

What should you do if you suspect that a child could be endangered or could come to any harm?

**If you notice something,
do something about it**

To protect children from abuse and harm it is important that everyone knows what to do if they suspect someone is being harmed or abused. You may suspect that someone is being harmed or abused because:

- You have general concerns about someone's wellbeing
- You see or hear about something which could cause abuse
- Someone tells you something has happened or is happening to them which could be abuse

Remember, abuse can be categorised as physical, emotional, sexual or neglect.

If you have any concerns about the welfare of a child speak to your school's Safeguarding Team or the MSSP Management Team straight away unless you feel it is more appropriate or necessary to directly contact the Police or Merton's Children and Families Hub.

MSSP will refer all incidents to HAMD's DSL. We will also contact the Head Teacher of any relevant school if required. We will log all concerns and ensure that where appropriate the relevant bodies are informed. This may include the child's school's Head Teacher or DSL, the local Council and the Police.

Don't forget:

- ✓ to record any incidents and discussions in writing as soon as you can.
- ✓ that an allegation of child abuse or neglect may lead to a criminal investigation, so don't do anything that may jeopardise a police investigation, such as asking a child leading questions or attempting to investigate the allegations of abuse.

All MSSP staff and sport specialists have undertaken up to date Child Protection training with HAMD.

Useful Contact Details

- MSSP Office: 07927 896 062 or info@mertonssp.org.uk
- Merton's Children and Families Hub on 020 8545 4226/4227
Out of hours: 020 8770 5000 candfhub@merton.gov.uk
- HAMD Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL): Mrs L. Edwards
Tel: 020 8687 1157 ex 3710 l.edwards@harrismorden.org.uk
- Help for children and young people call Childline on 0800 1111