

A group of children, including a young boy in the foreground and a girl to his right, are smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is slightly blurred, showing other children and what appears to be a classroom or school setting.

The Parish Church of St Anne

**An Introduction to
Child Protection**

Under 18s Co-ordinator – Monica Hollows



Aims & Objectives

At the end of this session participants will :

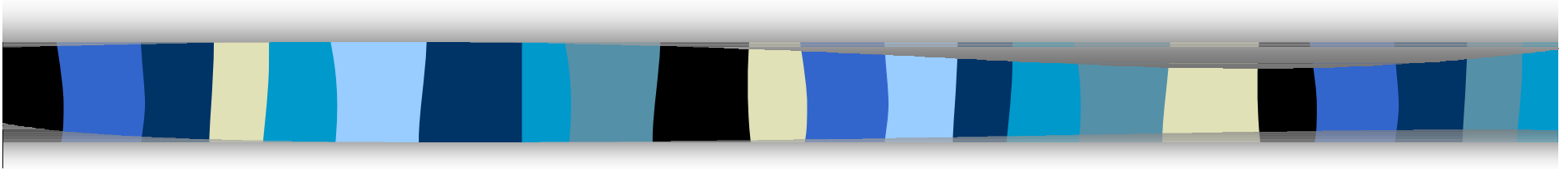
- Be aware of different types of abuse and possible signs and symptoms.
- Be clear about how to respond to a child who tells them about possible abuse.
- Be aware of the Church's own Child Protection Policy and procedures.
- Be clear about what to do if they are concerned about a child.



What has child abuse got to do with me?



Exercise



**What do you know about
Safeguarding Children?**



What is Child Abuse?

When a child is hurt or harmed by another person in a way that causes **significant harm** to that child and which may have an effect upon the child's health, development or well-being, via acts of **omission** or **commission**.



What is Child Abuse?

Four types:

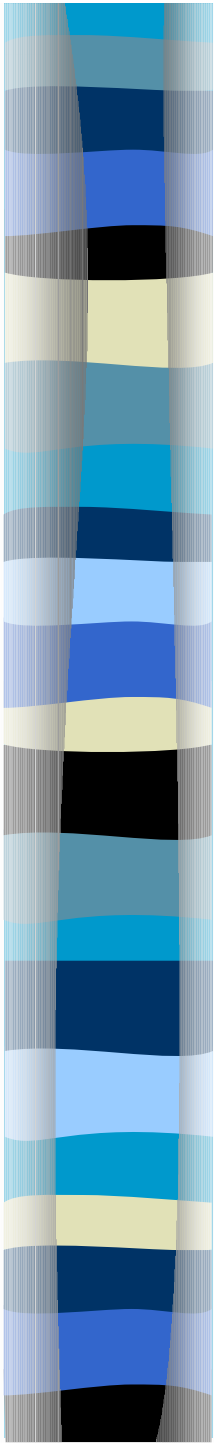
- Physical Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Emotional Abuse
- Neglect



Physical Abuse

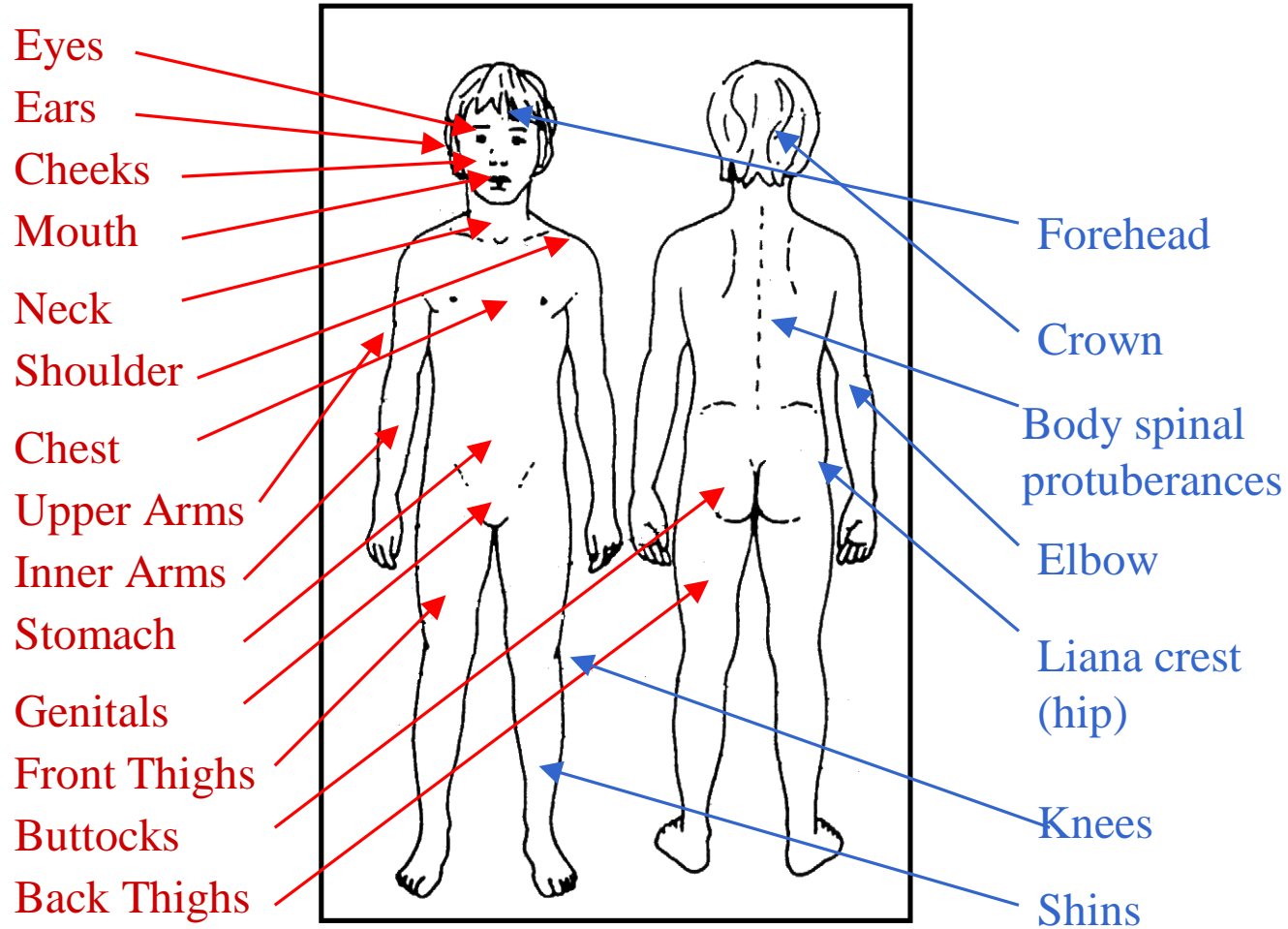
Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing **deliberate** physical harm to a child.

Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces illness in a child.



For Non-Accidental Injuries

For Accidental Injuries





Physical Abuse

- Not all bruising or marks are causes for concern
- No failsafe checklist exists
- No need to investigate / diagnose
- Consider
 - Patterns?
 - Circumstances?
 - Life events/changes/triggers?
 - Behaviour changes?



Child Sexual Abuse

- Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities
- The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetrative or non-penetrative acts.
- May include non-contact activities, such as
 - involving children in the production of sexual images
 - Making children watch sexual activities
 - encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways
 - grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet).



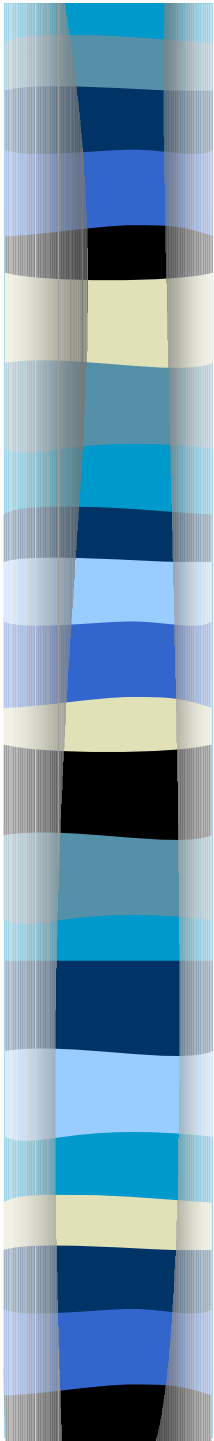
Remember

- Abusers often build opportunities to abuse & barriers to disclosure via ‘grooming’.
- Not necessarily all about touching or penetrative acts, it also includes things such as allowing children access to inappropriate materials.
- There may be physical, emotional, social / behavioural signs although these may be subtle & could potentially be attributable to a range of things.



Emotional Abuse

- The persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause **severe** and **persistent** adverse effects on a child's emotional development.
- 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
 - not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or “making fun” of what they say or how they communicate
 - developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on a child



For example, for a child this can mean:

- Persistent ridicule, rejection, humiliation
- Living in atmosphere of fear and intimidation
- Being allowed no contact with other children
- Inappropriate expectations being imposed
- Low warmth, high criticism
- Being bullied, scapegoated



Neglect

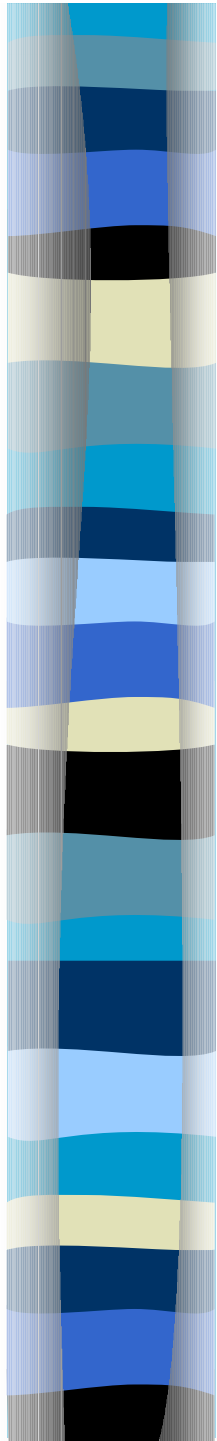
Neglect is the **persistent** failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. It may

- occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse
- involve a parent or carer failing to provide adequate food, clothing and/or shelter
- Mean a failure to protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger, or to ensure adequate supervision/care
- Mean a failure to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment
- also include unresponsiveness to a child's basic emotional needs.



For example, for a child this can mean:

- Lack of adequate nourishment/shelter
- Not receiving medical attention when necessary
- Lack of interest in the welfare of the child
- Inappropriate clothing
- Lack of appropriate supervision
- No boundaries, limits in terms of actions and behaviour
- Child's needs not recognised / prioritised by parents



TALKING & LISTENING TO CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE



Talking and Listening

Do

- Keep an open mind
- Believe them
- Reassure the child that they are right to tell
- Listen carefully
- Work at the child's pace
- Ask only open questions
- Explain what you need to do next
- Act on the information!

Don't

- Make false promises about confidentiality
- Interrupt
- Interrogate/investigate
- Assume anything
- Make suggestions about what is being said
- Speculate or accuse anyone
- Show anger, shock etc
- Tell the child to go and speak to someone else
- Ignore what you have been told!



BARRIERS TO TAKING APPROPRIATE ACTION

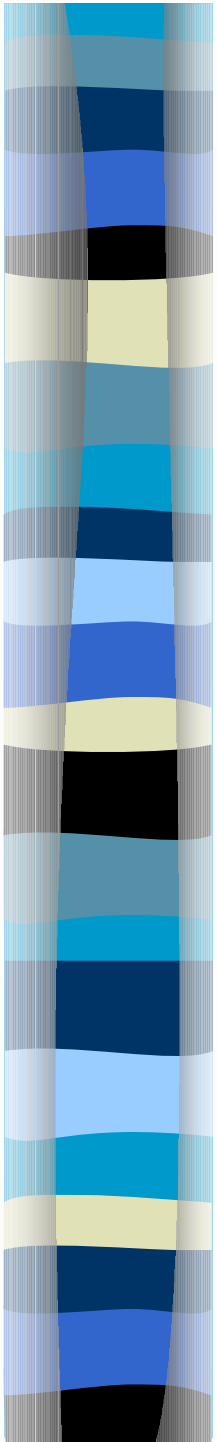


More Training?

Further is training available online at

[http://www3.lancashire.gov.uk/
education/data/cypISATrain/](http://www3.lancashire.gov.uk/education/data/cypISATrain/)

Once your registration has been authorised you can complete the “Safeguarding and Protecting Children” course online – it’s free of charge!



OUR CHILD PROTECTION POLICY



Child Protection Policy

Four main sections

- Creating a Framework
- Creating a Safe Setting
- Appointment & Management of Staff
- Dealing with Suspicions & Allegations of Child Abuse



Creating a Clear Framework

- **Under 18s Coordinator**
- **Child Protection Group**
- **Register of Roles**
- **Attendance Records**
- **Regular Reviews**
- **Annual Audit**
- **Independent Advice**



Under 18s Coordinator's Role

- Ensures that a CP policy is in place and that everyone is aware of it**
- Reviews CP policy annually - sign-off by PCC**
- Assists the Priest-in-Charge to ensure everyone working with U18s is “suitable”**
- Raises any CP related issues with the PCC**
- Audits CP procedures annually**
- Ensures Leaders receive CP training**
- Offers support and advice re CP issues**
- In an emergency may take any necessary action to protect children**



Creating a Safe Setting

- **Staffing Ratios**
- **Parental Consent/Registration**
- **Group Compliance with Policy**
- **Insurance**
- **Approved Programme of Activities**
- **Off site or “Extraordinary” Activities**
- **Users of Parish Room**
- **Fire safety / Health & Safety /
First Aid / Food Hygiene**



Appointment & Management of Staff

- **New Staff**
 - Role Description
 - CRB/Confidential Declaration (CD)
 - References where appropriate
 - Induction/Training
- **Existing Staff**
 - Review Role Description annually
 - Renew CRB/CD (every 3yrs)
- **Register of Individuals**
- **Training**



Dealing with Suspicions/ Allegations of Abuse

- **What Leaders should know**
- **Advice for Leaders**
- **What Leaders should do**
- **Ministering to people who might pose a risk to children**



What Leaders should do

- Report suspected or disclosed abuse to
 - NSPCC/ LCC Children’s Services
 - Police if in immediate danger
- Advise Priest-in-Charge (Church Wardens if Priest-in-Charge away or is the alleged abuser)
- Priest-in-Charge (or Church Wardens) then report to Diocese.

REMEMBER KEEP CONFIDENTIAL

DON'T INVESTIGATE



Contact Information

■ NSPCC

– **0808 800 5000 (24h)**

– **help@nspcc.org.uk**

■ LCC Children's Services

– **0845 0530009 (office hours)**

– **csc.acscustomerservices@lancashire.gov.uk**

– **Out of hours 0845 6021043**

■ **If you are concerned that the child or young person is in immediate danger then contact the Police on 999.**



When might you be vulnerable & why?

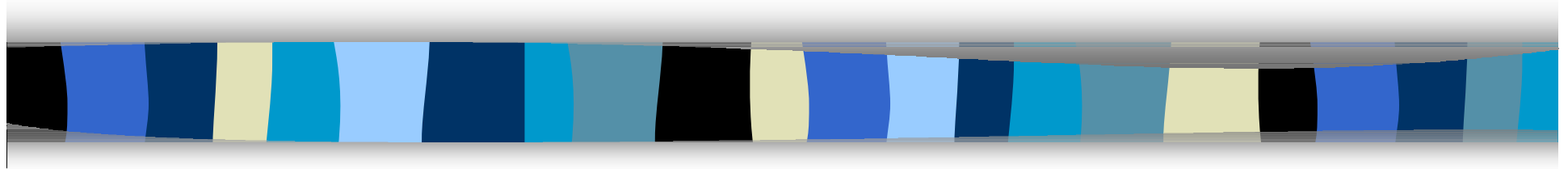
- **Alone with a child**
- **Administering first aid**
- **Restraining a child**
- **When a child seeks affection**
- **Providing intimate personal care**
- **Lack of training or support**
- **When you are unclear about guidance and/or procedures**
- **When you fail to report or don't seek advice**



Aims & Objectives

- Am I aware of different types of abuse and possible signs and symptoms?
- Do I know how to respond to a child who tells me about possible abuse?
- Do I understand the Church's own Child Protection Policy and procedures?
- Do I know what to do if I am concerned about a child?

**THANK YOU
FOR PARTICIPATING**



ANY QUESTIONS?