VALE of GLAMORGAN
BRO MORGANNWG

SOCIAL SERVICES

Child Protection Enquiries
A Guide for Parents and Carers

Vale of Glamorgan
Local Safeguarding
Children Board

Bro Morgannwg
Bwrdd Lleol
Diogelu Plant

LSCB

This leaflet forms the first part of a set of 3 leaflets about child protection. They are:

1 Child Protection Enquiries
2 Attending a Child Protection Conference
3 Keeping Your Child Safe

To order copies of these leaflets, please refer to the centre pages of this leaflet.

This leaflet has been prepared by the Children and Young People Services Division in the Vale of Glamorgan Council. Part of our responsibility is to provide ways to secure the safety and well-being of children in need and their families.

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Why are people concerned with my child and family?

This is a natural question to ask but keep in mind that:

- The law states that Social Services must make enquiries when they receive any information regarding the safety of a child. When the information received suggests that a criminal offence has been committed, the Police and Council Social Services work together.

- The welfare of a child is always the most important consideration. Parents or carers may sometimes become upset and worried when enquiries are made. However the purpose of the enquiries is to ensure their child is safe.

- People who know your child well, such as teachers, doctors, health workers and others have a responsibility to contact Social Services if they have concerns about the safety and welfare of a child.

- If enquiries are to be made about your child you will want to know how it will take place and how you will be involved. This booklet will tell you but it will be helpful to keep the following things in mind.

How will I be involved? What will I be told?

- You will be told of the concerns about your child, as soon as possible. Sometimes it's not possible to give full details immediately.
- Your opinions and views will be listened to in a way that is as comfortable as possible for you. You may have a friend, interpreter, advocate or solicitor present if you wish.
- You will be told of your rights.
- You will be treated with respect.

- Information about you and your family will be kept confidential and will not be passed on to others unless it is essential for the protection of a child.
- Most importantly, in the majority of cases children are not removed from their homes. It is recognised that the best place for children to be is with their families.
- Child protection allegations arouse strong feelings; you may feel angry, upset, worried and confused when allegations are made about possible abuse to your child(ren).
- Social workers from the Social Services Department and Police Officers, who have a duty to investigate, want to make the right decisions and your co-operation will help them to do this.

When there is a need, Social Services will offer help and support to ensure that a child remains safely at home.

Who do Social Services speak with during their enquiries?

We will want to talk to:

- The parents/carers of the child, when we will explain the reasons for concern about the child.
- The child will be seen and spoken with wherever possible (depending on age and understanding).
- Other important members of the family.
- The child's health worker of nursery or school teacher or doctor, and any other important people in their life.
- We may wish for your child to be medically examined

Do I have the right to refuse a medical for my child?

Our main consideration is always the welfare of the child and wherever possible we would aim to seek agreement with parents and carers. However, where appropriate it is possible for Social Services to apply for a Court Order, to allow a medical to take place without a parents consent.

Will the Police be involved in the enquiries?

In some situations when the Police need to decide if a criminal offence has been committed they will want to talk to you. Usually these police officers will be from a special family support unit. They will not be uniformed and are experienced in dealing with such cases. They will visit with a social worker.

Remember that you should always ask to see the identification of any police officer or social worker who comes to see you.

What will happen after the enquiries?

In some cases enquiries show that there are no grounds for concern. If this is the case you will be told so as soon as possible, generally by the social worker who first visited. We will write to you confirming the outcome of any enquiries.

It may be identified during the enquiries, that your family may benefit from some additional support, and you may wish to accept this offer of support from Social Services. This decision will be yours to make.

What will happen if the enquiries show that concerns still exist?

If it has been decided that there are child protection issues in relation to your child(ren), we will work with you to ensure that your child is safe. In order to discuss these concerns you will be invited to attend a Child Protection Conference.
A Child Protection Conference is a meeting with professionals who know your family e.g. Health Visitor, Doctor, Teacher etc. The purpose of this meeting is to share information and recommend the best way of keeping your child safe.

A leaflet explaining the Child Protection Conference is available and will be sent to you along with an invite to the meeting. It is called 'Attending a Child Protection Conference'.

Contact Information

For more information, contact your Social Worker, or you can contact:
Intake and Family Support Team
Haydock House
1 Holton Road
Barry
CF63 4HA
Tel: 01446 725202

This information may also be provided, by request, in other languages, in other formats (e.g. CD) or in simplified version. Please contact the Innovation and Information Team on tel: 01446 704814 to make arrangements.

VALE of GLAMORGAN
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GWASANAETHAU CYMDEITHASOL

Ymholiadau ynglyn ag Amddiffyn Plant

Canllaw i Rhieni a Gofalwyr

Vale of Glamorgan
Local Safeguarding
Children Board

Bro Morgannwg
Bwrdd Lleol
Diogelu Plant

LSCB

Y ffurflen hon yw'r rhan gyntaf o set o dair taflen sy'n ymwneud ag amddiffyn plant. Dyma'r tair:

1 Ymholiadau ynglyn Ag Amddiffyn Plant
2 Mynychu Cynhadledd Amddiffyn Plant
3 Cadw'ch Plentyn Yn Ddiogel

I archebu copïau o'r taflenni, gwelwch dudalennau canol y daflen hon os gwelwch chi'n dda.

Paratowyd y daflen hon gan Adran Gwasanaethau Plant a Phobl Ifanc yng Nghyngor Bro Morgannwg. Rhan o'n cyfrifoldeb yw darparu ffyrdd o sicrhau diogelwch a lles plant mewn angen a'u teuluoedd.

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Paham fod pobl yn pryderu am fy mhlentyn a'm teulu?

Mae hwn yn gwestiwn naturiol i'w ofyn ond cofiwch fod:

- Y gyfraith yn dweud bod yn rhaid i'r Gwasanaeth Cymdeithasol wneud ymholiadau wrth dderbyn unrhyw wybodaeth ynglyn â diogelwch plentyn. Pan fod gwybodaeth a dderbyniwyd yn awgrymu bod trosedd wedi ei gyflawni. Mae'r Heddlu a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol y Cyngor yn cydweithio.

- Lles y plentyn yw'r ystyriaeth bennaf. Mae rhieni neu ofalwyr yn cael eu cynhyrfu ac yn gofidio pan wneir ymholiadau. Fodd bynnag, pwrpas yr ymholiadau yw sicrhau bod y plen tyn yn ddiogel.

- Mae gan y bobl sy'n adnabod eich plentyn yn dda, megis athrawon, meddygon, gweithwyr iechyd ynghyd ag eraill, gyfrifoldeb i gysylltu â'r Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol os oes ganddynt bryderon ynglyn â diogelwch a lles plentyn.

- Os oes ymholiadau ar fin cael eu gwneud ynghylch eich plentyn, mi fyddwch am wybod sut y bydd yn cymryd lle a pha gysylltiad fydd gennych. Fe ddywed y llyfryn hwn wrthych, ond mi fydd o fudd i chi gofio'r pwyntiau a ganlyn.

Sut fath o gysylltiad fydd gen i? Beth fyddant yn ei ddweud wrthyf?

- Cewch wybod am y pryderon ynglyn â'ch plentyn, mor fuan â phosib. Ambell waith nid yw'n bosib rhoi'r manylion llawn ar unwaith.
- Fe wrandewir ar eich barn a'ch safbwynt mewn ffordd sydd mor gysurus â phosib i chi. Os dymunwch, mi all ffrind, dehonglwr, eiriolwr neu gyfreithiwr fod yn bresennol.
- Cewch wybod eich hawliau
- Cewch eich trin a pharch

- Cedwir unrhyw wybodaeth ynglyn â chi a'ch teulu yn gyfrinachol ac ni roddir unrhyw wybodaeth i eraill heblaw ei fod yn hanfodol er mwyn amddiffyn y plentyn.
- Yn holl bwysig, yn y mwyafrif o achosion ni symudir y plant o'u cartrefi. Cydnabyddir mai'r lle gorau i'r plant yw gyda'u teulu.
- Mae honiadau sy'n ymwneud ag Amddiffyn Plant yn cyffroi teimladau cryf; rydych yn siwr o deimlo'n ddig, cynhyrfus, gofidus ac yn ddryslyd pan wneir honiadau ynglyn â'r posibilrwydd o gamdriniaeth tuag at eich plentyn/plant.
- Mae' Gweithwyr Cymdeithasol o'r Adran Gwasanaethau Cymunedol a Swyddogion yr Heddlu, sydd â dyletswydd i ymchwilio, am wneud y penderfyniadau cywir, ac mi fydd eich cydweithrediad yn eu galluogi i wneud hynny.

Pan fo angen, mi fydd y Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol yn cynnig help a chymorth er mwyn sicrhau bod y plentyn yn aros yn ddiogel yn ei gartref.

Gyda phwy mae'r Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol yn siarad yn ystod eu hymholiadau?

Mi fyddwn yn dymuno siarad â'r canlynol:

- Rhieni/gofalwyr y plentyn, pan fyddwn yn esbonio'r rhesymau am y pryderon ynglyn â'r plentyn.
- Y plentyn. Fe ymwelir â'r plentyn a siaredir ag ef/hi pryd byn nag bosib (yn dibynnu ar yr oedran a'r ddealltwriaeth).
- Aelodau pwysig eraill o'r teulu.
- Gweithiwr iechyd neu athro/athrawes ysgol neu feddyg, ac unrhyw berson pwysig arall sydd yn eu bywyd.
- Mae'n bosib y bydd angen i'ch plentyn gael archwiliad meddygol.

Oes gennyf yr hawl i wrthod i'm plentyn dderbyn archwiliad meddygol?

Ein hystyriaeth bennaf ar bob achlysur yw lles y plentyn a phryd bynnag bosib, ein nod yw gweithio'n gytûn gyda rhieni a gofalwyr. Fodd bynnag, lle'n briodol, mae'n bosib i'r Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol wneud cais am Orchymyn Llys, er mwyn galluogi archwiliad meddygol heb ganiatâd rhiant.

A fydd yr Heddlu ynghlwm a'r ymholiadau?

Mewn rhai sefyllfaoedd pan fod angen i'r Heddlu benderfynu os oes trosedd wedi ei gyflawni mi fyddant am siarad â chi. Fel arfer mi fydd swyddogion yr heddlu yn gweithredu o uned arbennig sef uned cefnogi teuluoedd. Ni fyddant yn gwisgo ffurfwisg, ac maent yn brofiadol wrth ddelio a'r fath achosion. Mi fyddant yn ymweld â chi, gyda'r gweithiwr cymdeithasol.

Cofiwch y dylech ofyn i weld cerdyn adnabod unrhyw aelod o'r heddlu neu weithiwr cymdeithasol sy'n dod i'ch gweld.

Beth fydd yn digwydd ar ôl yr ymholiadau?

Mewn rhai achosion mae'r ymholiadau yn dangos nad oes unrhyw achos i bryderu. Os mai hyn yw'r achos fe gewch wybod mor fuan â phosib, fel arfer gan y gweithiwr cymdeithasol a wnaeth ymweld â chi ar y cychwyn. Fe wnawn ysgrifennu atoch i gadarnhau canlyniadau unrhyw ymholiadau.
Mae'n bosib yr amlygir yn ystod yr ymholiadau, y byddai'n fuddiol i'ch teulu i dderbyn cymorth ychwanegol, ac mae modd i chi dderbyn y cynnig hwn gan y Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol. Eich penderfyniad chi ydyw.

Beth fyddai'n digwydd petai'r ymholiadau yn dangos bod yna bryderon?

Os penderfynwyd bod yna bryderon amddiffyn plant mewn perthynas â'ch plentyn (plant), mi fyddwn yn gweithio gyda chi er mwyn sicrhau bod eich plentyn yn ddiogel. Er mwyn trafod y pryderon, mi fyddwch yn derbyn gwahoddiad i fynychu Cynhadledd Amddiffyn Plant.
Mae Cynhadledd Amddiffyn Plant yn golygu cyfarfod gyda gweithwyr proffesiynol sy'n adnabod eich teulu e.e. Ymwelydd Iechyd, Meddyg, Athro/Athrawes ayyb. Pwrpas y cyfarfod yw rhannu gwybodaeth ac argymell y ffordd orau o gadw eich plentyn yn ddiogel.

Mae taflen sy'n esbonio Cynhadledd Amddiffyn Plant ar gael, ac fe'i danfonir i chi ynghyd a'r gwahoddiad i'r cyfarfod. Enw'r daflen yw 'Mynychu Cynhadledd Amddiffyn Plant'.

Manylion Cyswllt

Am fwy o wybodaeth, cysylltwch â'ch Gweithiwr Cymdeithasol, neu fe allwch gysylltu â :
Tîm Derbyn a Chymorth Teuluol
Ty Haydock
1 Heol Holton
Y Barri
CF63 4HA
Ffôn: 01446 725202

Cewch y wybodaeth hon mewn ieithoedd a fformatiau eraill (e.e. cryno ddisg) neu wedi’i symleiddio, drwy holi. Cysylltwch â’r Tîm Arloesi a Gwybodaeth os gwelwch chi'n dda ar
01446 704814 i wneud trefniadau.

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