

Safeguarding

The Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust's Children's Safeguarding Team provides a service for children and young people, aged 0-18yrs. The team consists of experienced nurses who cover any safeguarding issues for those children who attend or are known to Birmingham Heartlands Hospital, Solihull Hospital, Good Hope Hospital and Solihull Community Services. The team provide advice and support to all staff where there are concerns in regards to the safety and wellbeing of a child or young person.

Safeguarding is a fundamental professional responsibility of all staff employed by Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust. **It is also the responsibility of all individuals within the community to raise concerns if they feel a child or young person may be at risk of harm.**

There are various types of abuse which include:

- Emotional harm
- Neglect
- Physical harm
- Sexual abuse

Contributing to these are any factors that impact on parenting ability or impact on peer relationships or on a child's ability to achieve their full potential. These include:

- Domestic abuse
- Substance misuse and/or alcohol abuse
- Inappropriate chastisement
- Significant mental health illness
- Child sexual exploitation (CSE) including sexting, grooming and distribution of indecent images
- Neglect of a child's or young person's health needs, basic care including financial hardship, where there are insufficient funds to provide basic, consistent care to a child or young person such as food, clothing, water and appropriate housing or amenities
- No access to education
- Forced marriage
- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
- Honour based violence
- Missing children

Once a concern has been identified, this can be discussed with your local Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub or MASH who will listen and advise you. MASH are a team of professionals that work together to help promote the safety and wellbeing of children when information suggests that a child may be at risk. The aim of the intervention is for professionals to work with families and provide support when families are in crisis or have sustained difficulties.

If you have any concerns that a child or young person may be at risk of harm or experiencing harm then please call:

Solihull MASH on 0121 788 4333 or Birmingham MASH on 0121 303 1888.

If you are a young person who would like to discuss any concerns pertaining to yourself, a sibling or friend you can also call MASH or call the NSPCC helpline on 0808 800 5000 or text 88858 or contact help@nspcc.org.uk “