to refer the family to Children's Social Care to ensure that they are offered protection and support as the child will be suffering Emotional Harm and may at risk of Physical Harm.

<http://www.saferplaces.co.uk/>

<http://www.colchester-refuge.org.uk/>

<https://www.womensaid.org.uk/>

<https://www.victimsupport.org.uk/help-and-support/get-help/support-near-you/east-england/essex>

Female Genital Mutilation(FGM)

“Comprises all procedures that involve **partial or total removal** of the **external female genitalia**, or injury to the female genital organs for non medical reasons”.

It may also be known as “Female Circumcision; Sunna; Cutting”

- Criminal offence in the UK: Prohibition of Female Circumcision Act 1985
- FGM Act 2003: illegal to take a child abroad to undergo FGM
- Mandatory Reporting (October 2015): All staff have a Duty to report any known cases of FGM or suspicion that a child may be at risk of FGM

Under the Mandatory Reporting Duty if an ACE staff member identifies that a child has undergone FGM they will contact both the Police and Children's Social Care.

If an ACE staff member believes that a child is at risk of FGM they will contact Children's Social Care to ensure that they are offered protection and support.

If a woman has undergone FGM ACE staff will support them to receive the appropriate level of specialist healthcare and support.

<http://nationalfgmcentre.org.uk/>

Radicalisation

- Process by which people come to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups;
- Can hinder children's social development and educational attainment alongside posing a very real risk that they could support or partake in an act of violence.

If an ACE staff member believes that a child is at risk of Radicalisation then they will be required under the Prevent Strategy to refer to the Police and Social Care to ensure that they are offered protection and support.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity in exchange for:

- something the victim needs or wants,
- and/or for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator.

The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual.

If an ACE staff member believes that a child is a victim of or at risk of CSE then they will discuss their concerns with the parent and refer to Social Care to ensure that they are offered protection and support.

Parents may access support from www.paceuk.info

To report anonymously call Crimestoppers 0800 555 111

Forced Marriage

Forced Marriage is where one or both parties **do not consent** or, in cases with those with disabilities, **cannot consent**.

- It is illegal in the UK.
- It is recognised as a form of violence against women and men.
- It is a serious breach of an individual's Human Rights.
- The Government has a FM Unit (FMU) and they have the power to implement FM orders via the Civil Courts.

If an ACE staff member believes that a child or parent is a victim of Forced Marriage then they will refer to Children's Social Care and possibly the Police to ensure that they are offered protection and support.

Victims may access support and advice from the FMU fmu@fco.gov.uk

Modern Slavery

“Encompasses slavery, servitude, forced and compulsory labour and human trafficking. Traffickers and slave drivers coerce, deceive and force individuals against their will into a life of abuse, servitude and inhumane treatment”.

If an ACE staff member believes that a child or parent is a victim of Modern Slavery then they will be required under the Modern Slavery Strategy to refer to the Police and Social Care to ensure that they are offered protection and support..

On-Line Safety

Technology can facilitate sexual exploitation of children. Offenders use social media (e.g. Instagram, Facebook, WhatsApp and Snapchat), to identify young people whom they can groom. When abusive images have been posted or shared online, there is little control over who can access them. This can lead to repeat victimisation. GPS technology can be used to pinpoint (within a few metres) where a photo was taken – revealing a victim’s location very easily.

A child can be sexually exploited through technology without even realising it. For example, a child or young person is persuaded to post or send images of themselves and these are then used as a bargaining tool by the offenders and threats of violence and intimidation are used as methods of coercion

Visit [NSPCC’s Net Aware Guide](#) for more information on how to make your child’s social media secure, on these and lots of other apps, sites and games.

You can report online abuse through the [Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre \(CEOP\) website](#) or the [Internet Watch Foundation](#). Or report anonymously to Crimestoppers 0800 555111.

If an ACE staff member believes that a child is a victim of online abuse or exploitation then they will discuss their concerns with the parent and refer to Social Care to ensure that they are offered protection and support.

Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health

National Studies suggest that in the UK, about 1 in 10 of all young people may experience a mental health problem or disorder. These studies also emphasise that it is important to get help early, conditions are treatable and getting the help early can prevent problems getting more serious. There are different types of mental health issues that affect children and young people.

Depression can be started by a number of things, such as: parents divorcing or

separating; feeling ignored and unloved or not being listened to; losing friends; changing school or moving home; worries about their looks, sexuality, health, exams or abuse.

[NHS Choices](#) - Is your child depressed?

[Young Minds](#)- Parents Helpline **0808 802 5544**

Eating disorders generally develop over time, sometimes over years, and often at a point when life brings fear and insecurity. **Anorexia nervosa** is an illness in which people keep their body weight low by dieting, vomiting, or excessively exercising. The illness is caused by an anxiety about body shape and weight that originates from a fear of being fat or from wanting to be thin. **Bulimia nervosa** is an illness in which people feel that they have lost control over their eating. As in anorexia nervosa, they evaluate themselves according to their body shape and weight. Indeed in some instances (although not all), bulimia nervosa develops out of anorexia nervosa.

Self-harm is when someone sets out to hurt themselves deliberately. It is often done in private as a way of coping with very difficult emotions. Recent research estimates that 10 per cent of 15-16 year olds have self-harmed, usually by cutting themselves, and that girls are more likely to self-harm than boys. Self-harm can be a way for a young person to show they are feeling a lot of pain and hurt. There are many reasons why young people might harm themselves - although the need to self-harm usually comes from emotions they find difficult to manage. The emotions could relate to any number of things, such as bullying or abuse, or indicate other concerns.

[Young Minds - Self-Harm](#)

If your child needs someone to talk to information below about Big White Wall and Kooth may be useful.

www.bigwhitewall.com

<https://kooth.com/>

If an ACE Professional identifies that a child has mental health issues and or self-harm they will discuss their concerns with the parent and refer to Social Care to ensure that they are offered protection and support.

Support and Information:

Directory of Services available for Children and Families across Essex is available via:

www.essexeffectivesupport.org.uk

www.escb.co.uk

www.nspcc.org.uk

