

## Referral on a page

**Call 999 for the Police if you think a child is in Immediate Danger or you need a prompt police response**

### Referral?

- Concerns about a child? Why?
- Share information?
- What to record and when?
- Consent?
- Right help at the right time?
- Follow up?
- Professional curiosity? Ask the second question.
- Child's lived experience?
- Age & developmental stage?
- Behaviour? Trauma response?
- Professional difference is healthy – be prepared to discuss & be respectful
- Seek advice/support (at any point in the process).
- **ADVOCATE** for child

### Action?

If you have any concerns because you think that a child has or might have been abused, you need to **act**. If you think their care or lack of care impacts a child's safety, health or development you need to act. Includes home environment & harm outside home. Children Act 1989 ; WT 23)

**Ask Yourself-** What are you worried about? Why? What is **IMPACT** on the child? **BE EXPLICIT & CLEAR WHAT YOU ARE WORRIED ABOUT & WOULD YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAPPEN.** Ensure that sufficient information is shared, as well as consider the urgency with which to share it. **Safeguarding Referral? Early Help? IMMEDIATE DANGER CALL 999?**

It is NOT necessary to seek consent to share information for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of a child... provided there is a lawful basis to process any personal information. **Best practice is to seek consent, but it is NOT necessary to safeguard a child. If consent is not obtained or sought (too dangerous) MAKE IT CLEAR IN REFERRAL.**

Ensure you have systems in place. **RECORD YOUR DECISION TO SHARE OR NOT SHARE & RATIONALE.** Contacts & Actions. **RECORD discussions on CONSENT & VOICE OF THE CHILD** (if pre/non-verbal ie age/disability document what would *usually* be expected for child of age/development)

**BASICS: Name, DOB, address; child's current location & condition. CHILD'S VOICE**

**Parents/carers details (as much as you know) siblings, inc adult siblings. THEIR VIEWS**

**Language, (interpreter, signer, communication aid) Ethnicity, Special needs child/adult?**

Be clear about **what** you need to share, **why & how**. Include relevant background information. Include **POSITIVE** aspects of care. Previous concerns AND Pertinent parent/carer issues –eg **mental ill health, domestic abuse, substance use (Compound needs)**

You **will** need to share information to do this. The GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018 do not prevent, or limit, the sharing of information for the purposes of keeping children and young people safe. [Information sharing advice for safeguarding practitioners - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/information-sharing-advice-for-safeguarding-practitioners)

Different agencies have different thresholds for support. If you don't agree, or feel the help and support offered is not right it is **YOUR** responsibility to follow up in the first instance. Professionals- **USE THE ESCALATION PROCESSES & POLICY** as req.