

# Child Protection

## Protecting your child with disabilities and additional needs



# Child Protection

## Contact Numbers

The Children and Young People's Service Referral & Assessment Team (Hornsey)

**020 8489 1856 / 1805 / 1806**

The Children and Young People's Service Referral & Assessment Team (Tottenham)

**020 8489 5402 / 5403 / 5404**

Disabled Children's Team  
Duty Service

**020 8489 3671**

Child Protection Advisors

**020 8489 1192 / 1866 / 1061 /  
5462 / 5426**

Emergency out of hours  
social work team

**020 8348 3148**

The Markfield Project

**020 8800 4134**

Markfield Parent Partnership Service

**020 8802 2111** (Mon 9.30am –  
1pm; Weds 3 – 6pm term time only)

The Children and Young People's  
Service Complaints Officer

**020 8489 3481**

Haringey Local Safeguarding  
Children Board

**020 8489 1472**

For independent advice and  
support you could contact

The Family Rights Group on  
**0800 731 1696**

The advice line is open on Monday  
to Friday between 10am and  
12noon and between 1.30pm and  
3.30pm



## **Protecting your child**

**We know from research that children with disabilities are more vulnerable to abuse and/or neglect than other children. The aim of this leaflet is to make you aware of some of the reasons for this and to tell you where you can go for advice if you are worried.**

**Parents and carers play a key role in the protection of children. You know your child better than anyone else and are best placed to identify anything that may indicate that something is wrong. You are also likely to be the people that your child will find it easiest to tell things to and you will be aware of the different ways that they find to communicate.**

## **In what ways are children with disabilities more vulnerable?**

- They are likely to come into contact with a greater number of services than non-disabled children and to receive intimate care from more people.
- They are more likely to spend time away from their families, in respite and short break services, residential schools etc.
- Negative social attitudes towards children with disabilities can affect people's willingness to believe that abuse has taken place. As a consequence children and their families can be made to feel more isolated.
- Sometimes the fact that a child is treated abusively can go unrecognised; for example, some methods of control or discipline may be permitted when in fact they are causing harm.
- Some children with disabilities will find it more difficult to communicate what they are feeling. Professionals are not always good at hearing what they are trying to say.
- Sometimes behaviour can be misinterpreted as being a consequence of a disability when in fact it is a sign of abuse.

## **What are services in Haringey doing to reduce the risk?**

- Part of the role of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) is to raise awareness in the community of the importance of keeping children safe. It runs multi-agency training courses on child protection, specific to children with disabilities. This is to ensure that professionals know how to recognise the signs of abuse and neglect.
- All statutory agencies that work with children work to a common set of procedures. The London Child Protection Procedures guide our practice to keep children safe across all London boroughs.
- The LSCB has published practice guidance to help ensure that organisations do everything possible to check that staff are safe to work with children before they offer them a job.
- Haringey Council's Children and Young People's Service has a team of social workers specifically for children with disabilities, which includes a Home Intervention Service for children under 5 (HINTS) and a team to co-ordinate the transition to adult's services. A child protection advisor links directly to this team to provide guidance around child protection concerns. Haringey Primary Care Trust employs health visitors and doctors with specialist knowledge of children with disabilities.

## Signs of abuse or neglect

The main categories of child abuse are physical, sexual, emotional and neglect – and any combination of these. These are common to all children.

**Physical abuse** covers hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm. Signs include unusual bruising, injuries or burn marks. Particular forms of physical abuse that can be experienced by children with disabilities include:

- Restraining a child without knowing how to do so safely
- Using inappropriate kinds of discipline, such as withholding medication or food, restricting movement or removing essential equipment
- Using medication in a way that has not been medically advised
- Invasive procedures that are carried out by people without the right skills or against a child's will
- Using badly fitting or inappropriate equipment, which may cause pain or injury.

**Sexual abuse** involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities, including pornographic material, either directly or as an observer. This includes the abusive use of the Internet.

**Emotional abuse** can be caused by over-protection, bullying, the conveying of developmentally inappropriate expectations or that a child is worthless or inadequate. There will be some degree of emotional abuse within all the other types.

**Neglect** is the persistent failure to meet a child's physical or psychological needs and can include the use of drugs or alcohol while pregnant or the failure to provide access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It can include the failure to meet the communication needs of a hearing impaired child to the point where development is impaired.

## **Where can I go for advice?**

The Children and Young People's Service in Haringey has a Referral and Assessment Social Work Service and a specialist team for children with disabilities and additional needs. There is also a team of child protection advisors who may be able to give you advice over the telephone.

You could also seek advice from staff in your child's school such as Headteachers, class teachers in special schools and the SENCO in mainstream schools, or you could talk to one of the professionals involved with your child such as the Educational Psychologist, Speech and Language Therapist, Physiotherapist, Health Visitor or GP.

The Markfield Project runs a Parent Partnership Service which offers advice, support and advocacy to parents and carers of disabled children. Other parents can be a valuable source of support at all times.

If you would like a copy of this leaflet for parents / carers about protecting children with disabilities and additional needs, in another language please complete this form and send it to the free post address below.

Albanian

Nëse doni në një gjuhë tjetër një kopje të kësaj fletushke për prindër/kujdesës mbi mbrojtjen e fëmijëve me paafësi dhe me nevoja shtesë, ju lutem plotësoni këtë formular dhe dërgojeni atë tek adresa e mëposhtme me postim falas.

Somali

Haddii aad jeceshahay in lagu soo diro qoraalkan loogu tala galay waaliidiinta/daryeelayaasha ee ku saabsan ilaalinta caruurta naafadda ah, oo ku qoran afkaaga hooyo, fadlan calaamaddee sanduuqa buuxina foomkan kadibna dib ugu soo dir cinwaanka hoos ku xusan. Dib u soo dirista foomku lacag kaagama baahna.

Kurdish

Ev belavok ji bo dê/bav/nêrevanan e û li ser parastina zarokên kêmandam û bi pêwîstiyên zêde ye. Heke hun wê bi zimanekî din dixwazin, ji kerema xwe vê formê tije bikin û wê ji navnîşana posta bêpere ya jêrîn re bişînin.

French

Pour obtenir un exemplaire dans votre langue de ce prospectus pour les parents/responsables sur la protection des enfants ayant un handicap ou des besoins supplémentaires, veuillez remplir le coupon et le renvoyer à l'adresse ci-dessous.

Bengali

প্রতিবন্ধিতা এবং অন্যান্য অতিরিক্ত চাহিদা আছে এমন ব্যক্তিদের রক্ষার ব্যাপারে বাবা-মা/পরিচর্যাকারীদের জন্যে এই নীফলেটের একটি কপি যদি আপনি আরেকটা ভাষায় পেতে চান, তাহলে দয়া করে এই ফর্মটা পূরণ করুন এবং নিচের ফ্রীপোস্ট ঠিকানায় ফেরত পাঠান।

Turkish

Eğer anne-babalar/bakıcılar için hazırlanmış, engelli ve ek gereksinimleri olan çocukları korumaya ilişkin bu broşürün başka dilde bir kopyasını istiyorsanız, lütfen bu formu doldurup aşağıda verilen, posta pulu gerektirmeyen adrese gönderiniz.

Another language, please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

Please tell us if you would like a copy of this charter in any of the following formats, and send the form to the freepost address below.

In large print     On disk     On audio tape     In Braille

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
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