

CHILD PROTECTION

**“Everybody’s
responsibility”**

**Child Protection
Awareness Information
for
all NHS Western Isles
employees**

Child Protection

INTRODUCTION

Children may be in need of protection where their basic needs are not being met. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting ; by those known to them or, more rarely, by a stranger. The sustained abuse or neglect of children physically, emotionally or sexually can have major long -term effects on all aspects of a child's health, development and well being.

Whether you work with children, with the adult carers of children, or in any NHS Western Isles setting, you have a duty to act responsibly to protect children from abuse and neglect if you see or hear things which make you worry about a child's care, welfare or safety.

NHS Western Isles have a Lead Clinician and Senior Nurse for Child Protection whose role is to provide supervision, support and advice to all NHS employees on suspected or proven child abuse. They are available to all staff working in either hospital or community settings including GP Practices and Dental departments..

Child Protection is Everybody's Responsibility

The NHS Western Isles **Child Protection Committee Inter-Agency Procedures and Guidelines** apply to all employees of NHS Western Isles. They are available in hospital departments, community clinics, GP and Dental Practices in the Western Isles.

The Western Isles Child protection Committee is the recognised forum for developing , co-ordinating, monitoring and reviewing policies and practice for the protection of children from abuse and neglect within the Western Isles. Represented on the Committee are members of NHS Western Isles, Northern Constabulary, Social Work, Education, Housing, legal bodies such as the Children's Reporter as well as Voluntary Agencies.

The procedures and Guidelines reflect national and international law. The Children (Scotland) Act 1995, The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child 1991 and the Human Rights Act 2000 are quite specific in declaring that the welfare of the child is paramount.

Child Protection

MAKING A REFERRAL

Effective child protection depends upon good communication between agencies, trust between professionals and being clear about other's roles and responsibilities.

All staff should have access to the Child Protection Procedures and Guidelines and these are intended to support staff and to underpin best practice in recognising and responding, promptly and professionally, to child abuse.

The Guidelines provide information for staff, including definitions of the categories of abuse and details about how to make a referral if you have concerns about a child.

When making a referral you should discuss this with your line manager, Lead Clinician for Child Protection or Senior Nurse for Child Protection. All relevant information about the child should be readily available including names, aliases, address and a list of concerns. Referral is made by phone to the duty social worker and is immediately followed by referral form CPR 1, which is contained in the Inter-Agency Procedures and Guidelines. Children and young people, and their parents or carers, are normally informed that a referral is being made (unless this might place the child at immediate risk).

The procedures for referral are detailed in the Child Protection Procedures and Guidelines which has sections with specific information for health professionals. A list of contact details for Designated Persons for health and other agencies is given in the Procedures and Guidelines. The Lead Clinician or Senior Nurse for Child Protection will be able to provide information on the systems and processes related to child abuse and neglect, and will be able to offer support and advice to health professionals, including confidentiality and the sharing of information.

For non-clinical personnel and students working in wards, clinics or other departments it may be appropriate to discuss your concerns with the ward or department manager in the first instance.

Child Protection

CHILD PROTECTION – FURTHER READING

- Western Isles Child Protection Committee Inter-Agency Guidelines and Procedures 2006. (Currently being reviewed).
- Protecting Children : A Shared Responsibility. Guidance for Health Professionals. Scottish Executive 2000.
- “It’s everyone’s job to make sure I’m alright” Report of the Child Protection Audit and Review. Scottish Executive 2002
- Protecting Children and Young People : Framework for Standards. Scottish Executive 2004.
- Children’s Charter. Scottish Executive 2004.
- Getting Our Priorities Right. Good Practice Guidelines for working with Children and Families affected by Substance Misuse. Scottish Executive 2004

Scottish Executive/Scottish Government publications can be accessed online at www.scotland.gov.uk/publications.

Western Isles Child Protection Committee Inter-Agency Procedures and Guidelines can be accessed on line at www.cne-siar.gov.uk/childProtectionCommittee

NHS Western Isles Child Protection Guidelines and Procedures can be accessed on the Intranet under child protection support.

FURTHER INFORMATION

If you have any queries on issues relating to Child Protection contact :

- Dr. Louise Scott - Lead Clinician Child Protection NHS Western Isles Group Medical Practice, Health Centre, Springfield Road, Stornoway 01851 709842
- Alison Macvie – Senior Nurse Child Protection NHS Western Isles Health Board Offices, Balivanich, Benbecula 01870 602266

Both can be contacted at Western Isles Hospital 24 hours on 01851 704704

Child Protection

KNOWLEDGE CHECKER

Please answer the following questions :

Please locate the copy of the Western Isles Child Protection Committee Inter-Agency Procedures and Guidelines in your place of work.

Q What page contains information about what you should do about making a referral

A-----

Q How do you contact Social Work Department?

A-----

Q What are the names of the Lead Clinician and Senior Nurse for Child Protection in NHS Western Isles

A-----

Q Have you received and read the blue wallet card with information about protecting Children? –

**A Yes
No**