Appendix 1

What is Child Abuse and how do we recognise it?

Child abuse is the term used to describe ways in which children and young people are harmed, usually by adults and often by people they know and trust.

Categories of Child Abuse

Physical Abuse:

Definition:	Possible Indicators may include:
• This may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning or suffocating. • It may also be caused when a parent or carer feigns the symptoms of, or deliberately causes, ill health to a child they are looking after.	• Unexplained injuries or burns • Improbable explanation for an injury • Recurring 'accidents' • Untreated injuries • Reluctance to discuss injuries • Fear of returning home or chronic running away

Emotional Abuse:

Definition:	Possible Indicators may include:
• It may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. • It may involve the imposition of age- or developmentally-inappropriate expectations on a child. It may involve causing children to feel frightened or in danger, or exploiting or corrupting children.	• Constantly being put down, ridiculed, scapegoated • Being treated differently from other children in the family • Extremes of passivity and aggression or outbursts • Lack of concentration • Low self-esteem • Running away • Self-harm

Sexual Abuse:

Definition:	Possible Indicators may include:
• Involves any act involving the child or young person in any activity for the sexual gratification of another person	• Behaviour changes eg withdrawn, anxiety, isolation, depression • Developmental regression • Anxiety associated with certain places or people • Lack of trust or over familiarity and attention seeking • Sexual knowledge and awareness beyond age • Sexualised acting out with other children or toys • Risk taking behaviours eg. drug or alcohol misuse • Self-harm

Neglect:

Definition:	Possible Indicators may include:
• Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs in an age and stage appropriate manner and is likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. • It may involve the failure to provide adequate food, shelter and clothing, to protect a child from physical harm or danger, or to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. • In its extreme form children can be at serious risk from the effects of malnutrition, lack of nurturing and stimulation leading to serious long-term effects such as greater susceptibility to serious childhood illnesses and reduction in potential stature. With young children in particular, the consequences may be life-threatening within a relatively short period of time	• Always hungry • Inappropriate clothing • Health needs not being met • Appointments not kept • Poor personal hygiene • Poor self-esteem • Social isolation • Left unattended or with inappropriate adults • Poorly supervised

Additional Factors/Risk Indicators

The following factors should act as a prompt for all staff working in an adult or child care setting, to consider how they may impact on a child. Where these co-exist, risk may be increased:

- Domestic Abuse
- Parental alcohol misuse
- Parental drug misuse
- Children or Young People experiencing or affected by disability
- Children and young people experiencing or affected by mental health problems
- Children and young people who display harmful or problematic sexual behaviour
- Non engaging families
- Sudden unexpected death in infants and children
- Cultural issues (Forced Marriage, FGM (female genital mutilation), Honour Violence)
- Children or young people who display behaviour linked to the risk of violent extremism or terrorism
- Children or young people who are carers

Harm outside the home

- Forced or Dangerous Labour
- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Child Trafficking
- Online and mobile phone child safety
- Children and young people who place themselves at risk
- Underage sexual activity
- Forced Marriage
- Concealed pregnancy