

### Things to expect for your child are:

- To be safe and protected from harm, abuse, or neglect
- To be heard and have their views and feelings considered
- To appropriate confidentiality
- To be protected and supported
- To be kept informed and updated according to their age and understanding
- To ask for explanations and to raise concerns.
- To have an interpreter if needed
- To have a chaperone

### What a Parent/Carer can expect:

- To be heard
- To be supported
- To be kept informed and involved
- To ask for explanations and appropriate confidentiality
- To seek legal advice and complain
- To have an interpreter if needed
- To request a chaperone



## Further information and support

### The Children's Hub

(Children's Services)

01642 130080 OR

01429 284284

Or email:

[childrenshub@hartlepool.gov.uk](mailto:childrenshub@hartlepool.gov.uk)

### Middlesbrough MACH

01642 726004

[MiddlesbroughMACH@middlesbrough.gov.uk](mailto:MiddlesbroughMACH@middlesbrough.gov.uk)

### Redcar and Cleveland MACH

01642 130700

[RedcarMACH@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk](mailto:RedcarMACH@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk)

### NSPCC

[www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)

0808 800 5000

Or email: [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk)

### Family Rights Group

0808 801 0366

<http://www.frg.org.uk/>

## INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

## CHILD PROTECTION MEDICAL



### Q: Why does my child need a child protection medical assessment?

A: A child protection medical assessment may be requested due to concerns about a mark, bruise, or injury on your baby/child. These concerns could be because your baby is considered to be very young to have a mark/bruise, it is uncertain about how the mark/bruise/injury occurred or an allegation has been made about possible harm caused to your child. A Paediatrician (a specialist child doctor) has been asked to see your child to make a full assessment to determine the cause of the mark/bruise/injury. A child protection medical assessment often requires police, social workers, and health professionals to work together to share information and make joint decisions to ensure your child is safe. The outcome of the assessment maybe that there is a medical explanation for the mark/bruise/injury.

The team realise that parents may find this process upsetting **and so it is important that you ask questions if you don't understand anything or require further information.**

You will be asked to confirm you have 'parental responsibility' and then give consent for us to undertake any assessments that are needed. We will also make sure you understand what is happening with each process and why. if you cannot attend in person, it may be possible to obtain your consent over the phone.

We may also ask your child for their consent as long as we feel they fully understand what is involved.

If we are unable to obtain valid consent for the child protection medical examination from at least one person with parental responsibility, or your child if competent to provide consent, then we may discuss this with Children Social Care and/or the Police to decide the next steps.

### Q: What happens during the examination?

A: The doctor will talk to you and possibly your child, about any concerns that have been raised and will make a written record of this. The doctor will ask you questions about your child's health from the time they were born until now, including:

- Previous Illnesses, medications, and allergies
- Your child's birth history
- Immunisations
- Child development
- Family history of any illnesses
- Who lives at home and who the child may have had contact with?

The health practitioner will measure your child's height and weight and complete a detailed head to toe examination. Any marks or injuries will be recorded, and photographs may be taken.

### Q: How long will it take to complete?

A: The assessment will generally take up to an hour but can sometimes take a little longer. As other tests and photographs may be required, it is possibly that the whole process will take two or three hours to complete.

### Q: Who will be in the examination room?

The examination will be carried out by an experienced children's doctor. A health practitioner will also be in the room. You can have a family member with you as well.

If a young person would like to be seen alone this will be arranged but a doctor and nurse will need to be present.

### Further Tests

Sometimes further tests are needed such as blood tests, X- rays or scans. These help the doctors find out about medical conditions or find injuries that cannot be seen by examination. The doctor will explain about these tests if they are needed.

### Q. What happens after the examination?

A: The findings will be explained to the social worker and police, who will then explain to you what will happen next.

The doctor will explain their initial findings to you and will then complete a report for the professionals involved. This written report will be sent to the social worker and your GP within 10 working days.

Sometimes the medical report will be shared with court. The report will also be shared with your GP and Health Visiting Service. The doctor will explain if further medical treatments are needed or any medical follow up.