

A Guide to Child Protection Services



Safeguarding and Standards Unit

Includes:

LSCB (Local Safeguarding Children Board)

Safeguarding Children

Child Protection

Looked After Children

Family Group Meeting Service

LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer)

Children's Participation

Cambridgeshire Sexual Behaviour Service

Local Safeguarding Children Board

The (LSCB) is an inter-agency forum which brings together representatives of each of the main agencies responsible for helping to protect children from abuse and neglect within Cambridgeshire. It aims to ensure that arrangements work effectively to bring about good outcomes for children. The LSCB also develops, agrees and reviews local policies and procedures for inter-agency work to safeguard and protect children, consistent with government guidance. The LSCB have been set up by the government to make sure that the organisations work together to safeguard children and promote their welfare. The Cambridgeshire LSCB includes social care services, education, health, police, probation, sports and leisure services, the youth offending service, Connexions, early years services and the voluntary sector. The LSCB produce regular newsletters describing its activities and new developments. Please see contact details panel.

Safeguarding Children

Any child can be abused anywhere at any time by anyone - adults or other children. Abuse can take many forms: including physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse and neglect. Children with disabilities are especially vulnerable. You can report your concerns in confidence, as detailed below. When you contact us, the person you speak with will take your concerns very seriously and refer the case to a social worker, trained in child protection, who will contact you. Whatever you say will be treated in confidence. Enquiries will be made through people in contact with the child, such as teachers and doctors. Because of the confidential nature of this work, you may not be kept informed as the enquiries continue, but your alertness will have been the important first step in protecting the child.

8am - 8pm Monday to Friday
Children's Social Care Services
Tel: 0845 045 5203

Urgent help outside these hours:
Cambridgeshire Children and Young People's Services
Tel: 01733 234724

You can also speak with the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) on 0800 800500
Please see contact details panel for further information.

Child Protection

Child protection conferences take place when Social Care Services decide that a child appears to be at risk of significant harm. By law, Social Care Services must investigate whether a child is safe whenever a report is received which suggests that there are serious concerns for a child's welfare. A child is deemed to be at risk if there is evidence of neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse or any combination of these categories. A conference is held and attended by professionals (eg doctors, teachers), who have some knowledge of the family, parents, significant family members and Social Care Services, and is chaired by an independent person. Should you believe that a child is at risk, please call the appropriate number on the contact details panel

Looked After Children

Where a child appears to be at risk of significant harm, Social Care Services have a legal duty to investigate. In cases where children are felt to be at risk at home, we usually reach a voluntary agreement with parents or carers, by which we “look after” their children, but the parents retain all legal rights over the child. In more serious cases, we have to ask the courts for the authority to remove a child from their parent’s or carer’s home. If that happens, then we always look first to other family members to provide alternative care. If this is not possible we will make alternative arrangements. In most cases, this means children being placed in foster homes. We usually encourage contact with their families and try to find ways and means by which the child can be allowed to return home. For a few children, a residential home is the most appropriate care option. Children are seen on a regular basis by independent reviewing officers and involved professionals, to ensure their needs are being met. Should you believe that a child is at risk, please call the appropriate number on the contact details panel.

Family Group Meeting (FGM) Service

A Family Group Meeting (FGM) is a meeting where family members and friends make the main decisions. FGMs are a means of enabling families to find solutions to their own problems within a professionally supportive framework. An FGM can be used when there is a risk of a child/young person going into care because of problems in their family, or to help them leave care to return to their family. It can also be used to support positive changes to a child or young person’s family life or to stop a child or young person being harmed. Only a social services representative can make a referral at present but other professionals and family member(s) can consult with a social services representative who will consider making a referral.

If you feel that a child is at risk please see contact details panel (page 4) in this leaflet.

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

The main role of the LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer) Unit is to manage allegations against adults who work or volunteer with children. In every case where a child has been, or may have been, harmed in any way, by an adult in a position of responsibility, the LADO Unit should be informed. Such disclosures may relate to schools, nurseries, foster care, faith organisations, sports or uniformed organisations, social care, and so on. In some cases, criminal offences may have been committed. It is important that the LADO Unit is informed of any relevant incidents or concerns as quickly as possible, so that an appropriate investigation may begin. There are formal procedures in which the LADO Unit takes the lead. The LADO Unit also works closely with the police, prison and probation services, contributing to the assessment of adults who pose a potential risk to children, whether in prison or in the community. If you feel that a child is at risk please see contact details panel in this leaflet.

Children’s Participation

The children’s participation service aims to support children and young people to actively participate in shaping the services they receive. We hold 5 ‘Just Us’ groups a month for looked after children and young people across Cambridgeshire for children aged 7 and above. We have 2 groups called ‘Talk ‘n’ Change’ a month for

young people aged 10 and over with a child protection plan. We also have a children in care council called 'Voices Matter' where a panel of looked after young people meet with service directors and county council members to represent the views of other looked after children and young people to talk about how they can improve services. We also train and support a group of young trainers who are involved with recruitment and deliver 'Respect Matters' training to other young people and professionals within the service. We run annual events like the summer 'Fun Day' and the 'Awards Evening' for looked after young people and those that work with them. For further information, please see contact details in this leaflet.

Cambridgeshire Sexual Behaviour Service

The Sexual Behaviour Service (SBS) works with children and young people (age 5 to 19 years old) exhibiting sexualised or sexually harmful behaviour that is causing concern, and falls outside behaviour considered developmentally appropriate for a child or young person of that age. The SBS provides advice, assessments, reviews and some short term interventions using the AIM (Assessment, Intervention, Moving on) model. The AIM model uses trained assessors from a wide variety of services. Referrals are accepted via a SARF (Single Agency Referral Form) or a CAF (Common Assessment Framework). Referrals are accepted from case holding agencies including: social care, police, youth offending teams, schools / settings, CAMH, locality teams or any concerned professional working with the young person or family. The team works with children, young people, families / carers and professionals to offer a co-ordinated approach to reduce levels of risk and vulnerability to self, others, increase resilience and provide supportive strategies to minimise referral behaviours. For further information please see contact details panel in this leaflet.

Contact Details

Child Protection on 0345 045 5203 - **Looked After Children** on 0345 045 5203

Local Safeguarding Children Board on 01480 373522
LSCB@cambridgeshire.gov.uk www.cambslscb.org.uk

Children's Participation on 01223 727976
Amber.Dyer@cambridgeshire.gov.uk www.avoic4us.com

Cambridgeshire Sexual Behaviour Service on 01223 703591
Trudy.Potter@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Family Group Meeting Service
Initial Discussion: Julie Collinson Manager on 01480 372451 or 07748 932883
Julie.Collinson@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Family Group Business Support: on 01480 372638
Sharon.Waldron@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO):
LADO Unit telephone: 01223 727967 - LADO Unit fax: 01223 475942
LADO Unit e-mail: LADO@cambridgeshire.gov.uk