

# What do to if you have safeguarding concerns?

One of our main priorities at Southampton City Council is that children and young people in Southampton get a good start in life and can go on to fulfil their potential.

If you are concerned about a child or young person, it is important to take action. There are several options available so we have provided more information below to help you decide what to do next. This information is relevant for both professionals and members of the public.

A member of staff has concerns about a child.

The staff member should read and follow the Child Protection Policy, and speak to the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputy immediately.

**If the DSL is not available...**

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Staff members must not delay action. They must immediately speak to a member of SLT if available and/or contact Children's Services within the Local Authority 02380 833336, Professionals line 02380 832300 or if at risk of immediate harm a call could be made to the police depending on circumstance.

The DSL must take immediate action as appropriate.

## Child protection & safeguarding for children in need

When it's not an emergency situation but you are worried that a child may be at risk of abuse, harm or neglect, please contact us. You can find out more about these risks and how to report a concern here: <https://www.southampton.gov.uk/health-social-care/children/child-social-care/child-protection.aspx>

**Or you can contact us straight away on 023 8083 3336**



## Early help and support for families

You might feel that a child is not at risk of harm at the moment, but their family needs more support to stop anything from getting worse in future. Our Early Help Hub can help with this. Further information can be found here: <https://www.southampton.gov.uk/health-social-care/children/child-social-care/early-help.aspx>

Or if you would like to talk to them immediately, you can call 023 8083 3311



## Further resources and universal services

If you're a family member or professional who wants to find out what support is available apart from Early Help, you can view more resources here: <https://www.southampton.gov.uk/health-social-care/children/child-social-care/further-information-resources.aspx>

