



# Protection of Children

## Raising Awareness

Recent DfES (Department for Education and Skills) guidance requires Colleges to look closely at instances where Children (defined as those who have not yet reached their 18th Birthday) may be at risk from people they work with.

### CHILD PROTECTION

Children have a right to be kept safe from harm. Child Protection (protecting children from abuse) is everyone's responsibility.

- If you are concerned that a child may be suffering physical, sexual, or emotional abuse, or is being neglected;
  - If you are a child or young person and you are being abused or neglected;
- or
- If you are a parent or carer and you feel you are harming your child or are close to doing so

Please contact your Local Authority Social Services Unit

### WHAT IS CHILD ABUSE?

**Physical Abuse** - is when a child suffers any significant physical harm or pain. What is "significant" may depend on the child's age. What may be trivial for a teenager may be serious for a young baby.

**Sexual Abuse** - is forcing or tricking a child into sexual activity including inappropriately touching and the production or viewing of pornographic material.

**Emotional Abuse** - is when a child is persistently made to feel worthless, unloved, or frightened. It is usually part of the other forms of abuse too.

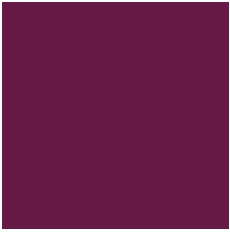
**Neglect** - is when a child is not provided with food, shelter, clothing or is not kept safe from danger or given necessary medical care.

A child is anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday.

### WHAT IS THE LAW?

There is a duty for all employers to carry out a suitable and sufficient risk assessment of health and safety risks to employees. The duty is under Regulation 3 of the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999. This would include identifying whether any other employees were a danger to another person in their employment. If any risks are evident, appropriate control measures should be put in place. In addition to this Regulation 19 states that every employer shall ensure that young persons employed by him/her are protected at work from any risks to their health and safety which are a consequence of their lack of experience, or absence of awareness of existing or potential risks or the fact that young persons have not yet fully matured.





## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

A child is determined in the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 as 'a person who is not over compulsory school leaving age'.

The Children Act 1989 provides for local authorities to make child assessment orders if they have reasonable cause to suspect that the child is suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm. This power is more likely to be used in a domestic situation.

The Protection of Children Act 1999 makes provision for the Secretary of State to keep a list of individuals who are considered unsuitable to work with children. A childcare organisation, and any other organisation may, refer to the Secretary of State an individual who is or has been employed in a childcare position. This request is made on a POCA1 form.

### INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE

The Area Child Protection Committee ensures that the social services of local authorities work very closely with other organisations who are concerned with children and their safety and welfare.

The Committee will include representatives from

- The Local Authority
- The Health Service
- The Police
- The Probation Service
- Family Court Officers
- NSPCC
- NCH
- Sure Start

Children who are abused usually know and trust their abuser. They are often members of their family.

It's very difficult for children to talk about abuse. Listen carefully to what children tell you.

Children are vulnerable. Do you know where your child is? Do you know who your child is with?

FE and Sixth Form colleges have a statutory duty to assist local social services departments on child protection issues. Doncaster College has a clear policy and procedures for dealing with suspicions or allegations of abuse. The College's Director of Lifelong Learning and Student Services is the named Senior Manager responsible for Child Protection and for liaising with statutory agencies. The counselling and welfare team at college are experienced in child protection matters and are available to speak to employers, in the first instance, should concern arise.

### USEFUL CONTACTS

- NSPCC Child Protection  
24 hr helpline  
0800 800 500
- Childline  
0800 1111
- DMBC Social Services  
NCH NE Regional Office  
01423 524286
- Doncaster College,  
Director of Lifelong Learning  
and Student Services  
01302 553707
- Doncaster College,  
Counselling & Welfare  
Service  
01302 553741