

POLICY ON A PAGE

Safeguarding Children Policy

1 SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

As part of its work in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust has a statutory duty under Section 11 of the Children's Act (2004) to protect children from harm.

Safeguarding children and adults and the promotion of the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility. This applies to all staff at Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (SPFT) who come into contact with either children, young people or adults who have contact with children.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined in Working Together to Safeguarding Children (HM Gov 2018) guidance as:

- Protecting children from maltreatment
- Preventing impairment of children's health or development
- Ensuring children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care.
- Taking action to enable children to have the best outcomes

2 CHILDRENS ACT

The Children's Act (1989) introduced the framework of significant harm which requires the compulsory intervention into family life in order to safeguard children. The Local Authority has a duty to investigate where there is reason to suspect that a child is suffering or likely to suffer significant harm.

The Children's Act (2004) states the requirement of each Local Authority, health provider and partner agency to make arrangements to promote co-operation between the authorities. Section 11 (Children's Act 2004) places a range of duties on organisations and individuals to ensure their functions are discharged with regard for the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

3 SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS

If staff are aware of or suspect that a child may be experiencing abuse or likely to suffer harm they should refer into their locality Local Authority Children's Social Care agency.

All referrals will be triaged and assessed as to what the required Local Authority response should be. It should never be assumed that the process of referral has been undertaken by another professional or agency working with the child or family. The practitioner remains responsible for the referral and appropriate follow up of the outcome.

All referrals should be documented in writing within 48hours. **All referrals should be copied to the SPFT safeguarding team for internal monitoring.**

4 REFERRALS

Children living in Hampshire - Hampshire Children's Services 0300 555 1384
csprofessional@hants.gov.uk

Children living in East Sussex - Single Point of Advice -
01323 464222
0-19.SPOA@eastsussex.gcsx.gov.uk

Children Living in West Sussex – MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) 01403 229900 email
mash@westsussex.gcsx.gov.uk

Children living in Brighton and Hove – Front Door for Families (01273) 290400
E-mail: FrontDoorForFamilies@brighton-hove.gcsx.gov.uk

5 CONTACT

safeguardingadults@sussexpartnership.nhs.uk
spnt.safeguardingteamspt@nhs.net

Contact the Business Manager for Safeguarding if you have any questions/queries
Nicky.caley@sussexpartnership.nhs.uk